Children’s School

January 2015

Undergraduate Spotlight

From Liz Dolinar: I have really enjoyed my first few months working here at the Children’s School! My favorite part of work is the opportunity to see children grow and develop in the classroom. Watching our friends learn more English words, develop fine motor skills, learn to listen better, and learn to follow instructions is more and more encouraging every week. It’s so great to see a friend who has been a bit antsy learn to settle down and listen attentively or participate in circle time or different classroom activities. Getting to experience children maturing and becoming more comfortable with the teachers and their classmates is also very rewarding. I have experience with being a counselor/leader at several summer day camps at home, but I have never had the opportunity to spend as long a time with a group of children as I have here watching them grow every day. I also love listening to their stories when we’re coloring or baking Play-Doh cakes, and watching their imaginative minds at work is so much fun! The questions that all of the children ask and their curiosity about everything is incredible. It’s been a wonderful semester and I look forward to the rest of my time at the Children’s School!

Appreciation for Mentoring

In December, we received this letter of appreciation from a graduating senior:

I can’t believe it’s already time for me to leave you. I’m not normally one for mushy goodbyes, but this place is something special that deserves the mushiest and most heartfelt of farewells. It has always been a joy coming to work with you, and over these three short years I’ve been with the Children’s School, this place has come to feel like a home away from home. My experience working with you all at the Children’s School has been absolutely unlike any other. Not only is the Children’s School a nurturing place for young minds, it is also a nurturing place for us big college kids too! The hands on experience I gained in the classroom was absolutely irreplaceable. Each day at the Children’s School put a smile on my face and taught me something new. Working with such intelligent, creative, positive and driven people was truly inspiring and a complete joy! I thank you for including me as much as you did in being “part of the team” despite my only being a college work study. You all are amazing and I hope at least a little bit of the wonderful way you handle things has rubbed off on me! I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to work with you all! My time at the Children’s School has reinforced my passion for working with children and has helped me finalize my decision to begin on my own journey to becoming a teacher. I feel like my time with you all has prepared me more than I could have ever asked for going forward on that journey, however it may play out. Thank you so much for all the you have taught me and I hope that one day I’ll find a position in an environment that is as engaging, encouraging, and enjoyable as the one I’ve found at the Children’s School. I will always look back fondly on my time with the Children’s School as an irreplaceable part of my time at CMU. I’m sure that I’ll be humming Row, Row Your Boat every time I wash my hands for years to come! It’s difficult to put into words the amount of love and gratitude I have for you all, but I believe this at least comes close. I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything in the world! I’ll miss you all very, very much! Don’t make me leave; I don’t want to go! I can put off graduating for a couple years and stay, right? Ha ha ha. Thank you from the very bottom of my heart! Always your “friend”, Marisa Wiltsie
Undergraduate Appreciation

On Reading Day during exam week each semester, we provide lunch for our undergraduate students in appreciation for their hard work at the Children’s School and in support of their other academic endeavors. Students come any time between 11am and 1pm to dine with their mentors. This semester’s lunch was prepared by Five Points Artisan Bakery, which is a new bakery on Wilkins Avenue owned and operated by Geof Comings (father of Owen, AM 4’s).

Early Childhood Practicum Students

From January 17th through February 1st, we will host four early childhood practicum students from Duk sung Women’s University (Seoul, South Korea) for an International Practicum Program. The Campus School at Carlow University, the Falk School at the University of Pittsburgh, and the University Child Development Center will each also host students, with the total group including 9 undergraduates and 3 graduate students. We look forward to learning more about the initiatives our South Korean colleagues are leading in early childhood and in reflecting with them about the cross-cultural similarities and differences in our values and approaches related to educating young children.

Thanks to the Landau-Comings (Owen 4’s) and Aronson (Ruby K) families for offering housing to these visiting students. There are still opportunities to help by preparing welcome bags for the students, offering to provide lunch for them at the school one day, providing transportation to cultural attractions, etc. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dr. Carver at sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu to discuss options.

You Jin Chong
Senior
Young 3’s / PM 3’s
Aronson

So Jin Kim
Junior
Older 3’s / Ext AM
Landau/Comings

Eun Seo Ko
Junior
Young 4’s / PM 4’s
Landau/Comings

Yoonsoo Kim
Junior
Kindergarten
Aronson