



The Doctors of Lancaster Pediatrics

## FROM CHILDHOOD FRIENDS TO COLLEAGUES WITH LANCASTER PEDIATRICS,

Dr. Pia Fenimore Dr. Jason Gottlieb SHARE LONGTIME CONNECTIONS

meet your neighbors

Crystal Wenger

Photos by Crystal Wenger Photography By Karen Foerstel, Resident Writer

They've known each other since they were toddlers. They attended McCaskey High School together. After college, they both decided to enter medical school. And today, Drs. Pia Fenimore and Jason Gottlieb work side by side at Lancaster Pediatric Associates.

"Jason and I met when we were both one year old.
Jason's family lived on North School Lane, mine
on Wilson," said Pia. "Our mothers were friends.
They're the ones who brought us together."

She added, "Jason has always been somebody I've been incredibly comfortable around because I've never not known him. There has never been a time we weren't friends."

Along with working together, Jason and Pia live down the street from each other. Jason and his wife, Maristela, live on Hamilton Road with their two children, Stella, 8, and Kai, 5.

Pia, her husband, Mitch, and their sons William, 19, and George, 16, live on Wilson Drive.

"But Pia lives on the corner of Hamilton and Wilson. So, we consider her an honorary Hamilton Road resident," Jason joked during a Zoom interview he and Pia did during their lunch break at work.

When asked if there were any embarrassing stories they could share about each other as kids growing up in School Lane Hills, Pia admitted she wracked her brain but couldn't think of any.

"It was a simpler time," she said. "Our days were filled with riding bikes and big wheels, and a trip for a Turkey Hill slushie."

Jason laughed as he remembered how he would occasionally miss the school bus at the stop near his house, and then have to race across neighbors' yards to catch it at the stop near Pia's house.

After graduating from McCaskey High School together, Pia and Jason went to different colleges but kept up with each other through their parents. Neither had any intentions to become doctors. But after college, they both decided, independently, to go to medical school – Jason to the University of

Toronto, Pia to Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. And both just happened to pick pediatrics as their area of focus.

Jason later began practicing in Boston, but thought one day he would come back to School Lane Hills to raise his family. After getting her medical degree, Pia moved to Strasburg with her husband, but also knew she wanted her children to grow up in School Lane Hills and attend the School District of Lancaster.

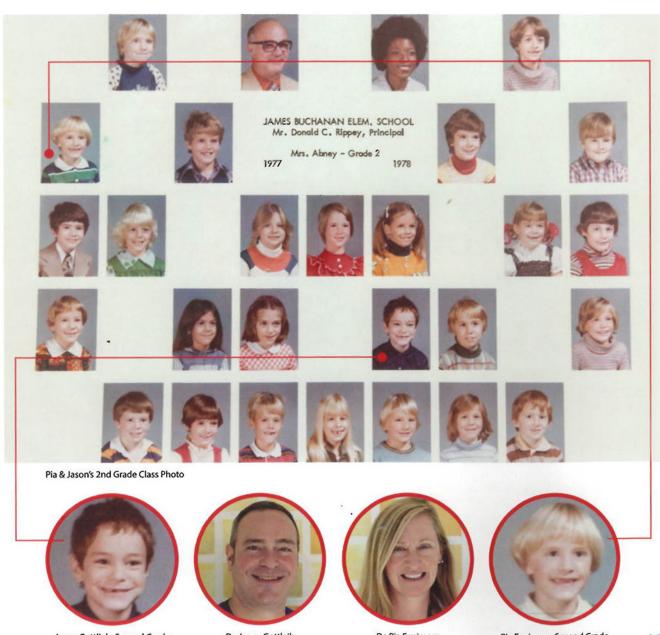
Pia was the first to move back to the old neighborhood in 2002. Several years later, when she heard Jason was looking to return to Lancaster, she recruited him to join her at Lancaster Pediatrics Associates and he ultimately found a home for sale on Hamilton Road.

"The remarkable thing is how much Jason and I have in common now," Pia said. "Most obviously: our passion for pediatric care, and actively seeking out this neighborhood so our children could go to the school district of Lancaster."

Pia and Jason say their days at McCaskey High School taught them skills they continue to use today.

"McCaskey exposes you to life and diversity, to people from all over the world. It teaches you to admire diversity, to see it as a strength," Jason said. "McCaskey prepared me really well to be a physician."

Pia agreed: "The place I learned the most about how to be a doctor and how to approach people was McCaskey. The best skill you can have as a doctor is to understand what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. McCaskey did that and still does that today. We want our children to have that same experience."





Pia's son, William, is a McCaskey graduate who is now attending Middlebury College in Vermont, while her younger son George is a current McCaskey student.

Jason's daughter, Stella, is in second grade at Rita Smith-Wade-El Elementary School (formerly Buchanan Elementary) and his son Kai will be going there next year.

Pia said while her sons both excel in math and science, she's not pushing them to pursue a career in medicine.

"I'm encouraging them to explore all possibilities," she said. "I tell them I really love coming to work every day. I want them to find a career that they will look forward to getting up in the morning and going to their jobs."

Jason's five-year-old son, however, is already showing a penchant for medicine.

"He's set up a desk with tongue depressors, and asks if we want an exam," Jason said. "It's so cute."



George Fenimore, Stella and Kai Gottleib



Pia and her son George (husband Mitch and son William not pictured)

Jason with son Kai and daughter Stella



Do you know a neighborhood family, couple or individual you'd like to nominate for the next available issue? Let us know by emailing brianne.cramer@n2pub.com.

