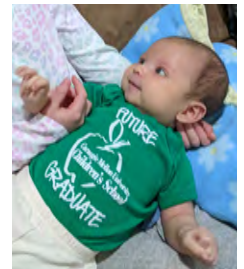


Carnegie Mellon University Children's School January 2022 Family Newsletter

Happy New Year & Best Wishes for 2022!



We hope you had a refreshing and restorative winter break and that your whole family is energized for learning in 2022. Despite the ongoing and uncertain course of the pandemic, it is time to plan for the 2022/2023 School Year! Please see the information on the next page. Also, please be sure to complete applications in the FACTS Family Portal for any infant and toddler siblings.



Welcome, Kathie Stilinovich



Please join the Children's School community in welcoming educator Kathie Stilinovich to our team. Mrs. Stilinovich earned her BA in Early Childhood and Development at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, CA. She has more than 25 years of early childhood teaching experience, including the Jewish Community Center in La Jolla, CA, the St. Joseph School and Wesleyan Preschool in Boise, ID, and the Riverstone International School (also in Boise). Mrs. Stilinovich will be serving as the Kindergarten Associate Teacher for the spring semester while Mrs. Blizman is on family leave. She will then shift to a Teacher position for June camp and beyond. Kathie and her husband, Mark, moved to Pittsburgh for a new adventure and to be closer to their two daughters. They are delighted to be living in such an exciting city.

NOTE: In 2022, CMU's definition of "fully vaccinated" for adults now includes the booster, so that applies to all adults working in the Children's School and to visitor attestations.

January 2022 Dates

Monday, January 3rd – Professional Development Day for Educators

Tuesday, January 4th – Children Return to School for 3rd Quarter

Thursday, January 6th – Virtual Prospective Parent Open House at 4:30pm

Monday, January 17th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)

January 18th through 21st – Speech and Hearing Screening

Tuesday, January 25th – Vision Screening / Author Visit: Brittany Thurman

Monday, January 31st & Tuesday, February 1st – School Photo Days

All of these dates are posted on our web calendar <https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/psychology/cs/>.



2022/2023 School Year Information

Preschool/Kindergarten Enrollment and Re-enrollment: The Children's School's enrollment and re-enrollment procedures will be fully online through the FACTS Management System this year. Newly enrolled Three's and Four's will be receiving information regarding their enrollment status and instructions on how to access their enrollment package shortly after our virtual Open House for potential Children's School parents which is being held on January 6th. Currently enrolled Three's and Four's families will also be receiving information regarding re-enrollment by January 14th, and we are requesting that the enrollment package be completed by February 21, 2022. In addition to completing all the required admission documents, a \$700 deposit - payable online - will be required as part of the enrollment and re-enrollment process.

Kindergarten Enrollment: We coordinate our Kindergarten re-enrollment with the private school timeline, so you will not be required to confirm an interest in our Kindergarten Program until after your family has heard from other schools to which you have applied. Kindergarten enrollment packages will also be due by February 21st, 2022

Please email chsadmissions@andrew.cmu.edu with any questions that you may have.

Open House for Potential New Children's School Parents

A virtual Open House for potential new parents will be held on January 6th at 4:30pm. Dr. Carver will make a presentation and show video clips of this past year's classes. Current Children's School parents are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Screenings: Eyes & Ears

This coming year, Rehabilitation Specialists, Inc. will be conducting speech and hearing screenings from January 18th through the 21st. If you are interested in having your child screened, please return the permission slip that has been sent home in your child's backpack and include the \$15.00 service charge. This payment can be made by cash, check (made out to "Rehabilitation Specialists, Inc."), or credit card (please call the phone number on the permission slip to use this method).

Vision screenings will be conducted on January 25th by the Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh. If you wish to have your child's vision checked, please return the permission slip that has also been sent home in your child's backpack. There is no charge for this service. If you need copies of the permission slip, please call the office (412-268-2199) or download them from the FACTS Family Portal under Resource Documents.

