



ALL SOULS SCHOOL

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2021



THIS ISSUE'S THEME: *Community*

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



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

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



During my doctoral studies, “word clouds” were a data analysis tool used to identify major themes in qualitative research, highlighting and emphasizing recurring words in surveys and interviews. I’ve often wondered what a word cloud would reveal for this past year: words such as unprecedented, pivot, and social distance come to mind. When I think of what an All Souls School word cloud would reveal, I envision that boldly centered would be the word COMMUNITY.

As I reflect on this unique year, the shared commitment of our school community is what I see most clearly. As parents, teachers, administrators, and trustees, we have been unified in our goal to keep school open for our children. From our experience with remote learning in Spring 2020, we knew that we needed to prioritize in-person learning for our young children. Once we had state and city guidance, our community began the work to safely open and operate school during a pandemic.

Our Board of Trustees formed a Task Force in April 2020 to begin the work of safely reopening school. With combined expertise in communications, facilities, medicine, law, HR, and operations, the task force volunteered countless hours of their time throughout the summer and school year to ensure All Souls remained a safe environment for children, faculty, and families. We are grateful to our Board for their

leadership, guidance, and support throughout this year. Our faculty worked tirelessly to ensure that the philosophy and pedagogy of All Souls could flourish under these new circumstances. A strength of our faculty is the spirit of collaboration and problem solving that informs their work. They used these skills to redesign their classrooms, re-organize group experiences, and ensure that children’s social/emotional well-being remained the focus of their work. We are grateful to our faculty for their dedication to our students while navigating a continuously evolving situation.

Our administrative staff diligently provided the bridges between faculty and families during a year when social distancing defined our relationships. As Susan Malone often says, “It’s village time!”. Overseeing arrivals and dismissals, helping out in classrooms, and answering parents’ questions, our administration took on many new roles to help the school run smoothly. We are grateful to our administration for their willingness to do whatever was needed, often at a moment’s notice.

Our parents, by choosing to send their children to All Souls this year, demonstrated a deep and abiding trust in us for the safety and well-being of their children. Parents lived by the Community Pledge, prioritizing school for their children and limiting their out of school activities. Families embraced with flexibility the changes in schedule and new health practices. We are humbled and truly grateful that our parents entrusted us with their children this year, when so much was uncertain.

Our children were truly our inspiration this school year. We asked so much of them, and they rose to the occasion. Every day they joyfully came to school: wearing their masks and lining up on the ramp, with hands extended for sanitizer and patiently having their temperatures checked. They showed us true resilience. I am so proud of how our school community prioritized the well-being of our children. What an amazing achievement for our school community, and a testament to the children and adults of All Souls School!

ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

A walk down memory lane...

An interview with Joanna Tucker (Alumni Parent)

By Avery Hirsch, 3A class

We feature an interview between a current student and a parent who also attended All Souls. Here we spotlight a conversation between Avery Hirsch, 3A, and his mother Joanna, an All Souls alumnus.



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

Joanna: I have some very clear memories of it, and some of it has faded a little. But I absolutely remember being there.

Avery: What was your favorite thing at All Souls?

Joanna: I loved playing with my friends.

Avery: Do you remember your teachers from All Souls?

Joanna: I do indeed. I remember Charlene, Mari, Nancy, Audrey... I am sure there are some I have forgotten, but I can still picture their faces even though I may have lost their names over the years.

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

Joanna: We did art, reading, roof play, blocks. We also did journals and goodbye books. I still have mine.

Avery: Do you still have friends from All Souls?

Joanna: There is one friend I am in touch with. But there are others who I will hear about and it brings back memories so clearly when I either see them or hear about them.

Avery: How did you go to school then?

Joanna: I remember my mother walking me to school every morning.



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

Joanna: My Father's Dragon.

Avery: What do you miss about school?

Joanna: I miss the people and the calming routine of it.

Avery: What is a favorite memory?

