Welcome to the Children’s School Family!

The 2017-2018 year has started smoothly at the Children’s School, and we’re enjoying getting to know our children and families. What a joy it is to discover ways that each unique child contributes to the group as everyone adjusts to the routines and explores new activities. It’s been fun to listen as the children discover the wealth of exploration opportunities here, experiment with novel materials, and interact with new friends. Everyone is enjoying sharing about themselves and their families, as well as discussing ways we are different and ways we are alike. We are also talking about the school as a community where we are all helping each other to learn. Here are some ways you can stay informed and get involved in the Children’s School learning community!

Learning Community Connections

Here are tips for staying informed and getting involved in the Children’s School learning community!

• Our main source of communication is our family newsletter and monthly calendar. General information for all families and the monthly snack menu are included with this newsletter, which is sent via email as well as on paper.

• Each teaching team also hosts a web site with a daily blog on classroom activities, photo albums, and other details about their programs, as well as writing a monthly newsletter including specific information about the curriculum themes, along with the related activities and projects.

• We will also send general school announcements and reminders via our school e-mail (cmuchsch@andrew.cmu.edu), so please check that we have your current email address!

• Our fourth source of communication is the Children’s School website: www.psy.cmu.edu/cs. Electronic versions of our handbook, newsletters, calendar, etc. are available there. Be sure to check the Children’s School Gallery on our website! Each month we will feature different children and projects. This month, the Gallery Features are 3’s Friends: Eleonore B., Shreya K. & Archie S.; 4’s Friends: Ellen G., Lillian H. & Sam S.; Kindergarten Friends: Eli F. & Max T.

October Dates (Remember to Check the Interactive Web Calendar TOO)

October Open House Events
• Wednesday, October 11th from 4:30-6:30pm Four Year Old Classes
• Wednesday, October 18th from 4:30-6:30pm Three Year Old Classes & Kindergarten

Fall Family Fun (Sponsored by the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society)
• Saturday, October 21st from 10am-Noon on the Children’s School Playground

Educator / Parent Discussion re: School Choice (child care provided)
• Wednesday, October 25th from 4:30-6:00pm in the CUC McKenna Room
• Friday, October 27th from 9:30-11:00am in the CUC Danforth Lounge

Early Learning Program

NAEYC Accredited
Family Committee News

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for a school committee! The FSO Committee co-chairs, Jocelyn Mayr (Lucy-Jo, PM 3’s) and Sarah Hummel (Cecilia, AM 4’s) met on September 20th to start thinking about this year’s events. A full FSO Committee meeting was held on September 29th. A Library Committee meeting is planned for October 3rd at 9 am and 12:45 pm in the office. Meetings for the Gardening Committee and the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committees will be planned in the near future. The Book Fair Committee will meet in late October to start planning for the December 2nd event. The Sewing Committee members have already been hard at work creating vests for our three-year-olds and getting capes for use on our playground. Members of the Construction and Repair Committee will be contacted as the need arises. The Monthly Teacher Appreciation Events Committee will ask families of each age group (3’s, 4’s or Kindergarten) to provide a meal or snacks for the Children’s School Staff once a semester. The Kindergarten will show their appreciation in October and February; 4’s will be in November and March; and the 3’s will cover December and April. It is never too late to join a committee – just contact Mrs. Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu!

Family Social Organization

Now that we've made the leap into adjusting to fall schedules and routines, the Children's School Family Social Organization is jumping right in with play dates, outings and activities for children and their families. Enjoy the fall weather while getting some physical activity and socializing at our kickoff T-Ball event on October 7th at 10am on the field next to the Children's School. We are suggesting a $3 donation to cover the cost of allergy-friendly snacks and water. It's a perfect opportunity for dads and grandpas to run and play, but all caregivers are welcome. RSVP to Sarah Hummel at shummel1010@gmail.com.

We're trying something a little different with book club this year. We'll be reading one book over the course of the year and meeting to discuss one or two chapters a month, as well as any parenting issues we're having that are related to that month's theme. We'll use the book as a starting point for discussions, but everyone is welcome - even if you haven't read that month's chapters! At Dr. Carver's recommendation, we'll be reading The Blessing of a Skinned Knee, by Dr. Wendy Mogel.

First Meeting Date: Thursday, October 5th @ 8:45am
Location: Carnegie Mellon Cafe (Not sure where that is? Meet outside the school office after greeting and walk with us!)
Reading: Chapters 1 & 2 (Intro & The Blessing of Acceptance)
Discussion theme: Acceptance - helping our kids realize their potential without causing them (or us) extra stress!

If you're interested in joining us, please RSVP to Sarah Deutsch(sarah.deutsch@gmail.com). We've also had some interest in an evening book club for working parents - if you'd like to host/coordinate an evening discussion on the same topics, let us know and we'll help you get started!

Be sure to stay tuned and check this space, as well as your inbox, for upcoming events including traditional Children's School favorites and some new and fresh outings. Want to participate in the Family Social Organization Committee? (We're fun; we promise!) Email Maggie Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu. Have an idea for an event that you'd like to see organized? Send it to Jocelyn Mayr at jocelynster@gmail.com.
Celebrate Hat Day with Children’s Hospital

On Thursday, October 5th, the Children’s School will celebrate Hat Day in conjunction with the Cancer and Blood Disorders Auxiliary of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. We encourage everyone to wear a hat to school on this day. The attached flyer explains the project in detail. While the official “Wear a Hat for Cancer” Event is on Friday, October 6th, we are celebrating on Thursday, October 5th to allow our 3-year-old friends to participate. At the Children’s School, we will explain to the children that we are wearing hats to help raise awareness and money for children who are sick. If your family would like to make a donation to the project, please send cash or a check made payable to “Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation” in an envelope marked with your family’s name. We will collect all of the donations and mail them directly to the foundation.

