Welcome to the Children’s School Family 2015-2016

- Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Psychology
  - Dietrich College of Humanities & Social Studies
    - Licensed as a PA Private Academic School
    - Nationally Accredited by NAEYC since 2003

Exemplary Educators

- Familiar Faces and some new roles for the 2015-16 school year!!

- Jillian Wendolowski just selected as one of 15 members for NAEYC’s Young Professionals Advisory Council, a new initiative to better engage the next generation of early childhood leaders
- Welcome to two student teachers, both Pitt Seniors training in early childhood and special education (Cara Vizzini in the Green Room, Sara Kelly in the Kindergarten).
Staff Development

- Design Thinking via “Loose Parts” and a new “Make Lab”
- Textiles – whole school theme for February prompted explorations of bandanas, flag making, and felting
- *Giants in the Nursery: A Biographical History of Developmentally Appropriate Practice* by David Elkind – reconnecting with our roots
- Tim Salinetro and Beth McMichael representing us in South Korea

New Research Technique

- Near InfraRed Spectroscopy
  - Dr. Anna Fisher & Dr. Erik Thiessen
  - Imaging via light to measure contrasting blood oxygenation and thereby infer brain activity
  - Allows for movement so useful with children
  - Comparable to sun exposure minus UV
  - Safety Protocols re: Lice & Light in Eyes
  - Requires Extra Permission Form

Neoprine caps used to secure NIRS probes
Facility Enhancements

- New Sandstone Stairs to the Playground
- New Garden Boxes for Hillside
- Newly Paved Parking Lot

Family Input via May Survey

- 40 Substantial Responses – all overwhelmingly positive, so parents want MORE of everything!!
- Some Immediate Improvements
  - More Music (Mrs. Hraber 2x / month)
  - Keep Gym (Mrs. Wendolowski)
  - Keep Emphasis on Outdoor Exploration (YES!)
  - Explanations regarding Math (Director’s Corner) and how to support Reading at Home (Handout)
  - Explanation of how safety drills are discussed with children (lockdown & evacuation)
- One Change – Everyone will get paper and electronic newsletters, etc. (Re: Time Efficiency)
- Emails will come from cmuchsca@andrew.cmu.edu
Family Involvement

- Plan now to participate in Parent/Teacher Conferences and Family Events – Open House, Family Festival, and Celebration Picnic (see whole school calendar for dates and times / interactive calendar on the web site).
- Attend an Open Question & Answer Session.
  - Thursday, October 1 at 8:30am or 12:30pm
  - Wednesday, February 24 at 8:30am or 12:30pm
- Join a Staff / Parent Discussion.
  - Friday, October 23 at 9:30am re: School Choice
  - Wednesday, November 4 at 4:30pm re: School Choice
  - Friday, January 29 at 9:30am re: Whole School Textiles Unit
  - Friday, March 18 at 9:30am re: Discussing Tough Topics
- Share a talent (especially related to a theme).
- Volunteer your time and / or join a committee.

Family Social Organization

- FSO Co-Chairs Alexis Tuckfelt & Jessica Simcox

- Join the committee to help plan Adult Only Events, such as dinner out, book club, etc., and Whole Family Events, such as playdates in the park, trip to a farm, group outing to Children’s Theatre, Aviary, Conservatory, etc.
Important Reminders

• Attention
  ◦ Family Handbook & Class Information
  ◦ Forms (esp. Health Assessment & Allergy Forms)
  ◦ Internet Security Pledge

• Timeliness
  ◦ Be on time for greeting so children don’t feel left out of classroom community.
  ◦ Be on time for dismissal so children don’t feel left behind when others go home.

• Questions??
  ◦ Call Ms. Drash & she’ll direct you.
  ◦ See Mrs. Rosenblum re: phasing-in and health assessment questions.

Security Code

• ADULTS ONLY !!
• Code Clue …
  1 2
  3 4
  5 6
  7 8
  9 0
  *  #
• Press each number clearly and firmly, then *
• Ignore colored lights.
• You have only 30 seconds to enter / exit and then close the door.
• Do not let an unaccompanied child exit with you!
Children’s School Family

- Feel free to ask questions, raise concerns, or share your ideas.
- Together we can create and support an exceptional learning opportunity for everyone!

Have a Wonderful Year!