



ALL SOULS SCHOOL

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021



THIS ISSUE'S THEME: Togetherness

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



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Jennifer Vest, Ed.D.,
Director, All Souls School



Several years ago when I was in graduate school, I worked part-time at a small preschool in Franklin, Tennessee, called the Spring Hollow School. Like All Souls, Spring Hollow is a Reggio-inspired program, with a central focus on young children's social and emotional development. The founder and director of the school, a wonderfully creative and thoughtful woman we all called "Dr. Kay" had implemented the Green Circle curriculum into the daily life of the school. It was the centerpiece of our morning meetings and our conversations with children around social and emotional topics and issues.

The Green Circle curriculum was originally developed in the late 1950's by a social worker in Philadelphia to support educators in their conversations with young children about race in the early years of school desegregation. The central concept is that each child has a green circle of relationships around them, and they can cultivate that circle to "grow" (which is why it is green) to include many types of people. The circle is first small, as it reflects the child's individual awareness. As the child grows, so too, does the circle—including the immediate family, then extended family. The circle continues to grow to include neighbors and familiar people in the community, then adding friends and teachers in school. Once children begin to develop an understanding of sympathy, empathy, and care for others, the circle grows to include the broader world of those people they don't know personally, but can have compassion for their needs and a sense of responsibility for their welfare.

This image of the Green Circle has resonated with me in many ways as we have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. First, I think about our young children, and how their circles have been impacted (as well as for us adults). In the early months of the pandemic during the stay at home orders, our circles were very small—only members of our immediate households. We adults had to adjust to a dramatic constricting of our social circles. Our youngest children, as they were beginning to expand their circles, developing the skills to navigate new opportunities in their neighborhoods, in school, and with extended family, had to adjust and once again

focus on their immediate family and their role within the family. Just as the Green Circle was being stretched wider, it snapped back like a rubber band around the household, to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In September 2020, when All Souls was able to reopen, our children's circles were able to resume their growth. Classmates and teachers became a part of the child's circle with their immediate family. However, the full sense of community that typically encapsulated the All Souls experience would be limited to the classroom for the children and families. Our COVID precautions would require us to think of classes as individual pods, and contain our interactions within this group. And for most families, due to travel restrictions and health concerns, the family circle remained the immediate household. Our children's circles had swelled slightly with the return to school, but would be static for most of the school year until vaccines became more widely available.

The 2021-2022 school year is the year we are again seeing our circles grow steadily. It has been such a joy to begin seeing grandparents in person again, now fully vaccinated and able to travel, to enjoy birthdays and holidays again with their children and grandchildren. Aunts, uncles, and cousins are a part of children's conversations again, and feature in their drawings and journals, relating trips to the apple orchard or trick or treating at Halloween. Attending soccer classes, resuming in-person piano lessons, and meeting friends at their favorite playgrounds are joys that have returned to children's lives. Parents are returning to their offices and our teachers are now gathering for in-person faculty meetings—we as adults are feeling our green circles growing too. While we continue to focus on health and safety, we have more information and more tools available to us this school year to enable us to be together in ways we could not in the eighteen months prior.

The theme of this newsletter is Togetherness. As we progress through this year and our youngest children become eligible for vaccines, our sense of togetherness will continue to expand as our green circles grow. Just as our children's understanding of their family has been able to grow from their immediate household to their extended families of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, so too will their understanding of their school as not just their class or their floor, but also to the broader sense of a school community of over 100 children and families who make up All Souls School. Our board, administration, and faculty are committed to ensuring this can happen in a safe, healthy way for us all, and we can have multiple ways and opportunities to be together. I hope you enjoy this season's newsletter and how it highlights our Togetherness.

*Circle green, circle green, finest circle we have seen,
The greatest task that we know, is to make our circle grow.*

ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

A walk down memory lane...

An interview with Fred Isquith

By Nolan Isquith, 2A class

We feature an interview between a current student and a parent who also attended All Souls. Here we spotlight a conversation between Nolan Isquith, 2A, and his father Fred Isquith, an All Souls alumnus.



Nolan: Do you remember going to All Souls when you were little?

