Happy New Year, Everyone!

Though “Future Graduate” Ryan (Mrs. Tomer’s grandson) is too young to enroll at the Children’s School, it IS time to ensure that we have applications on file for all our infant and toddler siblings. It’s also time to plan for the 2016/2017 School Year! Please see the information on the next page.

Honoring Founder, Dr. Ann Baldwin Taylor

The educators of The Children’s School are pleased to announce the naming of The Ann Baldwin Taylor Early Childhood Scholarship Fund for the Carnegie Mellon University Children’s School.

We wish to honor Dr. Ann Baldwin Taylor, Children’s School Founding Director 1968-1993, and her legacy by providing a venue for children of all economic levels to benefit from a Children’s School education. A wonderful developmentally appropriate education for young children exists at Carnegie Mellon University Children’s School because of Ann. In 1968, her vision of a progressive, experiential learning environment, along with exemplary leadership, professional development, and a supportive community, laid the foundation for the Children’s School’s current success.

Miss Hancock arranged a reception in Ann’s honor on Sunday, December 20, 2015. She, Dr. Carver, Mrs. Bird, and retired teacher Judy Smalley attended the celebration (pictured right), along with educator Judy Hallinen, who now heads CMU’s Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach. Donations can be made directly to the Ann Baldwin Taylor Early Childhood Scholarship Fund via the Children’s School website.

January Dates:

- January 6th AM PM – Prospective Parent Preschool Open House
- Acceptances to New 3’s
- January 14th – Re-enrollment Packets Sent to Current 3’s Families
- Week of January 11th – Speech & Hearing Screening Days
- January 18th – NO SCHOOL (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)
- January 29th – Staff / Parent Discussion re: TEXTILES 9:30-11:00
  (child care provided for Preschool 3’s and younger siblings)
- February 4th - Re-enrollment Packets Sent to Current 4’s Families
Enrollment & Re-Enrollment for 2016-17

Preschool Enrollment and Re-Enrollment: Acceptance packets for incoming 3’s and those new to our 4’s Program will be sent on January 6th. Re-enrollment packets for those children currently in our 3’s Program will be sent home in backpacks on January 14th. You will be asked to submit a $500, non-refundable deposit to reserve your child’s space for 2016/2017.

Extended Program: Spaces in our Extended Day Program are limited to 24 children, with preference given to children already in the program. These spaces fill quickly, so return your forms and $200 deposit promptly if you are interested. The $200 will be refunded if there is no space for your child.

Kindergarten Re-Enrollment: We coordinate our re-enrollment for Kindergarten with the private school timeline, so packets will not be sent home via backpacks until February 4th. Our Kindergarten class is limited to 24 children. Based on the information we received during our Parent/Teacher conferences in the fall, we anticipate having spaces for all presently enrolled 4’s whose families have expressed an interest in our program. Nonetheless, we ask that you submit your admission documents and $700 deposit before February 19th. After February 19th, new applicants will be admitted.

Open Houses: Wednesday, January 6th at 9:00 am and 12:45 pm. These Open Houses are designed for prospective Children’s School parents and involve a presentation by Dr. Carver and observations in the classrooms. Current parents are welcome to attend.

Please contact Mrs. Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-2199 if you have questions concerning the enrollment or re-enrollment process.

#givingCMUday

Fifteen donors participated in the #givingCMU day on December 1, 2015. The Children’s School General Fund received $245 and $182.50 was donated to the Ann Baldwin Taylor Early Childhood Scholarship Fund. Thank you for you generosity!

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Though we do not have school on the national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, our January units focus on cooperation, acceptance, peace and caring for all people (Children Around the World in the preschool and You, Me and Us in the kindergarten). If you want to talk about Martin Luther King, Jr. at home, some educators recommend starting with a discussion of heroes, as people who are brave enough to make the world better. Preschool Plan-It (http://www.preschool-plan-it.com/martin-luther-king.html) suggests that you explain that Martin Luther King, Jr. was a hero. “He worked hard for peace--ALL people getting along and being treated the same.” Sometimes people are treated badly because they do not have the same color skin. Dr. King wanted to change that and he shared his dream “that someday, ALL people would get along no matter what color their skin was.” Depending on your family experience, you can then talk about how to help make his dream come true. For ideas about how to spend family time on MLK Day this year, see http://www.nextpittsburgh.com/events/top-family-adventures-in-pittsburgh-this-january/. 
January Gallery Features

3’s Friends: Henry A., Buddy D., and Elijah F.