Joanna: I remember a teacher telling us that when she was little she would finger paint with chocolate pudding. I then went on to sneak a small taste of the brown paint in the art corner.... and it was NOT pudding.



ALL SOULS

PUMPKIN DECORATING IN THE PARK

For Halloween, individual classes came together to celebrate outdoors with some pumpkin decorating fun

Halloween 2020 looked very different. The pandemic meant we couldn't celebrate the traditional way but that didn't stop us from getting into the spirit of Halloween. All Souls community came together in creative ways, altering the celebrations to suit the climate of social distancing.

Individual classes made plans for outdoor costume parties, packed their own refreshments, brought games to share, while continuing to follow all safety guidelines.

The Parents Association generously sponsored a pumpkin decorating set for each student - a mini pumpkin, paints, paint brush and plastic table clothes for each child to sit and paint. The children had a fun day outdoors dressed as their favorite characters, painting their pumpkins and socializing with their classmates.

Thanks to the Parents Association and our Class Representative Co-chairs, Ryoko Ono Poggi and Priyanka Ramakrishna, who coordinated to ensure the pumpkin kits were delivered to all the classes.



IN THE COMMUNITY

PANCAKE ZOOM BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 6th, the PA hosted a virtual pancake breakfast on Zoom



All Souls families joined in a yearly tradition where dads take charge of the kitchen for a fun family pancake breakfast. This year we celebrated virtually in early March with a fun Saturday morning filled with pancakes, music, and fun. Our community came together to cook some delicious pancakes and listen to music by Little Maestros.



A special thanks to the dads who worked hard to create special Pancake To-Go bags for our community: David Potterbaum, Timothy McKenna, Dan Diasio, Jerome Mellon, and Chris Barlow. And a special thanks to Susan Hess for her never-ending help with logistics!



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



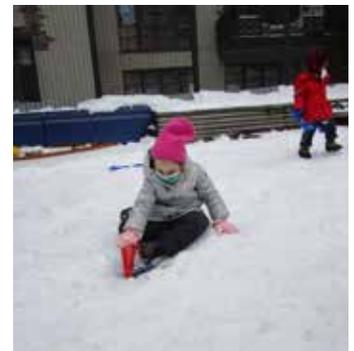
CLASS 4B AM

Teachers: Amita Mehta
John Perlich
Oren Rosenthal



CLASS 4B PM

Teachers: Amita Mehta
John Perlich
Oren Rosenthal



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE TEACHER SAYS...

An Interview with Naomi Lee by Oren Rosenthal, Class 4B



All Souls teacher, Oren Rosenthal, connects with his student Naomi, through their shared love for books, music, and travel....

Naomi: What is your favorite book?

Oren: One of my favorites when I was little is called My Father's Dragon. It's a chapter book about a boy who goes on an adventure to rescue a dragon, and my parents read it to me a lot! What is your favorite book?

Naomi: My Look Inside Space book. Did you know that a big asteroid hit the earth and hurt all the dinosaurs? The dinosaurs disappeared, some were eaten and others were buried under the dirt.

Oren: It sounds like you've really learned a lot from reading that book.

Naomi: What is your favorite food?

Oren: I loooooove sushi! It's been one of my favorites since I was a kid. Most of the time I get it at restaurants, but I've also made it a few times, and it's so much fun! What is your favorite food?

Naomi: My favorite food is pizza. I make it with my mommy. I rolled and rolled the dough, put on cheese and basil. What did you like for a snack when you were a kid a long time ago?

Oren: I liked berries and fruit and anything crunchy, like chips or pretzels. And cookies, of course. What

do you like for a snack?

Naomi: I like letter cookies, pineapple chips, Pocky, stringy cheese and spicy chips. What do you like to do at All Souls School?

Oren: I like to sing songs, read stories, and work on art projects. Do you like to do any of those things?

Naomi: Yes! I like singing and art projects too! I love music and dancing. I like the dot markers to make dot collage. What is your favorite area in the classroom?