Fred: I remember clips, like specific smell, or feelings, or activities. I remember having to go early in the morning [when] All-Souls had something called early arrival where I (and your Aunt Becky) would go...before school even started to play with

other kids from all different classes. I [also] remember spending a lot of time at the water table [and] the smell of the library [which] has a very distinct smell.

Nolan: What was your favorite thing at All Souls?

Fred: Playing with blocks, making a mess at the water table, and playing with my friends.

Nolan: Do you remember your teachers from All Souls?

Fred: Unfortunately, I do not really remember my teachers. The head of school then was Jean Mandelbaum. I remember she was very tall, like Ms. Clavel in the Madeline books.

Nolan: What were some of the activities you did back then at All Souls?

Fred: I spent a lot of time in the block section: I liked to build towers and aircraft carriers.

Nolan: Do you still have friends from All Souls?

Fred: Not really, but your grandparents still have lots of friends they met while I was at All Souls. You have met some of them like Peter and Mary Kornman; Gale and Roy Geronemus; Guy and Marcia Hill-Struve; and Barbra Wolff (who is Max's grandma).

Nolan: How did you go to school then?



Fred: Much like you, I would walk with my mom and dad, your grandparents. Once my sister, Rebecca (your Aunt Becky), got a bit older we would all walk to All-Souls as a family. It was sometimes the best part of the day.

Nolan: What was your favorite book when you were little?

Fred: I was a fan of Ms. Frizzle books, they are quite funny. I also liked anything with Sesame Street characters. Some of the books I liked were also the ones you love like: The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Hop on Pop, and Green Eggs and Ham.

Nolan: What do you miss about school?

Fred: I miss my friends, and being able to spend all day with people I enjoy being with all while learning and experiencing new things.

Nolan: What is your favorite memory?

Fred: Playing on the roof. Back then there was a metal jungle gym we would climb. I also remember making a mess with my dad (your grandpa Fred) in the school basement during the pancake breakfast.



ALL SOULS, ALL PRESENT

ALL SOULS FIRST DAY



Our entire All Souls community eagerly awaited the first day of school as families, teachers and children came back to school on September 20, 2021. Children were delighted to see old classmates and teachers and engage in a new year of learning adventures. Parents welcomed some return to normality as the world overall resumed activities following Covid-19. We are grateful for all the hard work of All Souls' staff over the summer to ensure a safe return to school. Goodbye long summer days and hello crisp autumn days!



ALL SOULS, ALL FUN

FALL FUN SCAVENGER HUNT

The Parents Association sponsored a Fall Fun class meetup event in Central Park.

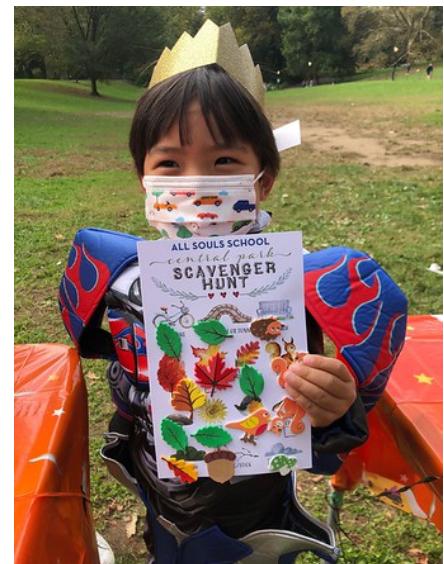
Each class gathered at Central Park in October to celebrate the change in seasons. Students participated in a nature box scavenger hunt.

Nature boxes and festive stickers were provided along with paper crowns for each child. Families gathered to build community and share picnics.

The kids were delighted to find the prizes at the end of the scavenger hunt, cute animal LED light rings for every child!



Many thanks to Melissa Buentello for organizing this wonderful event.



