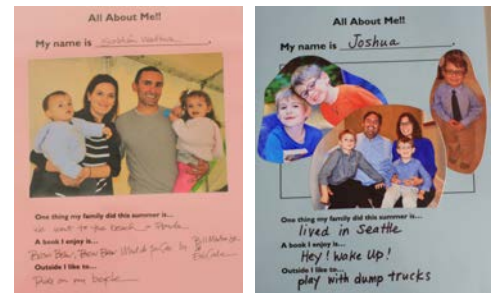


Family Spotlight: Snapshot of Our Community

During September, the friends in all of our classes get to know each other by sharing information about themselves and their families, which prompts us to discuss similarities and differences so that we can better appreciate the diversity among us. The "All About Me" projects in the preschool give children and families an opportunity to get to know each other better. You'll get to see all of these at the Open House events!



This fall, we have 83 families with 81 children at the Children's School, including 27 only children. Thirty of these families are new to the school, including families who recently moved to Pittsburgh from New York, Indiana, Japan, Russia, and China. Among our families, we have two in which the mother is a Children's School alum!

Thirteen of our families have a parent who is a graduate student or faculty member at Carnegie Mellon, and one is a graduate student at Pitt. One of our fathers and 31 of our mothers identified themselves as stay-at-home parents. The other parents listed a wide variety of professions, including Actuary, Administrator, Antique Dealer, Architect, Artist, Attorney, Audiologist, Baker, Banker, Business Owner, Chef, Designer, Engineer, Entrepreneur, Financial Consultant, Fundraiser, Journalist, Librarian, Manager, Medical Examiner, Nurse, Physician, Real Estate Developer, Researcher, Social Worker, Sports Psychologist, Teacher, Therapist, and Yoga Instructor.



About 25% of our children are dual language learners, and one is trilingual. This year, we have families speaking at least 11 languages besides English: Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog (Philippines), Telugu (India), and Turkish. Each month hereafter, the Family Spotlight column will introduce one of the Children's School families in more depth. Feel free to contact Mrs. Rosenblum if you would like to be a featured family. You can also see prior family profiles on the Children's School web site under "For Families".



We also talk about the school as a community where we are all helping each other to learn. Sometimes we each contribute to a joint project, like the 3's T-shirt display, and other times we work toward a common goal, like the Extended Morning Children's School sign. Watch the school walls for more examples as the year progresses and feel free to offer your help to support our explorations!



Family Spotlight: Back in the Family Again

It is so hard to believe that it was 11 years ago that David jumped into Children's School. It was mid-year, and our nanny wanted more time for teaching yoga. With his December 27th birthday, he was the youngest in the school, but everything worked for him and he loved it from the start.

Mrs. Tomer, Mr. Salinetto and Mrs. Rosenblum were his main teachers and their influence on our household was immediate and wonderful.

From concrete things like "three try bites", "be a kind friend", and my favorite – the ability to "close" an area of toys without taking them away, to the less definable but more important tenets on how to grow up to be a good person, our family grew with direction from Children's School.



Near the end of the year, Ryan was born with some temporary but serious medical problems. I called the office, gave them some details and then sobbed that David had drawn a caterpillar then scribbled it out insisting that not moving was dead. Ryan was in a coma at that point. When I picked David up from school that day, someone showed me the butterfly chrysalises and explained how the children learned that when one fell and didn't move, they knew it was dead. The teachers had talked with David and were certain he was simply telling me about butterflies and not making a connection with his new baby brother.

Several years later, at the Children's School, Ryan grew to be his own person. His time was filled with wondrous discovery. One day, he determined Mrs. Bird was really a grown up child, not old like the other teachers or his parents. Another day, he dressed himself in his suit for school. He was sorely disappointed when he didn't marry his sweetheart that day, because he couldn't think of any requirements for his wedding beyond a dress up suit.

We enjoyed five and a half years with Dr. Carver and all of the teachers and staff as important and loved people in our lives. We made many friends with other families. Our contributions over the years involved museum loans, astronomy activities, and Grandma's reading adventures, all of which were great fun.

Then we were done. Ryan was in 1st grade, David in 4th. No more Children's School for us. We came back one time and Ryan read a book about a mole learning to play the violin. David brought his violin and demonstrated everything from the horrendous *schreech* to the beautiful music. That was it.



