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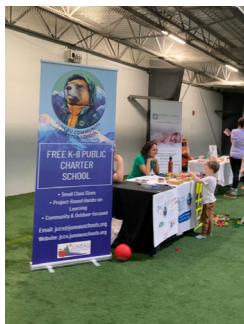
SEAAEYC Newsletter

Overview

This quarter was full of excitement and memorable events for SEAAEYC! SEAAEYC hosted its annual spring Early Learning Fair, its first-ever Dolly Dash 1k/5k Family Fun Run fundraiser for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and its first-ever Family Voice Committee meeting. SEAAEYC is pleased to announce the recruitment of a Community Engagement Coordinator focused on Kindergarten Readiness efforts and the Partnerships for Families and Children, as well as two additional Parent Educators, further expanding the growing Parents as Teachers program. This quarter was also full of surprises, including being awarded with funds from the 100 Women Who Care. A huge thank you to this wonderful group of women who deeply care about supporting organizations throughout Juneau!

Early Learning Fair

In April, SEAAEYC hosted the Early Learning Fair, which was attended by over 190 individuals. This event aimed to promote kindergarten readiness and provide families with an array of family resources. It featured 16 booths hosted by community partners. 10 children were registered for kindergarten at this event and each family was given a \$50 IGA gift card for each registration.



The Dolly Dash 1k/5k Family Fun Run

In June, SEAAEYC hosted its first-ever Dolly Dash 1k/5k Family Fun Run. This event served as both a fundraiser and awareness campaign for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This program delivers free, high-quality, and age-appropriate books to enrolled children throughout SE Alaska. Since the beginning of this program in 2006, **SEAAEYC has provided a total of 292,623 books to 8,488 children across the region.** This program has resulted in increased literacy rates and kindergarten readiness. This successful and memorable event had the support from 17 sponsors and attracted over 80 participants in pink attire, cowboy hats, blonde wigs, and pearls at the Airport Dike Trail. The fundraiser generated proceeds that were specifically allocated to book purchases and mailing costs for the Imagination Library program. In total, 150 children were able to benefit from this initiative, receiving a continuous supply of books throughout the year. A BIG THANK YOU to all who sponsored this event and participants who came out to support us! We look forward to seeing you in your Dolly wigs next year!



Dolly Dash Family Fun Run on 6/8/2024.

Family Voice Committee

The Family Voices Pilot Program is a series of Listening Sessions hosted by SEAAEYC in which Juneau Families are invited to share their unique experiences, stories, and voices in open dialogue. The insight gathered during these sessions will be utilized to develop programs and drive funding for the Juneau Family Center, SEAAEYC services, and resources beyond. Upcoming Listening Sessions are July 2 and August 6. This Fall, a formal Family Voice Committee will be established to continue this effort towards making a more family friendly Juneau. Interested in joining the effort? Sign up to join this effort and receive dinner and a \$50 gift card to IGA for your participation! Contact the Family Voice Committee Coordinator, Joanna Forst, at joannaforstlcs@gmail.com.



"It is an absolute honor to hear and hold the stories of our community and family members. Their willingness to be vulnerable, open, and honest in this constructive setting is inspiring and empowering. Together we truly will make a more Family Friendly Juneau." - Joanna Forst

In partnership with the Department of Labor, SEAAEYC is one of the first in the state to officially register a child care apprenticeship program. Through a Registered Apprenticeship Program, participants gain hands on learning experience through on-the job opportunities for a minimum of 2,000 hours and take related courses to build competencies in the field. Participants in the program also earn wage increases at intervals throughout the program, along with an essential mentorship piece. Our hope is to grow Juneau's child care workforce, truly the workforce behind the workforce, to provide high quality access to child care for any family in need! Contact Tess Olympia for more information at tolympia@aeYC-sea.org or 907-419-1081.

Meet Our New Community Engagement Coordinator!

"Hello! I would like to introduce myself. I am Jessie Kovach, the newest Community Engagement Coordinator for the Partnerships for Families and Children here at SEAAEYC! I am beyond excited to be joining this team to help support our efforts in community engagement for the benefit of our young children. I am a mother of three not-so-young-anymore kiddos, and a teacher in our community as well, and have a vested interest in advocating for our community's youth. Currently, we are working on increasing kindergarten registration and readiness. We are planning a "Kindergarten Roundup" for the beginning of August, with the focus being on increasing the registration rate before the first day of school and providing resources for parents to help prepare their student for the year ahead. In the future, we hope to hold this event in the early Spring to allow for more time to connect with families before the following school year. I look forward to engaging with the community on this and several other projects to help foster the well-being of our youth. Thank you for welcoming me to SEAAEYC. If you have any questions or ideas to share, please feel free to email me at jkovach@aeYC-sea.org. Happy Summer!!" - Jessie Kovach



Advocacy Updates

Alaska Children's Caucus

The legislature reintroduced the Alaska Children's Caucus in 2024. The initiative is designed to focus on children from birth to adulthood and address the increasing challenges faced by children and families in Alaska. The caucus will help educate all interested parties on important children topics and help identify a number of bills that will benefit children and working-age families who are encountering some of the most significant challenges in Alaska with child care costs and availability.

Child care has emerged as a priority in this year's policy initiatives, particularly in addressing the challenges faced by many working families due to the lack of available child care and rising costs. State officials have helped identify policy and funding initiatives supporting tax credits for businesses to invest in child care and raised eligibility standards for families to qualify for the state's child care assistance program.

Considering a Role as a CBJ Assembly Member?

Are you a passionate community member, parent, care giver, or child educator eager to help shape Juneau's future? This year the following seats are on the October 1, 2024 Regular Municipal Election Ballot:

- Mayor
- Assemblymember – District 1 (one seat)
- Assemblymember – District 2 (one seat)
- Board of Education/School Board (three seats)

Candidate Filing Period opens at 8:00am on Friday, July 12 and closes at 4:30pm on Monday, July 22, 2024. For more information visit www.juneau.org/clerk/elections!

Thank You for Your Support!

SEAAEYC's valuable services and resources are made possible through a variety of grants and contributions from generous community members like you. Please consider supporting the SEAAEYC Imagination Library or Diaper Bank, by selecting one of the following buttons below or contact SEAAEYC.



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