

Executive Director Report-November 2021

Here are a few updates beyond the 10 fun things happening also shared in this email!

- We are definitely back at it in the after school realm! It's been extremely busy and staff is doing a great job leaning in and managing the busyness!
- Staff has been working in design spaces together to brainstorm ideas and build out new facets of programming
- Dunkins Pierre has officially joined us as Sequoias new leader! He has dove in headfirst and is doing great! He is launching his first crew of "sequoia leaders" and is engaging between 15-25 boys each day for programming!
- Basement update-cdbg app has been submitted! Waiting for response to begin locking in dates!
- Exploring options to help manage the sound in the gym more and make it a more useful space for us and community
- Julia is having some preliminary conversations with Hebert construction about some potential work force development opportunities for some youth. Potential of working together to have teens work for them on some local sites.
- Weekly cultivation sessions are going great for Staff and also happening biweekly with the Next STEP team. These 45-60 minute sessions work with staff on their own personal and social emotional development as well as give them tools to use with students.
- Julia will be running some professional development sessions about power and equity for MANP and St. Mary's Nutrition Center this coming month
- Trigger warning!!
 - Lastly, there have been a great deal of significant events in the community that have been close/impacted tree families. It feels very complicated right now. Extreme behaviors by both kids and adults, lots of overdoses in broader community being witnessed by kids, the big fire on Blake St (we are close with all 3 youth involved), a teen (senior in high school) suicide in the Somali community, lots of chaos at LongCreek and in the schools, election upon us...school committee drama, teacher and worker shortages everywhere, parent threatening self harm, children missing bus and being trapped outside all day while parents are at work...just on and on it feels some days. It's a lot on everyone but we are trying to take it in stride, but the world feels chaotic and angry and its alot on the kids and staff and families for sure. In the midst there is great joy and glimmers of hope and progress, but please keep sowing seeds of positive, kindness, and love everywhere. People need it.
- Next board orientation training: 11/5/21 at 9:00

Thanks all! Excited to connect again soon!!