Gardening Progress

What a difference a year makes!!! It has been a LONG time coming but our Hillside Garden is finally beginning to take shape! During the week of September 28th, family volunteers braved the wet weather (and muddy, slippery hill) to plant 50+ perennials and shrubs as well as 220 bulbs in our new community garden. Then, on Saturday, October 3rd (another VERY wet day), CMU students participating in the 1000+ Day volunteered their time to help spread mulch provided by CMU on the hillside and sift wood chips out of the playground sandbox. A second load of mulch was spread during the week of October 5th by more of our family volunteers. A million thanks to everyone who contributed their time, tools, or funds to the start of our garden!

Over the winter, we plan to create ornamental garden items such as birdhouses, butterfly houses, stepping-stones, and a garden sign with the children. If you have any interest in helping with these projects, please contact Miss Hancock in the Main Office. Also, please mark April 2, 2016 on your calendar. That is our next 1000+ Volunteer Day. Our projects on this day will include an early spring garden cleanup as well as more planting.

November / December Dates (Remember to Check the Interactive Web Calendar TOO)

- Sunday, November 1st – Daylight Saving Time Ends – Turn Clocks BACK One Hour
- Food Bank Donations – November 2nd through 16th
- Staff / Parent Discussion re: School Choice (child care provided) Wednesday, Nov 4th from 4:30-6:00pm
- Friday Afternoon, November 13th - Parent Teacher Conferences for 4’s and K Regular School Schedule in the Morning
- Thursday, November 19th from 6-8pm - Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages Raising 10% of sales for development of our Make Shop
- NO SCHOOL – Friday, November 20th – Parent Teacher Conferences for All Ages
- No School for Children – November 25th through November 29th – Happy Thanksgiving!!
- Tuesday, December 1st – Extended Morning 4’s Open House 12-1pm
- Thursday, December 3rd – Extended Morning 3’s Open House 12-1pm

Happy Thanksgiving!!
Family Committee News

A big Thank You to all the Garden Committee members who planted and mulched our hillside. It is looking great! Also, thanks to the families who contributed to our Monthly Appreciation meals. The teachers have greatly enjoyed the dishes provided!

Members of the Sewing Committee met on September 28th and have been hard at work creating shoulder bags for the Kindergarten to use when they are outside making nature collections. They have also been creating vests and ponchos for the 3’s to use in their dramatic play areas. If you would be interested in making some bags or vests/ponchos, please contact Maggie Rosenblum and we can supply you with fabric and other supplies.

The Library Committee met on October 5th to discuss purchasing books to help inspire creative tinkering in our new MakeShop space. Members are reviewing sample books with their children so we can start purchasing appropriate texts for our library. Many of the books approved by the committee will be available to purchase for the school at our Barnes and Noble Book Fair on December 5th, and the profits from the Book Fair will be used to buy other volumes. If you have suggestions for books to purchase or would like to review books with your child, please e-mail Maggie Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu. The next Book Fair / Library Committee meetings will be held on November 4th at 9 am and 12:45 pm. Please feel free to join us as we discuss plans for the Book Fair.

We will be contacting members of the Repair Committee and End-of-the-Year Celebration Committee in the future.
Pumpkin Patch from FMS

A HUGE thank-you to CMU’s Facilities Management Services (FMS) for donating 100 pumpkins to the Children’s School and to FMS volunteers Rachel and Sandy for turning our playground into a Pumpkin Patch!! The children had a marvelous time searching through the playground patch to pick their perfect pumpkin!

CMU Guest Wireless Network Access

Would you like to be able to use the CMU Wireless Network while you are at the Children’s School? We have established an access code with University Computing Services that permits network access for Children’s School families while on campus. The code is valid for the Fall 2015 semester only and a new code will be created for the Spring 2016 semester. Please contact Miss Hancock at lh37@andrew.cmu.edu for more information.

Wear a Hat for Cancer

On October 2nd, the Children’s School participated in the Wear A Hat for Cancer Campaign benefitting the Cancer and Blood Auxiliary of the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. Everyone was encouraged to wear a hat to school, and we accepted donations to help with the campaign. Mrs. Opferman’s friends sent a photo of themselves in their hats via Message from Me to all of their families. The staff and families of the Children’s School collected $504.44 and an additional $95.56 was collected from the CMU Psychology Department in Baker Hall for a total of $600!! Thank you to Brooke Mullin for bringing this event to our attention.