Fall Fun for Families

CMU students from the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society (led by the executive committee pictured here) are planning a fall family event on the Children’s School playground for Saturday, October 21st from 10am to Noon. Please join Children’s School and Cyert Center families for a variety of activities and games organized by seniors who are striving to integrate their scholarship with leadership and service. We’ll meet on the Children’s School playground if weather permits and in the preschool otherwise. We’ll do pumpkin decorating and pumpkin bowling, a beanbag toss, etc. Watch for more information and a chance to RSVP via email.

So Many School Choices

How do families make the best choice of an elementary school for each of their children and decide when to make the transition? Please join us for a review of school choice principles and a discussion of strategies for exploring school options.

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 4:30-6:00pm – McKenna Room of the University Center
• Child Care will be provided for children of all ages in the Red Room.

Friday, October 27, 2017 from 9:30-11:00am - Danforth Lounge of the University Center
• Preschool 4’s and Kindergarten children will be in school.
• Child Care will be provided for children 3 and under in the Red Room.

NOTE: The Pittsburgh Public School birthday cutoff is September 30, 2017. In other words, a child who turns 5 by September 30th is eligible for kindergarten (or 6 by September 30th for 1st grade).
Positive Discipline Pointer: Clear and Consistent Behavior Expectations

At times of transition, children adjust best when adults provide clear expectations and stable routines for safe and smooth interactions. Consistency is key for facilitating productive adaptations to new situations. That’s why the Children’s School staff spends so much time during September teaching children the expectations and routines of our school days. Taking the time to establish these practices so that they become comfortable and automatic will free both children and adults to responsibly focus on deeper learning and more challenging activities as the year progresses. We take special care with cooking, woodworking, gym, and campus trips because of the extra safety concerns involved. One way that you can help the children both at school and home is by modeling the same behavior expectations with the same words that the children hear at school. We’ll all benefit from working across contexts to:

- Be a kind friend.
- Listen the first time.
- Follow the routine.
- Stay in your own space.
- Use your words.
- Use inside voices.
- Use walking feet.
- Use things appropriately.
- Put everything in its place.

Thanks for working collaboratively with us to make school a safe and positive experience for everyone!

Holidays at the Children’s School

At the Children’s School, holidays are viewed as educational opportunities that give us the chance to learn about our diverse school community. As part of our emphasis on family identity and respect for diversity, we encourage children to talk about their family traditions, and we share stories related to the meaning of holidays. We plan age-appropriate activities to involve the children in preparing for simple school celebrations and to help them contribute to family events (e.g., basic cooking, making gifts, and so forth). We limit our school celebrations to very brief spans of time (typically one day), attempt to maintain our regular school routine, and, as always, are ready to provide extra attention and comfort as needed. Because the children may prepare their own special snack related to holidays and because many children have dietary restrictions (especially related to nuts, candy and other sweets), please do not send any food as gifts for children. In all of these ways, we can create meaningful celebrations with the young children in our educational context.

At the Children’s School, the children do not “dress up” for Halloween because children can be scared by costumes, and costumes often cause toileting difficulties. Seasonal activities may involve fall fruits and vegetables, colorful leaves & acorns, etc.
Family Spotlight: Snapshot of Our Community

During September, the friends in all of our classes get to know each other by sharing information about themselves and their families, which prompts us to discuss similarities and differences so that we can better appreciate the diversity among us. The “All About Me” projects in the preschool give children and families an opportunity to get to know each other better. You’ll get to see all of these at the Open House events!

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

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

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

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

Hurricane Maria has impacted Children’s School extended families and friends, so we encourage interested families to contribute directly to The American Red Cross, which is “launching a multi-island relief effort with government officials and disaster partners to help people impacted by Hurricane Maria’s devastation in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.” For more information, see http://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/hurricane-relief/hurricane-maria-relief-information - Domestic-Response. We are also reaching out to the University of Puerto Rico’s lab school to see if there are ways that the International Association of Laboratory Schools (IALS) can help in their restoration efforts.

Box Tops for Education

The Children’s School participates in the **Box Tops for Education** program. Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school. Box Tops are each worth 10¢ and they quickly add up to real cash for our school. This school year, our school’s earnings goal is $1,000. To help our school, just look for pink Box Tops on products, clip them, and send them to school. For more information on the Box Tops for Education program, including a list of participating products and our school’s progress, visit http://www.BTFE.com. Be sure to become a member to receive exclusive coupons and recipes, as well as to learn about extra ways for our school to earn. Please send your Box Tops to Miss Hancock in the Main Office.

Giant Eagle Apples for the Students

**Shop. Scan. Support Our School.**
Apples for the Students starts again on October 1. This program is a great way for our school to earn funds for our school’s overall educational needs. Is your Giant Eagle Advantage Card® registered? Now’s the time to check. All you need is our school code **0151** to verify a card or register a new card.

1. Visit www.gianteagle.com/AFTS.
2. Enter your Giant Eagle Advantage Card® number (which appears under the bar code).
3. Enter the school code.
4. Done! Please encourage your extended family and friends to register too.

School Spirit Sale

We have a variety of clothing and other items with the Children’s School logo for sale. Please see Miss Drash or Mrs. Rosenblum if you are interested in purchasing any items. We take cash or checks.

