Family Spotlight: Australia to China (via Pittsburgh)

G’day Children’s School Friends! Have you heard an Australian accent around the Green Room? It’s probably us! Hudson’s family - the Overetts - fresh off the plane from Canberra, Australia with Mom, Dad, Elijah (6), Hudson (4) and Denver (2)...and if you’ve been watching closely you’ll know that little Oakley was born into the mob (Australian for family) in September (on the first day of school!). We’ve moved to Pittsburgh for 12 months as part of a longer family move to join CMU’s new Engineering initiative in Guangzhou, China. For now, we are enjoying a year of preparation in lovely Pittsburgh before moving, again, into Asia with the family.

Many people have asked us if we move regularly. Actually until now, our boys had all been growing up in one house on a sunny hillside in Canberra. This move is quite an adjustment and adventure!

Where do we come from?

For the most part we come from Canberra, Australia, but if you look further into the history books you’ll learn that Hudson’s dad was born in South Africa before moving to Canberra as a teenager. You might also find out that Hudson’s mom actually studied her degree in Georgia, USA and taught English in China for 2 years.

Canberra is the little known capital city of Australia and is situated between Sydney and Melbourne. It is a beautiful city, full of evergreen eucalyptus trees, where you can enjoy walking on the hills and seeing wild native kangaroos on a regular basis. We even saw some bounce past our house on a few occasions. We used to enjoy traveling in the summer months to take the boys camping on some of Australia’s best beaches, and we generally enjoy getting muddy whenever possible.

What do we like about Pittsburgh?

Our favorite thing about Pittsburgh is that it is so kid friendly. We quickly snapped up annual memberships to the Children’s Museum, Carnegie Museums, the Zoo, and Phipps while enjoying the spray parks and many playgrounds in the summer. We’re tentatively looking forward to the bone chilling Pittsburgh winter so that we can enjoy some snow play. So far we’ve loved the summer (especially since we came from an Australian winter), and we were so thrilled when we got to see all the amazing Autumn colors in Pennsylvania. As for the cold days so far, you’ll spot us a mile away since we’re the crazy people smashing pond ice at the local park as well as jumping up and down with excitement at the first sight of a snowflake.
Family Spotlight, continued …

What we have found different?

Well yinz drive a little different up here. The opposite side of the road and the occasional Pittsburgh left took some getting used to but now we quite enjoy it. On the local level we found our neighborhood really friendly here in Highland Park. Neighbors just spending time together on each other’s front lawns in the summer was an unexpected surprise. Other new experiences include celebrating Thanksgiving, cutting down our first Christmas tree, skimming stones on a frozen pond, the Duquesne Incline (and learning to say it right), chasing squirrels, and seeing deer in a school playground.

Our Children’s School Experience

Hudson really enjoys his days at the Children’s School. It has been a massive adjustment for the whole family but especially for him. Moving continent, and then having a new baby on your first day of a brand new school takes some getting used to! We really like all of the clever ways the school builds learning and growing into its play and the friendly caring environment. Hudson has been directing his brothers in all sorts of shows and puppet plays at home since focusing on theater in the Green Room in December. We’re really thankful for the opportunity Hudson and our whole family has to spend this year at the Children’s School. We really enjoy talking with people; so if you see us around (we’re that crazy family with 4 boisterous but lovely boys in tow), we would love to stop and have a chat!

January Gallery Features

3’s Friends: Andrew B., Kendal S., and Marina T.
4’s Friends: Saatwik B., Owen L., and Maeve S.
Kindergarten Friends: Felicity A., Emma B., and Jane S.