4’s Friends: Malena F. and Leeza K.

Kindergarten Friends: Evy B. and Owen L.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Once again our Barnes & Noble Book Fair was great fun and we raised $3,098 in total in-store purchases on December 5th (on-line total still pending). This means that our library acquisition fund will receive at least $464 to purchase new books for our Make Shop! The Kuhn family organized some wonderful Origami activities and Chris Grill provided eye-catching Book Fair t-shirts. Thanks also to the following volunteers for helping at the Welcome Table and the gift-wrapping: Jessica Simms, Melissa McFadden, Maria DeLima, Leslie Aronson, Stacey Biro, Janice Romanko, Jillian Jochum, Michelle Landau, Amy Williams, Jen Moak, Michelle Bard, Nathan Boy and Soon Jae Oh. As always, Mrs. Bird – accompanied by Mr. Bird – gave a wonderful performance. Dave Crawley gave a reading from his latest book of poems Creepy Crawlies.

Spring! Save the Date

Saturday, April 2, 2016

The Children’s School will be participating in the spring 1000Plus Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Please plan to join us for a day of spring garden cleanup, planting and FUN!!
Upcoming Screenings – Eyes & Ears

This year, the Easter Seals Speech, Hearing and Middle Ear Screenings will be held at school during the week of January 11 – 15th. The cost of the screening is $20 per child. If you require a form, please contact Mrs. Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-2199.

The Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh will provide free Vision Screening on February 2nd. Children are screened for visual acuity, muscle balance, and color discrimination using techniques approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics. If you would like your child screened, please return the enclosed form to the attention of Maggie Rosenblum.

School Photos – February 8th & 9th

Family Social Organization Fun

The Children’s School friends and families enjoyed a special screening of the Peanuts movie at the Waterworks Cinema on December 12th. About 45 people gathered in their very own movie theater (with "CMU Peanuts" on the sign!) to watch Charlie Brown finally get up the courage to talk to the "Little Red Haired Girl." Children and parents alike munched on popcorn and slurped on drinks while laughing together. Thanks to all who participated!

Katie Gillman submitted pictures from the 3’s play date at the toy lending library on December 18th. Just two friends attended, but it was still a great time and they played so well together for over 2 hours, exploring everything!

We hope you'll join the fun in January!
Family Social Organization for January

The next FSO Meeting will be on Thursday, January 7th at 9:00am.

Did you sign up for the FSO Gymkhana Gymnastics Event? Sunday, January 10th from 3:00-4:30pm at Gymkhana's Point Breeze location (7501 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15208) Sit back and relax with other parents as your child enjoys an exciting gymnastics class taught by Gymkhana's professional instructors. What a great way for our kids to be active with their friends on a cold winter day! This class is limited to 30 children. Priority will be given to current Children's School students but siblings can attend if space remains. The cost is $15 (includes class, drink and snack). Please send money to the office in an envelope marked with your child’s name and FSO Gymkhana to reserve a spot for your child. Please contact Jen Moak (Ryan's mom) at jilmoak95@yahoo.com with any questions or if you need help arranging a ride to Gymkhana. We hope to see you there!

Please join the FSO on Monday, January 18th at the Aviary. Because of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, there is no school on that day. There is a Little Peepers Early Learners Activity at 10:15am, so please plan to arrive at 10 am to give yourself enough time to check in. During this activity, children will learn about birds through diverse activities including story time, Junior Vet or Junior Chef. The rest of the daily schedule can be viewed on the web site. http://www.aviary.org/calendar?m=1&d=18&y=2016#eventAnchor The cost is $14 for adults, $12 for children, though under 2 are free. Some Memberships allow for additional children, so try to connect with a family with a membership if you don't have one. This is an informal event so no money will be collected in advance. You can RSVP to Alexis Tuckfelt alexiscoupe@aol.com by January 11th, just so we know who to expect.

