

## Westerly 7th Graders Bring STEM\* to Children

*Student directed activities bring learning fun*

The children at our Kohn Center received an extra special treat this spring. The 7th grade class from Westerly School of Long Beach came out to present exciting, educational, age-appropriate science experiments with our preschool children.

The Westerly students planned and prepared all the activities themselves. They emailed our administrators with their plan of action and proposed timeline.

Science activities included screaming balloons (a hex nut inside a balloon that makes a whirring sound), baking soda and vinegar, rainbow rain clouds, glow-in-the-dark slime,

Ozobots (robots that follow a marker path), lava lamps and a magic bubble made with soap and dry ice.

The children enjoyed the activities very much and the Westerly students had a wonderful time interacting with our children.

We are so grateful for Westerly’s staff and students for this second visit of hopefully many more to come. Interacting with the children gives them an opportunity to give back to their community and make a difference in our children’s lives.

\*Science, Technology, Engineering and Math



## Take Home Book Program Success Celebrated

*Home literacy program graduations*

A love of reading starts at home, and the Take Home Book (THB) Program does just that - instill a love of reading for children and parents alike. This Bring Me a Book Foundation (BMAB) program consists of a book bag, filled with books, for the children to take home weekly and enjoy reading with their parents, siblings, extended family and on their own. The book bags include a set of prompts for parents to extend the reading comprehension and have conversations with their children.

THB Program graduations were held in May to celebrate

262 children and their parents throughout our 5 centers for completing this 30-week program.

At the graduation, children re-enacted one of their favorite books from the program: 5 Little Monkeys with one child representing the crocodile and others with paper bag monkeys that were snatched “right out of that tree.”

Thank you to Dale Petrusis (pictured below) and Colleen Triesch of BMAB and to all our staff and families for their participation in making this program a success. Children and families alike loved participating.



## Executive Director Message



*Closing the year, beginning a new one*

As we close our fiscal year, we are grateful for the support of our staff, board and community to make our mission happen every day. Each year, as an organization, we pause to assess ourselves and make sure we are meeting the state-imposed requirements that measure quality environments for the children we serve. This assessment takes the form of parent surveys, classroom reviews conducted by teachers, parents and community members, a review of internal processes and accountability. It is rewarding to know that every compliance area was met and areas for continuous improvement and progress were identified. We know our job is critical to the success of the children we have been entrusted to care for and ensuring we are providing the best program possible is one of our paramount obligations. We will continue to review and assess our progress to ensure we are doing just that.

For the coming year, as the article on technology explains, we will be introducing a technological assessment tool that will greatly help our teachers. Teachers are so excited about this added resource in their classrooms. Funding for additional programs such as these comes from supporters and donors in the community. I would invite you to join them in making a meaningful gift to Young Horizons to support out continued efforts to provide a caring, loving, learning environment for the children and families who need our services. I hope we can count on you.

Sarah M. Soriano  
Executive Director

## Appreciating our Staff

### Administrative Professionals Day and Teacher Appreciation

Administrative Professionals Day and Teacher Appreciation Week give us the opportunity to show and express our gratitude for the hard work and dedication all our staff give every day. Teachers, assistants, cooks, drivers, site supervisors and administrative staff each play an important role in making our mission happen daily. Lunch and a small token of appreciation was provided for every staff member.

We are so grateful for our passionate, intentional, dedicated staff who have made their life's work nurturing and developing young children's minds. This loyalty and dedication does not go unnoticed. In fact, 57% of our staff have been with us 5 years or more with 22% celebrating over 15 years of service. One key ingredient in our workplace is the sense of family and belonging. All our staff understand that they are an important component in providing a high-quality program.



Left: gifts prepared by one of our teachers for her co-workers.  
Above: the administrative office was transformed into "paradise" on administrative professionals day, because, Young Horizons is a paradise!

## Technology in the Classroom

### Child Assessment program goes digital



One important component of a high-quality program is to perform assessments of the children and their growth and development and to incorporate the results of these assessments into improving classroom instruction. This entails a lot of paperwork for teachers to complete along with documentation to support ratings. We are pleased to include a new technological solution to assist our teachers in this task. Tablets were purchased for every classroom and

a new digital assessment program, Learning Genie, has been acquired to conduct these assessments.

Learning Genie serves thousands of child development centers/preschools, including school districts, agencies, private learning centers, and family childcare providers. It provides a powerful and flexible portfolio and assessment rating tools for child development observation, documentation, and assessment rating.

Not only will the tablets allow for the digital assessments, but teachers will also have access to digital music, a camera, a timer and many other tools that come with the tablet. This new system will make the teachers' job so much easier and free their time to devote to preparing their children for success in life.





