Whole School Celebration!

Please have your entire family join us on Friday, May 19th from 11am to 1pm on the Children’s School playground (or inside in case of rain) for our Whole School Celebration of the 2016-17 school year. We will have pizza, salad, watermelon, cake, fruit popsicles, and water bottles available in the Discovery Area. In addition to the regular playground centers, we will have bubbles for everyone, and we are planning on having a Creative Cardboard Exploration activity available for our families on the hillside outside the playground. 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 18th - Last Regular Day for ALL Programs
Friday, May 19th - Kindergarten Graduation at 10:00 AM in Margaret Morrison Room 103
Whole School Celebration at 11:00 AM on the Playground
Monday, May 22nd through Wednesday, May 31st – Professional Development for Educators
Monday, June 5th – First Day of “Bugs” Camp
Summer 2017 Camp: Bugs

There are still places available in our June “Bugs” 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. Cherin, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Mack, Ms. O’Neill, Mr. Salinetro, Mrs. Wendolowski and Miss Zhu. If your child is registered for camp, please make sure Mrs. Rosenblum receives your final payment by May 19th. 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 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.

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 18th. 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!
Sun Safety Q & A

Submitted by Joy Kunishige Wanamaker, MD (Claes, AM 3’s)
Board-Certified Dermatologist, Fellowship-Trained Mohs Surgeon

Q. What strength sunscreen should I use?
A. The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) currently recommends at least SPF 30. To get the SPF amount that the bottle says, one needs to use the sunscreen as it was applied in the laboratory: a tablespoon for the face and a shot glass for the average adult body. That means enough to look white and pasty. Since no one does this, most people only get about one-third of the SPF rating. If this sounds like you, consider a higher SPF. Be sure to choose a “broad-spectrum” product that blocks both UVA and UVB rays.

Q. What sunscreen is safe for babies and sensitive children?
A. The AAD recommends avoiding sunscreen until 6 months old, but I personally use it sparingly. Just dress baby from head to toe with UPF clothing, then dab a bit on cheeks and hands. Babies and people with allergies should avoid chemicals like benzophenone and oxybenzone. Instead, choose a sunscreen with physical blockers, like titanium and zinc.

Q. What do the new FDA water labels mean?
A. Water resistant means your sunscreen should be effective in water up to 40 minutes. Very water resistant means 80 minutes. Regardless, sunscreen should be reapplied as soon as you get out of the water.

Q. How can I protect my child while they are at school?
A. The easiest is to apply sunscreen just before you drop your child off at school. But you can also send your child with a sunscreen stick and sun hat. Ideally this is a daily habit. Even when clouds block visible light, UV rays penetrate fog and glass. If you return the permission slip enclosed, the Children’s School will do their best to help protect your child, too!

Q. Any other advice for children?
A. Experiment with different types of sunscreen vehicles. Most children don’t like certain textures. Your favorite sunscreen may say organic, but feel grainy. Our children enjoy applying their own sunscreen from a stick. It looks like a giant lipstick tube. Here are some companies with children’s UPF clothing: Coolibar, UV Skinz, iPlay, L.L. Bean, Cabana Life, Janie & Jack, and Target. Babiators has sunglasses. Oh - another note, some spray sunscreens are flammable! Watch out for nearby grills, candles, and cigarettes. **(Note from the Children’s School: NAEYC criteria 5.A.07.b discourages the use of aerosol sunscreen.)**
NAEYC Accreditation Renewal

So far, during the month of April, 61 parents have completed our annual family survey, which includes both the required questions for our NAEYC Accreditation Renewal and those that invite more detailed feedback. There is still time for you to complete the survey, so please contribute your input if you have not already.

Thank you for your support!

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!

Adopt our Garden for a Summer Week

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.

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 2016-17 school year, our 254 supporters helped us to earn $428!! These funds will be allocated to the continued development of our Make Shop.

