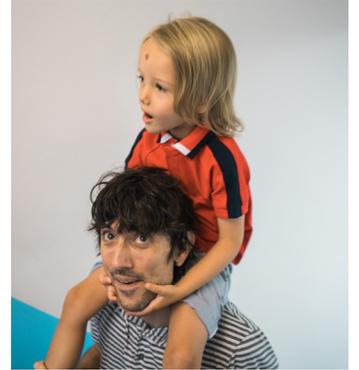




ALL SOULS SCHOOL

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019



THIS ISSUE'S THEME: CURIOSITY

All Souls School:
Where curiosity inspires creativity,
learning, and imagination



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

CURIOSITY

By Dr. Jennifer Vest
Director, All Souls School



"I think, at a child's birth, if a (parent) could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

As part of my transition to All Souls School, I spent a few weeks in New York visiting several of the ongoing schools our students attend. During my visits, I met with admissions directors, learning about their schools and their expectations for students entering kindergarten. One of the questions I asked each of them was, "How would you describe an All Souls student?" I was pleased to hear similar adjectives used across contexts: friendly, kind, confident, inquisitive, artistic, and well-rounded. One word I heard at every school, from traditional to progressive, single sex and co-educational, secular and religious-based, was "curious."

During those early visits, I also spent time in classrooms at All Souls, to learn more about the program and observe the teachers' and children's work together. During these observations, I witnessed how our teachers intentionally nurture children's curiosity. The classrooms were filled with engaging, open-ended

materials, that fostered exploration and experimentation. The daily schedules offered large blocks of time for children to make choices and work collaboratively with their classmates. The teachers were guiding children through their day, asking them questions and providing resources for children to explore their own questions.

From these observations, I understood how All Souls teachers used children's innate curiosity as the foundation for their educational approach. Their careful documentation of children's explorations and inquiries informed teachers' planning for successive experiences in the classroom and larger community. Through this iterative process of documentation, reflection, planning, and guidance, our teachers are modeling for their students how their curiosity provides the spark for learning.

This is the difference of the All Souls educational experience. Our teachers respect and encourage children's curiosity, and then help children expand their focus beyond their initial inquiries. They model for children how to research the answers to their questions - with trips to our school library and interviewing their peers and trusted adults. They encourage children to shape their questions into hypotheses, and then provide them with classroom materials to test those hypotheses. Curiosity is valued, and then guided into inquiry, that enables children to actively construct new understandings of their world.

During their time at All Souls, children come to understand that school is a place for questions, wonder, and exploration. As they transition to their ongoing schools, our students take with them the ability to engage in inquiry, crafting hypotheses that lead to interesting experiments. They take a collection of experiences with a broad assortment of materials that enable them to confidently explore new ones. And most importantly, they have held on to their wonder and curiosity about the world that will fuel their love of learning into kindergarten and beyond.

ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE CHILD SAYS...

An Interview with James Kovacik (All Souls alum, age 6)

By Andrew Kovacik, age 4

In keeping with the tradition of All Souls' newsletters, we feature an interview between a current student and a sibling who also attended All Souls. Here we spotlight a conversation between Andrew Kovacik, 2B, and his brother James, an All Souls alumna who currently attends Collegiate.

Andrew: James, would you like to do an All Souls interview with me?

James: Okay, I'd love to!

Andrew: What's your favorite food?

James: Hot dogs, I like them because they are very, very salty and I like the salty taste.

Andrew: What's your favorite animal?

James: A lion because I like the roar sound.

Andrew: What's your favorite thing at All Souls?

James: My favorite thing at All Souls is the dolly place because I like pretending I'm traveling around the world like Barbie.

Andrew: What's your favorite thing that you miss about All Souls?

James: I miss the teachers and I miss the creativity. I miss sewing the first letter of my name, and I miss Banjo Bill.

Andrew: Okay, James, what is your favorite thing to do with your family?

James: I like going to the park and I like playing on



the swings and the slides.

Andrew: What's your favorite song?

James: "Ramblin' Man" because I like the rock and roll parts.

Andrew: What's your favorite thing in the world?

James: My favorite things in the world are monorails and trains, and global warming scientists, and New Jersey.

Andrew: James, I hope you read the interview and thanks for doing the interview with me!

ALL SOULS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In early October the All Souls Community came together for a Carl Schurz Park Gardening Event

On a sunny October day, members of our community gathered to help clean up Carl Schurz Park as part of a Parents Association Community Outreach gardening event. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves, put on their gloves, and got busy mulching, raking, sweeping, weeding and pruning - digging up plenty of fun in the process!