School Photos

This year, Van Dyke Photos will be on-site on January 31st to photograph the Three's and Four's classes. February 1st, the Kindergarten children will be photographed, and it will be a make-up day for the preschoolers. We will work with them to be sure that Covid-19 safety protocols are observed. This year, all ordering will be online and instructions will be provided for our families through email. Feel free to send your children in their "picture clothes" that day and send "school clothes" separately. The teachers will help the children change after their photo shoot. Maggie Rosenblum would be happy to answer any questions and can be reached at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu.



Appreciation for the Day of Giving



On November 30th, forty-two supporters contributed to the Children's School as part of the 2021 Day of Giving. Though we do not yet have a final total for the donations, we appreciate everyone who helped in this critical time to sustain the Children's School now and for future generations of friends.

Scholarship Funding Updates

As you know, the Children's School participates in the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program as well as the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program. In addition to the contributing businesses mentioned in the November 2021 Children's School Family Newsletter, we received funding from Comcast Corporation in December 2021.

Through EITC, eligible Pennsylvania businesses can earn tax credits while providing financial assistance for children to attend preschool as well as grades K-12. Through OSTC, eligible Pennsylvania businesses can earn tax credits for contributing funds to provide tuition assistance in the form of scholarships to eligible students K-12th grade residing within the boundaries of a low-achieving school to attend another public school outside of their district or a nonpublic school. In 2020-21, The Children's School's EITC and OSTC Programs funded 51 students, pre-Kindergarten – 12th grade, in 17 different schools throughout Allegheny and Fayette counties.



If you would like more information or can help us to build a list of prospective businesses, please contact Linda Hancock at lh37@andrew.cmu.edu.

Wanted: Portable Sewing Machine

Our Make Shop needs a new portable sewing machine. Before purchasing a new one, as part of our commitment to [CMU's Green Practices](#) and [Scotty Goes Green Program](#), we are asking if anyone in the Children's School Community has one that they no longer need and would like to donate to the school. Please contact Linda Hancock lh37@andrew.cmu.edu if you are looking for a new home for your gently used portable sewing machine.

Meet Scotty

The Children's School received a delightful donation from the University Stores. Scotty the Dog is our new much-loved friend who greets us each morning and happily accepts our hugs and hellos!



Children's School Coat Drive



Thank you to everyone for your generous support of our coat drive! Because of you, we were able to collect 28 children's coats, 10 adult coats, 7 pairs of snow pants, 20 hats, 10 pairs of mittens, and 6 scarves! All the coats and winter gear were donated to Womanspace East, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving homeless families with dependent children in the greater Pittsburgh area. In addition, we raised \$291 for the One Warm Coat organization to support their mission of providing coats to people in need. THANK YOU!



Benefits of Outdoor Play in the Winter

Thanks to alumni parent, Natalie Greene, for suggesting a wonderful article on the benefits of outdoor play in the winter, summarized in the associated graphic below. You can read the brief article, entitled "Bundle Up and Get Outside: Why Kids Should Play Outdoors in Winter" at <https://www.fix.com/blog/keep-kids-playing-outdoors-inwinter/>.

The article was written by Caileigh Flannigan, "a Clinical Child Therapist and play practitioner who uses forms of play as a way to promote children's development and emotional healing. She aims to spread the word about how important free play in natural environments is on childhood development, through her research in outdoor play and loose parts."

Here's another viewpoint from our northern neighbors in Ontario, Canada (<https://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/children-play-outside-winter/>). Physical activity, creative play, and connection with nature are beneficial for adults, too!

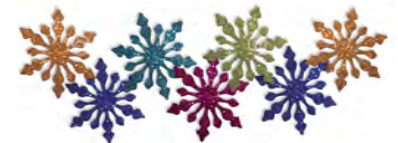


Stay Safe in Your Winter Wonderland!

For children, winter is not the end of outdoor fun. When properly prepared, children can enjoy safe and fun outdoor activities. "The inviting snow draws children to ice-covered lakes and ski slopes each winter, regardless of the frigid temperatures and the risks," says Heather Paul, Ph.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. "Parents should watch their children closely, limit their outdoor playtime and make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather."