Oren: I like the kitchen. Children are always making such tasty things for me to try. What about you, what's your favorite area of the classroom?

Naomi: I LOVE the kinetic sand! I liked the cave but we lost the cave last week.

Oren: The kinetic sand is so much fun to play with, isn't it? And I remember how much you enjoyed making and playing in the cave.

Naomi: What do you like to do outside?

Oren: I like to have picnics with my friends. What about you?

Naomi: I like to have picnic with mama and dada. I like playing in the park and mommy chasing me. Do you play a sport and what is your favorite sport?

Oren: I don't play any sports, but I do like to go on bike rides, and watching soccer is a lot of fun. What about you?

Naomi: I like soccer a little bit and I like riding my scooter a lot. Do you like to travel and what is your favorite place to go to?

Oren: I love to travel! I especially like going to places where I can snorkel and scuba dive; seeing all the fishies up close is so cool. What about you?

Naomi: I like to go to Australia and the beach there. That's where my grandparents and cousins live. Have you been to a coral reef before?

Oren: I have! Coral reefs are the best places to snorkel and dive, because they have so many fish and animals.

KID'S CORNER

Here's a fun craft project inspired by SPRING... Let the Sun shine!



What you need:

- Pink and yellow construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black Marker
- String or Yarn



Lay the pink paper down, cut it in half and fold it like a fan.



You are then going to glue the last section of the fan. Take both sections that you folded like a fan and put them together.



Fold everything in half, as you see in the picture. Unfold and tie a string in the middle. Cut the string down to get rid of the excess.



Once you have the string placed in the correct position, you are going to start gluing again. To complete the rosette, you will glue the ends together to make a circle.



Cut out the snail and once you have the snail cut out, you can glue the rosette piece on top of the snail.

KID'S CORNER

Here's a fun craft project inspired by SPRING... Let the Sun shine!



Make sure everything is super tight and secure!

Make sure to press firmly! The final product will look like this, and you can add a little smile and eyes to the snail.

Place the rosette on the yellow paper as a place holder and draw the snail's body around it!

Learn interesting new information about Spring by filling in the blanks with your Child

FUN FACTS ABOUT SPRING

There are _____ months of spring. March, April, and _____ .

Spring comes after _____ and before _____ .

Farmers plant _____ in the spring.

Flower _____ will come out in the spring.

The days and nights are almost the same in the _____ .

This is called the _____ .

Animals that migrate come _____ and animals that hibernate _____ in the spring.

wake up	seeds
May	buds
winter	spring
summer	equinox
home	three



CLASS 3A

Teachers: Emily Ehmer
Elizabeth Gibbons
Haven Mitchell-Rose



CLASS 3B

Teachers: Jackie Jediny
Noah Wright
Diane Kendall



CLASS 2A

Teachers: Alida Burry
Laura Senie
Joann Kim



CLASS 2B

Teachers: Elise Teichert
Winnie Chan
Shelagh Naughton-Schuil



ALL SOULS, ALL VOICES

THE TEACHER SAYS...

An Interview with Joann Kim by Alba Diasio, Class 2A



Alba and Joann shared lots of laughs in their conversation about the many things they enjoy.....

Alba: What is your favorite thing to eat?

Joann: I have so many but I'm going to go with pizza (and burritos)! What's your favorite food? I asked you once before and you said lasagna!

Alba: My favorite is Spaghetti and Lasagna! What's your favorite animal?

Joann: Dogs! And sea otters. Did you know that sea otters hold hands when they go to sleep? They don't want to lose each other when they fall asleep in the water. I think that's pretty sweet of them.

Alba: Cosita! I love dogs, especially small ones. What's your favorite color?

Joann: It's hard to pick one, but one of my favorites is [green]. What about you?

Alba: My favorite color is [Rosa]. I like to wear pink pants and my pink shirt with lemons.

Joann: [pink]- that's a good color.

