Undergraduate Spotlight

Lauren Yan (Sophomore, Psychology)

My mom once showed me a quote that read: “Sometimes you need to talk to a three year old so you can understand life again.” I don’t think there is a more accurate statement to describe how much working at the Children’s School has helped me. When a three year old asks me how to spell “I love mom”, suddenly, even if just for a little while, the stress of all those homework assignments to do and exams to study for goes away. The Children’s School is like a bubble inside CMU, and it is a bubble of smiles like sunshine and overflowing energy, even at 8 am on a rainy Monday morning. All the teachers and staff are superb, and they were so welcoming from the start. Every day, I learn a little bit more from them about how to interact with children and how to handle all kinds of situations that arise throughout the day. There’s definitely a lot more to learn at the Children’s School than just outer space and textiles.

And even though the children may be the ones asking me if China is a state or a country, I am the one learning about how curious and bright they all are. It never ceases to amaze me how much they know, how considerate they are, how honest they are, and how quick and eager they are to learn. Watching them solve their own problems and challenges is often inspiring for me to work harder and solve my own. It is fascinating to watch the children ponder something until it makes sense to them, even if it doesn’t make sense to us. In the little time I spend with them every week, I came to realize that sometimes it takes a child’s perspective to figure out the most puzzling questions. They are, after all, the ones that help us understand life again.

The Children’s School has honestly been the biggest turnaround for my sophomore year at CMU. Seeing the children walk in with the biggest smile can only start my day off right. Hearing their stories that they are so excited to tell me makes me just as excited as they are because, if they felt that it was important and awesome enough to tell me, then it must have been pretty super important and awesome. Coming to school is definitely the best part of my week, when I get the chance to escape the CMU world into a little sanctuary. I only wish that I had discovered it in my freshman year, but knowing that I have two more years to try to understand life makes me just as thankful to have found it now.

Scholarship Funding Update

In March, we received additional contributions to our Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. Through the EITC and OSTC, eligible Pennsylvania businesses can earn tax credits while providing financial assistance for children to attend preschool or an approved K-12 school. In addition to the donations mentioned in previous newsletters, we have also received contributions from HM Healthcare, PNC Bank, and UPMC. If you would like more information or can help us to build a list of prospective businesses, please contact the Main Office.