Here are a few other winter tips to keep in mind:

- Parents and caregivers should inspect equipment and the environment for possible hazards before children engage in winter activities, such as sledding, ice skating and skiing.
- Be aware that the increased use of hot tubs and whirlpools, as well as the danger of hidden bodies of water or weak ice, makes winter drowning a risk.
- If a child complains of numbness or pain in the fingers, toes, nose, cheeks, or ears while playing in the snow, or if the skin is blistered, hard to the touch or glossy, be alert to the possibility of frostbite. Tell the child to wiggle the affected body part(s) to increase blood supply to that area. Warm the frozen part(s) against the body. Immerse frozen part(s) in warm, not hot, water. Frozen tissue is fragile and can be damaged easily. Avoid warming with high heat from radiators, fireplaces, or stoves, and avoid rubbing or breaking blisters.
- Slippery driveways and sidewalks can be particularly hazardous in the winter. Keep them well shoveled and apply materials such as rock salt or sand to improve traction.
- Make sure children wear appropriate boots and brightly colored (not white) clothing while walking and playing in snowy conditions. Use reflective stickers on clothing for maximum protection, especially at dawn and dusk.



A Winter Reminder

On days when snow or ice may affect driving conditions, families will receive a text alert and email message regarding school delay or closure. In addition, we announce our school closing on WPXI (<https://www.wpxi.com/weather/school-closings/>), WTAE (<https://www.wtae.com/weather/closings#>), and KDKA (<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/school-closings/>). They also offer a text service if you register on their web site. Because Children's School educators and families live in diverse areas in and around the city, we cannot factor travel conditions from every location into our decision about whether to delay or close school. Between 5:30 and 6:00 AM, we listen to the news, determine what other schools in the city are doing, and make our best judgment on whether to have a delay or close school that day. In all cases when school is in session, we encourage parents to use their best judgment about whether the roads in your area are safe to bring your child to school.

Depending on the road conditions, we will choose from three options:

- **One Hour Delay**: During a one-hour delay, we will greet the Kindergarten and PreSchool 3's Classes at 9:15am and the PreSchool 4's Class at 9:45am. Dismissal will be at the normal times.
- **Two Hour Delay**: During a two-hour delay, we will greet the Kindergarten and PreSchool 3's Classes at 10:15am and the Preschool 4's Class at 10:45am. Dismissal will be at the normal times. These first two options enable us to conduct the classes while giving our educators and families time for the road conditions to improve.
- **School Closure for all Programs**

Note for Kindergarten Bus Families: Please be aware that the school district providing your bus service may issue a weather-related delay or closing while the Children's School remains open. This information is broadcast via local television or radio stations. Families may choose to bring the child to school or follow the school district busing plan.

Family Spotlight: Trio Abroad and at CMU

Happy New Year, Children School Families! We are Ghazal Tajdini and Peter Stuetzgen, parents of Luna Stuetzgen who is attending the PreSchool 4's this year.

Peter has been associated with CMU for 15 years. He was a Ph.D. student in Marketing at the Tepper School of Business before going to teach at Carnegie Mellon's campus in Doha, Qatar, which is where he met Ghazal, who was teaching at an elementary school there! After Luna was born a few years later in Canada (Ghazal's home) and going back and forth between Canada and Qatar a few times, we all moved in August of 2019 to Pittsburgh, where Peter now teaches at Tepper.



Luna did a tremendous amount of traveling in the first few years of her life. She had been on three continents before she was even 6 months old, visiting Peter's parents in Germany, in addition to Canada and Qatar. By now, she has lived in three countries (Canada, Qatar, and the US) and 5 different homes. While we are sad that Covid has reduced Luna's opportunities to see her grandparents in person, we are very happy to finally have settled. Luna loves her friends at The Children School, and we are very happy to have made some connections with other parents. Outside of school, Luna has enjoyed her first soccer season (with coach Peter!) and is currently learning to ice skate. She has also become an avid supporter of CMU's Women's Soccer Team, particularly enjoying their half-time music.