- Toddler Tees: $10.00
- Water Bottles: $5.00
- Onesies: $12.00
- Hoodies, Adult & Child: $20.00
- Sweatshirts: $14.00

Please Label Your Child’s Clothing

With chilly weather already upon us, many children are wearing sweaters, hoodies, and jackets to school. So that they all go home – please be sure to label all of your child’s clothing and outerwear! If your child brings food in containers for Kindergarten or Extended Day lunch, please be sure that these are labeled with your child’s name as well.
Thank You to our Summer Garden Helpers

Once the Children’s School June Summer Camp ends, we ask for family volunteers to adopt our garden to weed and water over the summer months. Thank you to the families of Chudi (K), Yerick (K) and Slava (3’s), Emeline (4’s), Maggie (4’s), Claes (4’s), Isaac (4’s), and Morgan (K Class of ’17).

Custodial Workers Recognition Day

Monday, October 2nd is National Custodial Workers Recognition Day - an annual celebration to pay tribute to and thank those who clean and maintain buildings. Our school is maintained by the incredible Olympia Saunders. Olympia works for Aramark, the custodial services company contracted by Carnegie Mellon University. Olympia’s workday begins after 11pm, which is why families do not meet her. Our staff rarely sees Olympia, but we communicate as “pen pals” when we leave each other notes about cleaning needs. Olympia has been employed by CMU’s custodial services company since September 2011. She loves to do crossword puzzles and collects dolphins, her favorite animal. She was raised on the North Side, and her favorite childhood memory is going to Disneyland when she turned 10. It was her first time getting on a plane. Olympia would like to thank the whole staff for making her feel so loved. Thank YOU, Olympia, for all of your hard work!! In honor of Olympia, our kindergartners made a thank you book that we gave her along with a card from the staff and treats to sustain her during her night time shift.

CMU Announces Launch of CareLink

Need help? A new online service, CareLink, can connect you with helpers within the university community. Faculty, staff, students and affiliates can use this convenient forum to offer or acquire a wide range of services. Through the CareLink website, which is available to all members of the university community, you can post needs for child care, pet care, tutoring, music lessons, lawn care, odd jobs and other services listed on the site. Please contact Miss Hancock (lh37@andrew.cmu.edu) if you have a request to post to CareLink. Since many of our families do not have a CMU ID, the University has created a Children’s School affiliate log in for the CareLink website. Sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty, CareLink was spearheaded by the Committee on Faculty Diversity, Inclusion and Development. Special thanks to Lorrie Cranor, professor and associate department head for Engineering & Public Policy AND Children’s School alumni parent, who was instrumental in bringing this important service to fruition.
Who Can Help? Administrative Structure & Roles

The Children’s School has a team of four professionals to jointly meet the administrative needs of our active laboratory school (left to right: Miss Hancock, Mrs. Rosenblum, Miss Drash, and Dr. Carver). We all strive to know all of the children and to interact with them frequently. We are all available to serve the educators, students, families, and researchers. At the same time, we each focus distinctive talents in different areas, so here are some helpful hints about who to approach for which issues.

Dr. Carver (sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu) 412-268-1499  
Miss Hancock (lh37@andrew.cmu.edu) 412-268-2198  
Mrs. Rosenblum (rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu) 412-268-3476  
Miss Drash (adrash@andrew.cmu.edu) 412-268-2199

Dr. Carver, the Director, takes primary leadership for school programs and staff development. She recruits educators, coordinates professional development and outreach efforts, and manages the school web site, as well as leading the school’s NAEYC accreditation process. She observes the classroom frequently and provides support for new curriculum development, alternate teaching strategies, ways to meet individual student needs, etc. She prepares the whole school newsletter and serves as a resource for parents with questions about child development, education, special needs, and family issues. Dr. Carver coordinates all uses of the Children’s School as a psychology laboratory, including undergraduate courses, graduate student research, and faculty research. As a teaching professor in the Psychology Department, Dr. Carver also teaches a Child Development course, supervises the Child Development Interns, teaches the graduate course on Educational Design, serves as an academic advisor, and participates in other department and college events.

Miss Hancock, an Educational Administrator, handles program administration issues, including managing the school calendar, ordering materials, conducting safety drills, monitoring the school’s primary email account (cmuchsch@andrew.cmu.edu), handling student allergies and medications, and working with our health and safety consultants. She also coordinates requests for Carnegie Mellon services, particularly those regarding facilities and security. She takes a lead role with teacher mentoring and consultation for the kindergarten educators and families.

Mrs. Rosenblum, also an Educational Administrator, concentrates her administrative efforts on family support, beginning with recruiting and initial admission, but also including tuition payments, scholarship assistance, re-enrollment, family involvement, general family resources, committees and special events. She also coordinates undergraduate support staff, mentors high school interns, and arranges classroom coverage when teachers are absent. She takes a lead role with preschool teacher mentoring and consultation for the preschool educators and families.

Along with Dr. Carver, both Educational Administrators collaborate to maintain strong relationships with local schools, to broaden our public relations, to manage the school budget, to secure funding for special projects and scholarships, to maintain the school’s NAEYC accreditation and PA private academic school licensing, to represent the school in the local, national, and international education community, and to continually seek ways to improve all of the services we offer. During the 2016-17 academic year, we proactively worked to update our accreditation portfolios in preparation for our validation site visit and accreditation renewal during the current school year.
Administrative Structure & Roles continued …

As the Administrative Coordinator, Miss Drash manages the office operations and equipment, answers the primary school phone number, keeps student records, takes messages for teachers, and monitors all observation and research activities. She handles visitor entry and exit via the security system and is the person to whom ALL forms are returned. She maintains all of the school’s databases. She also keeps our reception area and parent bulletin board stocked with family resources, particularly for school choices and community services.

Most importantly, we’re all here to help provide an excellent early childhood program for your children. If you have a question or concern and are not sure which administrator to approach, feel free to ask your child’s teacher or to call the school office. We’ll be happy to direct your call. You may also contact us through email for quick questions or comments you may have.

