Whole School Celebration!

Please have your entire family join us on Friday, May 13th from 11am to 1pm on the Children’s School playground (or inside in case of rain) for our Whole School Celebration of the 2015-16 school year. We will have pizza, salad, watermelon, fruit popsicles, cool drinks, and a special dessert. This event is scheduled immediately after the Kindergarten Graduation, which will be held in Margaret Morrison’s Breed Hall 103 at 10am.

May Dates

Thursday, May 12th - Last Regular Day for ALL Programs
Friday, May 13th - Kindergarten Graduation at 10:00 AM in Margaret Morrison Room 103
Whole School Celebration at 11:00 AM on the Playground
Monday, May 16th through Friday, May 27th – Professional Development for Educators
Monday, May 30th – Memorial Day Holiday (NO CAMP)
Tuesday, May 31st – First Day of Olympics Camp
Summer 2016 Camp Pointers: **Olympics**

There are still places available in our June Olympics Camp so please contact Mrs. Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu if you would like to enroll your child. The camp staff will include Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Cherin, Mrs. Wendolowski and Miss Zhu, who has been working on getting a teaching degree through the University of Pittsburgh’s CASE program and who has interned and volunteered for us this past year. If your child is registered for camp, please make sure Mrs. Rosenblum receives your final payment by May 13th. We will be greeting the children at the front of Margaret Morrison and taking them directly to the playground after a stop in the bathroom for toileting and hand washing. Also, please recall that the starting time for camp greeting is 8:45 am. Children will need to bring a lunch, sunscreen labeled with their full name, and their bathing suits and towels. We also suggest hats because there is little shade on the playground. Remember a jacket for cool summer mornings.

**Family Input for School Enhancement**

Please take time next week to complete the Survey Monkey Family Input Questionnaire so that we can use your input for our upcoming professional development planning time. You’ll get an email on Monday, May 2nd, with a clickable link to the survey. We appreciate your support for our quality improvement efforts, especially this year when we will be planning for our next NAEYC Re-Accreditation!

**Lost and Found**

We have quite a collection of lost and found items. Please check the hallway cabinet for misplaced items or send a description of the missing item so we can check for you before May 13th. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end of the school year.

**Classroom Year in Pictures**

Children’s School educators are collecting classroom photos into a Year in Pictures slide show as a gift for families. The photos are designed only for the personal use of families in private media contexts, so the slide shows will be distributed only to parents who already signed our agreement that they will not post photographs of other people’s children on the web or social media venues. If we do not have a signed form from the beginning of the school year for you, there will be one in your child’s backpack. Everyone should watch the backpacks during the last week of school for your gift.

**Summer Play Dates**

We will be planning summer play dates for each age group in August on our playground so that the students and families will have a chance to get to know each other before school starts. Watch for notifications to be sent via e-mail!
May Gallery Features

3’s Friends: Julia L., Juliet L., Adler M., Hibiki O., Ramon P., Max T., and Dash W.

4’s Friends: Tomer D., Kaya G., Ben H., Isaac M., and Evan T.

Kindergarten Friends: Maeve S., Mason S., and August Y.

May 3rd is Pittsburgh’s Day of Giving

Please consider making a donation to the Children’s School on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, which is the Day of Giving. Visit the Children’s School website and click on Ways to Give or follow this link http://www.psy.cmu.edu/cs/giving/index.html to make the difference in the life of a child!

Giant Eagle Apples for the Students

Thank you to all of our Giant Eagle Apples for the Students supporters!

This year, Giant Eagle AFTS has converted the earned reward points into cash as opposed to using the points to purchase items from the Apples for the Students catalog. For the 2015-16 school year, our 253 supporters helped us to earn $497.00!! These funds will be allocated to classroom materials.

It is not too soon to register to support us for the 2016-17 school year! Here’s how:

1. Register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card® at GiantEagle.com/AFTS
2. Enter our School ID #0151.
3. Shop with your Giant Eagle Advantage Card®.

Be sure to invite other family members and friends to support us too!!
Spring Flower Planting

Spring has sprung and it is time to plant!

During the week of May 2, we will be planting annuals with the children along the wall of the garden in the parking lot. Here is the planting schedule:

- Monday, May 2: Kindergarten
- Tuesday, May 3: 3’s
- Wednesday, May 4: 4’s
- Thursday, May 5: Rain Date

If you would like to volunteer to help with planting, sign up via Google Docs using this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V0liJ5TVZ9j1aX6sMHcm6gb9Qf-7imV-gr_L1qdS32E/edit#gid=0

You are welcome to help on any day, not only the day that your child’s class is scheduled to plant. We may also have a trellis and some other garden embellishments to install during the week.

