Family Spotlight: Kuhn Family in Pittsburgh

We are very happy to share a little Kuhn history with the staff, children, and families at the CMU Children's School! Mattias, now four and a half, was born in Brookline - a town next door to Boston. He has an older brother (Markus, almost 7) and sister (Beatrice, 9). Pittsburgh is the children’s first move, and so far they are having a great time! Carolina, the mom, is a third-generation Japanese American. She is originally from Los Angeles, but has lived in many cities across the country as well as in Saudi Arabia for a few years and Brazil for almost 13 years. Very few people know that the largest group of Japanese outside of Japan is in Brazil, specifically Sao Paulo. In Sao Paulo, Carolina received her medical degree and shortly thereafter returned to the United States. In the Bronx, she completed a residency in Pediatrics, then moved on to Boston (to join her husband) for additional training. Since having children, she has decided to stay at home until... well that is still up in the air! Her hobbies are roller-skating, knitting, sewing and running. Mattias' father, Bernhard (with an "H"!), is from the former East Germany. He went to medical school in Berlin and decided that research was his main interest. He pursued a residency in Pediatrics in New Haven, then a fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology in Boston. He started his research laboratory there in cardiac regeneration, and this summer has moved his lab to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. His hobbies are sailing and playing with the kids, and most recently fixing our new home here in Pittsburgh. Luckily he has many helpers (including Mattias and Markus, of course!).

Mattias has always been the "fofo" (sweet loving one, in Portuguese) in our family. He was born with a very common pigmented birthmark – a "nevus" - only that its locality and size make it extremely rare. Medically there is no need for treatment (except for sun protection, which everyone needs anyways!), and over the years he has reacted very well with the attention he gets. He has taught us, with the limited vocabulary a toddler can offer, a lot about ourselves and the world around us. We are very thankful that his family and friends have given him a nurturing and loving environment - including the Children's School. He is so, so happy here!! His hobbies are using the power drill (a real Black and Decker!!), biking, and impressing his older siblings in any way possible. This year we look forward to new friends and experiences in Pittsburgh. We feel very welcome and fortunate to be part of this forward-moving city!