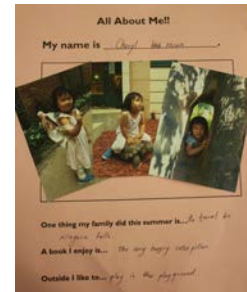


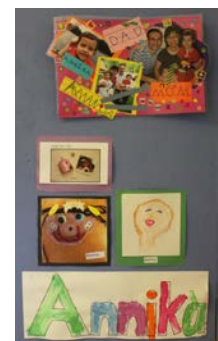
Family Spotlight: Snapshot of Our Community

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 84 families with 86 children at the Children's School, including 21 only children. Thirty-five of these families are new to the school, including families who recently moved to Pittsburgh from New York City, China, South Korea, Japan, and Germany. Among our families, we have two in which the parent is a Children's School alum!

Twenty-one 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. Twenty-eight of our mothers identified themselves as stay-at-home parents. The other parents listed a wide variety of professions, including Antique Dealer, Artist, Attorney, Audiologist, Banker, Business Owner, Chef, Chiropractor, Computer Engineer, Customer Service Rep., Designer, Entrepreneur, Financial Consultant, Funeral Director, Geologist, Journalist, Librarian, Manager, Mechanical Engineer, Music Composer, Nurse, Physician, Real Estate Developer, Researcher, Social Worker, Software Engineer, Teacher, Therapist, Transportation Company Owner / Operator, Veterinarian, Yoga Instructor, and Visiting Scholar.



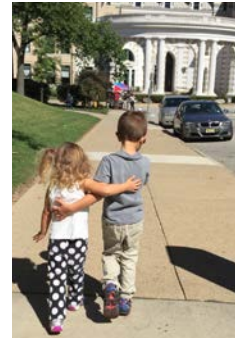
About a third of our children are dual language learners (26), and one is trilingual. This year, we have families speaking at least 14 languages besides English: Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, German, Gujarati, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, and Turkish.

We also talk about the school as a community where we are all helping each other to learn. We aim to build community by engaging families in school events, such as this month's Open Houses and Fall Family Fun, through our Family Social Organization (FSO), and through introductions in our newsletters. Each month hereafter, the Family Spotlight column will introduce one of the Children's School families in more depth. Please contact Mrs. Rosenblum if you would like to be a featured family. You can see prior family profiles on the Children's School web site under "For Families". The Armbruster, Bartlett, Handron, and Sims families introduced themselves last year.



Family Spotlight: We had a good day!

Lisa and Jono (Jonathan) Fortier met in 1st grade at elementary school in Hampton, north of the city. In their 5th grade classroom, Lisa's desk was behind Jono's desk, and she would often stretch her long legs out, while he usually tucked his feet under his chair. She didn't know it at the time, but every time she'd "bump" his feet, that made his day! They became best friends in their later high school years and dated throughout college - Lisa at Slippery Rock and Jono at Duquesne. They are excited to be celebrating their 10th anniversary in early November.



Before Eli (4 years old, afternoon Green room) and Lucy (soon to be 3, afternoon Blue room) were born, Lisa and Jono enjoyed traveling and trying new restaurants – but times have changed! One of their most memorable explorations was in 2008, when they both took a leave from their careers and travelled around the world, while working onboard a ship for the Semester at Sea program. They had memorable adventures in 10 different countries for 4 months.



Lisa has been with the Wilkinsburg School District for 14 years where she is a 5th grade teacher. She was able to take the last 3 years off from teaching, to be at home with the children but is happy to be back in the classroom where she positively impacts the lives of many students. Jono worked for Deloitte Consulting for a few years after college, but has been with UPMC in various roles over the last 11 years. His favorite position was being part of the new hospital project team where he managed the physical move of the Children's Hospital from Oakland to Lawrenceville. He currently works part-time for the UPMC Enterprises division. Jono is extremely grateful for his current work situation, which allows him to be with Eli and Lucy when they aren't at their favorite place – the Children's School!

The Fortier Family lives in Regent Square and they enjoy walks around the neighborhood and frequent hikes in Frick Park. Their travels have tamed down for sure, but they enjoy visiting friends in Chicago or New York City when possible. They love all that Pittsburgh has to offer and frequently visit the museums, zoo, and as many festivals and outdoor concerts as they can.