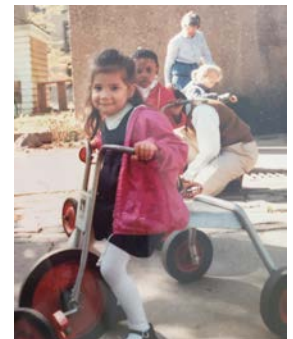
Then Conor joined us. His brothers started planning his life months before he was born. Going to the Children's School was a given. Learning to pronounce "Mr. Salinetto" was very important. What activities they could lead in the classroom on their days off from school became the subject of much planning. We were delighted to learn that the staff is mostly unchanged. This consistency is a testament to the deep goodness of the place and the teachers' commitment to the school. Their knowledge and interest in how children learn and grow, their experience, patience and their love are unchanged.

We are so happy to be back in the family again.

Family Spotlight: Full Circle ... Children's School Alum to Children's School Mom

Paul and I fell in love while we were grad students at Carnegie Mellon University 10 years ago. Much of our courtship occurred in and around the Margaret Morrison building because I was studying design, and my studio was on the second floor. At the time, we couldn't have known that we would be visiting Margaret Morrison every day to bring our children to school. Shortly after graduating (me with a Master's in Design and Paul with a Master's in Robotics) and getting married, we ventured to New York City to further our careers. After many years of designing interactive products, making robots, rushing around, and spending way too much time and money on delicious restaurants, we decided to move to a more livable city for our young and growing family. Much of this decision was driven by where we could offer our children the best education. With my family here, Pittsburgh was an obvious choice. We moved back last year.

Sending Evren (our first) to the Children's School created one of many connections to the school and to CMU. I went to the Children's School back in the early 80s, along with my twin brother, Mete. My father, Omer Akin, is a long-time professor of Architecture at CMU. He was lucky enough to send his twins to school a few floors below his own office. As a



result, Margaret Morrison is practically my second home. The memories I have of my time at the Children's School are wonderful. I remember how special I felt on my third birthday (despite having to share it with my twin) because I got to stick three Velcro candles onto a giant picture of a cake while everyone applauded. I remember Mr. Fricke's exotic animals that lived in the building (ferrets, I discovered, are pretty smelly). And I remember happily riding my tricycle outside on a sunny fall day.

When we visited the Children's School Open House last year, much had changed, of course. But I was blown away to see a familiar face: Mrs. Bird, who was one of my former teachers. It's a testament to what a wonderful community the school provides. People don't want to leave. Everyone who works at the school has a critical combination of warmth and strength - the perfect mix for helping our little ones learn to navigate the world. After just a couple weeks of attending school, we have seen an immediate transformation in Evren's sense of independence, confidence, and overall happiness. We couldn't feel more at ease with our decision to have Evren, and later his baby sister Ada, attend the Children's School.



We know that what the Children's School espouses - creative play, the art of making, critical thinking, and the practice of empathy and compassion - will lay a solid groundwork in our children's lives, as they did mine.

Ayca, Paul, Evren, & Ada Bartlett

Family Spotlight: The Children's School & Our Family

My history with the Children's School started some 30 years ago when my sister and I attended the program. I have a few memories of the school, but I more remember my parents' fondness for The Children's School and our experience. My mother recalls the feeling of community with teachers and parents of our classmates. She told me about "pot luck" dinners and fall pumpkin festivals. My mother said her favorite thing about The Children's School was the encouragement for the children to express their feelings and individuality. My parents always attributed our confidence as small children to our early education received at Carnegie Mellon.

When it came time for my husband and I to plan for preschool, I knew right away where I wanted to send my children. When I called to ask a few questions, I had a lovely conversation with Mrs. Rosenblum; she was thrilled to learn that I was an alumna of the preschool and that I wanted to send my children there. My husband Jim and I attended the Open House in January and Dr. Carver's presentation blew us away! The School was everything I wanted and more! I remember pointing out to Jim the children coming in from the playground on that winter day because I am a believer that children should get outside every day possible! This experience showed me that the staff here share my belief and take the time to put snow pants, hats, gloves, scarfs and boots on all these children. We left that day so excited to send our little princess to The Children's School.



The following September, Grace started her adventure with the three year olds. We have been more than pleased with the education she is gaining. She began learning about trees and moved on to so many topics that she wanted to talk about all the time. The theme was Pittsburgh and one day I picked her up she started to sing a song about our three rivers! The greeting / dismissal line was a huge convenience, especially with Grace's new baby brother along for the ride, and it continues to be. We had so much fun at all the FSO events and made new friendships that continue this year.