Swimming Lessons Offered

CMU is offering private 30-minute swimming lessons for children, ages 3 and up, and adults. Two lessons are $60, five lessons are $150 and 10 lessons are $300. You must purchase a punch card at the Cohon University Center equipment desk via debit card or credit card. For a registration form, please contact Aquatics Director and Head Diving Coach Alicia Gorman at aliciag@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-2627. Once you have submitted your registration form, you will be assigned an instructor. The instructor will contact you to schedule your lesson. You will need to bring your punch card to every lesson to have it punched.
Fall Open House Events

On October 14th and 21st, our children shared favorite learning experiences with their families. Siblings, parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends shared the children’s excitement as they confidently demonstrated our favorite routines and activities. Thanks for taking the time to engage in the experience with us! Remember that you can learn about the children’s daily activities by reading the web message that their teachers also send electronically each day via email. Talking about the highlights of each day helps the children reflect on their learning and affords families the chance to enhance and extend it.
More Fall Open House Events
Family Social Organization

Get ready for a month full of fall FSO fun! There is something for everyone during November!

Please join us for good food, libations and grown-up conversation! Meet fellow Children's School parents for a Parents' Night Out on Tuesday, November 3rd at Station (www.station4744.com, 4744 Liberty Ave, Bloomfield). We'll meet for drinks at 6:30pm and dinner at 7:00pm. RSVP to Alissa Meade (Brylie, K & Adler, Morning 3's) at alissa.meade@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

The book club, chaired by Michelle Landau and Jen Moak, will resume on Wednesday, November 11th at the CMU Café from 8:45-10 am. At this month’s book club, we'll continue on the theme of "happiness" and will be discussing the movie "Happy." It can be found on Netflix or watched on Amazon Prime. Come join the club and make some new friends!

On Thursday, November 19th, there will be a school sponsored shopping night at 10,000 Villages in Squirrel Hill from 6-8 pm. A percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Children's School Make Shop. Come an hour earlier and enjoy a delicious dinner at the Mediterranean Grill, which is in basement of the same building. They have great food and are offering us a 15% discount! We would like to give them a heads up on how many people might attend the dinner. Please email alexiscoupe@aol.com by November 12th with the number of people you will have attending the dinner. We hope that you can join us for good food and a good cause!

The 3’s in the Red and Blue Rooms have been enjoying themselves at school so we thought it would be great to join their fun. Let's get together on Friday, November 13th at 9:30 am at the Phipps Conservatory entrance. They have a wonderful new exhibit, the Tropical Forest Congo, that we thought would dovetail with what they have been learning about the rainforest. Here's the link to learn more about the exhibit: https://phipps.conservatory.org/calendar/detail/tropical-forest-congo. Let us know if you are planning to come by emailing Alexandra Laporte-Snediker (Elijah's mom) at juniperus7@msn.com. This is a 3’s only event because the other children will be in school!

An informal trip to the Western Pennsylvania Train Museum is in the works for Thanksgiving Break (November 25th-27th). Be on the lookout for an email with more details.

Here are some exciting city events during November that you might want to explore.

• From November 6th-8th, Barnes and Noble in the Waterfront will be hosting a free Mini Maker Faire. For more info: https://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2076
• On Saturday, November 7th, Tree Pittsburgh is sponsoring Pittsburgh's first ever Ginkgo Fest. This a free event from 1-4 pm at the Maple Grove Shelter in Highland Park that celebrates one of the oldest living tree species. http://treepittsburgh.org/events/pittsburgh-ginkgo-fest
• Celebrate the 120th birthday party for Carnegie Museums on November 14th. http://members.carnegiemuseums.org/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=77400
• On Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 pm, Caps for Sale will be performing at The Byham Theater. Tickets are $10.50 and the theater is for children ages 3+. To purchase tickets or get more information, see http://trustarts.culturaldistrict.org/production/46408/caps-for-sale-the-musical.
• Visit the Children’s Museum’s new interactive exhibit - Voyage to Vietnam, Celebrating the Tet Festival. https://pittsburghkids.org/exhibits/voyagetovietnam

Have questions, comments or ideas? Please contact Alexis Tuckfelt (alexiscoupe@aol.com) or Jessica Simcox (jsimcox5@gmail.com).
Family Spotlight: Back in the Family Again

It is so hard to believe that it was 11 years ago that David jumped into Children’s School. It was mid-year, and our nanny wanted more time for teaching yoga. With his December 27th birthday, he was the youngest in the school, but everything worked for him and he loved it from the start.

Mrs. Tomer, Mr. Salinetro and Mrs. Rosenblum were his main teachers and their influence on our household was immediate and wonderful. From concrete things like “three try bites”, “be a kind friend”, and my favorite – the ability to “close” an area of toys without taking them away, to the less definable but more important tenets on how to grow up to be a good person, our family grew with direction from Children’s School.

Near the end of the year, Ryan was born with some temporary but serious medical problems. I called the office, gave them some details and then sobbed that David had drawn a caterpillar then scribbled it out insisting that not moving was dead. Ryan was in a coma at that point. When I picked David up from school that day, someone showed me the butterfly chrysalises and explained how the children learned that when one fell and didn’t move, they knew it was dead. The teachers had talked with David and were certain he was simply telling me about butterflies and not making a connection with his new baby brother.