Alba: What are your favorite clothes? Do you like pants or dresses?

Joann: I like dresses! But my favorite thing to wear are my sunglasses!

Alba: What's your favorite thing to do?

Joann: My favorite thing to do is go for walks. I like walking in parks, in the city, in new neighborhoods, and go exploring. I like to look inside shop windows on my walks,

especially flower shops and bakeries. I once saw a Paw Patrol birthday cake in a bakery window- I think you would have liked it. It was cool.

Alba: Oh!! Was it chocolate, vanilla or strawberry?

Joann: I couldn't see inside but I bet it was chocolate. What is your favorite thing to do?

Alba: I love to go swimming, so, I guess I like the pool and the beach. Do you like to go on vacation?

Joann: I like to go on vacation very much. It's been a while since I've gone on vacation but I'm excited to go visit family in Oregon this summer. I haven't seen them in so long! I hope to visit the beach, go hiking, and see beautiful mountains.

Alba: Do you have any pets?

Joann: I used to have a dog named Cocoa. He had a sister named Mocha, just like your dog! Mocha lived in my friend's house. Cocoa was a light brown colored Maltipoo and a very, very sweet dog. His tongue always stuck out and he liked going on car rides to stick his head out the window. That's when he was the happiest.

Alba: I bring Mocha in the car too. My dog Mocha sits in the back with me and lays down and looks out the window. How do you get to work?

Joann: I take the Q train from Brooklyn.

Alba: I go to school in my stroller! Sometimes I take my bicycle though, because it's not so far. Where do you live?

Joann: Right now, I live in Brooklyn, but I grew up in Queens. I've lived in New York all my life!

Alba: Do you have a favorite book?

Joann: Hmm, I usually like to read spooky books but my favorite book that you and I have read together is The Dog Who Belonged to No One by Amy Hest. That was a good one.

Alba: Oh yeah that was a good one. Do you have a favorite vegetable?

Joann: Oh, yes! I love vegetables but my absolute favorite vegetable is broccoli! They look like little delicious trees. Do you have a favorite vegetable?

Alba: Broccoli tambien!!!!

ALL SOULS, IN CLASS

4A's Snails World

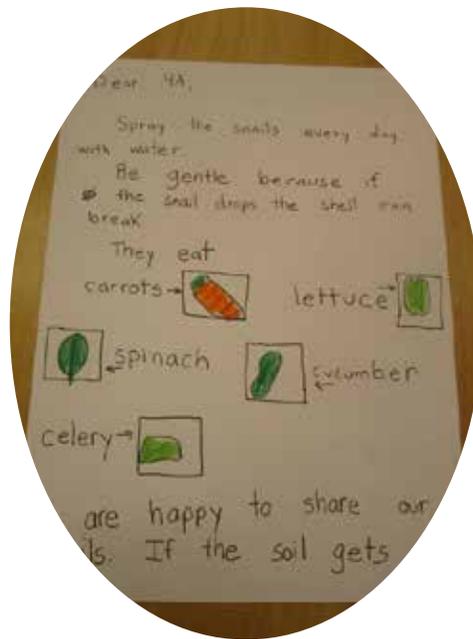
At All Souls, teachers foster an environment that encourages hands-on experimentation.

Through this project approach to learning - from discussion, activity and reflection, to documentation - children have an outlet for their curiosity, sense of wonder and relationship building. The 4A class had one such experience by having class pets to care for - some pet snails gifted by the 2B class!

It was an exciting adventure for the little ones in 4A to have these tiny creatures to look after! They were also going to learn about how these snails live and thrive by being fed and they were going to watch them grow. An interesting and fun way to learn about how the world works!

The 2B class had sent a letter with instructions on how to care for the snails, including details on their diet and environment. The teachers read the letter to the 4A class during circle time. The children were very excited to know that the snails eat some vegetables familiar to them. They also learned that the snails also need water, just like us.