## Graduations at the Centers

### Sending 157 children off to Kindergarten

Each year, we have to say goodbye to our graduates and see them off to Kindergarten. This year, 157 graduates will be moving on to Kindergarten. It is a bittersweet moment as we know we will not see them every day, but there is joy in knowing they are prepared, competent, and ready to go to Kindergarten in the fall. Not only in an educational sense, but socially, emotionally, and physically, we know our children have learned about relationships and how to get along with others. Being able to self-regulate, knowing how to communicate with words, and sharing, as well as academics such as ABC's and 123's are essential components to success in school.

This year, each center created their own themed graduation. From a "Walk of Stars," to a Luau, to "Under the Sea" themes, the children off showed their skills to their parents and family with poems, songs and dances.



## Quality Start LA

### Quality Rating program to begin at YH



Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) is a state funded program that helps early learning programs serving children, birth to age five, assess and enhance their services. It is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) designed to help parents choose the best early childhood education for their family as well as supports centers and family child care providers with ongoing program enhancements.

Young Horizons has been selected to participate in this program and begin the rating process. One of the exciting components of this program is hands-on assistance and teacher coaching. After an initial assessment, we will formulate an action plan for continuous improvement in our centers. Our goal is to increase classroom and teacher quality. We are excited to embark on this improvement journey.

## Spring Fest Fundraiser Success

### Thank you to our supporters

We are so grateful for our supporters who attended our Spring Fest Wine and Cheese event in April. Once more, Shoreline Village hosted this venue and board members hosted the event. Thank you also to our volunteer someliers from Orange County Wine Society for sharing their talent.

At the event, we launched a new category of donor acknowledgements named "Circle of Friends." Our first-ever "Caring Circle" recipient was Westland Real Estate Group for their \$10,000 donation, and two "Loving Circle" recipients, Kiwanis Club of Long Beach and Ms. Patricia Brown for their \$5,000 donations. The "Learning Circle" will acknowledge \$1,000 donors. If you would like to join one of these circles, please contact our Executive Director for further information. The evening was a success with great food and music by the Jazz Angels and new friends to Young Horizons who believe in and support our mission.



## Event Calendar

### Center Closures

Centers will be closed to observe the following holidays and special events this coming fiscal year:

- July 4th—Independence Day
- August 31st—Teacher Training Day
- September 3rd—Labor Day
- November 22nd and 23rd—Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 22nd, 25th and 26th—Christmas Holiday
- January 1st, 2019—New Year's Day
- January 15th—Martin Luther King Day
- February 16th—Teacher Training Day
- February 19th—Presidents Day
- May 28th—Labor Day

### What parents are saying about

#### YH:

*"I have been to a few other day cares but none have made me feel so secure with my kids. Young Horizons Grisham is the best. Safe, very clean, informative and the best staff. They make you feel very welcomed. I feel like I have no worries because my twins are in good hands. Love all the infant class staff. Definitely no other day care is as great at Young Horizons. Very thankful for all they do." - Allena C.*

*"Young Horizons cared for my two older daughters back in 2008. Four years after, when my son turned one and the time for me to return to work came, there was no doubt where he would be attending. I love the great memories my girls speak of from when they were at Young Horizons and when they see their little brother here. I love how excited they are to return and see back when they were his age. It makes me feel comfortable to have him here." - Luisa G.*

We are currently enrolling for our preschool, come by and see for yourself what parents are talking about.



**Young Horizons**  
 Child Development Centers  
 501 Atlantic Avenue  
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Address Service Requested

To our friend (s):



***ELECTRONIC  
 NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE***

Please email us at [info@younghorizons.org](mailto:info@younghorizons.org)  
 if you prefer to connect electronically.

**Our mission is to provide quality childcare and preschool programs in a caring, loving and learning environment.**

Young Horizons is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization serving children in Long Beach. Donations are tax deductible to the limit allowed by law.

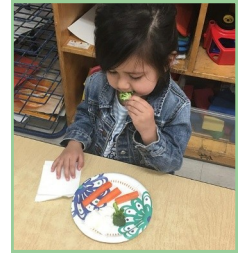
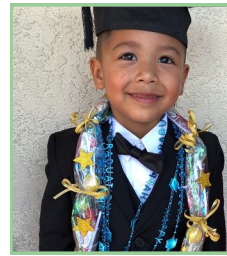
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*Serving 416 children in five Long Beach locations*

**Kohn Center/Main Office**  
 501 Atlantic Ave.

**North Pacific Center**  
 2418 Pacific Ave.

**Grisham Center**  
 11 A W. 49th St.

**Central Pacific Center**  
 1840 Pacific Ave.

**Ludloff Center**  
 2650 Pacific Ave.

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**[www.younghorizons.org](http://www.younghorizons.org)**

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