



# ALL SOULS SCHOOL

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

## This Issue's Theme: **PLAY**

### Learning Through Play: How Children Begin to Make Sense of the World

By Marjorie Goldsmith, Ed.D., Director, All Souls School

Recently, I read my horoscope for Cancer (my sign): "You make your best discoveries when you're just playing around." That makes a lot of sense for kids and for us as well. Just playing around for adults can be trying out a new sport, or knitting, or working out at the gym. For kids, just playing around can be running across the playground pretending at being a fire fighter, or building a structure, or drawing, or sitting and staring out the window. Just playing around is time and space to think and dream—time that is often lacking from our lives and our children's.

Play is the forum in which children develop their "intellect, creativity, and imagination, a sense of self, the resolution of feelings, and the capacity to interact with others in positive and morally sound ways" (Hoorn, Nourot, Scales, & Alward, 1993). Besides all the important social and emotional opportunities that play provides them, children are practicing literacy and numeracy skills, learning science concepts, and working with new, stimulating materials.



The children in the two 4's classes this year were very interested in animals, though with different aspects. The morning children focused on habitats, the afternoon children on animal care. The morning children learned about Forest, Jungle, Desert, and Ocean, and created representations of each. They took a trip to the Museum of Natural History to see the dioramas and learn more about the habitats.



The afternoon children had a trip to the Humane Society and, afterwards, in their dramatic play area, they created a place to take care of animals. When labeling the habitats and making the signs for the care areas (Petanarian, All the Animals Get Groomed, Fresh Food for the Family, Any Animal School), they practiced writing and reading. They have learned about letter sounds and formation through their interests and play.

Continued page 2 >>>

## Director's essay, continued...

Recently, at the playdough table, also in a 4's classroom, the children often played restaurant. A teacher organized materials for restaurant play in the dramatic play area: menus, a telephone, chef's toque, aprons, order pads and pencils, and found objects like corks that could represent food. Then, during a morning meeting, she demonstrated some of the materials without telling the children the theme and led a stimulating discussion as to what the materials could be about and how they could use them. The children's restaurant play has been rich with details about how a restaurant works, as well as providing them with opportunities to write (the orders) and read (the menus). The children decide who will play a customer, a chef, a waiter, or a cashier, negotiating each role and working out disagreements.

The children in 2B and 3B are fortunate that they can leave their block structures up during the week as they continue to work on and play with them. The structures in both classes are complex and provide the children with many opportunities for expressing their knowledge, sharing ideas, learning to listen to others' ideas, and practicing literacy and numeracy activities.

Specifically, in 3B, winter's playtime in the block area evolved into a study and eventual construction of skyscrapers, culminating in a springtime visit to the Skyscraper Museum. There, the children saw how their drawings and block models, much like an architect's, become complex structures in which we live, work, play and even go to school.

It has been another wonderful year at All Souls School. The children are fortunate to have you, their parents, value their play and understand how it brings both learning and joy to their lives.



CLASS  
2A  
CANDIDS



A JOKE FOR YOU:  
  
Why are fish so smart?  
  
Because they swim in schools!!!



CLASS  
2B  
CANDIDS



CLASS  
3A AM  
CANDIDS



# ALL SOULS, ALL THE PANCAKES

SNAPS FROM OUR NOVEMBER PANCAKE BREAKFAST



CLASS  
3A PM  
CANDIDS



# ALL SOULS



## THE TEACHER SAYS

### An Interview with Disnayara Taveras By Arthur (“V”) Kaseman (3B)

#### **V: How long have you been a teacher and why do you like it?**

Disnayara: I’ve been teaching for 10 years—and I love being a teacher for many reasons. I enjoy spending time with you and your friends in 3B. I enjoy getting to know all the families, and I love that I get to learn from you. You teach us interesting things, which makes every day fun and exciting.

**Where are you from?** I was born and raised here in New York City. I grew up in Inwood, in northern Manhattan, and now I live in the Bronx.

**What will you do this summer?** School and travel.

**You go to school too?** Yes! Teachers go to school too and I will be doing that in June. Then I’m planning to travel to Costa Rica and Spain.

**What is your favorite place to go to?** I really love Barcelona, Spain—and must say I believe they have the best coffee and tiramisu in the world... even better than in Italy!

**What is your favorite food?** Good question, because I love all kinds of food! If I had to name a few favorites, it would be barbecue, Japanese food, and also cheese.

**Cheese?!?** Well, steak is my favorite food!

**I love steak too! Do you have a favorite New York skyscraper?** They’re all cool. I think I would have to say I like the Chrysler Building the best. It’s been fun to study them with you and everyone in 3B this year.

**We like to play on the roof. Do you like to play on the roof?** The roof is fun to play and learn. I really love playing basketball with you—and Tickle Monster is another favorite game.