In addition to Luna and Peter going to CMU, Ghazal just joined the CMU family as a volunteer at The Children's School. Using her training and experience as an educator, she will support the school on Tuesdays. She's looking forward to getting to know the staff and students at TCS, particularly because they have played such an instrumental role in Luna's life in the last two years.

Welcome, Miss Tajdini

Please join the Children's School community in welcoming educator Ghazal Tajdini as a weekly volunteer. Miss Tajdini earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. She taught English in South Korea and also earned a French as a Second Language Certificate. As a teacher candidate, she experienced teaching in elementary and middle schools in both Canada and the US. She then taught Kindergarten in a private school for three years in Qatar. Because Luna is in the Preschool 4's, Miss Tajdini will volunteer in the Preschool 3's and Kindergarten classes.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

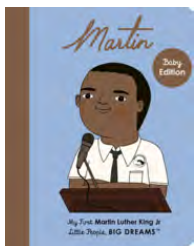
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a wonderful opportunity to talk with children not only about Dr. King's incredible contributions, but also to emphasize the importance of kindness, community, and service to others. Here at school, the classes will be reading books about Dr. King and participating in the Color a Smile program, which sends cheerful greetings to senior citizens, troops overseas, and anyone in need of a smile! You can learn more about the program here: <https://colorasmile.org>. We encourage you to think about how you want to spend MLK day with your children. If you are hoping to find opportunities for family participation in community service, the following article offers some great tips, as well as links to local organizations that offer family volunteer opportunities: <https://tocaboca.com/magazine/community-service-ideas-for-kids-and-families-mlk-day/>.

If you are looking for books to read with your child to honor Dr. King, the books below are developmentally appropriate options. The first two talk about the life of Dr. King in a way that is accessible and enjoyable for young children. The second two exemplify Dr. King's vision of unity, acceptance, and the value of community. These books can all be found by searching our school page at The Children's Bookstore. Click here to shop: <https://www.childrensbookstore.com/welcome/?ref=6fere9w>.

We will also have these books and others related to Dr. King available for borrowing from the school library. Watch for more information soon!

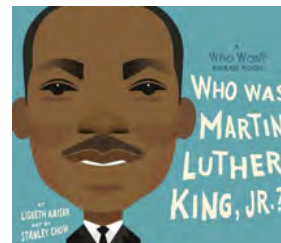
Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr? A Who Was Board Book

By: Lisbeth Kaiser



My First Martin Luther King Jr. Book, Little People Big Dreams

By: Maria Isabel Sanchez Vergara



All Are Welcome

By: Alexandra Penfold



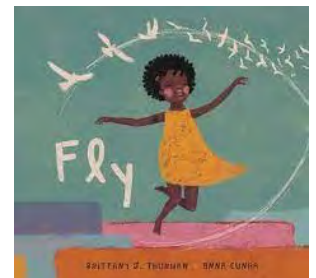
Together

By: Mona Damluji



Meet the Author Day: Brittany J. Thurman

On January 25th, the Preschool 4's and Kindergartners are scheduled to meet Brittany J. Thurman, who earned an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Thurman is the author of *Fly*, due out from Caitlyn Dlouhy Books on January 11th. During her graduate years at Carnegie Mellon University, Brittany's plays were produced in Aspen, Colorado, and on New York's City's Theatre Row.



Undergraduate Spotlight

As we return to campus for the second semester, we introduce two additional work study students who support our educators and children in many ways.

Erin Park is a sophomore Fine Arts major at Carnegie Mellon.



Hello! My name is Erin Park, and I'm from Ellicott City, Maryland. At CMU, you can always find me painting, cooking, or reading. I've wanted to work at The Children's School since learning about it, as I have previously enjoyed working with children as an assistant art teacher at a studio in Maryland. Most of my time here is spent in the Green Room, preparing for class activities and anything that

my art skills can be of use for. I feel very fortunate to be working with such an amazing group of children and staff!



Aria Eudaimond is a freshman Psychology major at Carnegie Mellon and is planning on graduating in 2025.