Several years later, at the Children’s School, Ryan grew to be his own person. His time was filled with wondrous discovery. One day, he determined Mrs. Bird was really a grown up child, not old like the other teachers or his parents. Another day, he dressed himself in his suit for school. He was sorely disappointed when he didn’t marry his sweetheart that day, because he couldn’t think of any requirements for his wedding beyond a dress up suit.

We enjoyed five and a half years with Dr. Carver and all of the teachers and staff as important and loved people in our lives. We made many friends with other families. Our contributions over the years involved museum loans, astronomy activities, and Grandma’s reading adventures, all of which were great fun.

Then we were done. Ryan was in 1st grade, David in 4th. No more Children’s School for us. We came back one time and Ryan read a book about a mole learning to play the violin. David brought his violin and demonstrated everything from the horrendous schreech to the beautiful music. That was it.

Then Conor joined us. His brothers started planning his life months before he was born. Going to the Children’s School was a given. Learning to pronounce “Mr. Salinetro” was very important. What activities they could lead in the classroom on their days off from school became the subject of much planning. We were delighted to learn that the staff is mostly unchanged. This consistency is a testament to the deep goodness of the place and the teachers’ commitment to the school. Their knowledge and interest in how children learn and grow, their experience, patience and their love are unchanged.

We are so happy to be back in the family again.
Mark Your Calendar for Shopping Night

Need a unique gift for someone special? You can shop and support the Children’s School’s new Make Shop at the same time!! Join us at Ten Thousand Villages in Squirrel Hill on November 19th from 6-8 pm and a percentage of your purchase will be donated towards the development of our Make Shop. Your Holiday gifts can give three times, to the recipient, the artisan, and CMU Children’s School! Visit [http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/home.php](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/home.php) to learn more about this wonderful store located on Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill.

International Hosting Opportunity

In late January, the Children’s School will be hosting 4 undergraduate students from Duksung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea for an International Practicum Program. A total of 12 Early Childhood Education students will be in Pittsburgh for practicum experiences at our school, Falk, Carlow, or Pitt’s University Child Development Center. To help the students experience family life in Pittsburgh, we are recruiting two families who live close to the university to provide **housing and some meals** for two practicum students, with tentative dates from Sunday, January 17th through Sunday, January 31st. 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. Our prior host families would be happy to recommend the experience!

Tim Salinetro and recent retiree Beth McMichael are traveling to Duksung Women’s University from Friday, October 30th to Sunday November 8th to learn from observing the Duksung early childhood laboratory school, interacting with the school’s educators, and also visiting other historic, cultural, and educational sites in and around Seoul. Mr. Salinetro will give presentations on **Woodworking with Young Children** for groups of undergraduate early childhood majors, and Miss McMichael will present on **Cooking with Young Children** for masters students and parents. They will do related demonstration lessons at both the Duksung laboratory school and Government Complex Purumi Daycare Center. We have had three teams of educators visit Duksung and are now planning for our 6th group of future educators!
Cans Across the Cut

The Carnegie Mellon University’s Staff Council Annual Food Drive is being held from November 2nd through 16th this year. The most needed items are low sugar, high fiber cereal, tuna or salmon packed in water, canned fruit packed in 100% juice or water, low sodium canned vegetables, canned beans, peanut butter, hand soap and other toiletries, toilet paper, facial tissue, laundry detergent, and diapers. If you wish to donate non-perishable food items during this time period, please send them with your child or bring them to our office. On Monday November 16th, the children will participate in “Cans Across the Cut”, a yearly event in which University teams compete to see which groups can place the most donated food items in a line across campus. Cash or check donations (made out to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank) are also accepted.

November Gallery Features

3’s Friends: Salma A., Evren B., Caleb M., and Sloane S.
4’s Friends: Jovie J., Kendal S., and Marina T.
Kindergarten Friends: Megu S., Marley T., and Matthew X.

So Many School Choices

There’s still one more opportunity for parents to dialogue with Dr. Carver and Children’s School teachers about choosing an elementary school for each of their children and deciding 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, November 4, 2015 from 4:30-6:00pm in the Children’s School Kindergarten
• Child Care will be provided for children of all ages in the Red Room.

NOTE: The Pittsburgh Public School birthday cutoff is September 30, 2016. In other words, a child who turns 5 by September 30th is eligible for kindergarten (or 6 by September 30th for 1st grade).

Save the Date – Children’s School Book Fair

The Children’s School Barnes & Noble Book Fair is being held on December 5th from 10 am until 2 pm at the Waterfront store. There will be music, activities, and fun for the whole family. The Book Fair Planning Committee is meeting on November 4th at 9 am and 12:45 pm. All are welcome to join. Be on the lookout for a volunteer sign up sheet for the day of the Fair. Hope to see you all there!