During the course of the year, the snails continued to be an interesting



feature and seamlessly became a part of 4A. So much so that the snails were given names by the children - Louis, Sunshine, Frank and Carl! The snails were included in the daily greeting song. The teachers started introducing some books with snails as characters. The class experimented with the snails' diet to see if they prefer carrots or cucumber or celery. Thus, the snails became a great topic of conversation and a way of engagement for the children.

The 4A class also took the opportunity to reply to 2B with a letter of their own, thanking them for their gift and sharing some news about what the snails had been eating and doing.

This was a great way to introduce the children to the concept of writing letters as a form of communication.

Around springtime, something even more exciting happened - one Monday morning, the children returned to discover little white balls in the snail tank. Snail eggs! The children were very excited about having snail babies!

Thank you to our school's wonderful teachers for continuously encouraging our children to be curious and engaged!



ALL SOULS, OUTDOORS

THE ALL SOULS ROOFTOP PLAYGROUND & THE COURTYARD

At the heart of the Reggio Emilia approach is the concept of the environment as a teacher. Outdoor environment at All Souls provides students with endless learning opportunities.



The rooftop playground at All Souls School is a special space for students that enriches their imaginations and play. Designed with plenty of space for children to run or ride scooters, students find a wider arrangement of engaging outdoor activities. Kids play on a climbing wall, with imagination blocks, basketball hoops and many accessible materials that are transformed by their imaginations. At the center is a wood slat house which children have imagined as an ice cream parlor and a bakery serving hungry classmates imaginary treats. The playground provides a complementary space for student's play and enriches the classroom experience as play gets extended to the outdoor space. From the rooftop students have a view onto the All Souls courtyard nestled between the All Souls Church entrance and the All Souls Friendship and Memory Wall just inside of Lexington Avenue. The courtyard is where students are greeted by fellow classmates and friends daily upon arriving at school. This inviting space embodies the Reggio Emilia concept of the piazza and serves as a central meeting place for the All Souls Community.



ALL SOULS, OUTDOORS

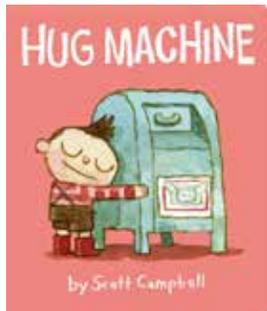
THE ALL SOULS ROOFTOP PLAYGROUND & THE COURTYARD



ALL SOULS

BOOK SELECTIONS FROM OUR LIBRARIAN, MARI SCHERMAYER

Hugs are back! When was your last hug? Do you like to be hugged? Do you like to be hugged tightly or gently? How does it feel to be hugged? Can you fill in this blank? Hugs make me feel _____. I bet you can not fill in this blank with just one word. Here are three delightful stories about hugs that you and your child will enjoy reading together. Don't forget to give someone you love a hug today!



Hug Machine, Written and Illustrated by Scott Campbell. A boy shows ample pride in his hugging prowess in this ode to spreading joy. There's no one and nothing that the protagonist—clad in shorts, a striped polo, and red boots—won't hug. He's so confident about the power of his "irresistible" hugs to calm people down, cheer them up, or "make the biggest feel small. The smallest feel big," that he calls himself the Hug Machine. Spiky porcupine? No problem. The Hug Machine dons a face-mask, oven mitts, and a pillow before going in for the squeeze. Super-huge whale? The Hug Machine slides down the whale's back and hugs in increments. After a long day of hug-giving, the Hug Machine "can hug no more" and is scooped up into his mother's arms. Campbell's simply outlined watercolors exude warmth, emotion, and sly humor, from the deadpan expressions of several surprised recipients of the Hug Machine's hugs to his own serenely closed eyes during each hug, which make it clear that he's giving each hug his utmost.