Safety at the Children’s School

Health and Safety considerations are high priorities for our educators. We participate annually in trainings including Pediatric CPR and First Aid, Bloodborne Pathogens, Medication Administration, Food Safety, Fire Safety and Prevention, and Fire Extinguisher Training. In addition, we work with a Health Consultant, Playground Consultant and Nutritionist who evaluate our space, observe our practices, and review our snack menus to help us improve. For Kindergarten age children, the Pittsburgh Public School District provides a school nurse who comes monthly to monitor health records and to conduct basic screenings such as height and weight, vision, and hearing.

We also collaborate with the University Environmental Health and Safety Department as well as the University Police to create a safety plan for emergency situations. One week each month is designated as Safety Week at the Children’s School. During this week, children and staff practice safety procedures such as evacuations or lock down drills. A different drill is practiced each month at varied times of day. During our drills, each staff member carries a walkie-talkie as well as an emergency bag that contains first aid supplies, class lists, and emergency phone numbers. The University has provided a Fire and Emergency Action Plan that includes a map with recommended evacuation routes. Also during Safety Week, an in depth Safety Check of our facility is conducted.

We held our first evacuation drill on Friday, September 15th with the 4’s and Kindergarten classes. After discussing the procedure during circle time, the children listened for the fire alarm and walked through our main emergency egress to the Reflection Garden, with all children accounted for in 1 minute 37 seconds. The 3’s practiced their first evacuation drill during circle time on September 26th without the fire alarm to teach the children the procedure. In October, we will have all of the children participate in a regular drill together.

With both evacuation and lockdown drills, we use very simple explanations of why we need to practice, basically saying that we need to be able to leave the building quickly if there is something inside, like a fire, that might harm us or that we need a place inside to be safe away from the windows if there is something outside that might harm us, like a very bad storm. We have found that reading the book Fire Drill by Paul DuBois Jacobs is very helpful in explaining the concept of emergency situations to young children. If you have any questions about our Health and Safety Guidelines, please refer to your Family Handbook or contact the Main Office.
Exploring Animals in the Wild

This year, we plan to intentionally focus on building our relationships with the environment by studying **ANIMALS IN THE WILD** for our Whole School Unit, including both a local and a global emphasis. The timing of this unit in February and early March coincides with the **United Nations World Wildlife Day** (March 3, 2018) and ends just before the **US National Wildlife Week** (March 14-18, 2018). Studying Animals in the Wild will enable us to discover 1) the safe ways we can observe animals in their natural habitats, 2) the life science features of animals and their life cycles, adaptations to the food, water, shelter, etc. available in their habitats, and ways that communication and interdependence help them meet their needs, 3) the physical science properties of animals’ physical features, homes, etc., 4) the earth science aspects of animal behavior based on the weather and seasons, 5) the historical, social, and cultural changes related to humans’ environmental responsibility, and 6) the representation of animals in literature and the visual, dramatic, movement, and musical arts.

In preparation for the unit, our educators visited the Humane Animal Rescue Wildlife Center (https://www.humaneanimalrescue.org/wildlife-rehabilitation-center/i-found-an-injured-wild-animal/) during our professional development time prior to the beginning of school. “The Wildlife Center is a fully licensed wildlife rehabilitation clinic that specializes in the care and treatment of injured, orphaned, and ill native Pennsylvanian wildlife. All animals are admitted to the clinic with the goal of releasing them back into the wild as healthy individuals.” We anticipate having some of the wildlife center’s “educational ambassadors” visit our classrooms during the unit in February. Meanwhile, we encourage your family to notice the animals you encounter near your home and in your neighborhood parks. In my backyard in Crafton Heights, I’ve seen birds, insects, and a variety of mammals, including squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and deer. I even saw a coyote walking on a city street near my home at dusk one night recently. If you are interested in helping to design the unit or have ideas to share, please contact me (sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu) or your child’s teacher.

**Perhaps you wondered … why we organize our curriculum into thematic units.**

Studying topics in depth builds children’s knowledge base, starting with what they already know and creating a network of concepts that are richly connected in ways that help children apply their knowledge to new contexts. We combine verbal and visual representations and provide a variety of activities to help them acquire, strengthen, and refine concepts via experimentation, stories, dramatic play, art, games, technology activities, etc. Children converse and reason in more sophisticated ways about content they understand, so themes provide a foundation for other cognitive challenges.

Across the school year, we include a variety of topics that span literature, social studies, science (life, physical, and earth & space), and the arts. In every unit, we include activities that strengthen children’s skills in all of our developmental domains: self-esteem & independence, interaction & cooperation, communication, discovery & exploration, physical capabilities / health & safety, and artistic expression & appreciation.
Undergraduate Spotlight

As a campus laboratory school, the Children’s School offers research and observation opportunities to many undergraduate and graduate students from different departments across campus. In addition to these opportunities, we offer undergraduates a chance to work in the classrooms on a regular basis, either as student employees, interns, or volunteers. In the Undergraduate Spotlight, we will be featuring our diverse classroom assistants so that parents can learn about the undergraduate and graduate students who work in the classrooms with their children in different capacities. Photos of all our student assistants are posted on the Family Communication bulletin board across from our library and classroom assistants working with particular groups have been introduced in the classroom blog.

Senior Student Teachers from Pitt’s CASE Program

Danielle Sallmen and Andrew Lehmberg are seniors in the University of Pittsburgh’s Combined Accelerated Studies in Education (CASE) Program, a five-year undergraduate and masters program that includes a BS in Applied Developmental Psychology and a Masters of Education in early childhood and special education. Miss Sallmen is working with the Morning 4’s and Extended Morning Program this semester, and Mr. Lehmberg is teaching in the Kindergarten.