Also, you will find a flyer with this newsletter that will allow you to pre-order a Cheesecake Factory cheesecake and pick it up at our Book Fair. Simply return your order form and payment to the office by November 27th.
Fall Parent / Teacher Conferences

The fall conferences are great opportunities for the parents and teacher to discuss their views of each child’s development. This year, parent conferences are being conducted primarily on Friday afternoon, November 13th (4’s and K), Friday, November 20th (all ages), and Friday afternoon, December 4th (3’s). Specific schedules are included with this newsletter. Please remember to call Miss Drash to reserve your particular conference time.

At the Children’s School, our conferences are structured by the developmental objectives that are the focus of our program design. For the fall conference, teachers of three year olds will emphasize the first three domains of development and teachers of four year olds will emphasize four, while kindergarten teachers will cover all six domains. The primary reason for this difference in emphasis is that the preschoolers are in school for less than half as much time as the kindergartners and typically require a longer period of adjustment to the school environment and routine.

- Self-Esteem and Independence
- Interaction and Cooperation
- Communication
- Physical Capabilities / Health & Safety
- Discovery and Exploration
- Artistic Expression and Appreciation

We encourage parents to prepare for their child(ren)’s conference(s) by considering the progress they have noted, particularly in the context of family discussions of the daily classroom web page updates. One strategy is to identify one adjective to describe your child in each of the areas that will be discussed. Another is to recall one prototypical anecdote for each category. A third is to consider the school activities and events related to each area that your child has discussed with you. Finally, you might specify one goal related to each domain that you would like to see your child achieve during the next six months. Earlier this year, we invited you to share your view of your child’s development by completing two Ages & Stages Questionnaires, so this input may also guide your conference discussion. Sharing your views with your child(ren)’s teacher(s) facilitates productive dialogue about the ways that your child is progressing in both home and school environments. It’s always interesting to see the parallels that exist between the two contexts, as well as the distinct differences that are often evident.

The conference dialogue will help parents to choose the next school for their child so that its program will best match the child and family. For your convenience, we have posted Open House information for other schools on the family bulletin board across from the school library. In addition to the conference opportunity, Dr. Carver is available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about your child’s development or about our program. We are privileged that you have entrusted your children to us and look forward to our continued partnership in their education.

Recommendations for Elementary Schools

Many families are working on school applications for next year. If any require a recommendation from the Children’s School, please obtain a Request for Release of Student Records form from Miss Hancock (lh37@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-2198). Please send the completed form along with your request to Miss Hancock. Depending on the timing, we will either send your child’s fall conference report to the school(s) of your choice or prepare an updated version in January.
Terrific Textiles

Fabric is a very versatile material. We use fabric for clothing, cleaning, carrying, home decorating, bathing, health care, etc. Since these fabrics are light and easy to carry, we can take them with us everywhere – just in case. Consider a 2-meter piece of cloth, which is called a “chitenje” in Malawi. As this photograph shows, the same piece of fabric can protect clothing from the dust, become a baby carrier, wrap goods to be carried on the head, or serve as a bathrobe. Perhaps for this reason, a chitenje is the most common gift given to women visitors in Malawi. In our context, consider a basic bandana, which is typically about 22 inches square and made of cotton. To encourage our educators to think broadly about fabric’s uses, I gave each educator a different bandana and then challenged teams to photograph themselves using their bandanas in as many ways as possible. Though the time limit was less than an hour, our creative teams generated and demonstrated 50+ ideas each. I then gave each team a chitenje from my summer trip to Malawi and invited them to use it creatively in the classroom. The 4’s team used it to make a tablecloth and napkins for their dramatic play center.

November’s Textile Tip: Take a trip to a fabric or craft store so each member of the family can choose a bandana. Challenge each other to find as many uses for the bandanas as possible, individually or together, over the next month. If you get stuck, do an internet search for “uses for a bandana” and you’ll find a hundred or more ideas related to survival, fashion, housekeeping, décor, etc. Keep a list of your family’s ideas, take photos, and share your ideas with us!

Perhaps you wondered …
what a “Make Shop” is and why we are developing one.

A “Make Shop” is a space for tinkering with a variety of open-ended materials that can be arranged creatively and/or combined into constructions, just like the fabric uses mentioned above. The goal is for children to practice “design thinking”, which is a process of generating ideas, prototyping, testing and refining. Professional designers use this process to develop innovative solutions to problems that they identify by collaborating with their clients to understand and empathize with the clients’ needs and goals. The Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh has a large Make Shop for children and families to use together (see https://pittsburghkids.org/exhibits/makeshop).

