

## 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 71 families with 78 children at the Children's School, including 25 only children. Twenty-six of these families are new to the school, including families who recently moved to Pittsburgh from Turkey, France, South Korea, Japan, Russia and Germany. Among our families, we have three in which the parent is a Children's School alum!

Sixteen of our families have a parent who is a graduate student or faculty member at Carnegie Mellon, and two are faculty at Pitt. Twenty-three of our mothers and one father identified themselves as stay-at-home parents. The other parents listed a wide variety of professions, including Anesthesiologist, Archivist, Army National Guard, Artist, Attorney, Audiologist, Audio Technician, Banker, Business Owner, Chef, Chiropractor, Computer Engineer, Correctional Officer, Customer Service Rep., Designer, Entrepreneur, Event Manager, Financial Consultant, Food Service, Funeral Director, Hair Stylist, Journalist, Librarian, Mathematician, Mechanical Engineer, Mail Carrier, Nurse, Ophthalmologist, Pastry Chef, PhD Student, Physician, Real Estate Developer, Researcher, Restaurant Owner, Social Worker, Software and Robotics Engineer, Sports Psychologist, Teacher, Therapist, Veterinarian, Video Editor and Producer.



About a third of our children are dual language learners (23), and one is trilingual. This year, we have families speaking at least 15 languages besides English: Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Gujarati, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, 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 Uchidiuno, Fortier, and VanHoudnos families introduced themselves last year.

## Family Spotlight: The Love Family

We're Bill and Morgen Love, and we keep ending up back in Pittsburgh. Morgen grew up here; Bill's family moved to this area when he was in high school. Then we both went to a bunch of different cities for college and wanderings. We've spent time in Providence RI, Ithaca NY, Seattle WA, and bits of Florida. Bill got a Ph.D. mostly so he'd be able to call himself Dr. Love.



We moved back to Pittsburgh again in 2011. Julia arrived in 2012. Bill now works in the Computer Science department at CMU, where he builds computer clusters for professors & grad students. Morgen is an artist-turned-mom, who is trying to decide if Julia is old enough yet that it's safe to set up a letterpress shop in the living room.



Our family's involvement with the Children's School began rather suddenly two-and-a-half years ago when Bill, who had heard of the Children's School from a friend in his department, went over to see about putting Julia onto a waiting list for enrollment. Since Julia's birthday is in December, we were assuming that she'd have to be three in order to enroll, and we thought that getting on the list more than a year in advance was a good idea.

"When is her birthday?" asked Mrs. Rosenblum.

"December 2nd," answered Bill.

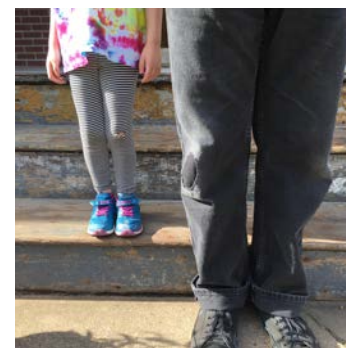
"Oh, she can enroll for this coming year, and we still have room in our afternoon class. Here's the application."

So we sent Julia to the Blue Room with Mr. Salinetto two years ago this fall, a year sooner than we were expecting, and it has been a terrific experience. We remember that one of the very first things Julia was excited about was the trick she learned for putting on her hoodie (for instruction, see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gux6T\\_OY8n4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gux6T_OY8n4)).

Having Julia at the Children's School has been great for the rest of us too. Julia's Granny Martha (Morgen's mom) was excited to have yet another garden to help tend. Bill has enjoyed being able to bring Julia to work with him, and Julia loves getting to visit his office after school. We all wish that we had gotten to go to such an amazing preschool.

## Save the Date: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff

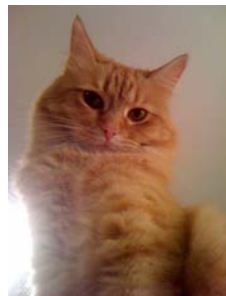
Join us on Monday, January, 22, 2018 at Hidden Harbor in Squirrel Hill to celebrate 50 years of The Children's School! Hidden Harbor is a comfortable and inviting location, serving tropical drinks and bites in the long-standing tiki tradition, but with a touch of modern inspiration. Watch your email for more information on this event. <http://www.hiddenharborpgh.com/>





## Family Spotlight: 85% Cat-Themed

Hello! We are the Kurzweg Family – Pete, Jeni, and Emeline. We're attempting to write this spotlight together but we're both attorneys, so we're already fighting over the wording. To wit, regarding the phrase "Kurzweg Family," Jeni notes for the record that she did not change her last name to Kurzweg. That fact notwithstanding, Pete still regards her as a "Kurzweg" but fiercely supports her decision not to change her name from Hergenreder.