January Events Around Town

• Locomotion weekend at the Science Center (http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/calendar/event-details/?eventID=2304)

• Candlelight evenings at Phipps (https://phipps.conservatory.org/calendar/detail/candlelight-evenings)

• Kids Night Out at Color me Mine (http://www.livingpittsburgh.com/event/kids-night-out/?instance_id=12606)

Please contact FSO chairs Alexis alexiscoupe@aol.com and Jess jsimcox5@gmail.com with any ideas, questions or concerns.

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: 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.
Enjoyable Extended Morning Open Houses

Thanks to everyone who visited the Extended Morning program on December 1st and 3rd for our annual open house events. We enjoyed learning together in the Green Room and Discovery Area, having a sing-along with Mrs. Bird, and sharing lunch with all of you. Thanks to the children who lovingly made special desserts for us all to enjoy!
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, please listen to the radio or the television. If the Children's School should close due to the weather, we announce our school closing on both WTAE and KDKA. Both stations offer a text service if you register on their web site. WTAE will also announce school closings on their web page: www.thepittsburghchannel.com/index.html. 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 Morning Preschool and Kindergarten Classes at 9:30 AM. This option enables us to conduct the morning preschool classes, while giving our educators and families time for the road conditions to improve. Dismissal will be at the normal times and the Extended and Afternoon Programs will be on normal schedule.
- **Two Hour Delay/No Morning Preschool**: During a two-hour delay, we greet the Kindergarten Class at 10:30 AM and dismiss at the normal time. The Morning Preschool and Extended Morning Programs will be canceled but the Afternoon Programs will be on normal schedules.
- **School Closure for all Programs**
Terrific Textiles

Twelve Kindergarten families, Mrs. Perovich, and her granddaughter toured the American Textile Company in Duquesne, PA on December 21st. The company, which originated in Lawrenceville, has been going strong for over 80 years - helping people lead healthier lives with products designed to improve quality of sleep. Students learned about textiles, asked questions, and enjoyed a snack before going on a tour. They saw machines stacking boxes, felt fibers, decorated a pillowcase and even watched a pillow, with a design of their choice, being stuffed. There was also an interpreter on hand for non-English speaking parents. Teachers were gifted with a blanket/ sheet set and parents left with a cozy blanket! It was a wonderful experience for all! Thanks so much to the Kimball-Ruttenberg family and the employees of American Textile Company for a memorable trip!

January’s Textile Tips re: Textile Safety

- Part of improving the quality of sleep involves managing bedding to reduce the possible impact of allergies, especially to dust mites, molds, feathers, etc. There are many web resources about hypoallergenic bedding (for one example, see [http://www.allergyconsumerreview.com/hypoallergenic-bedding-myths.html - sthash.BJ2jRpXW.dpbs](http://www.allergyconsumerreview.com/hypoallergenic-bedding-myths.html - sthash.BJ2jRpXW.dpbs)).
- Many people are also allergic to textile dyes, glues, finishing resins, and other chemical additives in clothing, which may cause a skin inflammation called contact dermatitis ([http://www.livestrong.com/article/547341-symptoms-of-an-allergy-to-clothing/](http://www.livestrong.com/article/547341-symptoms-of-an-allergy-to-clothing/)).
- For children’s pajamas, there are special regulations regarding flame resistance and snug fit ([https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/103092/regsulsleepwear.pdf](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/103092/regsulsleepwear.pdf)) in order to reduce the chances of the garments catching fire when briefly in contact with candle, lighter, or match.