• Danielle Sallmen says, “I am a senior in the CASE Program at the University of Pittsburgh. I grew up in New Castle, Pennsylvania, which is about an hour from the city, with two older brothers. I danced for 14 years and became an assistant teacher as a teenager, so I developed my love of teaching through dance. I knew from the beginning that I wanted to work with young children but developed my interest in special education through the CASE program. I am in an honor fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi that does service events such as the Children’s Hospital Radio-thon and packaging medical supplies through Global Links. I appreciate the vast opportunities that the preschool children have at the Children’s School, such as cooking and the Make Shop.”

• Andrew Lehmberg says, “I am senior at the University of Pittsburgh. I am from Westfield, New Jersey, about six hours from here. I lived in England for my early childhood years. My father is an engineer and my mother was a kindergarten teacher prior to having children. I started playing Ultimate Frisbee in sixth grade and am now on Pitt’s men’s Ultimate Frisbee club team. From the start of high school, I started helping coach, which gave me experience with younger children. I then started working with younger children at camps during the summer. Coming into college from my background with children and my mother’s experience inspired me to pursue education, and Pitt’s CASE program is excellent. The special education aspect resonates with experiences I had with children who have Down Syndrome. The Children’s School is a fantastic opportunity for me to witness the progressive approach to education, which connects well with the CASE program emphasis on always seeking what is best for children.”
Welcoming a Visiting Scholar & Family

Dr. Byungho (Tony) Lee is an associate professor in the department of Early Childhood Education at Duksung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea. For the 2017-18 academic year, Tony will be spending his sabbatical in the CMU Psychology Department, doing observations at the Children’s School, visiting university classes, and conducting research.

Tony’s research focuses on educational technology, language development, and parent involvement in early childhood education. Tony worked as a preschool teacher for 5 years in Korea and the US, and he was involved in developing the Kindergarten program at Seoul National University Children’s Hospital School. In 2006, he received his Ph.D., which examined young children’s computer literacy development in the home and school environment, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As well as teacher education, he is involved in developing an open source system for developmental research in Korea and designing and testing a Smart Toy that was showcased at an international expo in 2016.

Tony’s wife, Ji Hyun, worked as a veterinary nurse and loves animals. SeoYi is a brave 27-month-old girl who flew 14 hours to meet a Dinosaur in Pittsburgh. The family also has a bunny named Choco and a tree sparrow named Cookie, but they are staying in Korea. The whole family is excited to be part of the Children’s School community.

International Hosting Opportunity

In late January, the Children’s School will be hosting 2 undergraduate students from Duksung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea for an International Practicum Program. A total of 8 Early Childhood Education students will be in Pittsburgh for practicum experiences at our school, Falk, Carlow’s Campus School, or Pitt’s University Child Development Center. To help the students experience family life in Pittsburgh, we are recruiting one family who lives close to the university to provide housing and some meals for our two female practicum students from Sunday, January 28th through Sunday, February 11th. Proximity to CMU is essential so that the students can use public transportation or rides from teachers to travel to and from school. Please contact Dr. Carver at sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu if you are interested in this hosting opportunity. Let us know if you would like to talk with former host families about their hosting experiences.
Visitors from Peking Elementary School

On September 25th, four educators from the Peking University Elementary School (PUES) in Beijing toured the Children’s School. As part of an educational and cultural exchange, these teachers are accompanying twenty-eight 4th, 5th and 6th grade students who are spending two weeks immersed and engaged in Winchester Thurston’s Lower School classrooms. They also experience one day in the WT Upper School, where the science and computer science chairs coordinate an interesting experience for them. WT families also host the children for an entire Saturday so they can experience a typical weekend. The PUES teachers often teach a class to the WT students each year, and they are very interested to learn about all types of education in the United States. Their visit to the Children’s School was their first experience at a US laboratory preschool. Last January, administrators and educators at Winchester Thurston hosted our visiting Duksung education students from Korea for a morning, so it is rewarding to be able to reciprocate.

Scholarship Support for Quality Education

The Children’s School participates in the state’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program as well as the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program. Through EITC, eligible Pennsylvania businesses can earn tax credits while providing financial assistance for children to attend preschool as well as grades K-12. Through OSTC, eligible Pennsylvania businesses can earn tax credits for contributing funds to provide tuition assistance in the form of scholarships to eligible students K-12th grade residing within the boundaries of a low-achieving school to attend another public school outside of their district or nonpublic school.

In 2016-17, the Children’s School provided the following tuition assistance:

**Pre-K Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (PKEITC)**
- 57 children received funds to attend Pre-K programs at 3 approved Preschools in Allegheny County.
- $1,717 was the average amount of scholarship awarded.
- The total amount of scholarship provided was $97,900. However, the requested need for scholarship exceeded $120,000.

**Educational Improvement Tax Credit Scholarship Organization (EITCSO)**
- 3 children received funding to attend our full day, licensed, and NAEYC accredited Kindergarten.
- $4,400 was the average amount of scholarship awarded.
- The total amount of scholarship provided was $13,200. However, the requested need for scholarship exceeded $27,000.

**Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC)**
- 32 children received funding to attend 13 different schools, 30 in Allegheny County and 2 in Fayette.
- $3,905 was the average amount of scholarship awarded.

We hope that you will help to the spread word about our success in order for us to grow our PKEITC, EITCSO, and OSTC Programs. As you can see, our need far exceeds the amount we are currently able to provide, especially for PKEITC and EITCSO. Please feel free to contact Miss Hancock (lh37@andrew.cmu.edu) with any questions or suggestions regarding any of our programs.
Music & Movement Classes

Welcome back, Lauren Hraber! Mrs. Hraber conducts Music and Movement classes with all of the children at the Children’s School every other week. Our first classes for the fall were held on September 28th and will continue approximately every other week for the rest of the school year.