Afterwards, the children enjoyed decorating pumpkins at Carl Schurz's annual Harvest Festival. Thanks to our volunteers and our Community Outreach Co-chairs, Lorraine Godfrey, Elena Matsuura, and Paloma Pargac, who worked so hard to make our park even more beautiful!



IN THE COMMUNITY

ALL SOULS PARENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY

On Thursday, October 3rd, the PA hosted the Annual Fall Cocktail Party at The Georgian Suite

Every fall, the Parents Association organizes an annual cocktail party as a way of welcoming new families to our community, and offering returning families the chance to reconnect after the summer. Held in the elegant Georgian Suite, it's always a fun evening, and a welcome chance to catch up with fellow parents as well as teachers and staff.

"The chef at the Georgian Suite was an All Souls parent himself, over thirty years ago!" said event co-chair Elizabeth Keizner. "It's thanks to him that we have our event there. It just goes to show what a special place this school is - decades have passed, and he still loves All Souls."

Event co-chair Rushita Mehta adds: "The PA's fall cocktail party is always a great start to the year as families old and new come together with the faculty to enjoy a fun evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and great conversation."

Thank you to all the parent volunteers and our wonderful co-chairs of the event, Elizabeth Keizner, Rushita Mehta, and Jennifer Zenker.



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE TEACHER SAYS...

An Interview with Megan Taylor-Wolfe, by Rohan Shah, Class 2A



Rohan and Megan shared a snack and lots of laughs in their conversation about the many things they enjoy.

Rohan: What is your favorite thing to eat - is it pineapple?

Megan: It's really hard to pick just one, but pineapple is definitely one of them - it's really good. Have you ever had pineapple?

Rohan: No. What's your favorite animal?

Megan: A favorite animal is really hard to choose; I really like chickens.

Rohan: Chickens?

Megan: Yes, chickens - they are smarter than you might think. They have some sense of numbers, and they can remember different people and different chickens.

Rohan: They don't fly!

Megan: You're right; they don't fly.

Rohan: What's your favorite color?

Megan: It's hard to pick one, but one of my favorites is orange. What about you?

Rohan: Blue!

Megan: Blue - that's a good color.

Rohan: What's your favorite thing to do?

Megan: I really like to read books and watch movies, and I like to knit. Do you know what knitting is?

Rohan: (nods yes)

Megan: What is your favorite thing to do?

Rohan: Go to the park. Do you like to go on vacation?

Megan: Yes, I do. Last Christmas I went to Hong Kong - have you ever heard of Hong Kong?

Rohan: Yes.

Megan: This Thanksgiving I'm going to Arizona.

Rohan: Do you like fish?

Megan: I really like salmon. Did you know that salmon could grow really big? Two Rohans is one salmon, they can be 75 pounds! And they can live in freshwater or seawater, which is very unusual. They swim very far to go home when they are grownups.

Rohan: At home I have a dog. Do you have any pets?

Megan: I don't have any pets, but I have lots of neighbor dogs, and my mom has two dogs named Luci and Coco.

Rohan: How do you get to work?

Megan: I take the 6 train. How do you usually get to school?

Rohan: I take the bus, the M15 and M79. Where do you live?

Megan: Right now I live in New York, but I grew up in New Orleans. It's in the state of Louisiana, in the south of the country. I've lived in New York for 15 years.

Rohan: Do you have a favorite book?

Megan: Yes, I read a lot of books. My favorite books I've shared with the class are "A Porcupine Named Fluffy" by Helen Lester and "Blue Hat, Green Hat" by Sandra Boynton.

Rohan: Do you have a favorite vegetable?

Megan: Right now I like Brussels sprouts, and in the summer I like zucchini. Do you have a favorite vegetable?

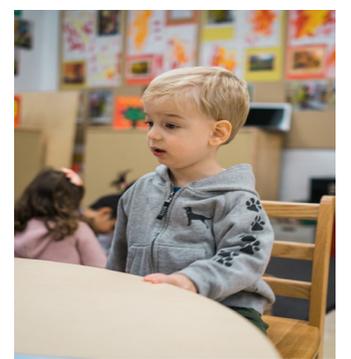
Rohan: Okra!