Hi, my name is Aria Eudaimond! I'm from Indiana and live in a city just a couple minutes north of Indianapolis. I will be majoring in Psychology, with an emphasis in developmental, and a double minor in film and music technology. I very much enjoy playing music as I play several instruments, but especially love my acoustic guitar. I enjoy watching movies and tv shows, so much so, that my mom calls me an 'expert'. I

also enjoy basketball and football. I've been a Steelers fan since I was 2 (thanks, dad!). I also love hanging out with my little sisters and going on drives to get slushies with them. They are actually one of the main reasons why I am working at the Children's School here at CMU. My sisters are 4 and 6, and last year I got to help my 6-year-old sister's kindergarten class and I has so much fun that I decided to continue here at Carnegie Mellon. I work with the Kindergartners and the PreSchool 3's. I really enjoy my job here because it provides a nice break in my hectic school schedule. The children and work are so fun that it oftentimes doesn't feel too much like work.



Research Spotlight

The Alien Learning English Game

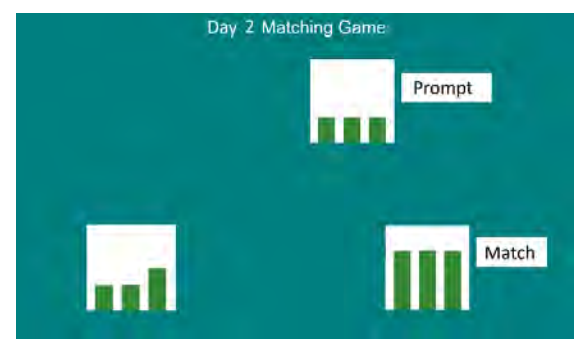
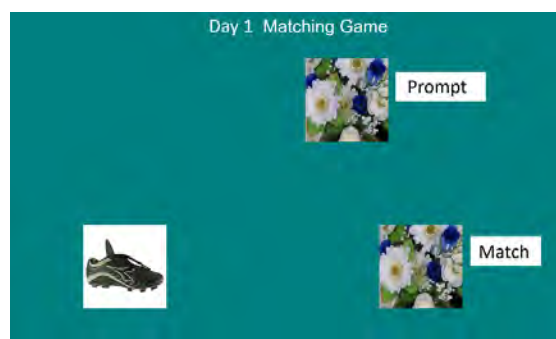
Graduate student Megan Waller is working with Psychology Professors Bonnie Nozari and Dan Yurovsky to explore young children's metalinguistic knowledge. Over the first few years of life, children develop an incredible facility with their native language. However, there is often a disconnect between children's (and adults') correct use of language and their explicit knowledge of its rules. Such "*metalinguistic*" knowledge can be helpful in learning new words and in identifying when others may not be native speakers. The **Alien Learning English Game** is designed to determine when and how children develop the kind of metalinguistic knowledge adults have. In particular, the researchers are studying when children understand that irregular English words like "mouse" should be made plural as "mice" but not as "mouses." Children tend to produce the right versions of these words in their own speech by the time they are 4 or 5, but psychologists do not yet know whether they explicitly know that "mouses" is wrong. In the game, children are introduced to an alien named Mido who is trying to learn English. In each round of the game, Mido is shown a picture (e.g., of two mice) and asked what he thought the right word in English was. On some rounds, Mido correctly responds "mice;" while on other rounds, he responds "mouses" or "cats." Children are then asked to indicate whether Mido is speaking English correctly or not. The results of this experiment will help the researchers to understand how children develop metalinguistic knowledge of their native language. In future studies, they will investigate the relationship between this developing metalinguistic knowledge and the strategies that children use to learn new words.



The Matching Game

Dr. Jessica Cantlon's research team is investigating how children learn abstract concepts and logical rules. The **Matching Game** has two parts and will be conducted on two separate days to help researchers understand children's learning curves for discovering simple rules, like 'match the pictures', and how well they stick to the rule once they learn it. On the second day, researchers will study a more complex rule, like pattern matching. Researchers can then compare learning curves from the simple rule to the more complex rule to determine how children at different ages build capacities to discover new rules and maintain the rules they learn across different levels of rule complexity. Logical reasoning is a critical skill throughout early education. Children use logical reasoning quite broadly – during reading comprehension, mathematics, science, computer coding, social interactions.

