Welcome Back to School

Bilingual Preschool reopens

CISC’s Bilingual Preschool at Yesler Community Center welcomed 20 three- and four-year-old students in person for the new school year. Our teachers were smiling and eager to support their social, emotional, cognitive, and bilingual development while keeping our preschool environment safe.

Our returning students were excited to finally meet all their peers from last year and have new peers join the class. During the first week of school, a few of our new students were anxious when their parents dropped them off in the morning. Teachers and parents worked together to ease the transition. For example, parents sent a family photo to school to post on our family tree. Whenever their child misses their family, they can always check out the picture in class. Moreover, teachers read books about going to school and let students know their family will come by at the end of the day. Now everyone is getting used to the classroom environment.

After School Program empowers families

Our Program and Reading Specialists are supporting about 60 grade school students virtually to start this new academic year. To empower families, we facilitated several meetings with Seattle Public Schools’ leadership to provide information and answer questions about going back to school in person during the pandemic and how to address hate and bias incidents.

ParentChild+ supports early childhood development

Our Early Learning Specialists are working with 77 families who speak Chinese and Vietnamese languages, particularly in South King County. We will be meeting regularly with caregivers and family members virtually and providing toys, books, and other educational materials to support early childhood development. We are excited to be a provider of ParentChild+ in King County. Research on the nationwide model has shown graduates are 50% more likely to be prepared for kindergarten than their socio-economic peers.

Responding to anti-Asian hate and bias

We’d like to welcome our new team member, Em, who joined in the summer as our Anti-Bias/Anti-Hate Program (ABHP) Coordinator. Em and our ABHP team have responded to the rise in anti-Asian hate by collecting incident reports and providing information, referral, and case management. In late July, we began supporting an elderly woman who was assaulted on a Metro bus by providing ongoing support in their preferred language and connecting them to a personal emergency response system. We also contacted Metro and met with several leaders to discuss ways to improve safety and communication particularly for elderly and limited English speaking riders.

In late August, members of our Family Center and Anti-Bias/Anti-Hate teams attended the Mercer Middle School Back to School fair to meet with parents, students, school staff and community agencies to share resources and information.

Since CISC joined the Coalition Against Hate & Bias in the summer of 2020, we have collected more than 200 reports from the community. The majority of incidents are reported by women and are verbal assaults/threats (35%) followed by physical threats/assaults (17%). View our hate and bias data trends below.
Serving the community at Byrd Barr Place

Byrd Barr Place provides Seattle residents safety net services including older Chinese adults who utilize the food bank and energy assistance program. Earlier this month, CISC’s Healthcare Access & Outreach team assisted more than 100 seniors, who speak Cantonese and Mandarin, at the site by helping them understand and access affordable healthcare options. This month, the team welcomed its newest member, Rebecca Ip. In the summer, the team received a heartfelt appreciation letter from a client. An elderly couple had lost access to their Medicare benefits. Our staff, Kristen, listened to their situation and helped resolve the issue, but also educated them about their rights, the benefits they are entitled to, and walked them through the application process. In expressing their gratitude to her and CISC, they said Kristen is “serving the community with kindness, generosity, and passion.”

Assisting new Americans

CISC and Entre Hermanos co-hosted a successful Hybrid Citizenship Clinic in late summer. We were able to serve and screen 20 individuals and prepare 19 N-400 applications, including many I-912 fee waiver and I-942 reduced fee forms. To support our clients, we had five immigration attorneys and interpreters who spoke Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese.
The Chinatown International District (CID) is a historic and culturally diverse community filled with residents, community-based organizations, and businesses that are strong and resilient. CISC and numerous CID organizations, with funding from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, have come together as an informal group, the CID Visioning Project Advisory Group, to identify ways the community can have a stronger voice and influence through the development of a Neighborhood Plan. Shape the future of the CID by reviewing the draft plan and providing your feedback via the online CID Neighborhood Plan survey. Multilingual survey options are also available in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Meet the candidates virtually

In less than a month, ballots will arrive in your mailbox for the November election. Join upcoming virtual forums to learn about the issues and candidates running for local government positions. Their decisions will impact funding and policies related to social services, education, health, public safety, environment, transportation, and much more.

**East King County Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) presents**

**BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL Candidate Forum**

**Tuesday Sept 28, 2021 6:00 PM to 7:30PM**
Hear from Bellevue City Council candidates and add your questions to the discussion.

**Join Zoom Webinar**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88460367942
Webinar ID: 884 6036 7942
Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782

Tonight: [Join by Zoom webinar](#)

**9th annual ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER GENERAL CANDIDATE FORUM**

**OCTOBER 21 @ 5:30 PM**
tinyurl.com/apigentforum

Thank you to our sponsors:

Oct. 21: [Register to attend the event](#)

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Well Wishes to You and Your Family!

CISC Team

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