



play around the world

PAW PRINTS

December 2016

2017 PAW Team

Thailand

Hayley Kaczanowski
Hannah Schulte
Emily Elkins
Kiersten Jackman

Peru

Monique MacFarlane
Jorell Mendoza
Zianna Esmail
Alyssa Montefresco

Cambodia

Brady Hughues
Joanne Walczak
Brooke Bablitz
Shelby Bussiere
Morgan Weir

Canada North

Sonora Bohauchuk
Azadeh Abdolrazaghi



2017 PAW Leaders



2017

The 2017 PAW Leaders

Peru – Svetlana Olimpiev
Thailand – Tracy Simon
Cambodia – Erica
VanKuppeveld
NWT – Joel Johnston

25 Things I Learned While in Cambodia

Meg Casault



1. Unconditional love can come from complete strangers.
2. The best children are those who are unpoiled.
3. Lice is *not* actually that gross, but getting rid of it is nightmare.
4. Sweet and sour pork from Asian Spice café is the most delicious thing you will ever eat.
5. Coffee is actually pretty good.
6. Coffee is even better when the ratio of condensed milk to coffee is 100:1.
7. You can survive off of street food. But the meat is still questionable.
8. You *will* get Traveller's Diarrhea. Probably more than once.
9. Your roommates will grow accustomed to you discussing your body systems on a regular basis.
10. Successfully crossing the street results in similar feelings to winning the lottery. It is the greatest adrenaline rush there is.
11. Sexism in the sporting world is still a clear and major issue.
12. It is possible to work and live with 3 other people without yelling at each other even once.
13. Mangos go out of season extremely quickly - get them while you can!
14. Cherries cost \$25.00. Who buys \$25 cherries in a developing country?
15. Cambodian children are the cutest things in the whole world.
16. You can do a lot with very little.
17. You can become a monk for 15 days.
18. Whole wheat bread is hard to find in Cambodia. So is protein.
19. Rice is not hard to find.
20. Children can find the best uses for the most useless of things.
21. Cambodian children are tough.
22. Khmer dancing involves a lot of knee flexibility.
23. Sometimes free play is the best kind of play.
24. I am strong. I am independent.
25. Everyone should experience Play Around the World.



Space to Play

Alex Kirincic

At one of our play locations this past summer in Cambodia, my team and I encountered a unique challenge while ensuring the Child's Right to Play, specifically in terms of space.

We went early one day to meet with John and check it out. I think this meeting was somewhat of a pivotal point in the way that we viewed our work and the possibilities at People's Improvement Organization (PIO). Some of the challenges in terms of space and facilities given to our team for play space had changed drastically since the previous year and the play opportunities the 2015 team was able to provide. When I scrolled through some leftover pictures from last year's team on the PAW laptop, I was shocked by the look of the field at PIO. The landfill area that we worked at with heaps of garbage, glass, old clothes, and various rotting items was only recognizable in the pictures due to the hill behind it. Last year the field was covered in sand. It had a fence around it creating a designated play area. There were soccer nets and most importantly there was a netted tarp for shade. I thought of how devastating it would be for last year's team to look at pictures of what happened to the beautiful field in just one year. How tragic it is for the children to have lost this area. A play space that used to be safe, comfortable, and practical is now literally a dump.

This dump posed many challenges for our team when it came to facilitating play. Without the fence, we no longer had a confined designated area. This posed a challenge when trying to get the children's attention or round them up for a game. The kindergarteners in particular liked to run up the hill. The hill, as we've been told, has higher methane emissions at the top, which create small fires every so often. Because we normally had around 90 students, keeping them all active and occupied at the bottom of the hill proved to be difficult.





Space to Play Cont...

"Eliminating hazards, while maintaining risk" is a quote I thought about a lot while working at PIO. As the kids play on the landfill, more and more garbage begins to poke out. We told the students to put on shoes before coming out but there were always a few kids who came out barefoot. I'm not sure if they didn't have shoes or if the shoes they had were not shoes that they wanted to play in. Many of the children wore flip flops or slip on shoes that inhibited their running or flew off when they kicked a ball, leaving them vulnerable to stepping on glass or other sharp objects on the field. Where is the line drawn here between risk and hazard? It's a regular occurrence that kids came up with cuts on their feet or shins and knees from falling. The kids in Cambodia were tough though and there were no serious injuries. They got so excited to play outside that it made it all seem as though the risk was worth it. To add to the poor field conditions, the heat posed another risk, pushing the play days further towards the side of hazard with temperatures reaching 44 degrees Celsius. There was little to no wind and the hot sun was uncomfortable on its own, never mind doing physical activity. After 15-20 minutes children began to get disengaged with the activity and retreated to big concrete cylinders on the side of the field for shade. We tried to have low movement games to minimize the exhaustion like Red Rover where only one kid runs at a time. We also made an effort to split our big groups into two, having only half outside for 20 minutes and then switching so the other half could play outside. The challenge with this was the indoor space. The small front room with a raised stage on one half was the indoor area we could use unless it was being used for another purpose.