Giants in the Nursery

During the 2015-16 school year, Children’s School educators are exploring the roots of our approach to early childhood education by reflecting on David Elkind’s “biographical history of developmentally appropriate practice”, Giants in the Nursery (2015). Elkind identified 11 “giants” whose unique contributions were far ahead of their times and have had a prominent and lasting impact on the field. Dr. Carver introduced our series with an overview of the book and review of the pre-1650 history of early childhood education, including the classical Greek and Roman views, the medieval period, the reformation, the rise of humanism, and the 1st Educational Reformers, Francis Bacon & John Milton. The other administrators introduced us to John Amos Comenius (Miss Hancock, right), John Locke (Mrs. Rosenblum, middle), and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Miss Drash, left). On professional development days in January and March, the educators will summarize the impact of Pestalozzi, Froebel, Steiner, Montessori, Freud, Piaget, Erikson, and Vygotsky. We hope that this study will help us develop a more coherent and compelling narrative of our educational philosophy’s foundations.
Undergraduate Spotlight

Alexis DeLaRosa (Lexi) is a junior at Carnegie Mellon, studying Decision Science and also pursuing Music Technology. She found the Children’s School during the spring semester of her sophomore year and expected a fun job with children but received so much more.

“I never could have predicted the amount of joy it would bring me to wake up so early to start my day at the Children's School. I'm so grateful that every week I get to meet young, bright people and work alongside some of the most kind, gentle, considerate and loving educators I've ever met. Even though I hope to work somewhere within the music industry, the Children’s School has introduced the idea of teaching music or theater workshops and working with children in the arts. Working at the Children’s School has truly been an honor that I'll miss and carry with me forever as one of my most special experiences at Carnegie Mellon.”

Early Childhood Practicum Students

From January 16th through 31st, we will host two early childhood practicum students from Duksung Women’s University (Seoul, South Korea) for an International Practicum Program. The Campus School at Carlow University, the Falk School at the University of Pittsburgh, and the University Child Development Center will each also host two students each, with the total group including 4 undergraduates and 4 graduate students. We look forward to learning more about the initiatives our South Korean colleagues are leading in early childhood and in reflecting with them about the cross-cultural similarities and differences in our values and approaches related to educating young children.

Undergraduate Dam Eun (Eileen) Kim will work with Mr. Salinetro in the Preschool 3’s, and Masters student Sung Mi Kim will work with Mrs. Cherin in the Preschool 4’s. Mr. Salinetro met both of the students when he was in South Korea in the fall. Sung Mi has more than a decade of early childhood teaching experience and won the “Best Teacher” award at the Korean Peace Center in 2013. Our preschoolers are studying “Children Around the World” during January, so it will be a fantastic experience to work with early childhood teachers from South Korea!

Thanks to the Aronson family (Maya, 3’s) for offering housing to these visiting students. If you are interested in helping with other aspects of hosting (e.g., welcome bags, meals, etc.), please contact Dr. Carver at sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu to discuss options.
Research Spotlight

Former CMU Student Impacts Developmental Psychology

Dr. Haley Vlach is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and director of the Learning, Cognition, & Development Lab in the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Education. She did her undergraduate research with Dr. Carver at the Children’s School (see reference and abstract below), graduating in 2006. She earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from UCLA in 2012. Her research is on children’s learning and cognitive development. https://sites.google.com/site/haleyvlach/welcome


“Education programs have fostered advanced levels of graphic representation ability in young children but have not detailed the specific mechanisms responsible for the accelerated growth. Research suggests that between 6 and 8 years of age children begin to observe more carefully before drawing and that observation prompts aid children's development of graphic representations. This study experimentally investigated the effects of observation coaching on the graphic representations that children produce when looking at models of animate and inanimate objects. Drawings were collected from 22 kindergartners once a week for a month. Half of the children received observation coaching that instructed them to look at objects from multiple angles before, during, and after drawing an object; the remaining half of the children did not receive observation coaching. Both casual inspection and statistical analyses of data from the videotaped sessions revealed that the coaching was effective at encouraging children to look at objects more frequently during the drawing process. Additionally, each child's drawings were evaluated using a detailed scoring system. This rating system revealed that children receiving observation coaching had significantly greater improvements in drawing scores than children who did not receive coaching. All children receiving coaching had improvements in their drawing scores, with advances primarily involving enhanced detail and conceptual accuracy.”