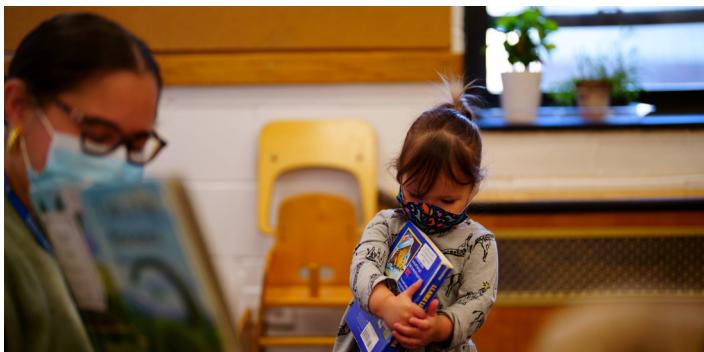
CLASS 4A M/W/F

Teachers: Emily Diaz
Nikki Slesin
Megan Taylor-Wolfe



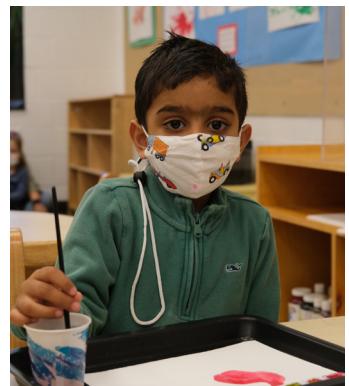
CLASS 4A T/TH

Teachers: Emily Diaz
Nikki Slesin
Megan Taylor-Wolfe



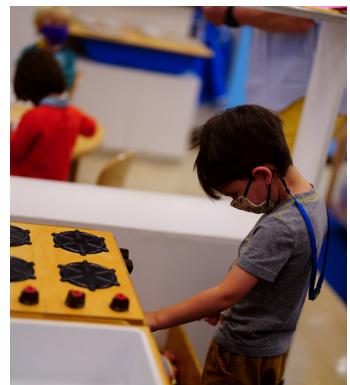
CLASS 4A PM

Teachers: Emily Diaz
Nikki Slesin
Megan Taylor-Wolfe



CLASS 4B AM

Teachers: Amita Mehta
John Perlich
Oren Rosenthal



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

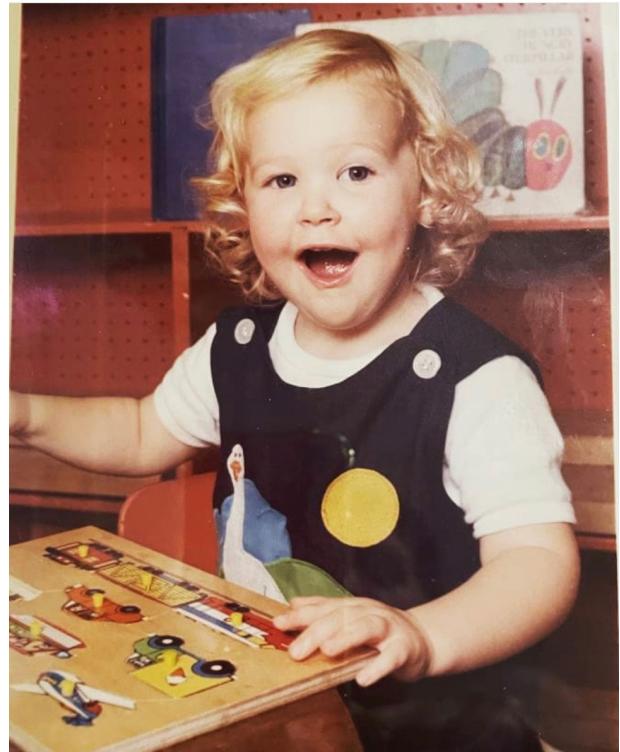
A walk down memory lane...
A current parent shares the lifelong
impact of her friendship with
an All Souls alum

Miyoung Lee, whose daughter is Amelia Rose, 3B, met her friend Annie Gill, '84 when she came to Connecticut to attend a junior high boarding school from Korea at age of 14.

I did not know how to speak English and everything was foreign to me. Annie gave me a sense of belonging on day one. She was so friendly, warm, welcoming and kind. She was my new friend and introduced me to many aspects of life in a new community. We ended up attending the same high school, Miss Porter's School, and became roommates and close friends ever since.