Please contact Miss Hancock at lh37@andrew.cmu.edu if you have any questions.

Adopt the Garden

During July and August, our garden will continue to grow but needs some friends to help with watering and weeding. If your family would be interested in adopting our garden for a week in July or August, please contact Miss Hancock at lh37@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-2198.

PA Private Academic School Licensing

The renewal of our PA Private Academic School license for another year has been submitted to the state and we anticipate good news of its acceptance soon!
Earth Day Celebration

On the morning of Thursday, April 21\textsuperscript{st}, preschoolers and kindergartners from the Children’s School and Cyert Center for Early Education met on the Children’s School playground for a collaboratively planned Earth Day Celebration. Groups shared songs about conservation and enjoyed a snack of trail mix that they made themselves. Children explored the worms from our composting worm farm and planted their own seeds in compostable pots. They also used lots of collage materials to make murals representing the earth. Children played in the water table, the mud kitchen, the sandbox, and had fun running on the grassy hillside. Thanks to Mrs. Cherin and Mrs. Rosenblum, who represented the Children’s School on the Earth Day planning team.
Family Social Organization

On Friday, April 1st, Children’s School families jumped on trampolines and bounced in a bounce house at Altimate Air Trampoline Park. It was a bit of a drive but well worth it! Other activities included basketball, dodgeball and bravely jumping from a high platform onto a jump bag! A total of $138.40 was raised! Thanks to those who came out!

On Friday, April 15th, the CMU carnival attracted some Children School families. It was a beautiful day to watch the buggy races, build and race Lego cars in the children’s tent, go on rides, play games, experience the booths, and enjoy some carnival food. We even spotted some Children’s School educators joining the fun!

Community Events Around Town:
The Junior League of Pittsburgh will host its 9th Annual Touch-a-Truck fundraiser from 10 am-2 pm May 14 at the 11th and Smallman Street lot in the Strip District. Children have the opportunity to explore many vehicles at this popular event. They can get behind the wheel, honk the horns and meet the men and women who drive the trucks. https://www.jlpgh.org/?nd=touch_a_truck

Butterfly Garden at Phipps - Like flowers that fly, butterflies bring color and motion to the beautiful glasshouse environs of our Stove Room. A family favorite, Butterfly Forest enchants visitors of all ages while showcasing the delicate life cycle of some of nature’s most important pollinators and their favorite aromatic blooms. https://phipps.conservatory.org/calendar/detail/butterfly-forest
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!
Undergraduate Spotlight
Farewell Seniors!

Siriana Abboud will be working on her MA in Early Childhood Education with bilingual extension at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Arielle Cohen is planning to attend Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago following graduation.

Mattie Hedgebeth plans to return to her home state of Maryland. There she plans to work while volunteering in a psychology lab at the University of Maryland. In the fall, she will apply to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in psychological anthropology.

Danielle Lehmann will be working in NYC for an internship and then will be returning to CMU for a Masters of Arts in Professional Writing.

Stanton Man will be missing the Children’s School from Philadelphia where he will be working for Accenture as a Digital Consulting Analyst.

Jessey Schwartz plans to work in research before attending graduate school for speech pathology in 2017.

April Tillinghast will be attending Texas A&M University’s Masters of Education Program and hopes to teach near Houston, Texas.

Sam Walczak will continue his education at the Heinz College getting his Masters of Information Systems Management degree. Afterwards, he hopes to do technology consulting through an international company that will allow him to utilize his Chinese language skills.

1000PLUS Volunteer Day

On Saturday, April 2, six CMU student volunteers worked with Miss Hancock to prepare the playground and hillside garden for the spring. The students worked to “fluff” the playground mulch that had compacted over the winter. In addition, they removed leaf debris on the hillside, pruned our perennials, and turned over the soil in the garden beds to prepare for our spring planting days in May. Thank you so much to these hardworking volunteers!!
Honor for Siriana Abboud

Excerpts from “Respect and Compassion Drive Senior’s Educational Philosophy”
By Emily Stimmel

Siriana Abboud’s (DC’16) educational philosophy is simple: “Tout moun se moun.” Derived from a Haitian proverb meaning “All people are people,” the phrase encapsulates respect, dignity and compassion — values that drive Abboud’s teaching and volunteer work. “As a teacher, I cannot assume that I can completely change the lives of the students I will teach,” said Abboud, a psychology major with an additional major in French and Francophone Studies. “Rather, they will influence me as I influence them.”