We both grew up in Pittsburgh. We are high school sweethearts. We have lived in State College, PA (Jeni), Princeton, NJ (Pete), and New York, NY (both). We both returned to Pittsburgh in 2005 to attend Pitt Law School. In 2008, Pete started his own law practice and Jeni started working at a non-profit organization where she represents children with disabilities. In 2008, we also adopted two kittens – a handsome tuxedo cat named Felix and a fluffy orange tabby cat named Clementine. We really like cats. Emeline's wardrobe is approximately 85% cat-themed. In 2011, we bought and rehabbed a 100-year-old house on the Northside (in Deutschtown).



In 2012, after we had (Pete: "more-or-less;" Jeni: "not-at-all") finished the house, we adopted another cat, Klaus (he's German). After that, we figured we should probably have a child so we would quit adopting cats. Emeline was born in November 2013. Three months later, Pete opened a craft beer bar, the Independent Brewing Company, in Squirrel Hill. In 2016, he opened a craft cocktail bar, Hidden Harbor, in the space next door. Both bars are restaurants too and we enjoy having dinners there! If you hear

Emeline say her Dad is "at the bar", it means he is at work. Really!



Emeline joined The Children's School last year. On her first day, Mrs. Tomer greeted her with a big smile and a puppy-dog puppet. Within moments, Emeline whispered in Jeni's ear "I like her." We did too. Emeline grew so much last year. When she started, she could barely share space, let alone items, with the other friends. In Mrs. Tomer's words, she was "a little handsy." At the end of year picnic, she giggled and played happily with her friends. We are forever indebted to the patient and talented Three's Team.

This year, Emeline is in the Green Room with the incredibly skilled Mrs. Opferman. Her favorite thing about Mrs. Opferman is her "cute blonde hair." Our favorite thing about Mrs. Opferman is how she had a handle on Emeline before we could even blink. At home, Emeline continues to enact circle time. She is the teacher, of course. We each have assigned "sit upons" and she has weather symbols for the weather song. She no longer tells us to keep "hands to your own body." This year we have a new saying -- "put a bubble in your mouth" -- and we're pretty sure that isn't a reference to gum.

We love The Children's School and are so grateful we're part of its family. We wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful school year!

The Kurzweg Family



## Family Spotlight: Preschool Brothers

Hi there! We are the Phillips Family – Branden (5) currently in Mrs. Bird's class, Kieran (3) currently in Mrs. Tomer's class, Kensei and Arden. We feel so lucky to have found the Children's School. We enrolled Branden in 2016 as a Blue Room friend with Ms. O'Neill and this year, Kieran was excited to join his brother at the school. We love the school and feel that it has been the best part of our time in Pittsburgh. We relocated to Pittsburgh from Washington, DC in 2015 for a new job opportunity and took a while to get our bearings in a new city, hours away from our family. When we arrived, Kieran was just four months old! It was a very hectic time for us. The nurturing and supportive community at the Children's School has truly been a blessing, and we feel that Branden and Kieran will benefit from their experience for years to come.



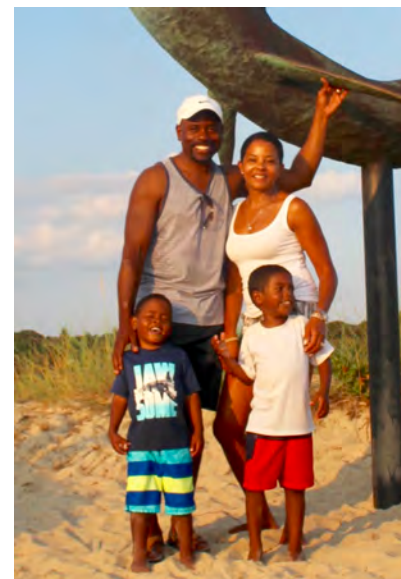
Branden and Kieran represent a lot of diversity. Kensei and her mother have Native American roots and are both members of the Shinnecock Nation located on Long Island, NY. The son of immigrants from Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies, Arden is the first American born in his entire family. Branden and Kieran have fond memories of visiting both locations annually, meeting relatives and learning about their heritage.



This year, Branden has enjoyed tinkering in the Make Shop, caring for the garden beds on the playground, and making paper airplanes with Mr. Salinetto. He is most proud about being a new author/illustrator – Mrs. Bird recently helped Branden create his own short story. Kieran has enjoyed learning the Red Room routines, playing with vehicles during free choice time, and joining his brother in the Extended Day program. As parents, our favorite activity was the "Soup Opera" that was held last year. Branden loved learning the lines of the characters and participating with friends to bring the story to life.