One fun fact about Eli and Lucy's paternal great-grandparents is that they met and fell in love on CMU's campus (then Carnegie Tech). Jono's grandfather was the proprietor of the Skibo Inn, a popular campus eatery, and his grandmother was taking classes on campus (while still in high school). He closed the Skibo in 1943 to join the Volunteer Officer Corp for the Army during World War II. Pictured here is Charlie taking the sign down. The original sign now hangs on the wall at Wheelfish – a neighborhood BBQ restaurant / live music venue in Ross Township - a venture that Jono and his younger brother are partners in. The namesake for the original Skibo still exists on campus in the union as the Skibo Café – recently re-done and now operated by Au Bon Pain.



Most evenings Eli and Lucy can be heard playing instruments in the family room and singing “*We had a good day, we had a good day, we had a good day, at the Children's School.....[high pitched and louder].....OOOOLLL*” Lisa and Jono are grateful to be part of the Children's School Family.

Family Spotlight: Back in the 'Burgh

Our family is not originally from Pittsburgh, but we've chosen to make it our home for the second time. The first time Nathan and Kara moved to Pittsburgh, we moved for Nathan to attend CMU for graduate school. We were lucky enough to spend 5 years here and send our oldest child, James (now 7), to the Children's School. He had Mrs. Tomer in the 3's and Mrs. Cherin in the 4's. He loved the Children's School and learned every song they ever taught him. We are so thankful for caring staff and wonderful community. James was not, however, able to attend Kindergarten here because we moved again – this time to Chicago for Nathan to do a post-doc at Northwestern University.



Kara was a teacher and then got a Master's in Social Work before the first move to Pittsburgh. Since James was born, she has been keeping busy staying at home. Our youngest, Madelyn (1), is a delightful handful. We have, of course, registered her for the Children's School, too.

This second time we moved to Pittsburgh this past summer, we again moved for Nathan's work. He now works for CMU as a member of the research staff. It is a good gig: he gets to solve interesting problems for the Software Engineering Institute and work on fundamental social science methodology at the Heinz College of Public Policy.

More importantly, however, now that we are back in Pittsburgh, we get to send our middle child, Lillian (4), to the Children's School. She is in the 4's with Mrs. Opferman and amazes us with how different she is from her brother James. She does every art project and tells us everything that ever happens during her day. She loves it here. We couldn't be happier to rejoin this community that makes us feel like being back in the 'Burgh is like returning home.

Kara, Nathan, James, Lillian, and Madelyn Van Houdnos



Family Spotlight: Our First School

I am Jaycee and I would like to introduce my family to you! My family consists of my daddy-John, my mommy-Jacky, my older beautiful sister-Joya, my younger brother-Jacob, and me!

My parents moved to Pittsburgh from Lebanon in 2006, so my daddy could attend his residency and fellowship. My daddy is a doctor. He is a stomach doctor. Mommy is a sociologist and she is the center of our household. Joya is 7 and she is in second grade. I'm 3 and I go to school in the Children's School Red Room. Jacob is 1!

Joya, my sister, attended CMU for 2 years, and she always tells me how great our school is. Mommy and daddy are impressed with how far I've come since starting school. Although Jacob is still 1, he can't wait to go to CMU too!

We travel a lot and go back often to Lebanon to visit our family. I have a very big family over there! We spend our free time walking and exercising and doing lots of family activities. Daddy exercises a lot and so does mommy, so we also join them in the fun! We love to go try new restaurants and go to new places.

We all love Pittsburgh, our home town! We love CMU, our first school!



Lost and Found

We have accumulated quite a collection of jackets, barrettes and other items of unlabeled children's clothing. If your child is missing anything, please look in our lost and found area in the hallway or send a note to your child's teacher with a description and we will see if we have it!

Family Spotlight: Education for the Entire Family

We have been members of the CMU Children's School family since the fall of 2016, and it has been an absolute joy since the first day. Chudi fell in love with the school from the moment he walked in; we just knew that it was the right place for him. Our early education experience caused us to focus on math and reading skills at home, and we were eager for an environment that introduced Chudi to other skills that didn't come naturally to us, such as arts, science, music, and technology in a way that is fun and accessible to a preschooler. The Children's School program has been perfect for improving Chudi's weaknesses, while challenging him to continuously grow in his strength areas. We reached out to a lot of families who had attended the Children's School prior to our enrolling. Our main concern was that the limited hours of the school was going to be very strenuous on our work schedules. The consensus was the same from all the parents we consulted. "The schedule is very hectic, but the education and experience the child receives is more than worth it." We listened to their advice, took the plunge, and are so glad that we did.