**What is your favorite book to read in class?** Baby Beluga.

**Do you have any pets?** Yes, I love pets. I had a dog named Rocky, and I have a turtle named Cecil.

**What’s your favorite color?** Purple.

**Mine too! Do you like the planetarium?** I love the planetarium! I have been there twice!

**Me too! I wonder if we were there at the same time.** Yes, I think we were!

**Thank you, Disnayara !**

# ALL VOICES

## THE CHILD SAYS

### An Interview with Clara Graf (3A pm) By Charlotte Graf (All Souls alum, age 7)

#### **Charlotte: Do you like to play, Clara?**

Clara: Yes.

#### **How do you feel when you’re playing?**

Good. Really good!

#### **Is playing just for home or for school, too?**

For school too!

#### **What are some of your favorite things to play with your friends at school?**

Dress up.

#### **What else do you like to play with at school?**

The baby dolls. I like the one with the pink clothes with a pocket like mine! What do you like to play at home? What did you play when you were at All Souls?

#### **I liked to wash the doll babies. Clara, can playing teach you things?**

Yes! Like sharing and playing and all that stuff.

#### **What’s your favorite thing to play at the roof at school?**

Freeze tag!

#### **What bike do you like on the roof?**

The pink one! Amelia and Isla like it too. We take turns. We also like to play cats.

#### **Oh, how do you play cats?**

Amelia rides Olivia, and I just walk with them. We go out to the yard and back in the house. I am a grey and a white one.

#### **I’ll bet you’re cute!**

### ALL SOULS ONLINE

Please visit the All Souls School website to check the school calendar, your class’ page, view many more photos, and download an array of articles and forms.  
1000 thank yous to the parents, teachers, students, and administrators who contributed to this issue of

the All Souls School Newsletter

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CLASS  
3B  
CANDIDS



CLASS  
4A  
M/W/F  
CANDIDS



ANOTHER JOKE:

Why did the banana go to the doctor?

Because he wasn't peeling well.



CLASS  
4A AM  
T/TH  
CANDIDS



CLASS  
4A PM  
CANDIDS



# ALL SOULS,

THE SCHOOL BENEFIT: UNDER THE BIG TOP,  
JANUARY 28th, THE UKRANIAN INSTITUTE



## A FEW RANDOM SNAPS FROM THE BOOK FAIR at BOOKS OF WONDER, MARCH 12th, 2016



OKAY, LAST JOKE. PROMISE:

Knock Knock. Who's there? Banana. Banana Who?  
Knock Knock. Who's there? Banana. Banana Who?

Knock Knock. Who's there? Orange. Orange Who? Orange you glad I didn't say Banana? Ha!

# ALL TOGETHER, NOW

WITH LAUGHTER + TEARS, SPEECHES + KARAOKE, WE TOASTED  
AND (LIGHTLY) ROASTED MARJORIE, APRIL 28th (SNIFF SNIFF)





CLASS  
4B AM  
CANDIDS



CLASS  
4B PM  
CANDIDS

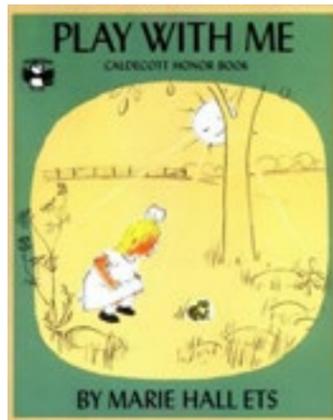


# ALL SOULS

# STORIES + SONGS

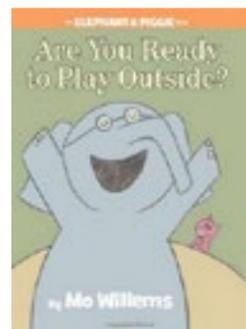
## STRAIGHT FROM THE ALL SOULS EXPERTS: The best books about play, from Mari Schermeyer...

Does sitting with your kid looking at a book count as playing? Absolutely, especially if the story you're reading is actually about play. "A parent is a child's first playmate," says All Souls School library guru Mari Schermeyer. Before your little girl can play with others, she plays with you. And before your little boy can read on his own, he reads with you. Why not marry those two formative activities? Here are Mari's most playful book picks:



Play with Me,  
by Marie Hall Ets

A girl goes to the meadow and asks each animal to play with her. But every animal she tries to catch runs away from her ...until she sits still by the pond, and they all come back. "All of them—all of them—were playing with me," she remarks in this tale about finding fun when you least expect it.