It is not too soon to register to support us for the 2017-18 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!!
Week of the Young Child Celebration

On the beautiful morning of Wednesday, April 26th, preschoolers and kindergartners from the Children’s School and Cyert Center for Early Education met on the Cyert Center playground for a collaboratively planned Week of the Young Child Celebration. The children enjoyed dancing, parachute play, and swinging on tires. They explored worms, water, and sand. They made a collaborative snack and bird mobiles, listened to stories, and had a rock hunt. Thanks to Mrs. Rosenblum and Mrs. Wendolowski, who represented the Children’s School on the event planning team, for a wonderful way to help the CMU community celebrate early childhood. Thanks also to the families who sent single-word descriptions of their children for our Week of the Young Child display at school. Families describe our incredible children as “creative”, “enthusiastic”, “thoughtful”, “winsome”, “vivacious”, “inquisitive”, “radiant”, “energetic”, “endearing”, “friendly”, and so much more!
Family Social Organization Fun in April

On Friday, March 31st, Children's School Families filled two Just Ducky tour boats for the first tours of the 2017 season! The chilly and rainy day did not stop us from having a quacking good time! On the land, we learned interesting facts about our city, and each friend had a chance to drive the boat after we entered the river!

Friends of the Children School joined together on Saturday, April 9th at the Gemini Children’s Theater for a modern retelling of the classic Snow White. Children had the opportunity to join the cast on stage throughout the show, in an effort to help Snow White along her journey. Many children met with cast members after the show to have their programs autographed and to ask questions about the production. A magical experience was had by all!

Children's School friends explored a CMU tradition on April 20th - 22nd, Spring Carnival! Families enjoyed the Kidzone Activity Tent's activities, which included face painting, a balloon artist, free t-shirts, and racing LEGO buggies on a track. Many friends were spotted enjoying amusement park rides, games, adventures in booths, and the much-anticipated buggy races! What great memories!

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

Friends of the Children’s School are invited to get up and climbing at Ascend, Pittsburgh’s premiere indoor rock climbing facility, on **Sunday, May 7th at 1pm**. Kids $15, Adults $16, and Adults not climbing are free! Juice and light snacks will be provided. For more information, go to [https://www.ascendpgh.com/](https://www.ascendpgh.com/). Please RSVP to Allison Garcia (Ruth, AM 3’s) at bergeraf@yahoo.com by Thursday, May 4th.

**Explore these events in and around the city!**

Calling all bird watchers! The Allegheny Land Trust invites you to **Twitter In the Trees** on Saturday, **May 13th from 8am-5pm**. Listen to the sounds of the forest, meadows, and streams as you venture into the greenspaces in order to count the wide variety of birds who call Wingfield Pines Conservation Area home. Located off of Mayview Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. To reserve a ticket, go to [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/twitter-in-the-trees-tickets-33860922932](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/twitter-in-the-trees-tickets-33860922932).

**Remake Learning Days** are here! Remake offers relevant and educational experiences for your family in a 12-day celebration of innovation, **May 15th-26th**. To find an event near you, go to [http://remakelearningdays.org/events/](http://remakelearningdays.org/events/).

**EQT Children’s Theater Festival May 18th-21st**. Bringing extraordinary and unique experiences to young people, the EQT Children's Theater Festival is dedicated to continuing the tradition of theater for your children. Live performances from professional, international artists engage children of all ages from different cultures and perspectives, showing them different ways to express ideas. This year, the 31st annual Festival celebrates another year in Downtown Pittsburgh's vibrant Cultural District with exciting performances, free activities, and family-friendly art. For more information and to purchase event tickets, go to [https://pghkids.trustarts.org/events](https://pghkids.trustarts.org/events).

*Many thanks to Sara Torretti and Jay Miller for co-chairing our FSO Committee this past year. If you would be interested in co-chairing this committee for the 2017-2018 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 coordinate the FSO!*

**May Gallery Features**

**3’s Friends**: Nathan C., Lucy F., Ruth G., James S., Ruthie T., & Tristan Z.

**4’s Friends**: Harris B., Connor H., Benny R., Aya T., Chudi U., & Siobhan W.

**Kindergarten Friends**: Hiroto H., Betsy M., & Isaac M.
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!
IALS Conference in Memphis, TN

From April 19th to 22nd, Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Tomer attended the annual conference of the International Association of Laboratory Schools, where they presented a session on “Encouraging Critical Thinking and Problem Solving in an Early Childhood Make Shop”.

