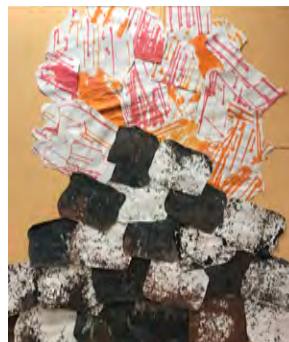


Carnegie Mellon University Children's School

March 2020 Family Newsletter

Planet Earth Family Festival March 5th

February at the Children's School has been a chance to explore our home, **Planet Earth**. We hope all of the Children's School families will come celebrate and share our learning on Thursday, March 5th from 4:30 – 6:30 PM during our **Family Festival**. Come ready to do a rock scavenger hunt, to explore geodes and clay, to visit the Kindergarten's Rock Specimen Museum, to build stories and sculptures with rocks, to discover how erosion, earthquakes and volcanos change the earth's landscape, to play an active Lava Game, and to make your own pet rock. Be ready to photograph your family's rockin' good time. We hope to see you exploring the Earth next Thursday!



Summer Camp Enrollment: Bugs!!

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure about the Children's School Summer Camp, which is a mixed-age, four-week program that runs weekdays from June 1st to 26th from 9 am to 1 pm with as much outdoor time as weather permits. This year, Mr. Allen, Mrs. Bird, Miss Dzina, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Opferman, and Mr. Salinetto will engage the children in a study of "**Bugs**". We spend most of our time on the outdoor terrain of our playground, and we also read fiction and non-fiction books and offer art, cooking, sensory, and manipulative activities to enhance the thematic study. Children attending camp enjoy water time in wading pools, sprinklers, etc. We provide a daily snack, and children bring their own healthy lunch. Register soon because space is limited!



March Dates:

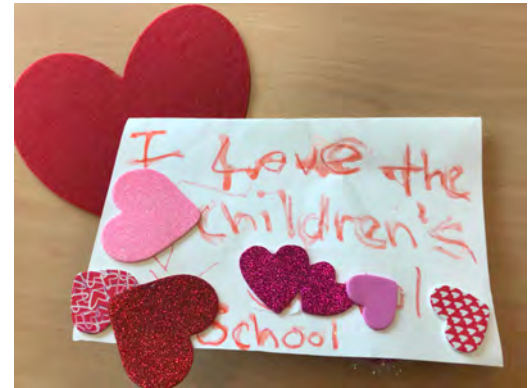
- Thursday, March 5th, 4:30-6:30 PM, PLANET EARTH Family Festival
- Friday, March 6th Professional Development Day for Educators (NO SCHOOL)
- Sunday, March 8th Daylight Saving Time so SPRING FORWARD 1 Hour
- SPRING BREAK Monday, March 9th - Friday, March 13th (NO SCHOOL)
- March 25th – 28th Dr. Carver & Mrs. Rosenblum will be attending the annual conference of the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers (N4C)
- Friday, March 27th NO SCHOOL for children
Conference Preparation Day for Educators



Family Committee News

Teacher Appreciation from Preschool 4's Families

A sweet hearted thank you to the Preschool 4's families who treated us to a Valentine's Day themed lunch. The chocolate fondue was fabulously delicious, and we all feel very loved. A special thank you to Emily Sabol, Dahlia Carrington and Julie Becker for spending the time to set and clean up. We really appreciate your time!

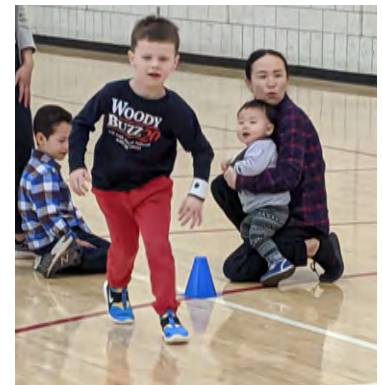


If you have questions about Teacher Appreciation or would like to join a Committee, please contact Beth Myers at ewmyers@andrew.cmu.edu.

Family Social Organization Fun

Kickball Event

On Saturday, February 1st, Children's School friends of all ages and their families had a great time running around the nice warm Cohon Gym on a cold morning! We ran and rolled, we tried a mini-obstacle course, and Ada's mom, Ayça, led a real game of kick ball as well! Even the toddlers got in on the action, playing with each other and rolling some of the smaller balls back and forth! Everyone wins when there's coffee, orange juice, and donuts too! Thanks for joining us!