The Giant Hug, Written by Sandra Horning, Illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev. How do you give your granny a hug when she lives far away? Send it through the mail, of course! Owen starts by going to the post office and giving Mr. Nevins, the mailman a great big hug which will be sent to his Granny. Mr. Nevin's gives the mail to Ms. Porter who sorts the mail and gives her a giant hug. Owen's hug travels across the country in a series of hilarious, sometimes awkward, always heartfelt embraces between animals of different shapes and sizes. After Granny receives the giant hug from Shelly, the mailwoman. Granny gives Shelly a big, wet kiss on her cheek to be sent to her grandson, Owen. And, so the story begins again.



The Perfect Hug, Written by Joanna Walsh, Illustrated by Judi Abbot. Panda Bear goes searching for the perfect hug from ...a bug, a boa constrictor, a bear, a snail, a jellyfish, And at the Milky Way!

*There are hugs for wrigglers,
and hugs for gigglers.*

*Hugs that are tickly,
and hugs that are prickly...*

*But none is exactly the right hug for
me!*

I'm out to find the perfect kind.

Finally, Panda Bear finds out that "A hug takes two." And "If you hug me, then I'll hug you!"

There's a special hug for everyone!

STORY + SONG

THE COMMUNITY SING FROM OUR MUSIC SPECIALIST, "BANJO BILL" GORDH

Traditional Folksongs (and Guthrie tunes) and some stories too! from Around the World

It's Monday. There will be two times on this Monday (at 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM) that wherever you are in the school you will hear singing from the classrooms, and everyone singing the same song. Perhaps:

*Love is something if you give it away
Give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away
You'll end up having more.*

-Malvina Reynolds

We sing together though we're apart. This is an important thing to do. The children know that everyone at school is singing. They all watch a man who plays the banjo and sings with them and greets them and they can feel that he knows and cares about them and their school. It is just for them. Singing makes community.

What can we do to further this feeling of community? Before this year we gathered together all in the same room and after an opening sing-along I would sing/chant, "Hello 2-A!" and everyone would echo "Hello 2-A." and I would add, "How are you today?", and everyone would echo "How are you today?" and 2-A would call out, "Good!" or give a thumbs-up or as a joke say, "BAD!!". We then sang/chanted to 2-B, 3-A, 3-B, 4-A and 4-B. This acknowledges each individual group and brings us all together. Then we sing more songs. After a couple of sing-alongs we include a song that uses children's ideas on the spot to add to the lyrics. So we might sing "Bought Me a Cat" and incorporate the children's suggestions of additional animals to buy and the sounds they make. We might sing Tom Paxton's "Going to the Zoo" and ask for zoo animals and what we might see them doing and create verses to go with those ideas. Or we sing the old folk song "What Shall We Do When We All Go Out?" and collect children's ideas for places to go and what we might do at each place and sing that. So it is singing in the present with all of us together. So now we return to the question posed at the beginning of this paragraph about the 2020/2021 school year: "How can we design the singing time to strengthen the community of the school while in separate classrooms?"



It is important that the gathering is more than the singing of songs, that their ideas are incorporated into our time together. To continue this notion, what we have done this year is to collect ideas from each class ahead of time. So when we come to "Bought me a Cat" on the play list, I can both acknowledge whose idea it is and we can sing it, so each room hears their idea in the song sung. For "What Shall We Do When We All Go Out?" since going out was not always an option this year, we changed the song's question to "What Shall We Do When We Play Today?" so that at home and in-class activities are included in the answers. I took Woody Guthrie's Car Song and added a story to it, with a broken car horn that needs to be replaced. The garage person is a joker and puts a duck in the car horn and so the car horn goes, "Quack-Quack!" This year each class contributes an animal for the car horn. Three groups chose a dog so I get to make a joke of how they keep putting dogs in the horn. To add to the wackiness, there's also a monkey, an elephant and a cow. We sing together.

It has always been a Community Sing - It still is!





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/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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Isha Gosalia : Co-Chair | Content
Adam Abrahams: Co-Chair | Design
Bok Rivera: 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!