The conference included tours of the University of Memphis Campus Elementary School, the Barbara K. Lipman Early Childhood School and Research Institute, and the Maxine Smith STEAM Middle School, talks about the role of laboratory schools in advancing educational theory, research and practice, and receptions at the Confucius Institute and on a Mississippi River Boat.

Honor for Lisa Murphy

Excerpts from “Senior Wants to Help Young Children Reach Their Potential”
By Emily Stimmel

Carnegie Mellon University’s Lisa Murphy … is the 2017 recipient of the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ Gretchen Lankford Prize … Named for the late Gretchen Goldsmith Lankford, the prize underscores her 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.” Murphy plans to pursue a master’s degree in special education and teach children between preschool and first grade. She is particularly interested in understanding how children on the autism spectrum learn and develop. “Each child is a different puzzle and I love the challenge of combining observations, collaboration with others and research to figure out what the most effective intervention may be,” said Murphy, who is majoring in psychology with a concentration in child development … According to Sharon Carver, Murphy has found her niche teaching in early elementary inclusive classrooms. Murphy has interned in an autism support classroom at The Children’s Institute of Pittsburgh and is currently a teacher’s assistant in an inclusive first grade class at the Environmental Charter School.

Outside the classroom, Murphy is the vice president of the … Psi Chi psychology honor society and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She has organized the 3v3 basketball tournament for the Special Olympics at CMU … and she has established a reputation as the greatest basketball player in CMU history. Carver believes these diverse activities will help Murphy become a better teacher. “As a scholar-athlete, Lisa has also developed her leadership and teamwork skills, so she is poised to combine her personal passion with a proactive and productive approach to improving special education during children’s foundational years,” said Carver … Murphy has been accepted to three … master’s programs in special education. She believes the Lankford Prize will positively impact her future goals. “It serves as validation that my ambitions and goals to enter the field of teaching are meaningful and promising,” said Murphy.

The Children’s School educators are honored to have been a part of Lisa’s professional journey at CMU, and we eagerly anticipate word of her impact in education.
Undergraduate Spotlight
Farewell Seniors!

We are saying good-bye to six of our highly valued student employees.

- **Lilah Buchanan** plans to complete her undergraduate degree in August. “I am really excited to be getting to join the Children’s School June camp this year. After I graduate, I plan to return to Portland, Oregon when I look forward to working to support families facing difficult situations. I plan to pursue graduate school in social work.”

- **Lexi Delarosa** says, “Following graduation I’ll be working at a summer camp in the arts/performance and sports department with ages anywhere between 5 and 14 years old. I’ll then be returning to school near home in New York for my Master’s degree in either occupational or exercise therapy while simultaneously performing / auditioning whenever and wherever I can and working on getting my yoga teacher training.”

- **Liz Dolinar** plans to return to her home in Cleveland, Ohio to work as a full-time intern architect at the international firm DLR Group / Westlake Reed Leskosky. “I am excited to rejoin DLR/WRL’s healthcare design team after my internship with them last summer, and I will be working on earning my professional license. My summer plans include volunteering, reading, camping, and visiting the beach before I start work in June!”

- **Rafael McCauley** plans to pursue a career in Computer Security. “If all goes well, I’ll be interning here in Pittsburgh this summer as a junior penetration tester finding computer system vulnerabilities a hacker could exploit. I hope to learn a lot and be able to start helping make “the cyber” safer very soon.”

- **Caroline Santilli** comments, “My future plans are to work in the box office of an opera house in Stonington, Maine this summer and spend some time with my family. Then, in the fall, I will be attending George Washington University for two years to gain a Master’s degree in Art Therapy.”

- **Jaclyn Zois** plans to begin her Master of Science degree in Medical Sciences at Boston University School of Medicine this fall. “It will definitely be an adjustment from Pittsburgh and all the communities I have here at CMU, but I’m excited to go back home! From there, I plan to attend medical school with the ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric specialist.”

Thanks to all of our seniors for the support of our programs, and best wishes for thriving in your personal and professional lives!
1000PLUS Volunteer Day

On Saturday, April 8th, nineteen CMU student volunteers worked with Miss Hancock to prepare the playground and hillside garden for the spring. The students pulled weeds, 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. Norah Gruber (Kindergarten) and her family also stopped by and helped with some spring cleaning on the playground. Thank you so much to these hardworking volunteers!!