CLASS 4A M/W/F

Teachers : Danielle Green

Emily Diaz

Nikki Slesin



CLASS 4A T/TH

Teachers : Danielle Green

Emily Diaz

Nikki Slesin



CLASS 4A PM

Teachers : Danielle Green

Emily Diaz

Nikki Slesin

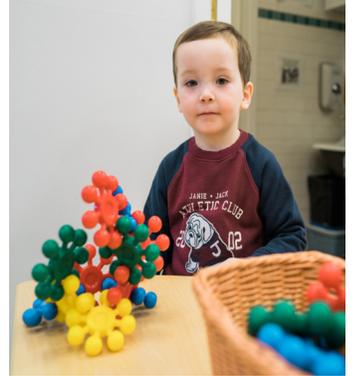
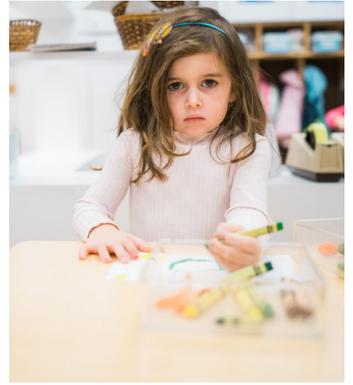


CLASS 4B AM

Teachers : John Perlich

Amita Mehta

Dominique Grelsamer



CLASS 4B PM

Teachers : John Perlich

Amita Mehta

Dominique Grelsamer



KIDS' CORNER

Curious to try a new family-friendly adventure? Here, some local ways to explore something new with your child!

- The Children's Museum of Manhattan (www.cmom.org)
- The Highline (www.thehighline.org)
- New York Transit Museum (www.nytransitmuseum.org)
- Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum (www.intrepidmuseum.org)
- The Empire State Building (www.esbnyc.com)
- New York Hall of Science (www.nysci.org)
- Brooklyn Children's Museum (www.brooklynkids.org)
- The Bronx Zoo (www.bronxzoo.com)
- Chelsea Piers (www.chelseapiers.com)
- The Liberty Science Center (www.lsc.org)
- Museum of The Moving Image (www.movingimage.us)
- The Met Cloisters (www.metmuseum.org)
- New York Aquarium (www.nyaquarium.com)
- Coney Island Wonder Wheel (www.denoswonderwheel.com)
- South Street Seaport (www.seaportdistrict.nyc)
- Queens County Farm Museum (www.queensfarm.org)



Brainstorm some fun new experiences for your child by asking them how they would fill in the blanks!

I AM CURIOUS TO...

- Try ___ (a kind of food) for the first time.
- Listen to ___ (a type of music). I think I will like it!
- Visit ___ (NYC landmark) with my family. I have never been there!
- Learn more about ___ (another country).
- Try ___ (a kind of exercise or sport) for the first time.
- Borrow a book about ___ (subject) from the library.
- Try ___ (outdoor winter activity) on a snowy day!



CLASS 3A

Teachers : Emily Ehmer

Elizabeth Gibbons

Haven Mitchell-Rose



CLASS 2B

Teachers : Elise Teichert
Shelagh Naughton-Schuil
Winnie Chan



CLASS 3B

Teachers : Jackie Jediny

Noah Wright

Diane Kendall



CLASS 2A AM

Teachers: Alida Burry
Laura Senie
Megan Taylor-Wolfe
Paula Flores Viscovich



CLASS 2A PM

Teachers: Alida Burry
Laura Senie
Megan Taylor-Wolfe
Paula Flores Viscovich



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE TEACHER SAYS...

An interview with Diane Kendall by Evelyn Ooi, 3B



Evelyn Ooi, a student in 3B, interviews Diane Kendall, one of her teachers, about some of her favorite activities.

Evelyn: What is your favorite book?

Diane: My favorite book is "The Color Purple." And they made it into a Broadway show, which I never saw, and was very sad that I didn't see it.

Evelyn: What is your favorite food?

Diane: Ooh that's tricky. My favorite food is probably pasta with pesto.

Evelyn: What do you like to do at All Souls School?

Diane: I like to do puzzles, I like to play catch on the roof, I like to read stories. Do you like to do any of those things?

Evelyn: I like to read books too! What is your favorite area in the classroom?

Diane: The book nook, for sure. What about you,

what's your favorite area of the classroom?

Evelyn: The sensory table, the painting shelf, and the workshop table.

Diane: I like the workshop table too, that would be my second favorite.

Evelyn: What do you like to do outside?

Diane: I like to go for walks, ride my bike, go to the beach, and I like to travel. What about you? Do you like going to the beach?