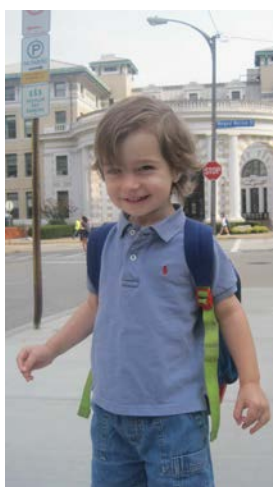
Every single staff member, from the teachers to the helpers to the administrators, has been a pleasure to encounter. They all seem genuinely happy to be there and are all so great with my daughter and my son James when they see him. The few times I have walked Grace to class, I feel like I am leaving her with family, all the teachers and administrators know her name and some even know James, and they all greet us with a big smile. This year Grace is enjoying learning about the rainforest and the solar system. I recently sent in James' application for next year and, while I am sad my babies are growing so fast, I feel very blessed to be able to provide them with The Children's School experience. We are very proud to be part of the Children's School family! Jessica Simms

Family Spotlight: The Jenkins' Journey

The Jenkins' Family journey with the Children's School began in 2010 when our first son, Tiernan, joined the Blue Room. Somehow the first three years of Tiernan's life whizzed by without us having contemplated preschool at all. We felt so fortunate that a friend recommended the school and we applied in time to get a spot. Our second son, Rhys, was born in November that year, and I fondly remember the gift of a Children's School onesie that we received after he arrived.

Although Tiernan had only been in school a couple months when Rhys was born, we knew the claim on the front of the onesie that said "Future Children's School Graduate" was right on. Tiernan's transition to being a preschooler and a big brother was a significant change for our family and I'm thankful for the staff that helped us through it. He thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Blue Room and Green Room. Choosing to send him to Pittsburgh Phillips, our local public school, for kindergarten wasn't easy. He's a third grader there now and we believe the foundation of his education at The Children's School sticks with him – he's a kind, curious child who is not afraid to be himself. Tiernan never wants to miss a chance to go back to visit his old school when there is an open house or Family Festival. He has said more than once that The Children's School has the best teachers and he wishes they didn't stop at Kindergarten.

Through the luck of a fall birthday, Rhys was not able to start Kindergarten at the neighborhood school this year. We're so glad to be with The Children's School another year and that he gets to experience life as a Kindergarten Friend. Rhys loves school and enthusiastically shares his work with us at home. In fact, over Thanksgiving break he was eager to go back to school by Saturday. We're a little worried about how we will keep him engaged over the long winter break!



The Children's School students are treated with kindness and respect that, unfortunately, isn't always afforded to children. We love that their voices are heard, their perspectives are considered, and they have choices in how they learn. Like Tiernan, we'd be all in for The Children's School K-12.

Family Spotlight: The Smiths Start with a Sweater

It all started with a sweater, an ugly sweater to be exact. Kendal's father, Kyle and I (Janica) met at an ugly Christmas sweater party over the 2009 holiday season in Detroit, Michigan. The sweaters were hideous but hilarious and we had instant chemistry; months later we decided to get married. During this time, I was promoted to Assistant Product Manager in New York, NY and Kyle took a position as a Chemical Engineer in Pittsburgh. After the wedding bells, came the joyous cries of our energetic baby girl, Kendal Lillian. We planted roots in Pittsburgh and started a new chapter together as parents. Kyle forged ahead in his role and I took a new position as a Stay at Home Mom.

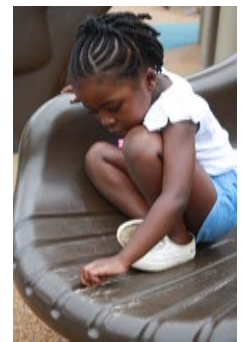
Pittsburgh brought many adventures and lasting memories - from baseball games at PNC Park to rooting for the Penguins at Consol Energy Center to our yearly Noel Night at the Children's Museum. We took classes at Gymboree and sang songs with Kindermusik at the JCC. We loved spending time at Frick Park Blue Slide Playground and hosted Kendal's first birthday party at the Pittsburgh Zoo. We spent summer days at Idlewild, Kennywood and local fairs, enjoyed evenings at the



Dependable Drive In, attended birthday parties with Kendal's friends, and visited numerous Pumpkin Patches. Kendal ran in the Junior Great Race 2 years in a row! In the summer of 2015, Pittsburgh became the birthplace for our second daughter, Sage Alexandria.

