Family Spotlight: Rooted in “Da Burgh”

Bob Slammon and Amy Williams (Liam, AM 4’s) moved to Pittsburgh almost seven years ago. Before “Da Burgh,” we lived in many different places: Chicago, Buffalo, Bennington, New York City, Boston. We love Pittsburgh, with its vibrant cultural institutions, first-rate schools, and just enough grit to keep things real. In many ways, it reminds us of our hometown of Buffalo, New York, so when we moved here, we immediately felt at home.

We both feel more “rooted” in Pittsburgh than we did in the other places we have lived. Perhaps this is a consequence of starting a family in Pittsburgh. But it may also have to do with the ease with which we have found a sense of community here. We live in a close-knit neighborhood, appropriately called Friendship, and we have met so many wonderful people since we moved here. As we’ve heard many other Children’s School parents say, Pittsburgh is a great place to raise a family. It has so many great resources for children, from its wonderful parks to its outstanding cultural institutions. One of those great resources is, of course, the Children’s School.

Liam started the Children’s School this fall in Ms. Mangan’s group. It has been a very positive experience for him. Liam came to the Children’s School with a rather mixed attitude about pre-school. We were relieved when, after his first week, he declared, “I love it!” And he has loved it ever since. It is great to see Liam thrive at his new school. Recently, he has started lobbying to be put in the extended morning program.

We love seeing Liam and his sister, Maeve, grow and develop into distinct personalities. From a very young age, Liam has loved music. He didn’t care so much for nursery rhymes or even his mom’s style of music but for jazz and blues. At age two and a half, he would say, “Thelonius Monk,” when people asked him who his favorite musician was. Now he listens to everything and loves to play instruments (saxophone and drums, mostly). Liam also loves to build, play pretend, paint, read mystery stories, and play games. Lately, he has been fascinated by the human body and how it works. He loves science and says he’d like to be a paleontologist when he grows up so he can work at the Carnegie Museum. On other days, he’d like to be a fireman, like his grandfather.

His sister, Maeve, started walking just before her 1st birthday in December. She is expanding her vocabulary on a daily basis—she is proudest of “apple”, “choo-choo” and, of course “dada” and “mama.” She wants to do whatever her big brother does. It is so pleasing to see Liam and Maeve’s relationship develop. The two of them are already a team.

Amy teaches music composition at Pitt and also regularly performs with the Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo, which focuses on contemporary classical music. Bob recently finished his Ph.D. in sociology, and his research focuses on the use of information technologies in the medical field.

We are looking forward to the new semester!