While we knew that Chudi was going to receive a great education, we didn't anticipate how much we were going to learn as parents, or how warm and amazing the educators were going to be. Dr. Carver and the entire team devote an incredible amount of time to providing parents with materials and opportunities to learn about child development. We now have a place to go with all the questions we have about raising our child, and we are confident that they will point us to the right resources to meet our needs. Every staff member that we have encountered has responded to all our needs and has made specific accommodations for our family's unique context. All the teachers have been so warm, happy and inviting; they treat Chudi like he is special in his own way. We couldn't be happier that we chose the Children's School for Chudi.



Uchenna & Judith Uchidiuno

Book Fair Update

Once the online sales for our December 2016 Book Fair were included, our total rose to \$6,000.00, which means our library will be getting almost \$900.00 in books. This event is by far the most successful book fair to date. Thanks to everyone who helped organize the event, as well as to everyone who shopped for books!

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Family Spotlight: Constants Across 7 Years

Hello! We are the Goldberg Family. After ONLY 7 consecutive years of enrollment at the Children's School, we have finally been honored with a family spotlight. Either the Children's School was waiting for our last check to clear or they wanted to build a seven-year suspense to unveil the fabulous Goldberg family.

Our perfect family consists of Eric, the handsome Dad, the Stepford wife, Beth, and three brilliant children Neve (age 9), Asher (age 7) and Maren (age 5). We live in Squirrel Hill and love to dine at the finest that the area has to offer. You will usually find us at Mineo's Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Cold Stone Creamery, Eat 'N Park and the CMU food trucks. As a family, we love to travel, watch sporting events and cook together. Beth is an Audiologist. She previously worked at the VA hospital. Beth loves when people say to her "What? I can't hear you". Eric runs a sports incentive travel company and a commercial real estate development company. Both Eric and Beth were born and raised in Pittsburgh. Eric also has roots in Toronto, Canada. Eric is an avid canoer and spent two weeks last summer paddling down the Snake River in the Yukon Territories. Beth is an avid sun tanner. She spent last summer at the Edgewood pool.



We first heard about the Children's School from a friend while Neve was in utero. Being the neurotic first time parents that many of us are, we submitted the application for an unnamed child for admission into the school! With a name picked, in 2010 the Children's School offered our three-year-old daughter, Neve, admission. Neve joined Mrs. Flynn and Mr. Salinetto in the Blue Room, starting our 7 year run. From that moment, we were a part of the loving, thoughtful and dedicated Children's School family. That same family also allowed Eric to walk into their break room and share their lunches, which he did each and every time he walked into the school. During that first year, the Children's School was probably hopeful that we were just going to be "one year wonders", but Eric loved the staff's lunches so much that Neve moved on to the Green Room with Mrs. Bird. Neve followed the Green Room with Kindergarten with Mrs. Perovich and Mrs. Blizman. After a wonderful kindergarten experience, Neve matriculated from the Children's School to Falk School. Neve is doing great at school and is also a student in Pittsburgh Musical Theater. In fact, she has an upcoming role in "The Lion King Jr."

The following year, after a very tough negotiation with Ms. Drash, we decided to enroll our son, Asher, into the Blue Room in exchange for a better selection of cookies for Eric during staff lunch. Asher was guided by the team of Ms. Stevens and Mr. Salinetto. Asher loved the experience and, to this day, still remains great friends with some of his Blue Room classmates. To our delight, Asher followed the footsteps of Neve and joined the Green Room with Mrs. Bird. Asher loved to regale us about Mrs. Bird's versions of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird" and "Going to California" by Led Zeppelin. The following year, Asher moved on to join his sister at Falk. Asher loves Falk and is often seen at the cafeteria eating double lunches. He also loves playing basketball and baseball.

Continued ...

Family Spotlight ... continued

Last year, following Asher's matriculation and keeping the consecutive payments rolling, it was Maren's turn to join the Children's School community! Having literally grown up with the Children's School (she was born while Neve was in the Green Room and made it into the daily email), she was eager to start in the Blue Room. Maren would finally get to witness firsthand the magic of Mr. "Sal" along with Mrs. Marshall. This would be the third Goldberg child with Mr. Salinetro. While some in the Goldberg family have gone grey, grown taller, and lost teeth, one thing remains a constant - Mr. Salinetro hasn't aged! Maren believes that he is actually a CMU robotic teacher. She may have a point. After leaving the Blue Room, like her siblings, Maren joined Mrs. Bird in the Green Room. Maren loves school and is truly disappointed when she is not there. Maren loves to get dressed up and will do so even if we are going to Jimmy John's.