We learned about The Children's School from a dear friend and decided to tour the facility.

We were amazed by the warmth and attentiveness of the staff and left knowing that this was the best option for our family. Kendal started in the fall of 2014 under the amazing leadership and guidance of Mr. Salinetto and Mrs. Tomer. We could not have asked for a better pairing of teachers. From Mrs. Tomer's loving and patient personality to Mr. Salinetto's humorous and easy-going nature, Kendal flourished. It was a pure joy to see her face light up as she would walk hand in hand with a staff member into school. Her transition to Mrs. Cherin and Mrs. Wendolowski's class was seamless because of their participation with her during the school year. The 4's program gave us a true look into Kendal's fun loving, outgoing and charismatic personality. It also gave her a chance to express her love for all things pretend and was a great outlet for her to perform and build a voice. We thank both teachers for encouraging her to be her best self and for listening to her many knock-knock jokes and tales of adventures.



One of our joys is when Kendal surprises us with new facts, phrases, and songs. We are so pleased to see the enthusiasm she has going to school, from making sure she has everything in her backpack to obtaining a new job for the week (snack helper being her favorite). Her initial response when asked about school is normally, "School was awesome." She has the brightest smile when speaking about her activities or interactions with friends. Beyond the classroom, we have forged some lifelong relationships with other parents. The kindness and openness that we have received from everyone cannot be expressed in words, and we are thankful to the Children's School for being the center of this connection. It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to all the friends we have made here. From the administrators to the teaching and support staff, we offer you our sincerest thanks and wish you all the best in the years to come. The Children's School will always hold a place in our hearts as where our daughter's foundation in education was built.

Family Spotlight: A Few Favorite Things

My husband Ken and I (Lisa) both grew up in the Pittsburgh area, but left the city for college, graduate school and work. I was living in California and Ken was in North Carolina when we became engaged and the plan was that we would settle in North Carolina once married. However, as plans often change, we found ourselves moving back to Pittsburgh before the wedding even happened! It ended up being a wonderful blessing in disguise, especially since we started expanding our family right away and had all the grandparents living here. We always loved Pittsburgh but never realized how amazing it would be to raise children here and how many terrific schools there are in the area. A friend told us about her family's experience with The Children's School and couldn't say enough wonderful things about the program. She also recommended putting in an application right away even though I was still pregnant! Once I learned more about the program, I was happy to ensure a spot by submitting the application so early.



Our family began our time at The Children's School in 2010 when our eldest daughter Clara joined the Blue Room. Within the first week, she felt right at home and was so so excited to go to school every day! When our son Broden started visiting the school for family events, his sister's birthday and playtime in the Red Room during parent seminars, he was enthralled with all the activities and couldn't wait to go to school himself. Sloane was born while Clara was finishing her time in the Green Room and continued her visits over the next 2 years while Broden had his turn in the Red and Green Rooms. Sloane thought The Children's School was the greatest place and would try to explore every nook and cranny any chance she had to visit (we were often chasing after her through all the rooms just to keep an eye on her!). When she realized it was her turn to join the Blue Room, she was more than ready to go -- drop off on day one was harder for me than her, but her enthusiasm and excitement was reassuring. She has been enjoying her time in the Blue Room and Extended morning immensely and is still excited for school at greeting every morning!



We feel very lucky to have found such an amazing preschool that has fostered our children's curiosity and development in a homey environment. The faculty is so warm and nurturing and has become an extended family! The older alumni love any chance to come back with Sloane to see all the teachers and staff -- some of their favorite teachers are from their years at The Children's School. They often remember their activities from years before and during open house or family festival they make sure to do all their favorite things (like hammering nails and golf tees). We will always cherish our memories of The Children's School and continue to highly recommend the program, even when someone is still pregnant!