When we think of Annie's virtues we can't help but think about her formative time at All Souls School.

It confirms how the All Souls community has always had a history of promoting kindness, including/welcoming everyone for who they are and being generous to one another. Annie and I are still dear friends, and although she resides in Dublin, Ireland, we make sure to get together whenever we can -- as recently as this summer in Connecticut!



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE TEACHER SAYS...

An Interview with Shelagh Naughton-Schuil by Adina, Class 2B



Adina and Shelagh had a lot of fun learning about each other's favorite things to see and do...

Adina: What does your home look like?

Shelagh: My home is very old but cozy.

Adina: What do your brothers and sisters look like?

Shelagh: Well I grew up with seven brothers and sisters and the teachers said we looked alike. Do you think you look like your little brother, Adina?

Adina: Yes, I think I look a lot like my little brother Izzy!

What are your favorite children's books?

Shelagh: My favorite children's book was "The Elves and the Shoemaker" and now it's "The Day the Crayons Quit."

Adina: Do you know any magic tricks?

Shelagh: I do not know any magic tricks, do you?

Adina: Not yet, but I want to learn some! What do you like most about teaching?

Shelagh: My favorite part of being a teacher is watching children grow and learn in the school year.

Adina: What's your favorite thing to do on the All Souls roof?

Shelagh: My favorite thing to do on the roof is watch all of 2B have so much fun up there. What is your favorite

thing to do up there, Adina?

Adina: My favorite thing to do on the roof is play with all my friends and ride the red bike. Sometimes I talk to my bike. Tell me about your favorite places to visit.

Shelagh: My favorite holiday is usually somewhere in Mexico playing a game of Kadima. Do you know that game, Adina? Oh, I love England and France, too.

Adina: Did you have a favorite subject when you were at school?

Shelagh: My favorite subjects at school were History, Art and English.

Adina: Do you have a pet? Please tell me about it.

Shelagh: I don't have a pet now, but I used to have a white cat named Charlie. He was very cute and mischievous.

Adina: Have you been to the Central Park Zoo and what did you like to see there?

Shelagh: I have been to the Central Park Zoo. I like the penguins there and the way they move. Do you like penguins, Adina?

Adina: I love the penguins too!

KID'S CORNER

Here's a fun craft project inspired by Fall made with dried leaves...



What you need:

- bunch of dry fall leaves
- paper plate
- skin color paints
- white paper
- red paper
- marker
- scissors
- white school glue
- paintbrush

Leaf Drying Technique:

To dry leaves, place them between sheets of newspaper and weigh them down with books.

Make it a point to pick leaves after a few sunny days, never directly after a rainy one.



Paint the paper plate. Try using sponge brushes as they are quick and easy to paint with.

Once fully painted, let paint dry.



Cut off the stems.



Apply a generous amount of glue on the edge of the upper half of the paper plate.



Start placing down the leaves. Add glue to the leaves where you see fit. Continue until you get a nice looking hairdo.



Press down with your hands (or some object) for the glue to set and dry a little.



Cut two circles out of white paper. Alternatively you can also paint or draw the eyes directly onto the paper plate. Draw in the details. Glue the eyes on the paper plate.

KID'S CORNER

Here's a fun craft project inspired by Fall made with dried leaves...