Swimming Event

Even though it was a chilly day, we had more than 20 people for our swimming event on Saturday, February 15th. Little swimmers and parents enjoyed the indoor large pool with various floats. Some friends and parents even tried diving from the platform under the supervision of the lifeguards. We had a fun time splashing together for the whole hour. The hot shower after the event was really nice, too! Thank you for joining friends and family! The CMU pool can offer swim lessons for little swimmers. If any of you are interested, see the information on the next page.



Please Join Us for an Upcoming FSO Event

Science Center Event, Friday, March 13th

Let's enjoy our spring break with a day of fun at the Carnegie Science Center! The FSO is organizing a trip to the **Science Center on Friday, March 13th at 10 AM**. In order to get the group rate, we will need at least 15 people ages 3 and older. The group rate is only \$8 per person and includes all four floors of the Science Center, Sports Works and the submarine (weather permitting). Please RSVP to Julie Becker at mascijulie@icloud.com with the number of people attending by Saturday, February 29th, so we'll know whether we will get the group rate or not (which you will pay ahead of time). If we have fewer than 15 people, the price will be \$19.95 for adults and \$11.95 for children, and you will just pay that day on your own. We will meet in the lobby at 10 AM and then start on the fourth floor in the Little Learner Clubhouse, or feel free to explore on your own. River View Cafe, inside of the science center, offers a variety of lunch options to purchase or you may bring your own lunch to enjoy! We hope to see you there!!!

Tartan Swim & Dive Lesson Fundraiser

This spring, the CMU Varsity Swimming & Diving Team will be offering up to 11 lesson dates for interested swimmers 3 years old and up of all ability levels. Information regarding dates, prices, and times is included below:

3/30 – 4/2 – (Monday – Thursday)

4/6 – 4/9 – (Monday – Thursday)

4/13 – 4/15 (Monday – Wednesday)

Four 30-minute time slots between 4:30 - 6:30 pm

4:30 - 5:00 PM

5:00 - 5:30 PM

5:30 - 6:00 PM

6:00 - 6:30 PM

1-5 lessons - \$25 per lesson

6-11 lessons - \$20 per lesson

If you are interested in registering for lessons, please e-mail Assistant Swim Coach Brendan Heller (bheller@andrew.cmu.edu) with the dates and times you would like, as well as the name of the swimmer(s), age(s), and a brief description of their ability level. You will receive a confirmation of your sessions and additional information from Brendan, including a waiver to complete and return prior to or at the first lesson. Email Brendan or call 412-268-6082 if you have questions. The team looks forward to seeing you on the pool deck. Go Tartans!

Parking in the Margaret Morrison Visitor Lot

If you are coming to the Children's School, you may park in the Margaret Morrison Visitor Lot. However, please park in one of the spaces in the lot marked with a "V" for visitor or an "S" for staff. **Please do not park in the spaces in the upper lot marked with an "L" as they are for the Psychology Department Laboratories. Unauthorized cars parked here will be ticketed.** The Visitor spaces are available for families to park while at The Children's School only, so please do not park there for other campus errands. Please use the East Campus Garage on Forbes Avenue or the metered spaces along Margaret Morrison and Tech Streets if there are no "V" spaces available. There is additional parking on campus for evening and late afternoon meetings. Most university parking lots are open to the public after 4:00 PM. Thank you for your cooperation!

Family Spotlight: Steel City Home

Hello! We are the Chos: Nameun, Sarah, Isabelle (3.5 years), and Bennett (9.5 months). We moved to Pittsburgh in August of 2018, after spending the better part of a decade in Boston before coming here. While Isabelle may have been born in Beantown, she's quickly found her home in the Steel City. She loves all the parks, libraries, and playgrounds, and she is a huge fan of the Zoo and Children's Museum. Bennett was born shortly after we moved and has been the brightest addition to our family with his endless smiles and cuddles. They have quickly developed a close bond, and we love seeing them grow in their love for each other.



Nameun splits his time as a pastor at City Reformed Presbyterian Church and campus minister for CMU undergraduate students through the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). Sarah is currently at home full-time with the kids, while planning to continue her career as a clinical therapist and a lifestyle photographer in the immediate future. We've really loved the CMU Children's School program and family for the ways in which they help Isabelle grow and foster her development. She says going to school is the highlight of her day. Isabelle and Appa ("Dad" in Korean) now have the privilege to say that they go to the same school!