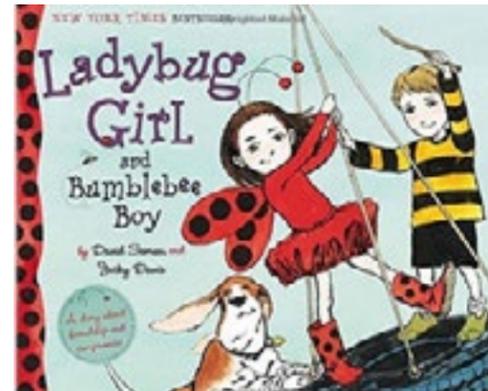
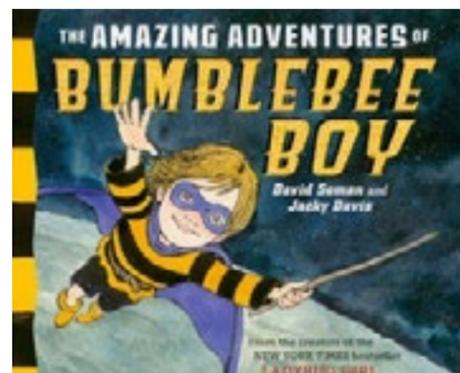


Are You Ready To Play Outside?  
by Mo Willems

Piggie and Gerald are ready to play outside. "We are going to do everything today!" says Piggie. "To run, to skip, to jump. Nothing can stop us!" Nothing, that is, except the threat of rain. Leave it to Willems and crew to find the perfect umbrella (Gerald's ear), and the perfect rainy-day playmates (earthworms). Gerald remarks to Piggie, "They are having fun. Maybe we can have fun, too," and so they do.

The Amazing Adventures of  
Bumblebee Boy,  
by Jacky Davis

In this book about Bumblebee Boy Sam, he likes to play alone, battling dragons, pirates and tigers. Sam's little brother, Owen, would like to play with him, but Owen doesn't have a cape or a mask (and Bumblebee Boy doesn't need his help). So Owen makes up his own game playing bank robber monsters. And eventually, their imaginary worlds collide. "You know, Owen," says Sam, "there are bank robber monsters in fighting aliens too." Problem solved.

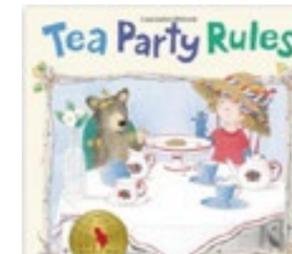
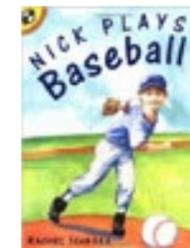


Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy,  
by David Soman and Jacky Davis

Lulu and her dog Bingo meet up with Sam on the playground. But before they join forces they must first agree on what to play. Sam likes the sandbox, while Lulu thinks the monkey bars are better. They just can't agree...until Lulu asks, "Have you ever played Ladybug Girl?" Quickly, Sam becomes the brave Bumblebee Boy, and he and Lulu, a.k.a. Ladybug Girl, are superheroes who save the playground and make new friends to join in the fun too. The lesson here: Imaginative play is the most limitless game of all.

Nick Plays Baseball,  
by Rachel Isadora

Nick can not wait to pitch for his team, the Rockets, in the championship game. While your child watches Nick at practice and learns all about the equipment, drills, and positions, you'll know that he or she is also taking in Coach Brian's advice on good sportsmanship and being a team player.



Tea Party Rules,  
by Anne Dyckman

A young bear cub stumbles upon a little girl's tea party and really, really just wants a cookie, but tea party rules get in the way. Once cub is groomed and put in a dress and a bonnet, it's finally cookie time, but the rule to "eat daintily" is out the window. (He has his dignity, after all.)

## ...and the littlest experts tell us what they like to sing these days. BECAUSE SINGING IS A FORM OF PLAY THAT CAN BE SOLITARY OR COMMUNAL, ENJOYED AT ANY AGE!

**Magic Penny**  
- Kira, 3B

**Twinkle, Twinkle  
Traffic Light**  
- Vera, 4Bpm

**So Long, Farewell,**  
- Elliott, 3Apm

**The "loop-a-  
loop" Frog  
Song**  
- Ben, 4Aam

**Inch by Inch,  
Row by Row**  
- Aria, 2A

**The Brooklyn Bridge Chant**  
- Audrey, 2B

**Old MacDonald**  
- Lincoln, 4Bpm

**You Are My Sunshine**  
- George, 4Bpm

**Little Bunny Foo Foo**  
- Jamie, 3Apm

**Little Green Frog  
(Galumph)**  
- Julian, 4Apm

**The Traffic Light Song**  
- Ryan, 4Bam

**Goodbye French Fries**  
- Francesca, 3B

**The Cat Came Back**  
- Teddy, 3Apm

**ABCs**  
- Hunter, 4Bpm

**Baby Beluga**  
- Anonymous parent  
(who knows you love it too)

**Silent Night**  
- Oliver, 2A

**DON'T RECOGNIZE THESE...? DONT FRET!  
JUST ASK YOUR CHILD TO SING THEM FOR YOU!**

# THE BACK PAGE

“Just playing around is time and space to think and dream – time that is often lacking from our lives and our children’s.”

- Marjorie



Alas, she leaves us. But she leaves us with a new **PLAY SPACE!**  
...Sweet Mar-jor-eeee BA BA BA...