Evelyn: Yes, I make sand castles!

Diane: Me too! Do you collect anything when you're at the beach?

Evelyn: Yes, I collect shells!

Diane: Me too!

ALL SOULS ON THE MOVE

3B's FERRY TALE

At All Souls, teachers design a curriculum greatly informed by subjects that their students are showing natural curiosity about - as happened recently in class 3B. "In the classroom, we were noticing that children were building boats a lot in the block area and dress-up area with the hollow blocks," explains teacher Noah Wright. "They talked about boats they had been on before, such as the Minnie-Ha-Ha from Lake George, and the Staten Island Ferry." So it was decided that the class would go on their first field trip - a ride on the NYC Ferry! "We thought it would be good for all of the kids to take this trip together," says Noah, "and to have this experience of being on a ferry."

It was raining that brisk October day, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the 3B kids - they were so excited for their journey - and for many of them, this was their first-ever class trip! Our group of students, parents and teachers (including Noah, Jackie Jediny, Diane Kendall and Susan Hess) rode the crosstown bus together (an adventure in itself!) towards York Avenue, and then walked to the NYC Ferry landing at East 90th Street, where the children enjoyed storytime books as they waited to board the ferry.

Once aboard the ferry, children excitedly looked out the windows as the boat made its way south down the East River. Children (and grownups!) were fascinated by the chance to see the island of Manhattan from a perspective not normally seen. It was great fun to try to recognize familiar neighborhoods and landmarks from the boat.

We disembarked at the Wall Street/Pier 11 dock, where the children ate lunch together before getting back on the ferry for the trip back uptown to school.

Since the field trip, the students reconstructed the ferry seats and parts of the dock at school, and have been discussing interesting parts of their adventure.

Thank you to our school's wonderful teachers for the many ways they encourage our children to explore their curiosity!

Some Student Observations from the Ferry Field Trip:

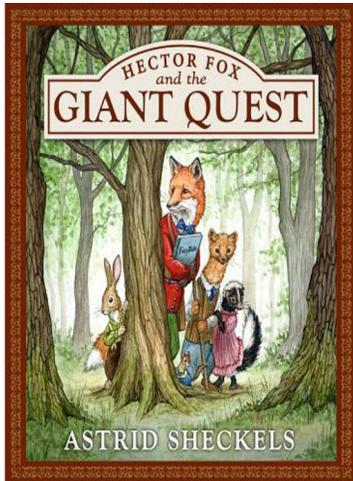
- "I remember seeing a buoy in the water."
- "The boat was really bumpy sometimes."
- "There was a shop with lots of snacks on the boat."



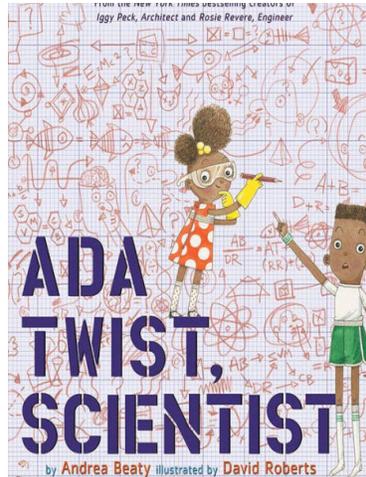
ALL SOULS

BOOK SELECTIONS FROM OUR LIBRARIAN, MARI SCHERMMEYER

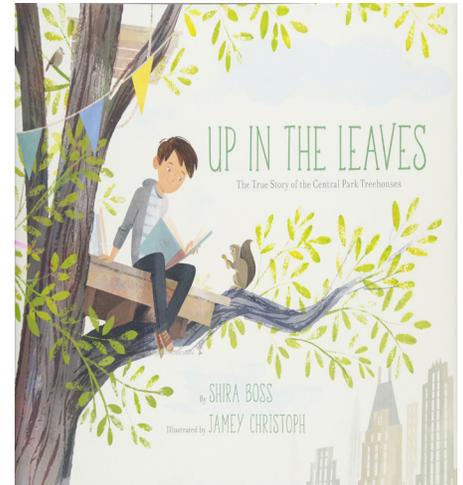
For this issue's curiosity theme, I chose three books that spark exploration and that are appealing to young children's ideas for play, fun, and creativity. I hope you enjoy them! - Mari