This semester, senior Lauren Zito is collaborating with our educators to design a Make Shop space for our children. So far, the Preschool 4’s and Kindergarten children have been exploring the space as the educators add more opportunities for them. We’ll keep you posted on developments!
Undergraduate Spotlight

Bradley Schneider is working at the Children’s School for his 3rd semester, in the preschool. Here he describes his experience.

When reflecting on my time here at Carnegie Mellon, the experiences I have shared with my friends at the Children’s School are – without question – the ones I hold dearest. Learning and growing with them is undoubtedly the highlight of my week, every week. My heart absolutely melts each and every time one of their little hands reaches up for a hold, when they literally can’t help but give an impulsive hug, or pretty much any time they share an opinion on anything.

I have had a passion for working with children for as long as I can remember. Back home in Miami, Florida, I have worked as a summer camp counselor for the past seven years at an incredible organization, Shake-A-Leg Miami. There, I teach children with mental and physical disabilities how to fish, sail, kayak, and swim.

I am a Psychology major wrapping up my final year at CMU. In addition to the Children’s School, I work as a research assistant in a Health Psychology lab, directed by David Creswell, PhD, as well as intern in an outpatient Child Psychology clinic at UPMC, directed by David Kolko, PhD. After graduation, I plan on pursuing a doctoral degree in Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology; but I’d like to work abroad for a bit before diving into graduate work.

Outside of work, my favorite thing to do is cook. Both of my parents are very passionate about cooking, so I picked it up at a very young age. I cook all of my meals every day and am constantly inventing new creations. One of my proudest accomplishments was when I won the Carnegie Mellon Chili Cook-Off this past month.

I will miss a lot of things when I leave Pittsburgh this spring, but the Children’s School – complete with bright, little faces, an endless supply of snacks, the smell of fresh laminate in the morning, and the greatest end-of-the-day song of all time – will certainly be what I miss most.

Undergraduate Research

Dr. Anna Fisher and Graduate Student Juliet Shafto’s Developmental Research Methods students are preparing their final projects for the semester. They are beginning to pilot test their projects on the topics listed below. Families whose children participate will receive fuller parent descriptions via the child’s backpack, and there is a sample in the Research Spotlight. Everyone can read the study descriptions on the Research Bulletin Board near the office door. Notice the interesting range of important topics in early childhood development!

• Can prosocial behavior be primed with stories? (The Coloring Game, AM 4’s & K)
• How does music impact focus on challenging tasks? (The Letter Finding Game, AM 4’s and K)
• Can indirect priming and explicit instruction enhance children’s ability to delay gratification? (The Choosing Game, PM 3’s and 4’s)
• Does highlighting a character’s perspective improve children’s performance on false belief tasks? (The Crayon Box Game, AM 3’s, AM 4’s and K)
Fall Family Fun

Thanks to the CMU students from the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society who offered a fun fall family event on the Children’s School playground on the morning of October 17th. About 60 children and adults from the Children’s School and the Cyert Center played an apple toss game, a pumpkin ring toss, pumpkin bowling, pumpkin/apple tic tac toe, and a parachute leaf toss. We played with pumpkin spice playdough. We predicted the number of seeds in an apple and then counted the actual number. We learned that all pumpkins float – even the very heavy ones – because the hollow space inside makes each pumpkin weigh less than the amount of water it displaces. The children also created fall leaf placemats, leaf rubbings, and apple & pumpkin prints, as well as decorating their own tiny pumpkins. Everyone also got to sample apple juice, apple cider, and the various treats provided by the Mortar Board students.

Special thanks to event planners April Tillinghast, one of the Children’s School interns and the Mortar Board Vice President, and Dr. Sharon Carver, who is the Mortar Board faculty advisor!
Research Spotlight

The Thinking about Animals Game

Things can be related to each other in a variety of ways. For instance, living organisms may be similar in shape or mode of locomotion, belong to the same biological taxonomic group, or live in the same habitat. Biological taxonomic relationships are particularly useful for thinking because they divide the domain of living organisms into clear categories that can form a reliable basis from which to acquire new knowledge. For instance, biological taxonomic categories can reliably guide inductive inferences about biological features, because organisms that belong to the same biological taxonomic category also share many features in common. However, education research suggests that students' knowledge of other, more easily observed relationships, such as those based on shared perceptual features or habitat interferes with their understanding of biological taxonomic categories (e.g., linking bats with birds or dolphins with fish because of locomotion types rather than understanding the features that bats and dolphins share because of being mammals).