In May of 2015, Dr. Vlach received CMU’s William Chase Memorial Award, an early career honor in cognitive science that is given biennially to a young scholar who conducts research that exemplifies the scientific values of the late Bill Chase. Chase “spent 15 years as a professor of psychology at Carnegie Mellon University and is credited with demonstrating that good memory is an acquired skill. He also made important contributions to a range of areas in cognition and left behind seminal publications on sentence comprehension, perception and chess, and memory span.” Vlach’s “work resonates with Chase's emphasis on a deep understanding of processes underlying learning and performance. In particular, Vlach's research has outlined how children's rapid forgetting of information supports, rather than deters, their ability to learn language, categories and concepts.” Vlach argues that, “forgetting acts as a form of abstraction, which promotes children’s ability to generalize knowledge across contexts. In essence, she claims that, “what makes children incredible learners is not simply that they learn to encode information in the world, but that they rapidly forget the large amount of irrelevant information they learn.” Vlach will give the Chase Memorial Lecture at CMU on Monday afternoon, April 4th at 4:30pm. The lecture is free and open to the public. https://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/news-events/news/2015/05/29/uw-madison-s-vlach-receives-william-chase-memorial-award
Director’s Corner: What Shape?

Though counting and simple arithmetic are the most natural ways to begin engaging children in everyday math, there are four additional domains of math to consider as we aim to foster positive attitudes and build strong conceptual foundations. This semester, I’ll encourage you to go beyond asking How Many? to ask What Shape? What Patterns? How Big? and How Frequent?

**Geometry** is the domain of mathematics related to the question What Shape? It involves skills of recognizing and forming shapes (individually and in combination), working with spatial arrangements and symmetry, and other types of spatial reasoning. As with arithmetic, we tend to limit ourselves to simple discussions of regular shapes with young children (e.g., circle, square, and triangle), but they are curious about and capable of both noticing and creating much more interesting geometric arrangements. Consider the bilateral symmetry in the bug below and how a kindergartner might describe the shapes used to create the bug or those created by the black lines in the cool / warm color painting. As children indicate interest, they can certainly acquire a broad vocabulary of lines, two-dimensional, and three-dimensional shapes, such as zigzag, spiral, oval, trapezoid, cube, and cylinder. As we describe arrangements, we can introduce 3’s to spatial terms such as above, below, beside, behind, etc. and progress to more sophisticated vocabulary, such as horizontal, vertical, and diagonal, for kindergartners.

At school and home, we can offer a variety of enjoyable geometry activities from open-ended building explorations (e.g., with blocks, cups, etc.), to assembling puzzles, to solving tangram challenges (see image to the right). Using cookie cutters, shape stencils, and geo-boards (see image below) allows children to begin creating simple shapes that their fine motor skills might not be ready to make independently. We also practice spatial reasoning with children when putting away items and packing, since we determine placement based on the match between an object’s size and shape and the space available. Modeling the use of maps and helping children to begin mapping the spaces most familiar to them highlights the usefulness of spatial representations for navigation. The same is true for assembly diagrams, which children start using for Lego creations and other building toys.

As with arithmetic, diverse practice in the context of daily living and free play is what gradually builds positive attitudes and strong math concepts. Begin by noticing the geometry around you, both indoors and outdoors. You may observe more rectilinear (straight line) shapes with manmade objects, buildings, etc. and more curvilinear ones in nature.

Remember that the aim is to find what fascinates you and your children so that you will have fun doing developmentally appropriate spatial explorations together with increasing complexity over time.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No School</td>
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<td>1 Happy New Year!</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Preschool Theme: Children Around the World</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL: Professional Development Day for Educators</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Children Return to School</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3:00 FSO: Gymkhana Event</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Speech &amp; Hearing Screening</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Practicum Students from Dukung Women’s University Arrive</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Day</td>
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<td>10:00 FSO Aviary Event</td>
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Children’s School
CMUChSch@andrew.cmu.edu http://www.psy.cmu.edu/cs/ 412-268-2199
## The Children’s School Snack Menu