This study will help identify what aspects of logical reasoning are important to assess and cultivate for early childhood education.



Director's Corner: Health & Safety



Since 2020, the importance of the Children's School learning environment has been highlighted as a crucial context for the effective relationships and teaching in early education that I described in the fall. Pre-pandemic, when classes were in session, much of the proactive preparation and intentional design of the environment was invisible, but pandemic times required rethinking everything.

We start with the NAEYC standards for Health (#5) and Physical Environment (#9), which include quality specifications for promoting the nutrition and health of children, protecting children and staff from injury and **illness**, and providing a safe and healthy physical environment. The standards advocate designing welcoming, accessible, and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor environments, with sufficient **space** for the number of children (35 sq. ft. indoors, 75 sq. ft. outdoors), safe and well-maintained equipment, materials, and furnishings, adequate supervision by sight and sound, clear, ADA accessible pathways, and secure boundaries, with access to safe drinking water and adequate toileting facilities and protection from environmental hazards ranging from extreme temperature and harmful sun exposure, to insects, smoke, pollution, asbestos, lead, etc. NAEYC also advocates designing environments for children and adults that are aesthetically pleasing, comfortable, naturally lighted, and **well-ventilated**, with spaces designated for individual belongings and clearly arranged for individual, small group, and whole group interactions.

In pandemic times, we must go beyond the standards because "best practices" are constantly evolving to reflect the science related to COVID-19 and its variants. On our Administrative Team, Miss Hancock leads our health and safety efforts, and she serves as the primary liaison with government agencies, consultants (medical, nutrition, playground), trainers, and university personnel as everyone processes the changing guidance and applies it to our unique situation. Children's School educators, parents and researchers had to reconsider space and ventilation, and our annual trainings shifted focus to the importance of **facial coverings, hand washing, and enhanced cleaning protocols** based on the most current COVID-19 recommendations. Our goal was to create a "yes" environment with clear and consistent routines that would promote health and safety while encouraging children's social interactions that are so important in early childhood.

While our teaching teams prioritize the daily classroom procedures for health and safety, they are also responsible for designing the classroom environment with varied materials that are organized for children's independent use, created and rotated to align with our thematic studies, and adapted to the children's interests and developmental levels.

As part of the Carnegie Mellon community, we have always benefited greatly from the campus security, building maintenance, cleaning, grounds-keeping, routine safety checks, insurance, hazard responses (e.g., pest management, air quality monitoring), facilities project management, etc. Beginning a new calendar year with the Omicron variant outpacing Delta, we are especially grateful to CMU's COVID-19 response team for their diligence in creating community standards to maximize everyone's health and safety. As CMU Tartans, we commit to being **All In, Everywhere**. Please join us in following all of the latest guidance (<https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/news-and-communications/communications-archive/2021/december/booster-requirement-travel-recommendations-arrival-testing-spring-plans.html>), particularly with respect to securing booster shots for all eligible individuals and getting everyone tested after travel. These measures reduce the risk of bringing COVID-19 into our community and limit its spread so that together we can keep everyone safe. Best wishes for a new year of health and wholeness.

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	Winter Break No School					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!!!
2 3's: Ezra Jack Keats 4's: Winter Animals K: Food & Nutrition	3 NO SCHOOL: Professional Development for Educators	4 Children Begin 3rd Quarter	5	6 4:30PM Virtual Prospective Parent Open House	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Music w/ Mrs. Hraber	14	15
	Jan. Safety Week					
16	17 NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Day	18 Speech & Hearing Screening	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Vision Screening 4's & K: Author Visit with Brittany Thurman	26	27 Music w/ Mrs. Hraber	28	29
30	31 School Photo Day					



Children's School

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

412-268-2199

2022