The purpose of this study by Dr. Anna Fisher and graduate student Layla Unger is to test whether providing perceptual input that connects organisms that belong to the same biological taxonomic category fosters both the organization of knowledge into these categories, and the formation of inductive inferences about biological features that are consistent with these categories. The perceptual input we are assessing is a “Taxonomic Co-Occurrence Stream”: a stream of images of organisms in which organisms that belong to the same biological taxonomic category simultaneously co-occur, and organisms that belong to different categories do not co-occur. These co-occurrence regularities are specifically designed to counter interference from other types of relationships. To test the effectiveness of the Taxonomic Co-Occurrence Stream, participants are randomly assigned to either an Experimental group, that observes the taxonomic stream, or a Control group, that observes a stream in which animals linked by familiar non-taxonomic relationships (e.g., shape, habitat, or locomotion) co-occur. Participants in both groups are asked to complete pre- and post-tests that measure knowledge organization and inductive inferences about biological features.

For this study, children participate in a pre-test session, a training session in either the experimental or control condition as explained above, and a post-test session. For the pre- and post-tests, children complete two short tasks. The first involves arranging pairs of blocks that are each labeled as a different organism on a grid so that children put organisms that are the “same kind of thing” close together. On each trial, the pair of organisms used to label the blocks belonged to the same or different biological taxonomic categories. Some pairs consisted of organisms that children commonly correctly judge to be the same or different kinds of things, whereas others consisted of organisms that children commonly judge incorrectly. In the second task, children see triads of organisms on a computer screen consisting of a Target, a Match from the same category as the Target, and a Mismatch from a different category. Some triads included Match and Mismatch organisms that children commonly correctly judge to be the same or different kinds of things as the Target, whereas others included organisms that children commonly judge incorrectly (as in the triad here). In either case, children hear about a novel biological property of the Target, such as “plaxium blood”, and have to decide which of the two other organisms also shares the property.
Research Spotlight, continued …

The Letter Finding Game

The goal of this study by students in the Research Methods class is to examine the degree to which different types of music (i.e., instrumental music, music with English lyrics, and music with lyrics in French, as well as a no music control condition) acts as a distraction or stimulation for a task that requires focus and attention. Being able to focus is important for children, and recognizing what can enhance or hinder that focus can be a valuable tool. This project uses a letter cancellation task that is patterned after a kindergarten activity in which children are asked to look at an array of letters and circle all of the “target” letters (both upper and lowercase). They are scored on accuracy (how many they find and how many they miss), and speed (how quickly they finish). Researchers expect children to do the task more accurately and complete the task quicker in conditions with no background music. This project is aimed at determining the influence of music as a distractor or stimulator. Gaining insight into what distracts children and what can help them focus can help researchers and educators design better solutions for helping children to focus and pay attention.

Recruiting more NIRS Participants

functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS)

Because Dr. Anna Fisher’s and graduate student Layla Unger’s initial tests of the functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS) techniques with Children’s School students has been going so well, they are interested in recruiting more participants. This technique has been approved by CMU’s IRB as a minimal risk procedure for use with young children, but the research permission form that families signed for the 2015-16 school year does not cover its use. Thus, fNIRS studies require separate parental permission. fNIRS records brain activity by measuring changes in blood flow in a given region of the brain. Changes in blood flow are measured by emitting infrared light into the scalp and underlying tissues, including the surface of the brain, at a frequency that is primarily absorbed by blood. By detecting the amount of light that is absorbed, researchers can infer changes in blood flow over the course of a cognitive task. Light is emitted and detected by diodes positioned on the scalp and held in place with a soft cap. The benefit of fNIRS is that it allows the child to sit and move comfortably while doing the task. In fact, the next study involves collecting baseline data about fNIRS readings while children engage in free play with simple toys.

Note that the near infrared light exposure in these studies is comparable to sun exposure MINUS the UV wavelengths. The researchers also have health and safety protocols to ensure that the caps are free from lice and that the light never shines in the children’s eyes. Please sign and return the enclosed permission form if you grant permission for your child to participate in fNIRS studies.
Director’s Corner: How Many? (Part 1)

As we work together to build our children’s positive attitudes and foundational math concepts, we naturally start with explorations that involve number. Throughout daily life, we find ourselves asking the question, “How many?” We may recognize the number or count to determine the amount, and then we compare to determine which set has more or fewer. With many sets, we can arrange them in order from the biggest to the smallest or vice versa.

Parents and educators can facilitate the developmental process by drawing children’s attention to the quantities in their world. At school, we count children, snack items, days of school, steps and laps around the gym, claps and drumbeats, tablespoons of ingredients, etc. While counting, it’s important for children to match each number word with exactly one item or event in “one to one correspondence”. Gradually, children learn to link the number (•••) with both the number word (three) and the numeral (3), as well as with three fingers for younger children and three tally marks for older ones. Usually, the preschoolers can visually recognize small numbers up to 3 or 4 without counting, and those familiar with dice and dominoes can recognize even larger quantities that are arranged in standard formations. With the 3’s, we count by 1’s, but we start counting by 10’s in the 4’s and by 2’s and 5’s in the kindergarten. In all of these ways, we are helping the children to build a mental number line that will be the central conceptual structure for all of their arithmetic learning.