<table>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>String Cheese</td>
<td>Saltines w/ Sunbutter</td>
<td>Cucumbers w/ Ranch Dressing</td>
<td>1 Winter Vacation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Pretzels</td>
<td>Clementines</td>
<td>Tortilla Chips w/ Salsa</td>
<td>Yogurt w/ Peaches</td>
<td>Teddy Grahams</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>Cereal</td>
<td>Bagels w/ Cream Cheese</td>
<td>Carrots w/ Ranch Dressing</td>
<td>Mandarin Oranges</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Goldfish</td>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>Pita Chips w/ Hummus</td>
<td>Applesauce w/ Graham Crackers</td>
<td>Animal Crackers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
<td>Milk/Water</td>
<td>Juice/Water</td>
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Easter Seals Speech Department is offering a speech, language, hearing and middle ear screening program for preschoolers. This service helps to identify communication and/or hearing problems early and recommends courses of treatment. Some children may have had similar testing performed in the past by Easter Seals or family doctor/pediatricians. However, since hearing and middle ear screening results can and often do change from one testing situation to another, it is strongly suggested that preschoolers be screened annually so as not to OVERLOOK a potential problem. Written results will be supplied on all children screened. Because children often react negatively to the word ‘TEST,’ we request that you refer to the screening as a talking and listening ‘GAME’ as you prepare your child at home. Please refer below for a description of the screening procedure.

**MY CHILD HAS PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EASTER SEALS SPEECH, LANGUAGE, HEARING AND MIDDLE EAR SCREENING PROGRAM. MY SIGNATURE ALSO GRANTS MY PERMISSION FOR THE EASTER SEALS SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST TO DISCUSS MY CHILD’S RESULTS WITH THE DIRECTOR AND TEACHER AT HIS/HER SCHOOL SITE. I UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL RECEIVE WRITTEN RESULTS CONCERNING MY CHILD.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Screening:</th>
<th>Fee: $20.00</th>
<th>HSA Receipt needed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount Enclosed:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>OR Cash:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check No.:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Class: AM PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of School:</td>
<td>Teacher’s Name:</td>
<td>(circle one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child’s Name:</td>
<td>Date of Birth:</td>
<td>Gender: M F (circle one)</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)</th>
<th>Mr. ( )</th>
<th>Mr. &amp; Mrs. ( )</th>
<th>Ms. ( )</th>
<th>Mrs. ( )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>City:</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>Zip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Phone</td>
<td>Child’s Native Language: (If other than English)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
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During the speech and language portion of the screening, your child will be asked to name common pictures and objects, follow simple directions, and repeat sentences. The speech-language pathologist will be listening for your child’s ability to produce developmentally appropriate speech sounds, identify specific vocabulary items and comprehend and produce various language skills. The speech-language pathologist will also listen for oral/nasal resonance, vocal quality and fluency of speech. For the hearing screening, your child will wear earphones, listen to several tones of different pitches, and indicate when he/she can hear the sounds. For the middle ear test, an acoustic otoscope or ear check will be used to measure sound reflectivity from the eardrum. This is a non-invasive procedure that helps to identify potential middle ear problems. A picture book called *Come Talk and Listen* is available at your child’s school to help them anticipate the “talking and listening games” they will play.

1) Do you have any areas of concern about your child’s speech and language? Yes No If yes please describe:

2) Is your child currently receiving speech-language services? Yes No If yes, where and for how long?

3) Does your child have tubes in his/her ears? Yes No If yes, which ear? Left Right Both

4) Has your child suffered from recurring ear problems now or in the past? Yes No

5) Is your child currently on medication or being followed by a doctor for ear infections or other medical problem(s)? Yes No If ear infection, which ear? Left Right Both

**SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN**

**DATE**

Easter Seals Western and Central Pennsylvania is in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regarding confidentiality and privacy. A copy of these policies is on file with the director of your child’s facility.
TO PARENTS
Easter Seals Western and Central Pennsylvania is pleased to offer the 2015-2016 Preschool Speech, Language & Hearing Screening Program

For only the cost of a co-pay, you can enhance your preschooler’s opportunity to make the most of their crucial early learning years by scheduling a speech, language and hearing screening at your site.