As a family, we love traveling and have visited San Francisco, Martha's Vineyard, New York City and Denver, Colorado in the past year, in addition to our frequent trips to DC to visit family and friends. Kensei just experienced a wonderful

week-long vacation to Cabo Verde off the coast of Africa in November. She was greatly missed while she was away! We also like dining out – Branden and Kieran love the cuisine and atmosphere of Mad Mex. In the summer, we also enjoy spending time at our community pool. Most of all, Branden and Kieran take great pleasure learning and spending time with their friends at the Children's School. We thank Dr. Carver, Mrs. Tomer, Mrs. Bird and all the educators who have helped Branden and Kieran have a special experience at the Children's School.





## Family Spotlight: Hidden Treasure

Hi Everyone! We are the Figueroa family. Our son Ryder is in Mr. Salinetto's Preschool 3's class in the afternoon. Chris and I met while we were on vacation in South Carolina, about a month before his first deployment. After his deployment, we purchased a house in Munhall, and he relocated here. Two years later, we were blessed with Ryder. When looking for a school, I knew it was going to be a hard decision. I looked high and low for a program that worked for our schedule and was the best fit for Ryder. Chris was deployed throughout this search, but we spent many Skype sessions discussing what I found. When I toured the Children's School, I knew I had found a hidden treasure. I would say that Chris agrees now that he is here and can experience it for himself as well. Since Ryder hadn't had any experience in childcare or with a large number of children, the small afternoon class was a perfect fit. Another reason the Children's School stood out to me, as a parent, was the staff. They are kind and helpful. They work hard and are devoted to the children.



Since Ryder started school, he loves to come home and tell us stories of his day. One thing that I love is that we have the opportunity to join in the conversation based on the daily e-mails that are sent. It's amazing as a parent to see your child make friends and learn SO many new things. Their theme in class right now is Outer Space, and Ryder hasn't stopped talking about it since it began. He knows all the planet names and can tell you ALL about a rocket ship and astronauts. We are excited to see him grow and learn in the Preschool 4's next year and then, we hope, in the Kindergarten as well.

I want to say thank you to everyone who works at the Children's School for making the first years of Ryder's education so amazing. From the time we started completing enrollment paperwork, to seeing the educators daily at greeting and dismissal, we couldn't be more grateful for a school that goes above and beyond every day.



## Share our Hidden Treasure

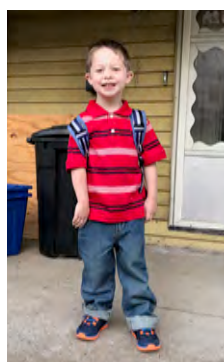
Please help us ensure that the treasure of the Children's School doesn't stay hidden from families whose children would benefit from our programs. Spread the word! Share our web site! Invite prospective parents to tour the school!

## 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: Our Family Education Tradition

We are the Bird/Pfeuffer family. Our family has a long history of being connected to the Children's School, and we are so glad Rowan is able to carry on the tradition as a morning Blue Room friend with Ms. O'Neill. As an alum, Darrah started her education at the Children's School 26 years ago as a Red Room friend with Mrs. Steinberg, worked during college breaks as an assistant in the classrooms, and spent one summer as an intern. Rowan's Mimi and Darrah's Mom, Mrs. Bird, has been teaching at the school for 35 years!



When making the school decision, it was inevitable that we would choose a place to start Rowan's education that has not only loved and been loved by our family, but that we could trust to promote Rowan's inclination for learning, adventure, and discovery. Knowing the educators for so long to be fierce advocates for every child and their unique and individual needs only further affirmed our decision. As an especially outgoing kid, Rowan craves interaction and just wants to play, play, play! He loves seeing his friends, playing with animals and playdough, and hearing stories from his teachers at circle time. We love that his teachers know and understand his needs and support him in the classroom, even when he tries to be in charge and entertain everyone around him.



Darrah and PJ are Pittsburgh natives and met as camp counselors in college. Then, we both pursued graduate work in Pittsburgh. PJ is most often seen at the school during greeting and dismissal, and he works as a movie theater manager and as guest pastor for local Presbyterian Church congregations. Darrah works as a social worker in housing and homelessness services. As a family, we love exploring and playing, we belong to many of the local museums, and we seek learning experiences available to us in the city. We particularly love being

outside and are especially ready for spring to arrive. As you can see, the Children's School is a place beyond just an ordinary preschool for us all. It has given our family the opportunity to see Rowan grow, play, and learn in leaps and bounds while surrounded by a community of children, parents, caregivers, and educators who support, sustain, and encourage children to realize their best selves through love of play and learning.