At school, we embed counting into our daily routines, such as the calendar and weather, and we frequently check children’s skill levels with simple activities such as making a bracelet with 10 beads (4’s) or putting the right number of acorns in numbered spaces on the light table (K). The 4’s and kindergartners also count the number of days we’ve been in school to build excitement for celebrating 100 Day in February.

At home, families have many opportunities for counting and comparing numbers in enjoyable ways. Perhaps the best come during free play and family time with games. Playing with blocks or other construction & craft materials offers many opportunities for noticing, counting and comparing quantities. Card games, like Uno and Go Fish, and various number bingo games highlight quantities and numerals, while board games highlight the one to one correspondence of moving a marker along a track and the fact that higher numbers take more moves and more time to count.

Another great way to support children’s developing number concepts is through reading stories that focus on quantities, such as “Feast for 10”, “Two Ways to Count to 10”, “How Many Legs in All?”, and “How Many is a Million?” Don’t be afraid to talk about high numbers, even if the children have trouble imagining the scale. It takes lots of practice to develop a robust mental number line, with young children doing best with 0 to 10 or 20, early elementary children extending to 0-100, and later elementary children advancing to 0-1,000. Children’s interest in practicing will result in developing a strong number sense as the basis for other math concepts.

Remember to tailor these suggestions to your family’s unique home life and interests. Whether you are counting ball catches or worms or cookies or coins, your interest in the mathematics of life will be a great model for your children!
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<td>1</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time Ends - Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour Mr. Salinetro &amp; Miss McMichael @ Duksung Women's Univ., Seoul, South Korea</td>
<td>2 Preschool Theme: Outer Space Kindergarten Theme: Building CMU Food Drive</td>
<td>3 6:30PM FSO Parents' Night Out @ Station</td>
<td>4 4:30PM Staff Parent Discussion re: School Choice</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8:45AM FSO Book Club Meets</td>
<td>10 8:45AM FSO Book Club Meets</td>
<td>11 9:30AM FSO 3’s Event @ Phipp’s 12:00 4’s &amp; K Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>15 Cans Across the Cut</td>
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<td>18 Mrs. Wendolowski @ NAEYC Conference in Orlando, FL as Young Professional Advisory Council Member</td>
<td>19 5:00PM FSO Dinner @ Mediterranean Grill 6-8PM Fundraising Shopping Night @ Ten Thousand Villages</td>
<td>20 NO SCHOOL 3’s, 4’s, &amp; K Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>Bagels w/ Cream Cheese</td>
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<td>Pretzels</td>
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<td>Saltines w/ Sunbutter</td>
<td>Bananas</td>
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The Children’s School Snack Menu
Car Game #1: I’m going on a picnic …

This memory game involves progressively lengthening the list of items to be taken on the picnic (or to the park, on a hike, etc.). The first player says, “I’m going on a picnic, and I will take a ____.” The second player then follows with a statement that she is going on a picnic and taking whatever the first person said, plus something else. The third player includes the first two items and adds one more. The game continues in this way.

For the youngest children, just choose items related to the trip destination and play until you hit the memory limit. As children’s capability increases, play with numerical cues (1 blanket, two cups, three oranges …), use alliteration (a blanket, a basket, a banana …), or for a real challenge follow the alphabet (an apple, a blanket, a cake …). Have FUN together! Enjoy the laughs!

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Car Game #2:  I’m thinking of an animal …

This mystery game involves one person thinking of an animal and giving clues one at a time to see if others can guess. The best clues narrow the search somewhat but still allow for multiple possibilities. For example, “I’m thinking of an animal that is black and white” is a better clue than an animal with legs (though the latter is more typical of young children before they’ve had much experience). Others take turns guessing after each clue. If no one guesses, another clue is given, etc.

Take turns thinking of an animal, or have the person who guesses take the next turn. This game could also be played more like 20 questions, where the guessers have to ask for particular information (e.g., “Does the animal live on land?”).

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Support The CMU Children’s School
Thursday, November 19
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Shop at Ten Thousand Villages on November 19 and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to The CMU Children’s School. Your holiday gifts can give three times: to the recipient, the artisan, and The CMU Children’s School!

The Children's School is an early childhood laboratory school on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. The Children's School is accredited by NAEYC to offer morning or afternoon preschool and full-day kindergarten programs for children ages 3-6. Your shopping will contribute to development of our Make Shop.

Ten Thousand Villages Pittsburgh
5824 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

www.psychology.cmu.edu/cs/
Make our Bookfair even sweeter and your holidays even easier!
Pre-order your delicious Barnes & Noble Cheesecake Factory cheesecake now and pick up at our Bookfair!