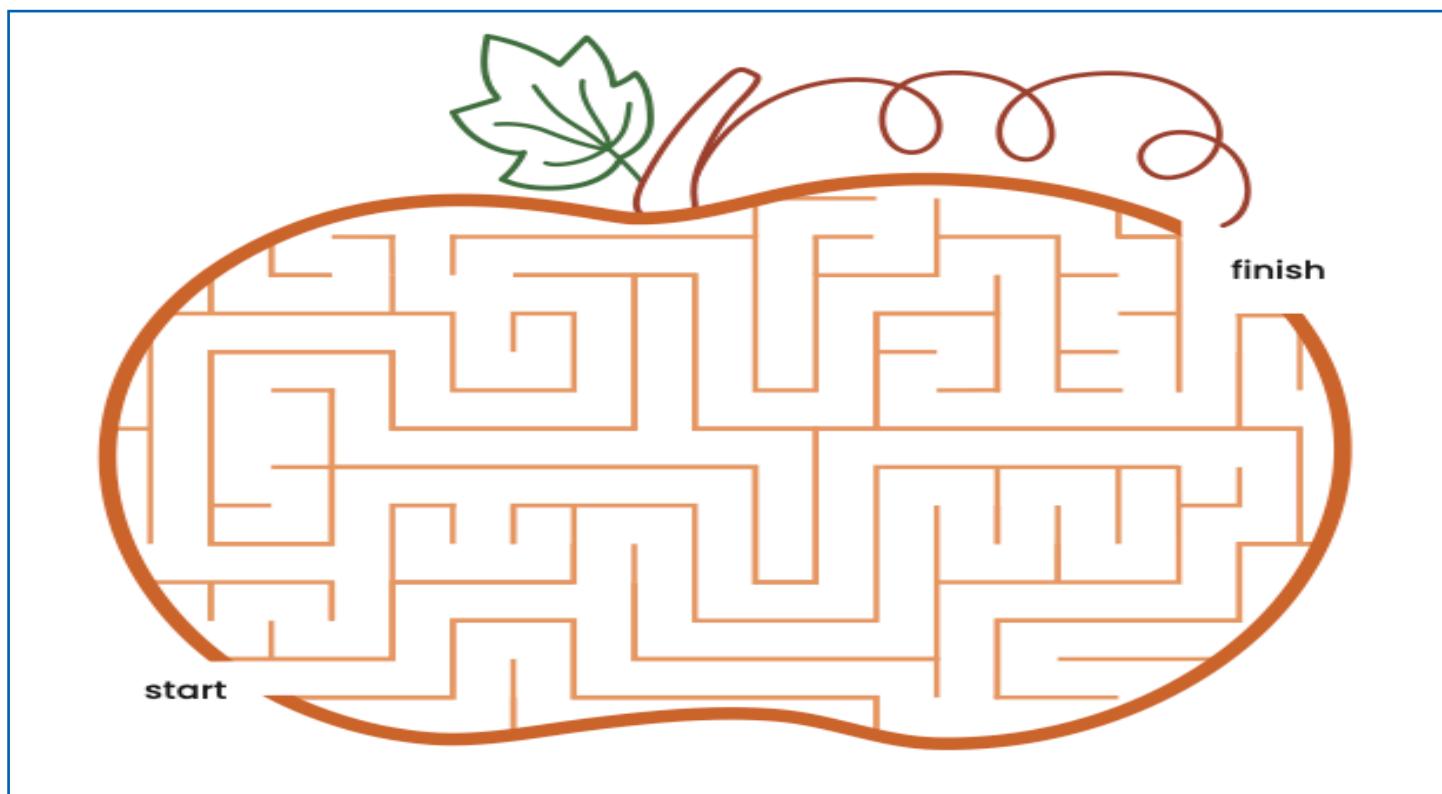


Draw other facial details. Or cut them from colored paper, newspaper... Or all kinds of other materials.

Make your leaf face paper plate craft as unique as possible!