## 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 835 Box Tops for a total of \$83.50. Our next Box Top Submission Deadline is in the Fall of 2018.





## Family Spotlight: The Triple A's

Hello! We're the Triple A's, as my mom affectionately calls us. We are Pittsburgh natives and our family includes: Aubri (5), who is in the Kindergarten class at The Children's School; Anyssa (14), Aubri's big sister, who is in the eighth grade and wants to be an "engineer of some sort" (her exact words); and myself, Angelica (pronounced An-ja-lee-ka), a Senior Policy Analyst by day and of course Aubri and Anyssa's mom. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my mom, Joann, who many of you may see bringing Aubri to school, picking her up after school, and attending daytime FSO events because I am ALWAYS at work.



When deciding on where to send Aubri for preschool, I knew I wanted more than what the "typical" local preschools were offering, but I couldn't find the "right" place. My aunt, who works at CMU, suggested I consider The Children's School. I then remembered that my cousin attended The Children's School over 17 years ago! Taking my aunt's advice, I visited the website, read about the program, and was sold on this being a good fit for Aubri. My mom (because, of course, I had to work) and Anyssa visited the school with Aubri, and they too were sold. Especially Aubri. She was so eager to attend that she kept asking if she was going to school tomorrow, and it was only April. This is now Aubri's second year at the Children's school and she LOVES it! – last year she was in Mrs. Cherin's class (PM 4's).

When asked, "What do you like most about school?" Aubri says, "Learning, painting, switching jobs, and playing with toys (blocks, Legos, on the rainbow rug)." "Oh, and snack time because I eat a lot there." Aubri also likes playing outside with her classmates, especially riding bikes and sledding. Her favorite FSO events so far have been going to see Ferdinand and the Just Ducky tour. Aubri has such a creative spirit with an imagination that never ceases to amaze me. What I like most about The Children's School is that the teachers foster her creative side without sacrificing the learning.



As a family, we mostly like relaxing and watching movies together at home. Our latest favorite is Coco, which was great by the way. When we do venture out, we like going to restaurants, the movie theatre, Dave and Buster's, the Science Center, the Children's Museum, and shopping. We haven't taken many vacations, but we have visited Disney World TWICE. Aubri also enjoys spending time with her dad, Sha, who is her "favorite person in all the land" (and that may be an understatement) and her two half-sisters, Shatterra (12) and Peyton (3), both of whom she adores (that too may be an understatement).

## Family Spotlight: A Pittsburgh Adventure

Hi! We're the Heinz Family—Chris, Sasha, Jack, and Sloan (also known as Sloan-e-baloney). In August 2016, we moved from New York City to Pittsburgh. It was a big, but welcome change for all of us. Jack and Sloan said goodbye to yellow taxis, elevators, and the food delivery guys and hello to a messy SUV, stairs, and chickens at their grandmother's farm in Fox Chapel.

Sloan (4) is finishing her second year at The Children's School. Her big brother, Jack (7), is at Winchester Thurston School. I (Sasha) am a



Developmental Psychologist, but work in private practice with adults. One day, I found myself obsessing over the comparative developmental benefits of the sippy cup vs the straw cup and, for the sake of everyone's sanity (especially my children), decided to stop consulting with parents about their children's development. Chris works at PNC, where he manages the external Fintech investment program. The children are extremely perplexed as to why his job doesn't include tickets to Pirates games. They have a point.

Moving to Pittsburgh has been a new adventure for the entire family. We (Chris and Sasha) both grew up in Washington, D.C. Believe it or not, we went to the same elementary school and the same high school but did not know each other until we met in New York in 2001. We always thought we would one day move back to Washington, D.C., but a gorgeous late May weekend in 2015 convinced us that Pittsburgh was the perfect place for our family. We spent one year living in Fox Chapel and have now moved to a house in Squirrel Hill, which is delightfully close to both schools.



To say that Sloan loves The Children's School is a huge understatement. In the Red Room with Mrs. Tomer, Sloan had her first taste of school, and it was pretty darn delicious. This year, Sloan is in the Green Room with Mrs. Opferman, who may indeed be one of Sloan's best buddies. She can't wait to see her friends and teachers at school and, of course, get dirty in the mud kitchen. When asked what her favorite thing about The Children's School is, she replied, "The block center and the art table!"



We adore The Children's School and pinch ourselves that Sloan has been lucky enough to be part of such a deliberately creative, warm, thoughtful, and positive environment. Plus, her grandmother gets to brag to all that her granddaughter goes to CMU—and does she ever!

We wish all of you a very happy (and sunny) summer and cannot wait to be back in September.

The Heinz Family