While each of our children has had a unique experience at the Children's School, including favorite themes, activities, and daily jobs, the constant among them all is their love of the wonders and excitement that the school brings each day. The fantastic staff and educators at the Children's School have provided our children with the framework for intellectual growth and discovery. Asher and Neve, on their days off, are thrilled and proud to walk into the school as alumni to pick up their sister and say "Hi!" to their former teachers. Years later, they are still always greeted warmly by all of the teachers and administrators. Eric, on the other hand, is greeted with a groan as they know that their snacks will be raided again. It is hard to believe that our time at the Children's School is coming to an end. While we will miss the Children's School facilities and educational platform, we will really miss the people that have turned a school into a home for us. We would like to thank Dr. Carver and the entire team for embracing us. We firmly believe that our children have been given a foundation that will create educational, artistic, and social successes for a lifetime. We will all come back to visit and, of course, eat the staff's lunches.

With great love, appreciation and admiration,

The Goldbergs



Box Tops for Education Update



Thank you to everyone who collected and submitted Box Tops for Education. In this collection period (October - March), we received 644 Box Tops for a total of \$64.40. Our next Box Top Submission Deadline is in the fall of 2017.

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Family Spotlight: A Bittersweet Farewell



Hello! We are the Snediker Family - Elijah (4), currently in Mrs. Opferman's class, Caleb (8), formerly in Mrs Perovich's class, Alexandra and Daniel, and I would be remiss if I didn't include our dog, Kolby. Pittsburgh is such a special place for our family. It was where Daniel and I met, got engaged, bought our first home and, after being away for five years, returned to raise our two sons. We are so blessed to have been able to join the Children's School family in 2014. Caleb had just turned five and joined Mrs. Perovich's class for the spring semester. He quickly adjusted to the transition from Long Island in no small part because of the nurturing environment. He came to love it here and blossomed during his time. Being part of this community was the perfect transition back to Pittsburgh. Participating in FSO events allowed our family to quickly make new friends and to rediscover Pittsburgh as parents.

Before we knew it, it was Elijah's turn to head to school. Thank goodness for sibling preference! Ha! He was more than ready, having watched Caleb. I will not forget, as we still have them, the little heart stone given to each child on the first day of Mrs. Tomer's class. It was so special to be able to participate once again in the Children's School community, this time at the start of the 3-year old program. It's been amazing to watch Elijah develop in the magical space that is the Children's School.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to finish our journey here as new adventures await us. Daniel has accepted a new position as the Director of the Emergency Department at Florida Hospital, Tampa. We are so blessed to have been here these past three years and to have had the opportunity to share it with the Children's School educators and families. Thank you to all of you. We will miss you!



Family Spotlight: A Homecoming

Kevin and I (Lauren) met in Iowa City, Iowa—a small town surrounded by cornfields, miles away from where either of us grew up. Kevin is from Puerto Rico, where we usually still spend part of the year, and I grew up in Connecticut. Our academic jobs led us to Pittsburgh in 2013, and it felt like a kind of homecoming. I was born in Pittsburgh, and Kevin attended Carnegie Mellon as an undergraduate, where he had the privilege of taking a child development class with Dr. Carver and visiting the Children's School as an observer. When we moved to Pittsburgh, we felt so fortunate to be able to send our son Javi to the Children's School. From the teachers and administrators to the students and parents, we have felt surrounded by generous, intelligent, and motivated people. Through his time in the Red Room, Green Room, and now the Kindergarten Room, Javi has really taken to the myriad hands-on learning choices provided, and we never know what he is going to tell us about on a given day—whether it's an explanation of how astronauts readjust to life on earth, or a breakdown of the concepts of momentum and acceleration, or the details of a delicious-sounding snack that Javi was too picky to eat. We could not be happier with the education he has received—both in terms of learning how the world works and learning how to be a team player and a good friend. He is passing all of this down to his little sister Eliza, who just turned two.



When not at school or work, we can usually be found at a playground. Even on a hot and sunny day when Javi has spent the last hour or more outside at school, his first question is usually, "Can we go to the Dinosaur Playground?" I sometimes feel like a vending machine, given the quantity of snacks and drinks I have started carrying around. If anyone feels like meeting for playground fun, we are usually game!

We are also a family of readers and writers. Javi is just getting started reading and is always up for a good detective story, and Eliza will bring books to all of us and ask us to read. A very fond recent memory was watching Javi read his first book to Eliza. Language and its possibilities have always intrigued us--Kevin and I teach creative writing through the English Department at CMU--and I have been lucky enough to bring some of my advanced poetry students to work with the friends in the 4's and kindergarten classrooms. My students were so impressed with the vibrant imaginative work the Children's School friends produced during our time spent hearing and generating imagistic poems.

We are so grateful for the three wonderful years Javi has had at the Children's School, and we hope to stay close to everyone moving forward!