Easter Seals will be at our school on January 11-15.

It is well-established that early identification and treatment of speech and language problems positively impacts literacy development and reduces length of time in speech therapy by years.

Easter Seals’ program is specialized and more comprehensive than pediatrician-based programs:

- Master’s level, credentialed, speech-language pathologists provide the service using the most current evidence-based practices.
- Children are seen individually, not observed in a group setting.
- Procedures are standardized and cover a wide range of skills:
  - ✓ middle ear health
  - ✓ hearing sounds
  - ✓ following directions
  - ✓ vocal quality and fluency
  - ✓ speech sound production
  - ✓ understanding language
  - ✓ using language and grammar
  - ✓ vocabulary development

- Each child receives individualized written results and recommendations.

- Unbiased pre-school screening services are provided to identify and refer children to appropriate outside agencies within the community.

We are pleased to be able to hold the cost per child to $20 for the 2015-2016 year. (Receipts are available for reimbursement by eligible HSA accounts.)

Your children will come home and tell you about the fun talking and listening games they played! This is a great opportunity to prepare them for kindergarten entrance screenings!

For your child to participate please fill in the permission form included with this letter and return to your child’s teacher by January 8th, 2016.

For additional questions, contact the Easter Seals Speech Department at: 412.281.7244 X223 sgreenberg@westernpa.easterseals.com
Dear Parent/Guardian:

One in twenty children has an undetected vision problem. The early detection and treatment of vision deficiencies are fundamental to future classroom learning and success.

To ensure that children 6 months to 6 years of age are seeing as well as they should, Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services offers a free Children's Vision Screening program for the children of Allegheny County.

Children are screened for visual acuity, muscle balance, and color discrimination using techniques approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

A REMINDER: This is a screening. It is not a complete eye exam. BVRS recommends that every child have a complete vision exam by an eye care professional before entering kindergarten.

If you have questions regarding the program, please contact Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services at 412-368-4400 ext. 2293.

Sincerely,

Diane Pakler
Director Prevention of Blindness

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**Preschool Vision Screening is free!**

Your tax-deductible donation to Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services will allow this valuable prevention of blindness program to continue. Donations can be attached to this permission slip.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please return to teacher by</th>
<th>January 25, 2016</th>
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**PERMISSION FOR VISION SCREENING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child's Name</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age: _____</td>
<td>Birth date: <strong>/</strong>/__ Sex: M _____ F _____</td>
</tr>
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**Parent/Guardian**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>City &amp; Zip Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone (H)</td>
<td>(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mail</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Has child ever been under the care of an eye specialist?</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is child currently under the care of an eye specialist?</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GLASSES MUST BE WORN ON THE DAY OF THE SCREENING.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent/Guardian Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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My signature grants permission for the vision screening and for the release of results to the facility's professional staff. You will be notified of the screening results in the form of a Parent Letter.

Pass _____

Refer _____
Car Game #3: Would You Rather …

This game of choices can easily be adapted to the age and interests of the players. One person starts by asking a simple “Would you rather …” question, such as play Uno or Go Fish, eat an apple or a pear, take a bath or a shower, have a picnic with an anteater or a raccoon, wait in the car or wait in line, etc. You can play with each individual answering for him or herself, or you can have the whole group try to reach consensus on one answer by stating initial preferences and then trying to convince those with different opinions to change their minds.
Car Game #4: The Rainbow Game

This observation game involves one person choosing a color and everyone else trying to find something outside the car that is that specific color. Once the first color is found, choose another color, without repetition, and keep playing until you can't think of any more color names. Feel free to play with shapes, numbers, or letters as well. You could also limit the objects searched by counting only colors on vehicles, houses, etc., depending on your surroundings.

Car Game #5: This is not a …

This creativity game starts with the choice of any handy object, such as a string, a tissue, etc. Take turns describing and demonstrating the object as something else. For example, wiggle the string and say, “This is not a string; it is a long river.” Or, fold the tissue and wrap it around a finger, saying “This is not a tissue; it is a bandage.” Let everyone have a turn with the same object before changing objects.