In our free time, we love spending time outdoors, taking advantage of the four seasons and the various activities they provide: leaf peeping, hiking, swimming at the beach, fruit picking, and even simple pleasures like jumping in the rain. We also love traveling, reading together, and cooking and eating good food. Nameun is particularly fond of baseball and is excited to introduce the kids to it more and more as they grow. Isabelle loves exploring all different kinds of art mediums (coloring, painting, clay molding, etc.), playing outdoors, building magnatiles and blocks, dancing, singing, and like many other 3-year-old girls, anything Frozen--Elsa and Anna are staples in our household. She's taken on the responsibility

of being a Nuna ("Big Sister") in stride and has thoroughly flourished in her helper roles. We are so proud of our compassionate, inquisitive, joyful, and kind daughter and consider it a big blessing to be a part of this wonderful community where she is deeply cared for and where she's able to find such joy in learning through play with her dear friends.



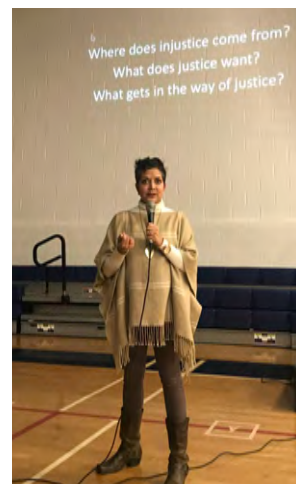
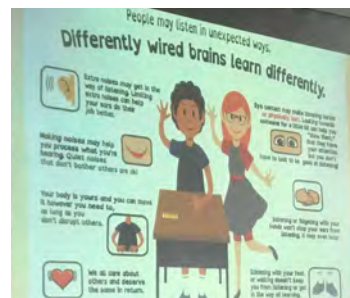
Duksung Practicum Student Experience

Ga Yeon Hwang (Blue Room), Hye Jeong Kim (Red Room), Han Sol Lee (Green Room), and So Yun Park (Kindergarten) brought their caring and creativity from Duksung Women's University in Seoul, South Korea to share with our children, educators, and families for two weeks in January and February. They had positive and productive experiences in our classrooms, applying their knowledge, while comparing and contrasting their perspectives with those at the Children's School and other partner schools. They also had opportunities to attend a University of Pittsburgh early childhood education course, tour the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, and experience American professional development for educators. We always learn as much or more from them as they learn from us!



PAUS 2020 Conference

As members of the Pittsburgh Alliance of University Schools (PAUS), the Children's School educators and administrators organize and participate in an annual conference, which is scheduled so that our South Korean practicum students can participate. The 2020 conference was titled, ***Social Justice: Challenging Our Ideas About Diversity***. The speakers focused on social and educational issues related to implicit bias, race, gender, neuro-diversity and inclusion. The five-hour conference included keynote speaker Leigh Patel, Associate Dean of Equity and Justice in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education, feature presentations from the PEAL Center (<https://pealcenter.org/mission/>) and workshops from professionals at the Autism Connection (<https://autismofpa.org/>). A special thank you to Children's School parent Liz Foster-Shaner and her colleague Michelle King for their very engaging workshop "Practicing Social Change: Theatre of the Oppressed as Embodied Learning."



Undergraduate Spotlight

Stewart Harrison: I've been working in the Children's School for 4-5 months. I'm from Charlotte, North Carolina and am still getting used to the Pittsburgh winter. I am a first-year drama student majoring in directing. I love my time at the Children's School. I started in the library and that is still my main focus, but I also help with dismissal. I love being able to hang out with the children and ask them questions about their days. In the School of Drama, we frequently talk about the reckless abandon, curiosity, and imagination that children have, and it is so interesting to leave class and see it with my own eyes.

I have loved books my entire life, the first time I stayed up past midnight was huddled under my covers with a little flashlight and a copy of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Going through the books here at the Children's School has been an amazing experience as I reread and remember books that I loved as a child. It's also been so cool to see the expansion of topics covered in children's literature, everything from acceptance of other races and religions, to books talking about gay parents and gender fluidity. Knowing that the children here are reading books like this makes me really happy and excited to see how they will change the world.



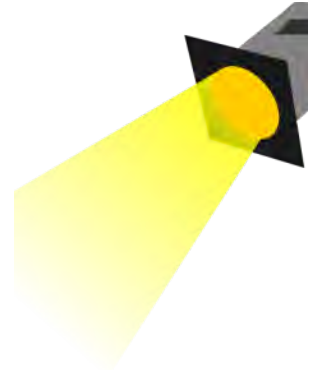
Back in North Carolina, I worked with children through my local 4-H. I created a theatre camp that took elementary schoolers through all the steps of a production, from writing, to set design, to acting. At the end of the week, they all performed the skits they had written. It was wonderful seeing people learn and care about the things that have greatly shaped my life.