In “Hector Fox and the Giant Quest” written by Astrid Sheckles, Hector Fox reads a splendid story to his friends which sparks their curiosity. After the story, Lucy Skunk remarks, “I wish fairy tales were real!” After hearing there may be a giant in The Forbidden Marsh, Hector and his friends set out on their quest in search of a real fairy-tale giant. They soon come upon their friend, Rufus Bear. They ask him, “We are in search of a fairy-tale giant. It’s not you?” Rufus Bear shakes his head, “But I have seen a very big something over in the Marsh.” So, in the morning they see an enormous shadow emerge from the trees. “It’s the giant!” shrieks Lucy. “Why yes, I believe that I am sometimes called a Giant of the Woods. I am Ebenezer Moose. Welcome to my island. Come and eat!” Hector declares, “Because of you, Ebenezer, our quest has succeeded. You are our hero, our giant, and our new friend!” “So, fairy tales are real,” sighs Lucy.



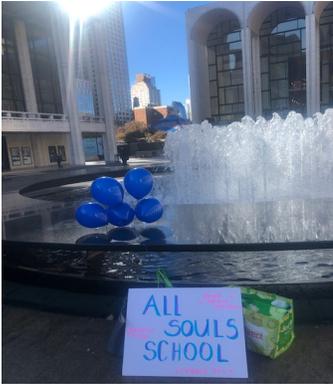
“Ada Twist, Scientist” written by Andrea Beaty and illustrated by David Roberts is a story about an unusually curious second grader who is full of questions. “Why are there pointy things stuck on roses? Why are there hairs growing inside your nose?” One day when a noxious smell fills her house, Ada sets out to use the scientific method to figure out what is behind the foul odor. She asked a small question, and then asked two. And each of those led to three questions. She tested each hypothesis just like a scientist. And, her parents joined in her search for answers. The book, “Ada Twist Scientist” is part of a series that includes “Iggy Peck, Architect” and “Rosie Revere, Engineer.”



“Up in the Leaves: The True Story of the Central Park Treehouses” written by Shira Boss and Illustrated by Jamey Christoph is the story of Bob Redman, Boss’s husband who from age 13 until he was 21 escaped the city’s chaos by building 12 different treehouses from salvaged materials in Central Park: “Every day after school, Bob’s treehouse was waiting. He hugged the tree’s trunk and scampered straight up. The city—roar, clang, bang—fell away.” He would spend his time in the treehouse studying the cosmos. Having his first treehouse dismantled did not deter Redman, who simply built another in its place. Christoph’s matte spreads show Central Park and its surrounding cityscape throughout the seasons. One morning when park authorities arrive, Redman is hired to work as an arborist in the park—so long as he agrees to stop building treehouses. So Bob’s curiosities about treehouses led him to a lifetime commitment to caring for the trees in Central Park.

ALL SOULS

OUT AND ABOUT



All Souls at the Greatest Show on Earth!

On Saturday, November 16th, All Souls families enjoyed some big-top fun at the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center!

The children were dazzled by the show's amazing acts, which included high-wire walkers, strongmen, jugglers, and aerialists flying through the air with the greatest of ease.

A particular favorite of the kids was the show's feline acrobats, two cute kitties who gave a truly awesome purr-performance. Children also loved laughing at the jokes of the circus comic, a wisecracking character that's part clown, part pigeon (this is New York City, after all!).

Says event Chair Alicia Hanafy, "Thank you to everyone who attended our first-ever All Souls School Big Apple Circus! It was a fun-filled event for all ages!"



STORY + SONG

AN INTERACTIVE SONG FROM OUR MUSIC SPECIALIST, "BANJO BILL" GORDH

After reading Dr. Vest's Director's Letter about curiosity and All Souls' students, I started thinking about how when I sing with the children of the school, they are always looking forward to the drawing story that I share just before the final song, "This Land is Your Land."

Drawing stories combine drawing, storytelling and sometimes song to create a figure (often an animal). Many cultures have these stories, and Japan probably has the most. In them, there is a bit of narrative and some drawing, and then more narrative and more drawing, until finally an animal emerges.

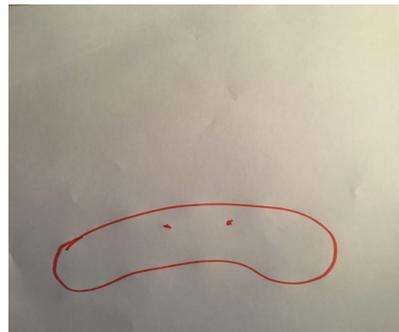
For the children, the stories play between curiosity and prediction - two major forces in early childhood literacy.

