

Family Spotlight: A Homecoming

Kevin and I (Lauren) met in Iowa City, Iowa—a small town surrounded by cornfields, miles away from where either of us grew up. Kevin is from Puerto Rico, where we usually still spend part of the year, and I grew up in Connecticut. Our academic jobs led us to Pittsburgh in 2013, and it felt like a kind of homecoming. I was born in Pittsburgh, and Kevin attended Carnegie Mellon as an undergraduate, where he had the privilege of taking a child development class with Dr. Carver and visiting the Children's School as an observer. When we moved to Pittsburgh, we felt so fortunate to be able to send our son Javi to the Children's School. From the teachers and administrators to the students and parents, we have felt surrounded by generous, intelligent, and motivated people. Through his time in the Red Room, Green Room, and now the Kindergarten Room, Javi has really taken to the myriad hands-on learning choices provided, and we never know what he is going to tell us about on a given day—whether it's an explanation of how astronauts readjust to life on earth, or a breakdown of the concepts of momentum and acceleration, or the details of a delicious-sounding snack that Javi was too picky to eat. We could not be happier with the education he has received—both in terms of learning how the world works and learning how to be a team player and a good friend. He is passing all of this down to his little sister Eliza, who just turned two.



When not at school or work, we can usually be found at a playground. Even on a hot and sunny day when Javi has spent the last hour or more outside at school, his first question is usually, "Can we go to the Dinosaur Playground?" I sometimes feel like a vending machine, given the quantity of snacks and drinks I have started carrying around. If anyone feels like meeting for playground fun, we are usually game!

We are also a family of readers and writers. Javi is just getting started reading and is always up for a good detective story, and Eliza will bring books to all of us and ask us to read. A very fond recent memory was watching Javi read his first book to Eliza. Language and its possibilities have always intrigued us--Kevin and I teach creative writing through the English Department at CMU--and I have been lucky enough to bring some of my advanced poetry students to work with the friends in the 4's and kindergarten classrooms. My students were so impressed with the vibrant imaginative work the Children's School friends produced during our time spent hearing and generating imagistic poems.

We are so grateful for the three wonderful years Javi has had at the Children's School, and we hope to stay close to everyone moving forward!