Lauren Hraber is an experienced preschool and elementary music teacher with a MED in Special Education from the University of Pittsburgh and a BFA in Piano Performance from Carnegie Mellon University. She spent 10 years teaching General Elementary Music in Baldwin–Whitehall, Woodland Hills, and Canton City Schools. Lauren founded Piano Tots for preschoolers and has spent the last 10 years teaching Piano Tots classes. Presently, Lauren serves as the music teacher at several preschools in the Pittsburgh area. Lauren’s family includes husband Zach and 2 children - Maddy & Jax, a Children’s School alum.

Keeping Parents Informed about Research

The Research Spotlight section of the monthly newsletter is one way Children’s School parents can learn about research in progress. Also, each time your child participates in a study that involves playing a “game” with a researcher (i.e., as opposed to merely being observed), he or she will get a participation sticker suggesting that you, “Ask me about the … game” and a study description detailing the task. We also have recent articles resulting from Children’s School research posted on the school web site (www.psy.cmu.edu/childrensschool) and a notebook of articles in the office. Feel free to contact Dr. Carver to discuss any questions you have about research.

Observations for Psychology Assignments: Students from Dr. David Rakison’s Child Development class conduct periodic observations throughout the fall. For each assignment, they observe specific differences between preschoolers and kindergartners in motor skills, social interactions, language, etc.

Research Methods Class Studies: Students in Professor Anna Fisher’s Developmental Research Methods class will start with a lab entitled The I Spy Game to investigate children’s attention and distractibility while finding all instances of a certain object (e.g., strawberries) on a sheet with about 100 diverse objects. Children play the game twice, once with the secondary researcher sitting and observing quietly (as is typical in studies with multiple researchers) and once with the secondary researcher playing “Fruit Splash” on a smart phone with the volume set to low. The distracting effects of background television on children’s play are well established, but there is little research on the impact of other electronic devices in children’s environment. Later in the semester, the students will work in small groups to conduct a study of their own design, which will be approved both by their instructor and by Dr. Carver. Watch for their research questions in the November newsletter!
Children’s School

October 2017

Research Spotlight

The iPad Game

Cassandra Eng, a second year graduate student working with Dr. Erik Thiessen, is studying the vocalizations young children make in response to stories presented in typical book format and via iPad with animations embedded within the story. In collaboration with children’s author and illustrator Thacher Hurd, the research team aims to determine if the animations encourage children to vocalize more frequently than would a normal storybook. During each session, a researcher reads the child two stories on an iPad, *Cat’s Pajamas* (Hurd, 2000) and *Zoom City* (Hurd, 1998).

One of the iPad stories was interactive: the pictures animated whenever the child vocalized. For example, if the child repeated the researcher after she read “boom, bang, boom!”, the experimenter in another room with a one-way observation window would activate an animation of the illustration of a drum beating. In other words, the child’s vocalizations caused the animations. The other iPad story was not interactive: the pictures animated before the researcher read the page regardless of whether or not the child vocalized. The order of the two story types varies, and children’s responses are videotaped so the researchers can compare their vocalizations across the two conditions. Because literacy skills are closely linked to a child’s earliest experiences with books and stories—and there is increasing use of electronic books accessible through computers, apps, and tablets—the researchers are investigating whether the addition of interactive features in an e-book could support children’s understanding of the story.

In between stories, a researcher played an I Spy game with the child. The researcher asked the child to find all of the bowling pins in the picture below. Through this game, the research team is investigating how children develop the ability to ignore distractions while working on a task. They want to determine whether the interactive iPad story is especially useful for young children who are still developing the ability to ignore distractions. They hypothesize that the animations in the interactive iPad book will draw the child’s attention to the important elements of the story, thus increasing comprehension. The study results may inform the development of future electronic books for children.

The Matching Line Game

Dr. Erez Freud, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Psychology, is working with Dr. Marlene Behrmann, on a research study that aims to characterize the development of visual object perception. The ability to accurately perceive objects is crucial for every aspect of our lives from childhood through adulthood. To shed light on the emergence of this ability, researchers play the “matching-line game” with the children. In this game, the children are asked to match the length of a line presented on a computer screen to the size of a real object using a mouse to adjust the line length.

Researchers then measure the accuracy and variability of the estimates. This study will help determine the extent to which precise shape sensitivity exists in children aged 5-6 years old.
Director’s Corner: Lessons from Nature

“The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientists but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea and sky and their amazing life.”

Rachel Carson

Ten years ago, our educators discussed Richard Louv’s 2005 book, “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder.” Louv’s aim was to encourage discussion of “the increasing divide between the young and the natural world, and the environmental, social, psychological, and spiritual implications of that change” (p. 2). Since that time, we have worked more purposefully to include nature in the classroom, focus more on “nearby nature”, make our school more “green”, and improve our “outdoor classroom”. For example, our classrooms now include more plants and a wider variety of pets, we take more walks on campus and in Schenley Park, we have broadened our recycling and composting programs, and we have added more natural elements and gardens to our outdoor space. Both CMU and the city of Pittsburgh have supplemented our efforts with their own steps toward “green urbanism”.

This year, we decided to capitalize on children’s fascination with animals and increase our contact with the natural world by choosing the Whole School Theme of ANIMALS in the WILD. We aim to engage children, educators and families in discovering the “amazing life” Rachel Carson described. In this series of articles, I will explore the lessons we can learn about educating and raising children by observing the animal kingdom. Principles such as niches, adaptation, interdependence, and biodiversity – each of which is crucial for the balance of nature and stability of ecosystems, can also be applied to the health and sustainability of our learning communities and families.