To recognize her commitment to quality education, Abboud has been selected as the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ 2016 recipient of the Gretchen Lankford Prize. Modern Languages Department Head Susan Polansky nominated Abboud for the award. She remarked, “Siriana is a true global citizen with multicultural and multilingual skills in English, French and Arabic. She has lived, worked and volunteered in diverse places around the globe, including Lebanon and Haiti.” As a freshman, Abboud co-founded CMU in Haiti and joined Carnegie Mellon University’s International Student Union. On a 2014 visit to her home country of Lebanon, she gained hands-on clinical experience as a psychiatric intern at the American University of Beirut Medical Center and at a men’s drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic. And as a development intern at Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) in Pittsburgh, she helped organize fundraisers and connect HAS to other non-profit organizations working in Haiti. Through activities like these, Abboud has developed a multicultural perspective that informs her teaching in the Children’s School. Last fall, Abboud enrolled in Sharon Carver’s “Practicum in Child Development,” a course designed to help students deepen their understanding of developmental psychology by assisting in a classroom. Carver, the director of the Children’s School, noted Abboud’s nuanced understanding of child development. “She frequently noted cross-cultural commonalities and contrasts based on her personal experiences, and she challenged the group to consider many types of diversity that might impact development,” Carver wrote.

The prize is named for the late Gretchen Goldsmith Lankford, a 1943 graduate of Margaret Morrison College. It underscores Lankford’s deep conviction that “devoted teaching makes a difference in the lives of young people, helping them to fulfill their potentials as intellectuals, citizens and as human beings.” To Polansky, Abboud exemplifies Lankford’s vision for the prize. “She has already excelled in teaching and is working with students of different ages, cultures and backgrounds, both locally and internationally. She appreciates how crucial education is, and she is passionate about cultivating networks for growth to make the lives of individuals and groups better,” Polansky said. After graduating from CMU, Abboud will pursue her M.A. in early childhood education with a bilingual extension from Columbia University, Teachers College. She hopes to eventually work in education policy and reform. Abboud commented, “It was so inspiring to meet students and teachers who fought to break down the barriers of a broken educational system on a daily basis.” She also draws inspiration from the Dietrich College faculty who encouraged her to pursue the enriching work of education. “I have been warned time and time again that teaching will be a challenging profession. The most important thing I can have to succeed will be support,” said Abboud. “Through this award, I have found support from fellow educators, and I have a new spark of excitement to begin my graduate studies and find my way back into the classroom.”
Fruitful International Collaboration

During the first half of April, five early childhood leaders from the NOBO (http://noboedu.com/en/) Education Company in Beijing, China, visited Pittsburgh to learn about the amazing educational and cultural resources for young children and families here. The educators had opportunities for observation and dialogue in our school, as well as at CMU’s Cyert Center, Pitt’s University Child Development Center and Falk School, the Campus School and Early Learning Center at Carlow, and the Crafton Heights Community Preschool. The educators also met with leaders of the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) at the Homewood HUB, Dr. Junlei Li from the Fred Rogers Center, and Dr. Robert Siegler from CMU’s Psychology Department. They visited the Carnegie Science Center, Museum of Natural History and Museum of Art, as well as the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory, Frick Art & Historica Center, and the Nationality Rooms at Pitt’s Cathedral of Learning. Of course, no trip to Pittsburgh would be complete without a ride on the Duquesne Incline and a trip to Klavon’s Ice Cream Store!

Special thanks to Lin Zhu, Samantha Huang, and Melissa Peng (Masters students at the University of Pittsburgh and volunteers at the Children’s School) for the valuable translation support they provided throughout the visit so that our discussions could go into more depth than would have otherwise been possible. Undergraduates Yiran Buckley and Stanton Man offered a campus tour in Chinese. The visitors raved about the hospitality of their hosts, professor Yueming Yu, visiting scholar Yunqi Wang, and kindergarten teacher Donna Perovich. During the visit, we learned much about advances in Chinese early childhood education and discovered both similarities and differences in our approaches. We were inspired by the NOBO educators’ recent unit on Travel and by their detailed documentation of their exploration. We look forward to future collaboration and potential trips to Beijing by some of our educators.
Research Spotlight

Psychology Department’s 100th Anniversary

During the 2015-16 academic year, the Psychology Department has been celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a series of events culminating in a two-day celebration of our Ph.D. graduates on May 20th and 21st. The department was founded as the Division of Applied Psychology by Walter Van Dyke Bingham in 1915, but in 1924 it became the Department of Psychology and Education. Interestingly, the first course in Developmental Psychology was not offered until 1966.