High School Helpers

In addition to benefitting from the help of diverse CMU undergraduates, the Children's School occasionally partners with high schools to provide career experience for high school students, including the Pittsburgh Public School's **Start on Success** program and the **City Charter High School**.

Davis Mowry: My name is Davis. I live in Squirrel Hill and attend Taylor Alderdice High School. I really enjoy working at the Children's School. In my free time, I like to relax and listen to music. I have one cat named Fredo (from Harry Potter). In the future, I would like to be a math teacher at Alderdice.

JaNiyah Wingfield: My name is JaNiyah. I live in McKees Rocks, and I am a senior at City Charter High School. I enjoy volunteering at the Children's School, especially interacting with the children. I plan to go to CCAC for two years to major in Psychology, then transfer to a 4-year college, and eventually earn my master's degree. I enjoy doing hair, listening to music and relaxing.

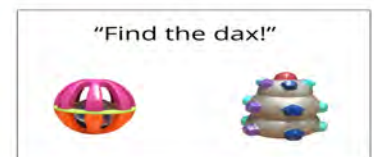


Research Spotlight

What is being asked in a question?

Dan Yurovsky, a new Psychology professor, is studying children's communication skills with Research Associate Josef Klafka. When communicating with others, we build on assumed information by adding new information that in turn becomes assumed. Adults effortlessly keep track of what is assumed and what is new - or 'at issue' - during a conversation, but less is known about how children understand what information is at issue and what is assumed. For instance, the question "Is that a new spoon?" allows an adult listener to infer that the object is a spoon, regardless of the answer to the question, because the identity of the object is assumed. The similar question "Is that a spoon?" does not license this inference unless the answer to the question is "yes." This study tests whether children notice the distinction between the assumed and at-issue information in questions.

In their research task, children participate in an iPad game with short videos in which two people talk about a new, colorful object. For example, the people might have said: "Is that a new dax?" "No." After each video, children are asked to, for instance, "Find the dax" among two objects: one that was referred to in the video and another that was not. By examining children's selections of these objects, researchers can see whether the type of question and answer they heard in the video affects their inference about the object that was mentioned. If children have an adult-like understanding of what is at issue in questions, after hearing questions in which the identity of the object is assumed (such as "Is that a new dax?"), they should think the object is a dax regardless of the answer to the question. However, after hearing questions in which the identity of the object is at issue (such as "Is that a dax?"), they should depend on the answer to the question to decide whether the object is a dax or not. The results of this study will help the researchers understand when children come to distinguish between what information is assumed by a question and what is really being discussed.



The Pointing Game

Catarina Vales, a post-doctoral fellow in the Cognitive Development Lab, and undergraduate Cecilia Mastrogiacomo are studying developmental changes in children's comprehension by developing short passages about unfamiliar items to see if children can make use of new information to infer what is being talked about. The aim of this study is to measure children's ability to recognize unfamiliar and familiar stimuli, so that researchers can use these stimuli in future comprehension studies in their lab. In the Pointing Game, children are first told that their job is to point to the picture of the animal or musical instrument that the researcher names. On each trial, children are shown a slide with two photographs, as seen in the figure below. The photographs include the target and a related item. For 26 trials, children are prompted to indicate which of the photos is the referent of a word. For example, in the figures below, researchers want to confirm that children are unfamiliar with "pangolin" and familiar with "cow" so that we can use them as a representation of an unfamiliar and familiar animal in future studies.



Director's Corner: Importance of Time



In our quest to foster children's development as innovators, we must slow the pace of our days so that children have **unhurried time** to pursue their own ideas at home, at school, and in the community. While necessity may be "the mother of invention", invention doesn't get very far without time to reflect. Perhaps you've had the experience of facing a challenging problem, but the solution escapes you until a moment when you are not paying attention to the problem at all, such as while showering or commuting or washing dishes. Giving children the gift of time to wonder and to wander frees their minds in ways that yield insights and inspiration for their future explorations. One of the reasons we are so excited to be offering longer preschool program hours beginning in the fall is that the new schedule affords us the opportunity to slow the pace of the day for a more relaxed and reflective approach for both children and educators.

