Family Spotlight: Homeward Bound

We are the Sekula family--Anne, Raymond, William (6), John (4), and Jane (3). We have recently returned to Pittsburgh, where we previously lived for 10 years, after a 2 year stint up north in snowy Erie, PA. Anne moved back with the children in January, specifically so John and Jane could have at least a half year at The Children's School before John starts Kindergarten. While in Erie, the children enjoyed playing at Presque Isle Beach and hiking through The Asbury Woods Nature Center. William attended the Children's School and is a Blue and Green Room alumni. He is now enrolled in 1st grade at Sacred Heart Elementary. On his way out, he said he would really like to come back to The Children's School and wants to attend CMU so he can intern there.

Two years ago, we were fortunate to host three Korean students for two weeks who were studying American early childhood education at CMU. We learned a lot about the different styles of raising children between the two cultures like "Why do American children sleep in their own beds" (Because Mom would like her sleep) and "There is no such thing as Gifted in Korea". John (4) and Jane (3) have quickly settled in and are reminding William and Mom of songs and rhymes learned years ago ("There's a Bubble in Your Mouth", "What's The Weather"). Though they attended great preschools in Erie, they are much more animated about what they have been learning each day at The Children's School. John has unfortunately been exposed to Star Wars Legos by his older brother that is their primary past time. Jane would like for her brothers to play with her more, but is primarily interested in tea parties, play doh, painting, and princess or baby make believe.

Raymond is a Pittsburgh native and Central Catholic and CMU Business School graduate. He is a neurosurgeon at UPMC Hamot in Erie and is excited to return in March to work nearby at UPMC Presbyterian. Anne ran the grantmaking and community initiatives programs at The Erie Community Foundation, and is currently just getting everyone settled in Pittsburgh. Anne was excited to introduce The Imagination Playground that she learned of through the Children's School to the Erie early childhood community, as a way for snowed in preschoolers to expend their energy indoors. Serving on the Board of the Sprout Fund and the Spark Program, which funds projects aimed at children using technology, media, and the arts, Anne has been excited to see creative projects from the Children's School and CMU, like Message from Me, earn pilot support over the past few years.

During evenings and weekends, the Sekula kids are way over-involved in Chess, Wrestling, soon to be C-Mites, CMU Music Preparatory School, and Ballet. So we especially enjoy Friday Family Movie Night and Sunday Jammy Day. We live in Squirrel Hill and can often be found at all East Side playgrounds and Ice Cream shops.