

WINTER 2017



Communities In Schools of Lakewood

www.lakewood.ciswa.org | (253)-589-7489

CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH BREAKFAST SET FOR MARCH 23



2016 Speakers: Dan Livingston, Jermaine Kearse,
Austin Hehmen, Danny Rodriguez

The annual Champions for Youth Breakfast, will be held at Old Country Buffet in the Lakewood Towne Center. Breakfast is served at 7 a.m. and the program runs from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The Champions Breakfast will be an inspirational experience featuring firsthand stories from schools and students we have served this year. While there is no charge at the door, guests will be invited to make a donation at the end of the event. All funds support our work at Clover Park High School, Lochburn Middle School, Tillicum Elementary School and Four Heroes Elementary School, which impacts more than 1,500 students across these 4 schools.

Since seating is limited, guests are asked to reserve seats at least 2-3 weeks before the event. Corporate sponsorships and tables are also available. Please call the CISL office at 253-589-7489 or email kidsandfamilies@cislakewood.org.

CISL's Impact

"Communities in Schools is a priceless part of our school community. I can honestly say that we would not be able to support students and their families as efficiently if CIS was not in our building providing the resources and wrap around services that they do. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication--it is obvious that you care about kids and really want the best for them. We appreciate everything you do."

-Monique Hanks
11th Grade Guidance Counselor,
Clover Park High School

January is National Mentoring Month

In honor of National Mentoring month, we'd like to thank our mentors for all they do to inspire students in the Clover Park School District. As part of a project to thank our mentors, students shared why they appreciate having a caring adult come into the school just for them. One student wrote, "I love my mentor because she helped me overcome my fears." Another, "I love my mentor because he helps me do the right thing." Mentors devote an hour a week to encourage a student, one of which said her mentor "makes my day better." We appreciate our mentors for serving in our community and pouring into our students. If you are interested in becoming a mentor contact our office today!



Pictured: Mentor Julie Ley & mentee

A Holiday Hand at Lochburn Middle School

- Hanna Dominguez, Site Coordinator



A weekend bag put together by St. Leo's Food Connection

A key focus at Lochburn is providing basic needs assistance. There are over two dozen homeless families and over 90% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. We know that many students go hungry over the weekend, so we are partnering with St. Leo's Food Connection to offer "weekend food bags" and larger "break bags" for winter and spring breaks. The CIS team also helped 40 families to access to

the Caring for Kids Holiday Fair in order to get food and presents for the children in the family.

One specific family came to our attention days before winter break began. A 7th grade girl we case manage came into our office for a check-in. When we asked her how she felt about winter break and the upcoming holidays, she told us she was not looking forward to it because her mother had just told all the kids they would not be able to get any presents this year. Our team at Lochburn instantly contacted Diane Formoso, director of Caring for Kids, and she was able to put together a bag of presents for each child in the family, and we delivered the items in time for Christmas.

1-on-1 Support at Lochburn

Americorps Member and Site Assistant, Anna Harris, shared the following regarding a student she is case managing. "He was failing his core classes and not getting along well with the others. Within the last month or so his grades went from failing to passing. He's more willing to work hard and goes to Homework Club after school. He is learning to ask for help when he is confused and his whole attitude has changed for the better. He still has a little ways to go but he is trying and his confidence about school work has gone up."



Americorps member, Anna Harris, and one of her students, Nevaeh.

Fostering A Love of Reading at Tillicum

-Sabrina Feagin, Site Assistant

As John Green once said, "great books help you understand and they help you feel understood." Many of the students CISL serves experience difficulty expressing how they feel about the daily challenges they face. Just before winter break the CIS team partnered with Caring for Kids to secure hundreds of books to read over the holidays.

We give away books and assist with after-school and summer reading programs in order to help students:

1. develop pivotal communication skills
2. identify with characters and gain a better understanding of their own emotions such as happiness, fear, anger and sorrow and learn socially acceptable ways to communicate those emotions



3. build stronger parent-child relationships through reading together

4. broaden their understanding of the different cultures that surround them and help them to stand in the shoes of another

Literacy is critical to learning; students must be able to read to be successful in every subject in the classroom. It is equally important to the social development of children as they grow and learn about the diverse world around them. As we work with the students at Tillicum on their reading, they are learning to love it. One of our students said, "Going to the library with After School Program and doing literary crafts makes me want to write my own stories and books!"

