Family Spotlight: Gratitude from the Johnsons

We moved to Pittsburgh from the NYC area in 2009. Unlike many, we had no family connection to Pittsburgh. Over our years here, we’ve come to increasingly appreciate the benefits so many multigenerational Pittsburghers accrue from living near family. In the few months that our son has attended The Children’s School, we feel like its staff and students have become his missing extended family. We decidedly regret not having discovered the school earlier!

Our son attended a traditional church-based preschool when he was 3. Ever wanting to please mommy, he went 2 days a week, mostly without tears, but he never showed any enthusiasm for school. His attitude towards The Children's School is altogether different. He skips into the building. He often forgets a goodbye hug in his enthusiasm to get to work (play!). He learns so much, both from his fellow students ("do you know that my friend has had dinner on an airplane?!") and his teachers. He recognized a menorah on a street corner just yesterday and asked me how they said Hanukkah in Spanish. He is keen to understand how many friends in his class speak different languages and have families who come from different countries with different cultural traditions. Such diversity is a tremendous asset of the school.

On my initial visit to the school, I remember being concerned about class size. I worried that the larger class would be chaotic and overwhelming for my shy child. As I've discovered with many things in parenthood, the reality was in direct opposition to my expectations. I see now only the advantages in the larger class: more friends, more teachers with which to interact and bond, more activities, more FUN! So the Children’s School has taught me a lot as well.

Thank you, Children's School, for welcoming our family. Our son has thrived here, and for that we are so grateful.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

On January 19th, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the preschool and kindergarten friends made Peace Chains out of paper links, colored symbols of peace such as doves and clasped hands, discussed Martin Luther King, Jr.’s work, and read a story about how harmony can come through diversity ("The Crayon Box That Talked" by Shane Derolf and Michael Letzig). In addition, the friends created two peace sculptures that are being displayed on the first floor of the Margaret Morrison Building by the rotunda entrance. Members of our Children’s School extended family also joined the children for one of two “Peace and Friendship” sing-a-longs led by Mrs. Bird. During the morning singing, visiting early childhood practicum students from South Korea shared one of their traditional songs.