As my approach involves interaction with the children as often as possible, I craft the stories so that it is not just a performance, but rather something the kids participate in. Here's an example which will not be shared until later in the year, but is perfect to present here as it also sets up a song and activity that echoes the curiosity leading to inquiry described by Dr. Vest.

The Donkey

(A tale I learned in Lima, Peru)

Once there was a little kidney bean. Here it is.



1. Kidney bean with eyes

You can see it has eyes and it loved looking around and it saw lots of kids. They were moving their mouths. What were they doing? You're right; they were talking. But why can't the bean hear them talking? NO ears!! You're right. The kidney bean did not have ears; so it grew them! See!

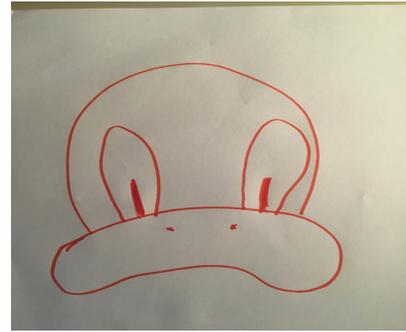


2. Kidney bean with eyes and ears

(The children usually say, "It's a bunny") The kidney bean heard all the children say, "It looks like a bunny." Just then the kidney bean's mother walked in, saw the ears and screamed, "Ahhhhhhh!" and placed a pot over its ears.

3. Kidney bean with eyes and ears and pot

Now once again the kidney bean can't hear. What's it going to do?
Yep; it grew new ears on top of the pot...

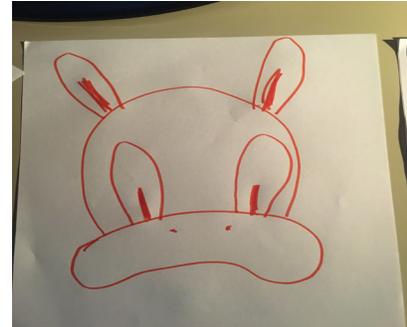


4. Kidney bean with eyes and ears and pot and more ears

...and became a DONKEY!

From there we move to singing a Chinese Folksong,
"Once I Had a Donkey"

*Once I had a donkey, I wanted to ride,
So I climbed up on its back, so proud it made me smile
I sang out as I rode, "De lai, der lai yo
Peeli, Poli, Wah-la-la-la-la," I fell into the mud.*



The children have a laugh about falling into the mud.

To learn the song we need to sing it more than once, but why would they want to?
Give them some fun actions!

So at the end of the line of falling into the mud I add (spoken):

*Wipe the mud off your boots - Yuck!
Wipe the mud off your elbows - Yuck!
Get it out of your ears- Bloing
Get it out of your mouth! Yuck!*

*Wipe the mud off your knees - Yuck!
Wipe the mud off your shoulders - Yuck!
Get it out of your eyes! Yuck.
Brush Your Teeth!*

Then they are excited to sing it again and have fun in the end, which also builds their sequencing skills.

It all starts with a little kidney bean and a bit of curiosity!





SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 30th 2020
ANNUAL ALL SOULS BENEFIT 6:30 pm

WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT YOU GIVE TO THE ANNUAL APPEAL

Want to know where your donations go?
Here's a quick list of the funds that support our school:

The **Gunnar Johannsen/Nikos Kefalidis Tuition Assistance Fund** Fully supported by contributions from parents and friends, as well as the proceeds of the Annual Benefit, scholarships are awarded on the basis of need by a non-parent committee of the Board of Trustees.

The **Dr. Jean Mandelbaum Teachers' Enrichment Fund** This fund allows teachers to attend professional conferences, pursue educational interests, and receive short-term, no-interest loans.

The **Director's Fund for Children's Special Needs** Started with a large donation from a school family, this fund: helps provide consultants (such as speech therapists, psychologists, and social workers) to the staff; adds materials or personnel to the classroom when special circumstances arise; and provides the Director with the ability to meet unexpected needs appropriately and promptly.

Unrestricted Needs Fund As a not-for-profit institution, the school depends on donations to this fund to help support operating activities.

ALL SOULS ONLINE

Visit www.allsoulsschoolnyc.org for an array of information from downloadable forms, class pages, the school calendar, and many more photos.

THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Kristine Valois: Co-Chair | Content
Catalina Hayata: Co-Chair | Design
Bok Rivera, Kailuo Wang: Photography team

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