For example, a simple internet search for life lessons from elephants revealed lots of ideas, such as living in community, respecting elders, having thick skin, using touch as a form of communication, eating mostly plants, and drinking more water. The Flourish Anyway web site uses observations about common neighborhood squirrels to offer life lessons, including taking time to chew things over, always having a backup plan, accentuating your best features (for squirrels, the bushy tail), and saving for the future (https://owlcation.com/misc/How-To-Live-Your-Best-Life-Lessons-Learned-From-Squirrels).

Basically, taking the perspective of animals to explore their lives and learning may help us think outside our proverbial boxes to notice more creative approaches, unique solutions, or broader vision than we have previously considered. Research shows that simply being present in nature has significant benefits for mental and physical health, as well as cognitive functioning. My hope is that reflecting together about our experiences with animals in the wild will also inspire our work with children as educators and parents. I’d love to hear your ideas about life lessons from your favorite animal!
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<td>3:45 FSO Book Club</td>
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<td>10:00AM – Noon FSO T-Ball Game</td>
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October Safety Week
# The Children's School Snack Menu

*Subject to change based on birthdays & special events*  
*Gluten and dairy free options available*

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<thead>
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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applesauce &amp; Graham Crackers</td>
<td>Cheerios</td>
<td>diced Peaches &amp; Cottage Cheese</td>
<td>Goldfish</td>
<td>Mini Bagels &amp; Jelly</td>
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<td>Milk/Water PM Coconut Milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tortilla Chips &amp; Salsa</td>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>Yogurt &amp; Granola</td>
<td>Cucumbers &amp; Ranch Dressing</td>
<td>Teddy Grahams</td>
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<td>Milk/Water PM Coconut Milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretzels</td>
<td>Apples &amp; Cheese Cubes</td>
<td>Rice Cakes &amp; Sun Butter</td>
<td>Carrots &amp; Greek Yogurt Ranch Dip</td>
<td>Clementines</td>
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<td>Milk/Water PM Coconut Milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice Krispies</td>
<td>Bananas &amp; Sunbutter</td>
<td>Pita Chips &amp; Hummus</td>
<td>Tortilla Chips &amp; Guacamole</td>
<td>Animal Crackers</td>
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<td>Mini Bagels &amp; Cream Cheese</td>
<td>Pear Slices</td>
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<td>Milk/Water PM Coconut Milk</td>
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October 2017
Make a $2 donation to support Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC in exchange for wearing a hat on

This daylong event will raise vital funds to benefit children being treated for cancer.

Wearing a hat for this special occasion shows support for children with cancer. Together, we can let children know that they are not alone in their fight against cancer.

All donations will support the needs of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and the Division of Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) and Cellular Therapies at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

For more information, contact Cassandra Mazzotta at cassandra.mazzotta@chp.edu or visit givetochildrens.org/ wearahat.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE LIMIT OF THE LAW. OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA 1-800-732-0999. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.
It's easy to find Box Tops. In fact, you may have some in your home right now. Clip Box Tops from your favorite products and turn them in to your child's school today! Box Tops are each worth 10¢ and they add up fast!

Encontrar Box Tops es fácil. De hecho, tal vez tengas algunos en tu casa en este momento. Recorta Box Tops de cientos de tus productos favoritos. Cada cupón de Box Tops tiene un valor de 10¢ para tu escuela y estas cantidades se suman rápido!

**Baking & Bakeware**
- Annie's® Baking Mixes
- Fiber One® Mixes
- Reynolds® Genuine Parchment Paper
- Reynolds® Non-Stick Baking Pans
- Reynolds® Stabproof® Baking Cups

**Cereal Cereales**
- Annie's®
- Apple Cinnamon Toast Crunch™
- Blueberry Chex™
- Blueberry Toast Crunch™
- Cascadian Farm®
- Cascadian Farm® Farm Stand Harvest Granola
- Cheerios®
- Chex®
- Cinnamon Toast Crunch™
- Cocoa Puffs™
- Cookie Crisp™
- Fiber One®
- French Toast Crunch™
- Girl Scouts Thin Mint® Cereal
- Girl Scouts Caramel Crunch® Cereal
- Golden Grains™
- Lucky Charms™
- Nature Valley™ Oat Cereals
- Nature Valley™ Protein Crunchy Granola
- Oatmeal Crisp™
- Raisin Nut Bran
- Raisin Bran
- Strawberry Toast Crunch™
- Total™
- Tri™
- Wheaties™

**Food Storage**
- Ziploc® brand Big Bags XL (4 ct.)
- Ziploc® brand Freezer Bags
- Ziploc® brand Smart Snap Containers
- Ziploc® brand Storage Bags
- Ziploc® brand Twist 'n Lock® Containers
- Ziploc® brand VersaGrip® Containers
- Ziploc® brand Vacuum Freezer System
- Ziploc® brand Zip 'n Steam® Bags

**Frozen Congelados**
- Annie’s® Frozen Snacks
- Green Giant® Vegetables
- Pillsbury® Toaster Strudel®
- Totino’s® Party Pizza & Pizza Rolls® Snacks

**Household Cleaning**
- Finish® Dishwashing Detergent
- Lysol® Bathroom Cleaners
- Lysol® Disinfectant Spray & Wipes

**Meals & Snacks**
- Annie’s® Mac & Cheese
- Annie’s® Microwaveable Mac & Cheese Cups
- Annie’s® Soups
- Betty Crocker® Specialty Potatoes & Potato Buds
- Betty Crocker® Suddenly Salad
- Green Giant® canned Vegetables
- Hamburger Helper®
- Old El Paso® Bold Stand N' Stuff® Shells
- Old El Paso® Dinner Kits
- Old El Paso® Rice & Beans
- Old El Paso® Shells & Salsa Singles
- Old El Paso® Soft Tortilla Taco Boats
- Old El Paso® Stand N' Stuff® Shells