- Whole cheesecakes are sold frozen and pre-cut into 14 slices.
- Use only what you need, cheesecakes last in freezer for up to 6 months.
- You can mix and match flavors. Simply indicate on order form.
- No cooking required: an easy dessert with friends or a special occasion, or a no mess dessert to take to a party.
- Orders and payment due no later than Friday November 27th.

Whole cheesecakes $40.00
Apple Crumb Pie $35.00
Gooey Chocolate Caramel Tart $35.00

Remember...all café purchases count toward our Bookfair!

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Visit bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from 12/05/15 to 12/10/15 by entering Bookfair ID #11625175 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school!
Barnes & Noble Bookfair

During your bookfair, be sure to visit the Café.

We offer a great selection of delicious food and beverages to enjoy during and after your visit.

All eligible purchases made by your supporters in our Barnes & Noble Café are included in your organization’s bookfair sales total.

GODIVA

31% Milk Chocolate Salted Caramel Bar
A wonderful balance of savory and sweet. Scored into 10 squares—perfect to break off a little piece every day or share with friends.

19 pc. Classic - Gold Ballotin
A signature assortment of classic GODIVA Belgian chocolates.

Starbucks

Holiday Blend
A balanced blend of coffees from Latin America and Indonesia with layers of herbal and sweet maple notes. Medium roast, smooth and elegant.

Veranda Blend
Subtle, with delicious hints of soft cocoa and lightly toasted nuts. Blend roast, approachable coffee, lighter body and mellow flavors.

While in the Café, grab a bite to eat.

We carry an assortment of pizzas, sandwiches, a chicken tenders meal, and of course, a wide assortment of desserts & beverages. There’s something for everyone!

Cheese Pizza
Rustic Italian, hand-stretched, wood-fired crust, part-skim mozzarella, extra virgin olive oil, tomato sauce, basil, Parmesan cheese.

Hawaiian Meatlovers Pizza
Rustic Italian, hand-stretched, wood-fired crust, part-skim mozzarella, barbecue sauce, pineapple, jalapenos, roasted red peppers, fresh mozzarella, basil, Parmesan cheese.

Veggie Pizza
Rustic Italian, hand-stretched, wood-fired crust, part-skim mozzarella, broccoli, spinach, tomatoes, roasted garlic, extra virgin olive oil, fresh mozzarella, basil, Parmesan cheese.

Sundae served with Kettle Brand chips or a banana

Apple Crumble Pie
Butter, caramel & coffee, topped with whipped cream.

Cranberry Shortbread
Crumble
Buttery shortbread, tart cranberries, jam made of cranberries from Maine, touch of orange peel & creamy drizzle.

Groovy Chocolate Caramel Tart
A deep chocolate-caramel ganache and soft swirls of soft caramel baked in a hazelnut streusel crust. Sold whole & by the slice.

Cheesecake Factory

Can be purchased whole or by the slice. Each whole cheesecake contains 14 slices.

Godiva Double Chocolate
A decadent cheesecake with chunks of milk chocolate, topped with chocolate mousse, chocolate ganache, and chocolate whipped cream.

Godiva Double Chocolate Salted Caramel Tarts
A decadent cheesecake with chunks of milk chocolate, topped with chocolate mousse, chocolate ganache, and chocolate whipped cream.

Hot Cinnamon Spice
Harney & Sons’ most popular flavored tea—a blend of black tea, three types of cinnamon, orange peel, and sweet cloves.

Items vary seasonally.
# Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Make your bookfair count. Order a whole dessert item from the Café.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waterfront</th>
<th>December 5th, 10 am – 2 pm</th>
<th>CMU Children’s School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Store Address</td>
<td>Bookfair Date</td>
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Please bring this form to the Barnes & Noble Café during your bookfair to place your order.

## Dessert Options

**Godiva® Double Chocolate Cheesecake**
Rich Godiva cheesecake baked with chunks of milk chocolate, topped with chocolate mousse, chocolate ganache, and chocolate whipped cream

**Red Velvet Cheesecake**
Creamy cheesecake swirled with chunks of homestyle red velvet cake and topped with a rich cream cheese icing

**Plain Cheesecake**
Creamy California cheesecake with a graham cracker crust

**Gooey Chocolate Caramel Tart (Sugar RUSH)**
A hazelnut streusel crust, topped with a deep chocolate-caramel ganache and swirls of soft caramel

**Apple Crumble Pie**
Buttery caramel & toffee studded custard, packed with Granny Smith apples, baked in a delicious shortbread crust

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**Notice:**
Cheesecake flavors & pastries vary seasonally. Quantity of items based on availability. So we can best serve your needs, please note a first and second pick.