Allowing **unstructured time** for playful exploration in open-ended contexts with many choices among acceptable alternatives encourages the originality and iterative design thinking characteristic of innovators. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength... Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles, sometimes in conjunction with other children or adult caregivers. As they master their world, play helps children develop new competencies that lead to enhanced confidence and the resiliency they will need to face future challenges. *Undirected play* allows children to learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts, and to learn self-advocacy skills. When play is allowed to be *child-driven*, children practice decision-making skills, move at their own pace, discover their own areas of interest, and ultimately engage fully in the passions they wish to pursue." <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/119/1/182>

These goals of child-initiated play relate to the Children's School approach to offering children choices, as described in last month's Director's Corner, but having choices without time to pursue the possibilities that emerge can become frustrating. For that reason, we aim to offer blocks of exploration time within each day and also allow multiple days for engaging with the same materials, either indoors or outdoors. Sometimes children can save their work in progress; but when that is not possible, we can photograph or in other ways record their ideas so they can be revisited later.

Taking time each day to offer children our **undivided attention** (i.e., *our time*) has benefits for both them and us. Observing children and listening to their ideas, even without speaking, affirms the value of their activity and helps adults to understand them more fully. That understanding, in turn, enables us to provide materials, verbal prompts, and additional experiences that are finely tuned to their interests and abilities. At the Children's School, educators plan time for small and large group conversation about the themes of study, as well as the spontaneous events of the day, so that they can utilize what they learn to shape their learning plans for the coming days.

Research shows that children who have more time for self-reflection experience less anxiety and depression than peers who are hurried from activity to activity, and they are more likely to be self-starters who can decide for themselves what goal-directed actions to take and when. In all of these ways, it is worth the time to foster children's innovative approaches in early childhood so that they become the builders of more environmentally sustainable, peaceful, just and inclusive communities.

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2	3	4	5 4:30-6:30PM PLANET EARTH Family Festival	6 NO SCHOOL Educator Professional Development Day	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins Turn Your Clock Ahead 1 Hour	9 NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation	10 NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation	11 NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation	12 NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation	13 NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation 10AM FSO Event at The Carnegie Science Center	14
15 Preschool Theme: Art & Artists Kindergarten Theme: Egypt	16 March Safety Week →	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Dr. Carver & Mrs. Rosenblum @ NCCCC Conference in Spokane, WA →	26 Music w/ Mrs. Hraber	27 NO SCHOOL Conference Preparation Day	28
29	30	31				



Children's School

CMUChSch@andrew.cmu.edu www.cmu.edu/dietrich/psychology/cs/index.html

412-268-2199

2020



The Children's School Snack Menu

*Subject to change based on birthdays & special events
Gluten and dairy free options available*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
Goldfish Crackers	Bananas & Vanilla Wafers	Peppers w/ Ranch Dip & Tortilla Chips	Raisin Bread & Apple Butter	No School Educator Professional Development Day
Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water	
9	10	11	12	13
No School Spring Vacation	No School Spring Vacation	No School Spring Vacation	No School Spring Vacation	No School Spring Vacation
16	17	18	19	20
Rice Krispies	Oranges and Wheat Thins	Pretzels & Guacamole	Snap Peas w/ Ranch Dip & Sun Chips	Baby Carrots & Hummus
Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water
23	24	25	26	27
Animal Crackers	Tortilla Chips & Guacamole	Mini Bagels & Sunbutter	Applesauce & Graham Crackers	No School Conference Preparation Day
Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water	Milk/Water	
30	31			
Wheat Bread & Butter	Apples & String Cheese			
Milk/Water	Milk/Water			

March 2020



HATCH

ART STUDIO

JOIN OUR CREATIVE
COMMUNITY BY REGISTERING
FOR A WEEKLY ART CLASS:
SPRING SESSION

SPRING SCHEDULE 2020

For school age children:

Sunday Afternoon
Woodworking classes

Tuesdays 6:15 Drawing
Class

Thursdays 4:00 Work Big
Painting Class

Monthly Wheel Throwing

see website for more
details

Tues Art Explorers (ages 3-5) at 9:00-11:00

Wed Mini Makers (18 months-2.5 yrs) at 9:30, Art Play at 11:00 (2.5-5 yrs)

Thur Mini Makers at 9:30, Art Play at 11:00, Art Play at 3:30

Fri Family Class (18 months-5 yrs) at 10:00, Play + Create at 11:30

Sat Family Class (ages 18 months-5 years) at 9:45

HATCH PLAY:
DROP IN CREATIVE PLAY FOR
AGES 1-8

10:00-12:00 T, W, TH, F

12:00-2:00 F SAT

SUNDAY PROCESS ART
WORKSHOPS
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS



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