Adapted from easypeasyandfun.com

Draw a line from start to finish to find your way through this pumpkin maze



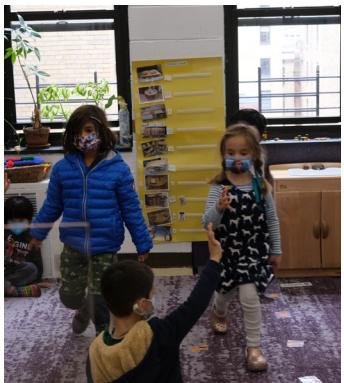
CLASS 3A

Teachers: Emily Ehmer
Elizabeth Gibbons
Ilana Sherman



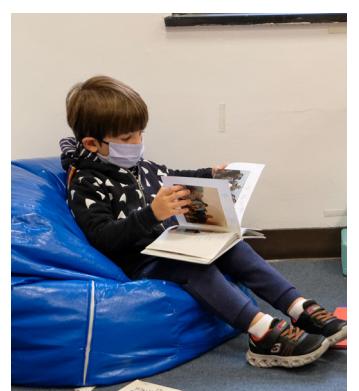
CLASS 3B

Teachers: Jackie Jediny
Noah Wright
Ilana Sherman



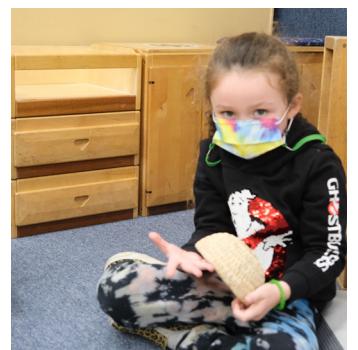
CLASS 2A

Teachers: Alida Burry
Laura Senie
Joann Kim



CLASS 2B

Teachers: Elise Teichert
Joann Kim
Shelagh Naughton-Schuil



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE TEACHER SAYS...

An Interview with Ilana Sherman by Mikey Ho, Class 3B



All Souls teacher Ilana Sherman connects with her student Mikey Ho through their shared love of tennis and travelling...

Mikey: What is your favorite book?

Ilana: My favorite book is Chicka Chicka Boom Boom because it would help me learn my letters when I was younger. What is your favorite book?

Mikey: My favorite book is Crayon. What is your favorite food?

Ilana: My favorite food is sushi. What is your favorite food?

Mikey: My favorite food is salami. What is your favorite animal?

Ilana: My favorite animal is a dog. What is your favorite animal?

Mikey: My favorite animal is a monkey. I love monkeys. What is your favorite color?

Ilana: My favorite color is red. Do you have a favorite?

Mikey: Yes! Mine is blue. What is your favorite thing to do?

Ilana: I love to travel to new places, what about you?

Mikey: I love to play with all of my friends. Where do you go for Christmas?

Ilana: For Christmas I go to Florida to spend time with my family. Where do you go?

Mikey: I stay home for Christmas and open presents the next day. Do you have any pets?

Ilana: I do.

Mikey: What pet do you have?

Ilana: I have a dog. Do you have any pets at home?

Mikey: I don't. Where do you live?

Ilana: I live in Midtown East Manhattan, where do you live?

Mikey: I live in New York City. How do you get to work?

Ilana: I take the 6 train to get to work. How do you get to school?

Mikey: I like riding my scooter to school. Do you have a favorite vegetable?

Ilana: I do, cucumbers are my favorite vegetable. What's your favorite vegetable?

Mikey: I love broccoli. Do you play a sport and what is your favorite sport?

Ilana: I don't play any sports but my favorite sport to play is tennis.

Mikey: Tennis is my favorite sport too! I also play soccer. Do you like to travel, and what is your favorite place to go?

Ilana: I love to travel and my favorite place to go is Florence, Italy. What about you?

Mikey: I like to travel too and my favorite place to go is Woodloch. What is your favorite thing to do at All Souls School?

Ilana: I like to go to the roof and play with everyone. What do you like to do at All Souls?

Mikey: I love work time, especially getting to play with the dollhouse and my friends.

