

September  
in the  
Outdoor Classroom

All Saints School's Outdoor Classroom is a very special place where our 'little saints' are invited to explore and make discoveries in the most ideal setting. The children's learning is more effective because they have the freedom to make choices, explore, discover, be problem solvers, use language, and be creative as they manipulate the 'loose parts.' In creating a safe, secure, and accepting environment and by being present and fostering powerful interactions, we build emotionally secure relationships with our students. These positive relationships become the working model for all future relationships and will positively affect their academic achievement.

The learning centers enabled the children to learn joyfully as they played. We observed our friends caring for the baby dolls. Cooking, feeding, bathing, diapering, dressing, strolling and playing with the baby dolls fostered nurturing skills. While prepping the food, our friends worked on fractions as they sliced the food from a whole to its parts. Designing an elaborate train track with friends required planning and team work. Creating a 'muddy pond' for the ducks to swim promoted a healthier immune system. Playing in the Sensory Table's Apparatus and its medium of real sand with sea shells was very relaxing or adventurous. While grasping the sand and inserting it into the apparatus that worked like a sifter, we heard a child say, "It's a sand storm." The pretend shelters with circular cutouts enabled the children to choose ways for entering and exiting. They really enjoyed crawling in and out of the pretend windows but mostly, popping in and out of the sunroof.

Love makes the world go around and it also shapes the development of the brain. Relationships between parents/caregivers and infants is a child's earliest social environment and it leaves an indelible impact on a young life. We encourage you to view the documentary, *The Beginning of Life, The Series* (2016) on Netflix.