**Paper Products**
- Select Kleenex® Tissue bundles
- Scott® Bath Tissue
- Scott® Paper Towels
- Scott Naturals® Flushable Cleansing Cloths

**Produce**
- Green Giant® Fresh Herbs
- Green Giant® Fresh Vegetables

**Refrigerated & Dairy Refrigerados y Lecheros**
- Annie’s® Refrigerated Dough
- Annie’s® Yogurt Tubes
- Go-Gurt® Multipacks
- Old El Paso® Cheese Products
- Old El Paso® Fresh Buttery Tasie® Spread (Sticks and Tub)
- Old El Paso® Margarine (Sticks and Tub)
- Old El Paso® Sauce Express® Sauce Starter
- Old El Paso® Salsa Butter or Spreadable Butter Products
- Pillsbury® Refrigerated Cookies
- Yoplait® Original and Yoplait® Light Fridge Packs

**School & Office Supplies**
- Boise POLARIS® Premium Paper
- Boise FIREWORK® Premium Colored Paper

**Snacks**
- Annie’s® Cookies
- Annie’s® Crackers
- Annie’s® Fruit Snacks
- Annie’s® Granola Bars
- Annie’s® Organic Pops
- Annie’s® Organic Puffs
- Annie’s® Snack Mix
- Betty Crocker® Fruit Flavored Snacks
- Bugles™
- Cascadian Farm® Granola Bars
- Cereal Treat Bars
- Cheer Mix™
- Fiber One® bars, Brownies, Cookies, and Snack Bars
- Food Should Taste Good® Snacks
- Gordetos® Snacks
- LARABAR® (multipacks)
- Larabar® REFLEX Grain Free Granola
- Nature Valley® Baked Oat Bars
- Nature Valley® Granola Bars
- Nature Valley® Granola Cups
- Nature Valley® Granola Cereal
- Nature Valley® Protein Soft Baked Granola Bars
- Nature Valley® XL Sweet & Salty Bars

**Tableware**
- Hefty® Deluxe® Plates and Platters
- Hefty® Easy Grip Cups
- Hefty® Everyday® Cups
- Hefty® Everyday® Soak Proof Bowls and Plates
- Hefty® Printed Cups
- Hefty® Style Plates
- Kleenex® Dinner Napkins (50 ct.)

**Waste Bags**
- Hefty® Blackout Tall Kitchen Drawstring Bags
- Hefty® Cinch Sak Large Trash Bags and Lawn & Leaf Bags
- Hefty® Easy Flip® Tall Kitchen Bags and Large Trash Bags
- Hefty® OdorBlock® Tall Kitchen Drawstring Bags
- Hefty® Renew® Tall Kitchen Bags and Trash Bags
- Hefty® SteelSak® Trash Bags
- Hefty® Twist Tie Tall Kitchen Bags and Trash
- Lawn & Leaf Bags
- Hefty® Ultimate
- Hefty® Ultra Flex® Trash Bags

Get Bonus Box Tops while you shop with the BOX TOPS BONUS APP. See how it works at BTFE.com/bonusapp.

Please note that participation in the Box Tops for Education program may vary among individual products and package sizes.

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Citizens Bank

Children's Theater

Distribution of this flyer does not imply endorsement by the school district.

Single Tickets
Start at $10.50

2017-2018 Season

PROFESSIONAL THEATER
DOWNTOWN & IN YOUR TOWN!

TRASH TEST DUMMIES
November 12-19, 2017

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS
February 23-24, 2018

SKIPPYJON JONES
SHOW WHAT
January 7-14, 2018

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS
April 10-16, 2018

THE RAINBOW FISH
May 17-20, 2018

CITY
SUNDAY
November 12
2pm
Byham Theater

EAST
WEDNESDAY
November 15
7pm
Greensburg-Salem HS

NORTH
THURSDAY
November 16
6:30 & 7:30pm
Marshall MS

WEST
FRIDAY
November 17
7pm
Connel HS

SOUTH
SATURDAY
November 18
11am & 2pm
Mt. Lebanon HS

BUTLER SUNDAY
November 19
2pm
Seneca Valley SHS

TRASH TEST DUMMIES
January 7
2pm
Byham Theater

SKIPPYJON JONES
SHOW WHAT
January 10
7pm
Greensburg-Salem HS

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS
Matinee at Byham Theater | Monday, January 8 at 10:15am

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS
April 15
2pm
Byham Theater

Festival Exclusive! | May 17 - 20 | Various Times | Byham Theater

THE RAINBOW FISH
April 11
7pm
Greensburg-Salem HS

SEASON TICKETS
412-456-1390

GROUPS 10+ TICKETS
412-471-6930

TRUSTARTS.ORG/KIDS
SERIOUSLY ADVENTUROUS THEATER
For ages 7+

WATER ON MARS
Plastic Boom

December 15 & 16, 2017
August Wilson Center

Matinee
FRI, DEC 15, 2017
Ages 6+

The 13-STORY TREEHOUSE
COP Theatre Producers

January 27 & 28, 2018
August Wilson Center

Ages 6+

FEATHERS OF FIRE
A Persian Epic
Kirmanshah

March 2 & 3, 2018
August Wilson Center

Ages 7+

The Young King
Slingsby Theatre Company

May 17-20, 2018
Trust Arts
Education Center

Ages 7+

SEASON TICKETS
412-456-1390

SINGLE TICKETS
412-456-6666

GROUPS 10+
412-471-6930

TRUSTARTS.ORG/BRIDGE