The Children’s School originally served as the Child Development Laboratory for the Margaret Morrison Carnegie College, the women’s college for Carnegie Technical Schools. During the 1968-69 school year, the vision of Dr. Ann Baldwin Taylor, the administrative support of Dr. John Sandberg, and a grant from the Esso Foundation converged to provide space and funding for the program to move from a house on Margaret Morrison Street to its current location and to expand from approximately 12 to 45 preschool children. At that time, the school functioned as a site for teaching experience and behavioral observation, and it was the hub of the Early Childhood Cooperative Teacher-Education Program. In the 1970-1971 school year, the school’s name changed to the “Children’s School,” as a purposeful reminder of its commitment to the progressive education principles of John Dewey. When MMCC closed in 1973, with the administrative support of Dr. Erwin Steinberg, the school became part of the Department of Psychology. Dr. Taylor continued as the director until her retirement in 1993, at which time Dr. Sharon M. Carver (CMU ’86) returned to the university to assume the leadership role.

As the Children’s School approaches its 50th year of excellence and innovation as an early childhood laboratory school, we pause to appreciate our strong roots in developmentally appropriate practice and to affirm our commitment to all aspects of our mission, including active involvement in preschool and kindergarten education, developmental research, undergraduate teaching, and training of both pre-service and practicing educators. We applaud the educators, administrators, and faculty whose vision, dedication, and creativity have contributed to making our school environment into a caring community with opportunities for vibrant learning at all ages. Many thanks to Carnegie Mellon, the Dietrich College, and the Psychology Department for making it all possible.

For more information on the Psychology Department’s 100th Anniversary, see the commemoration web site at http://psy.cmu.edu/100years/index.html.
Director’s Corner: How Big?

Our final domain of mathematics to consider is measurement, which involves assigning a number to a characteristic so as to more easily compare objects, events, etc. We all use measurement frequently in order to buy the right size clothes, add the correct amount of ingredients in a recipe, manage our time, watch the gas gauge to plan when to refuel our cars, and so on. Professionals in a wide range of fields create specialized measurements for hardness of rocks, intensity of odors, brightness of light, amount of pressure, etc., as needed to improve the precision of their comparisons.

We first use measurement when we begin to compare attributes of ourselves, such as when young children announce that they are taller, faster or stronger than someone else. Our initial lessons involve direct comparison, such as standing back to back or running a race. For measurement of weight or temperature, we can sometimes hold one object in each hand to estimate which one is heavier or warmer. Sometimes we compare whole sets of objects by arranging them in a series from thickest to thinnest, darkest to lightest, longest to shortest, etc.

Once children understand the idea of comparison, we introduce units of measurement so that we can measure without the constraint of having people or objects in the same place at the same time. We start informally with common units such as steps from one place to another or paper cups-full to serve an equal amount of snack. Soon, children notice the problem with such informal measures because individuals will get different answers when they measure distance or the piles of snack items will not appear even. For size measurement, we often start with something called “unifix cubes” which are a uniform size, easily snap together to reach the desired length, and can then be counted to compare length. Then, we introduce formal measurement tools and begin discussing how to use them accurately. Rulers, tape measures, scales, thermometers, measuring spoons and cups, timers, and clocks are commonplace in our science centers, kitchen, woodworking area, and other places within the school.

As with all aspects of math, teachers and parents can help children to notice opportunities for measurement, such as the growth of plants in our spring gardens, how much later it stays light in the evening, the temperature of the bath water, the weight of recycling we collect every week, etc. By following the progression outlined above, we ensure that children build a strong conceptual foundation for understanding that all measures are invented and need an objective standard for comparison. Young children will have the most positive experiences with measurement if we follow their interests, such as using measurement with their own growth, collections, hobbies, etc. As situations arise, you might challenge the children to invent ways to measure which joke is funnier, baby happier, cat friendlier, etc. Doing so will prompt them to learn that there are still measures yet to be invented. To keep everyone focused on having a growth mindset, emphasize measures of personal growth and improvement rather than taking a competitive stance. Summer is a wonderful time to use math skills to keep some records of your family fun, the number of books read or games played, the properties of objects collected, the distances traveled on foot or by car, etc. Consider documenting your math explorations and sharing them with us in the fall. Enjoy exploring math!