Family Spotlight: A Few Favorite Things

In August 2009, I packed my bags and moved to Pittsburgh, where I was about to begin the next chapter in my life, marriage and career. I had already considered Pittsburgh my home after attending Point Park University as a Dance major and performing locally for a few years, making it easy for me to say yes to settling in Pittsburgh when I married Dan (a born and raised Pittsburgher). Before marriage, I had been performing with the National Tours of My Little Pony Live and Sesame Street Live, but I wanted to be in the same city as Dan when I entered into marriage, which meant time for a career change. I had always known that I wanted to work in the education field after I was finished performing, so when I saw the job posting for Associate Kindergarten Teacher at the Children's School, I decided to take a chance and apply. I was ecstatic and nervous when I was offered the job. I quickly saw that the Children's School was a perfect place for me. The staff welcomed me with open arms and encouraged me to share my passion and talents in the arts with the children. I knew that when Dan and I were ready to start a family, we would without a doubt send our children to the school.



This school year, Dan and I began that journey as preschool parents at the Children's School when our oldest daughter, Addison, joined the Blue Room with Mrs. Marshall. That same ecstatic and nervous feeling came back once again as the school year started. I felt like every parent sending their child to school for the first time, with that endless list of questions in my head. But the nervousness quickly disappeared as I watched Addison grow during the past few months. I smile as she asks each morning, "Can I go to Mrs. Marshall now?" She is eager to leave my side to start her day in school. I have been amazed with the stories she shares about what they are learning, the endless art pieces that come home each day, and her eagerness to learn more. I feel blessed to bring my child to work with me each day and to peek out the window to see her running with a big smile on her face on the playground. Seeing her joy makes me excited for the years to come, as I know I will get to witness memories being made by my youngest daughter, Kiley, when she joins the Children's School in 2018.

Appreciation for Clothing Donations

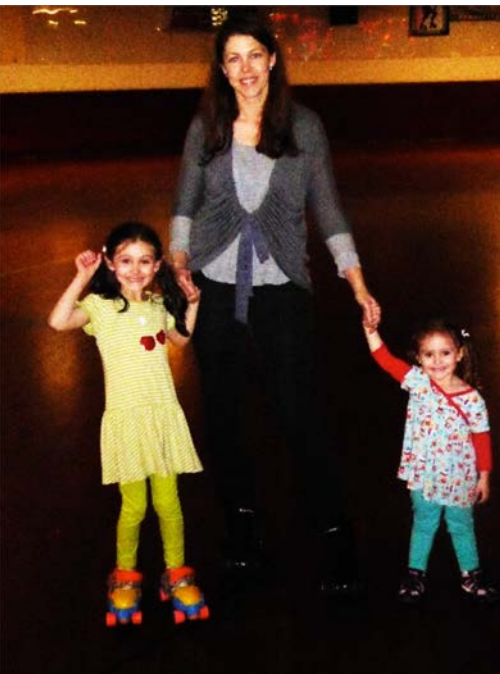
In the March 2016 newsletter, the DeLima family asked for help in collecting items for refugees to be donated to the South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM). We are happy to report that **132 POUNDS** of various necessities were donated by the Children's School families and delivered by the DeLimas to SHIM. This collection also included the new underwear and socks that we collected during the Whole School Textile Unit. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!! If you have ideas about how our children and families can support others in our community, please let us know.

Family Spotlight: FSO Leader Appreciation

Many thanks to Jessica Simcox and Alexis Tuckfelt for co-chairing our FSO Committee this past year. Below, we share messages from each of them about their experience. If you would be interested in co-chairing this committee for the 2016-2017 school year, please contact Mrs. Rosenblum. We are looking for a family member from each of the three classes (3's, 4's and Kindergarten) to help!

From Jessica: I really enjoyed meeting other parents at the family events this year! We will miss everything about The Children's School, especially connecting with other families at community events. Have a great summer!

From Alexis: Being an early childhood educator, I was a bit apprehensive that I might be one of those parents who is too involved with her child's school. However, when Marley started in the Red Room at the Children's School, I was excited to have the opportunity to join different volunteer committees, especially the FSO. It allowed me to use some of my teacher skills and be connected with the school community at the same time. I stayed on the committee when Marley was in the 4's and was excited to be asked to co-chair it during her Kindergarten year. The families have been so appreciative of the FSO and I have met many wonderful people along the way. I really value all of the support that the FSO has been given. My co-chair Jess, the FSO committee members and the Children's School educators have all been great collaborators! I know that my husband, Jeremy, also looks forward to FSO events so he can take a



break from work and join Marley in some fun with her school friends and their families. Taking the girls to skate at Romp N Roll, the same place where I learned as a child, was one of my favorite days this year. I am very thankful to have the FSO and these experiences with my family and others. Now I'm looking forward to what's in store for Ruthie's next three years at the Children's School!