ALL SOULS, ALL TOGETHER

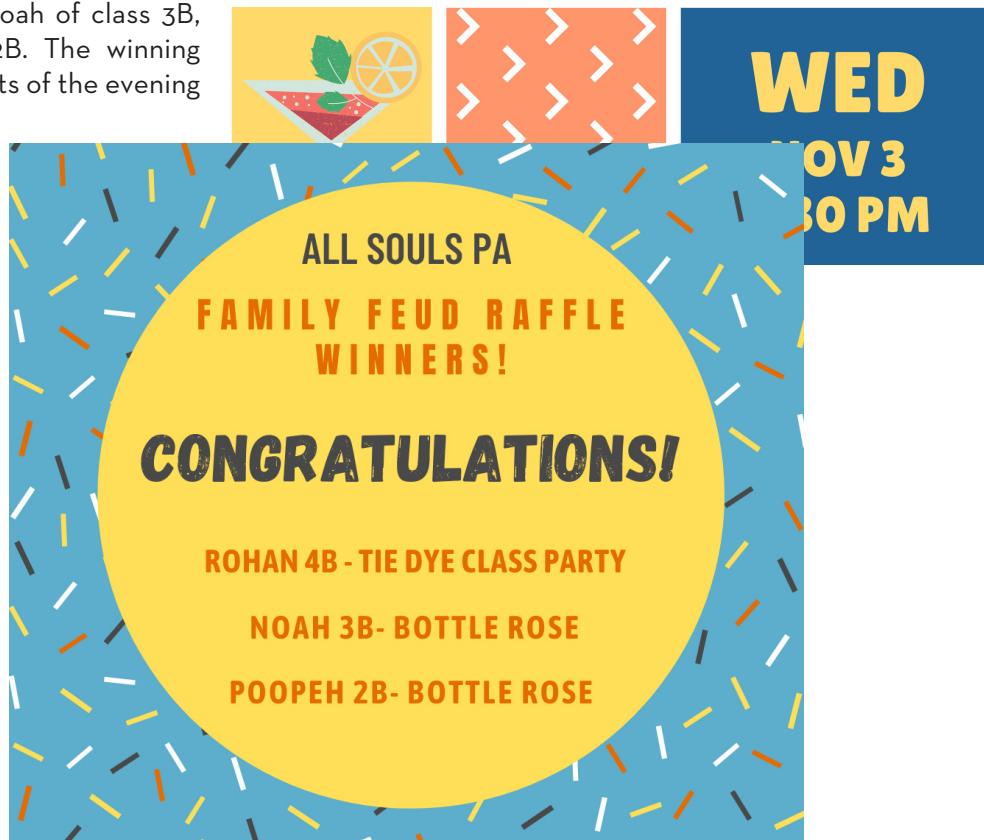
FAMILY GAME NIGHT

The Parents Association sponsored a Fall Fun Family Virtual Quiz Game.

Many from the All Souls community came together virtually on November 3rd to unwind and get to know each other better. Through the event chairs (Melissa Buentello, Hooman Kamel, Eve Karam, AJ Plotkin, and David Potterbaum), the event was put together by Host Events, which got everyone in the spirit of a lively game of Family Feud.

Teams were randomly selected by the host company and everyone made their own team names. Some fun team names included "A Little Bit of Avocado," "Soul Sisters," and "Karate Kid." Participants were automatically entered into a raffle and had the chance to play for prizes like a bottle of wine, with the grand prize being a tie dye party of the winner's class.

The grand prize went to Rohan of class 4B. Runners up were Noah of class 3B, and Poopeh of class 2B. The winning team with the most points of the evening was The Raptors.



ALL SOULS, ALL INSPIRING

Togetherness Through Community

See how All Souls lives its mission of "nurturing community that fosters experimentation, a love of learning, and respect for others."



The Community Outreach Committee organized two outstanding events this fall. As the holiday season approaches, they organized a Thanksgiving card making event as the first event of the series. Our students made over 200 cards with stickers. Many thanks to Tracy Hu and all our teachers and students who help the guests of the All Souls Friday Soup Kitchen celebrate the holidays!



Secondly, for the first time since the start of the pandemic, they organized an in-person drive in November. It was extremely rewarding to see our community members donate so generously to New York Common Pantry, a nonprofit organization devoted to reducing hunger and promoting dignity, health and self-sufficiency. Over the course of three days, they collected ten boxes filled with a variety of food items ranging from cranberry sauce to cornbread muffins, from peanut butter to pinto beans.



Special thanks to Lydia Tang and the six parent volunteers who partnered with the committee in staffing the table in the school's courtyard, and to the school staff for their support!

ALL SOULS, ALL INSPIRING

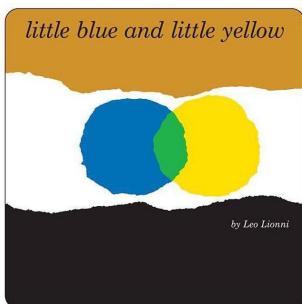
Togetherness Through Community



ALL SOULS

BOOK SELECTIONS FROM OUR LIBRARIAN, MARI SCHERMAYER

In a story, when we think of togetherness we think of stories about relationships with different kinds of people but also with animals. Reading a story to a loved one is the perfect time for being together whether you are young or old. Take time to read to a loved one!