Research Spotlight

Facilitating Memory in Preschool Children

Junior Lauren Yan, one of the Children’s School student employees, has been awarded a Dietrich College Honors Research Fellowship to conduct research at the Children’s School, beginning in the summer and continuing next spring after she returns from her study abroad program in South Korea. Lauren will work at the Children’s School during June and July to conduct a literature review on young children’s memory, observe children playing a variety of memory games during camp, and refine her hypotheses and procedures for testing whether varied types of teacher prompting can successfully facilitate children’s memory in the context of games played with the prompting and children’s use of memory strategies across subsequent games even without continued prompting. Lauren will also submit her final research proposal to CMU’s Institutional Review Board for approval so that she can conduct her study during her senior year at the Children’s School. Lauren is hoping to recruit students from a preschool in South Korea to participate in the study as well so that she can include a cross cultural comparison.

In the context of a technology course, Lauren already developed a computer version of the traditional “memory” game in which players flip two cards to see if they match and, if not, return the cards back to their original positions while trying to remember the card locations for use on subsequent turns. In the case of the screenshot to the left, players click on two fish to reveal hidden images that may or may not match. Players accumulate miniature fish in their scoring column for each match achieved.

Lauren will share the results of her research at CMU’s “Meeting of the Minds” in May of 2018. This Undergraduate Research Symposium is an annual university-wide celebration of undergraduate research, with oral presentations, poster sessions, art displays, and live performances. The event includes optional competitions, some of which even have cash prizes. This year’s event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Wednesday, May 10th.
**Director’s Corner: Parents-as-Stage Managers**

In recent months, I have suggested that parents have a multi-faceted role in the theatre of family life. Like directors, they define the developmental vision; like set designers, they create the home atmosphere as the stage for family interactions; like playwrights, they craft the domestic story for their children’s foundational years. This month, I consider the role of “Stage Manager”. How is being a parent like being a stage manager? According to the American Association of Community Theatre (https://www.aact.org(stage-manager), a stage manager’s roles include documenting “decisions about blocking and notes for the actors, keeping track of logistical and scheduling details and communicating what goes on in rehearsals to the rest of the team”.

You’ve probably heard that it takes a village to raise a child, but proponents of this African proverb rarely discuss the importance of communication and coordination among partners within the community throughout the developmental journey. In the theatre, the stage manager is responsible for these essential elements, including “scheduling and running rehearsals, communicating the director's wishes to designers and crafts people, coordinating the work of the stage crew, calling cues and possibly actors' entrances during performance”, etc. Regarding communication, parents need to share their vision of a child’s development with the community partners, such as educators, medical professionals, caregivers, and coaches so that together they can support the child’s growth in a consistent manner. For example, parents of bilingual children may want to stress different languages in different settings or encourage the children to utilize both languages in all settings, depending on the conversation partners. As a parent of an only child, I sought to involve my daughter in child care, church, and other community settings where she could interact with the same cohort of children varying in age to develop deep relationships with them, similar to the interactions that children with siblings would develop naturally at home.

The most important element of coordination involves scheduling the rehearsals, which in the family context is, simply, living. Parents-as-Stage Managers need to be good at multi-tasking and problem solving so they can coordinate a “smooth and efficient plan” for the timing of the myriad set changes, props, cues, etc. that happen in a given day or week. They need diverse resources, such as snacks, activities, band-aids, and duct tape, so they are ready for whatever challenges arise. Moreover, stage managers need an attitude of calm, both within themselves and to influence those around them when chaos erupts. A sense of humor and a song go a long way when facing unexpected delays, detours, etc.

As you approach the transition from the school year to the summer, remember that the family’s story is the heart of the matter on the child’s journey toward maturity. When planning your summer activities and schedule, prioritize the possibilities to select those that best fit your Parent-as-Director vision, set the stage with elements that fit the children’s interests and ability levels so they are challenged to grow, and manage the script and schedule aiming for consistency and clear communication. As events unfold and the best laid plans must change, use your stage-manager presence to help everyone navigate the circumstances with a sense of calm and good humor. Then reflect on each day’s stories so you can weave the memories into a family narrative you’ll want to share for years to come. Warm regards and best wishes for a summer that’s a smashing success!