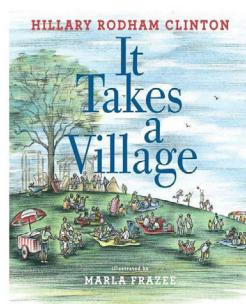


"Little Blue and Little Yellow"

Written and Illustrated by Leo Lionni

Leo Lionni launched his children's book career in 1959 with "Little Blue and Little Yellow." The story originated when he was taking his grand-children, Pippo, age five, and Annie, age three, on the train from Grand Central Station in New York City to his home in Greenwich, Connecticut. He wanted to keep them busy so they did not disturb the other passengers on the train. So, he took out a copy of LIFE magazine from his briefcase and showed the children the cover, and tried to say something funny about the ads as he turned the pages until a page with a design in blue, yellow and green gave him an idea. He ripped out the page and tore it into pieces. With the pieces, he began the story, "This is Little Blue, and this is Little Yellow."

Little Blue and Little Yellow are best friends, but one day they can't find each other. When they finally do, they give each other such a big hug that they turn green!



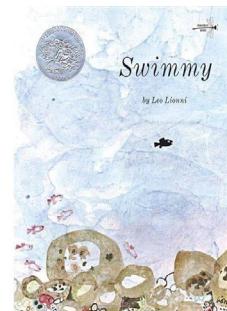
"It Takes a Village"

Written by Hillary Rodham Clinton
Illustrated by Marla Frazee

"What does it take to change the world?"

Former Secretary of State and Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton's first book for young readers, inspired by the themes of her classic New York Times bestselling book *It Takes a Village*, and illustrated by two-time Caldecott Honor recipient Marla Frazee, asks readers what can they do to make the world a better place?

It Takes a Village tells the heartwarming and universal story of a diverse community coming together to make a difference. All kinds of people working together, playing together, and living together in harmony makes a better village and many villages coming together can make a better world. Together we can build a better life for one another. Together we can change our world.



"Swimmy"

Written and Illustrated by Leo Lionni

Deep in the sea lives a happy school of little fish. Their watery world is full of wonders, but there is also danger particularly from the large fish, so the little fish are afraid to come out of hiding... until *Swimmy* comes along. *Swimmy* shows his friends how—with ingenuity and team work—they can overcome any danger by swimming together. *Swimmy* teaches them how to swim together so they look like a very large fish when encountering a large fish who may eat them.



ALL SOULS

MOVEMENT AND TOGETHERNESS FROM OUR SPECIALIST KRISTINA WALTON

A sense of community and togetherness is at the heart of every movement class at All Souls. It has been a thrill to be in person with the children again after so long apart. Seeing their smiling faces (even under masks), getting great movement ideas from them, and getting to interact in real time is probably what I missed the most when I was remote.

We always start movement class in a circle, which I feel automatically brings us together and makes us feel like one cohesive group. A circular formation brings a sense of closeness, because everyone can see everyone else with just a glance. Movement class continues by moving all together. We practice many locomotor movements (tip toes, hopping, galloping etc.) to the sound of the drum, we explore the theme of the day with our whole bodies (leaves, alphabet animals, butterflies, etc.), and we cheer each other on as we practice our gross motor skills on the obstacle course.

I hope that coming together for Movement isn't just a happy time for me, but also for all the children. I look forward to every Wednesday and can't wait to move and groove together with all the All Souls children for the rest of the school year!





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:

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

The Nikos S. Kefalidis/Gunner Johannsen 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 Fund for Faculty Development and Enrichment 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.

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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Catalina Hayata: Co-Chair | Content

Michele Laverdiere: Co-Chair | Content

Ray Wang: Co-Chair | Content

Jerry Gao: Photography Chair

Many thanks to the parents, students, teachers, and administrators who contributed to this issue, and a special thank you to Ilya Laufer for photo coordination!