Space proved to be one of our greatest challenges at PIO and with so many children eager to play, it was difficult to program for their needs. We learnt through trial and error what type of games and play were feasible in the space and fit with the interests of the students as well as the needs of the school. Our team became more creative and resourceful as the weeks went on and managed to provide for the children's play.



“Eliminating hazards, while maintaining risk”

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Billy Strean 780-436-5541
billy@billystrean.com

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Alex Kirincic, Royle Harris Award Recipient

Royle Harris Play Around the World Award Recipient 2016

The award is presented annually to a student with satisfactory academic standing who was a participant in the Play Around the World Program in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. The recipient is selected on the basis of their academic standing and has demonstrated effort in working effectively with individuals and groups in adapted physical activity settings, working collaboratively and effectively within a team initiative, showing compassion, respect for diversity, and dedication to adapted physical education and therapeutic recreation.

Congratulations to Alex Kirincic!

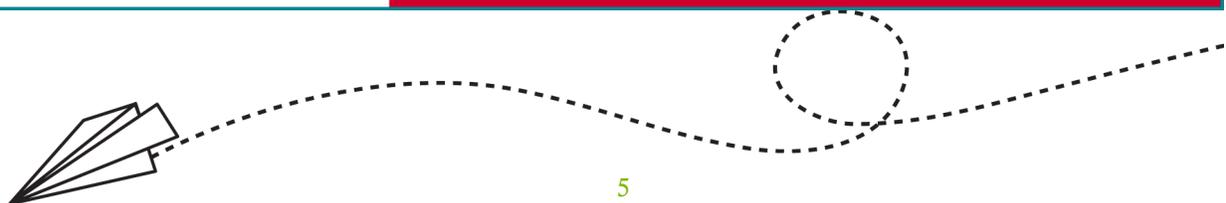
International Play Association (IPA) Conference 2017

International Play Association (IPA)
The International Play Association, promoting the Child's Right to Play, with members in nearly 60 countries, has been working for more than 50 years to secure every child's right to play and promote healthy, high-quality play opportunities and environments. The IPA Canadian Chapter is proud to be partnering with the City of Calgary to host the next conference which

has not been in Canada since the late seventies. The IPA Triennial World Conference brings together dedicated play researchers, practitioners and advocates from around the world to celebrate play, understand its many benefits and provide all children with the chance to engage in rich, meaningful, free play... every day. Plan to attend!

PAW Alumni - If you will be there on Saturday Sept. 16th please contact Mary Ann Rintoul to hear about the potential to facilitate play at the final public Play Event. Email Mary Ann at mrintoul@ualberta.ca

	<p>The International Play Association is Unleashing the Power of Play at the 20th IPA Triennial World Conference.</p> <p>September 13-16, 2017 Calgary, Alberta, Canada</p> <p>Canada2017.ipaworld.org</p>
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Past PAW, Where are they now?

Britt Voaklander, PAW 2015,
Fort Providence, NWT

It has been a year and four months since I was in Fort Providence as part of the Play Around the World team north 2015. Time has flown by since I was there playing, and my memories often hit me at the most random times of the day. Before I went to Fort Providence I was very nervous as it had been a while since I had engaged with children on a regular basis, and due to the size of Fort Providence I was very concerned that the children would not take to me. My concerns were unfounded and every day as I got to know them better, my nerves decreased allowing me to participate more naturally in play and sports.

At the University of Alberta, I did a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology with an embedded certificate in Aboriginal Sport and Recreation. One of the main reasons that I had applied to PAW for my practicum was because it would allow me to get experience engaging with an Aboriginal community in recreation. I am forever grateful that I was able to spend three months in Fort Providence as it allowed me to put the learning that I received through the certificate program into a practical context. For example, much of what is discussed when working with Aboriginal communities is the importance of building relationships with community members and working collaboratively.

Fort Providence is a vibrant community full of culture and exceptionally kind people. I was inspired by the Deh Gah school and how hard they worked for their students. While I was there we were able to assist with a Canoe trip down the Deh Cho (McKenzie River), with youth as part of the Keepers program.

I think about this trip often for many reasons, including how humbling it is to paddle on such a large and untouched river and how different the youth were when they were away from the community. I also learned that if you want to form strong relationships with youth and people in general it is the best place to do it.

Aboriginal people in Canada are still very much feeling the effects that the continuous processes of colonialism and intergenerational trauma have had. Though it was not a purpose of the time that I spent in Fort Providence it was something that I was constantly aware of. It is difficult to reconcile my experience in Providence because on one hand you have a community that has so many great things happening, but along within it there lingering issues because of Canada's history that continue to effect the children and youth within Fort Providence.



cont.

Play Days

Alumni Playday

Sun shining, wind blowing, and communities gathering, made for an exceptional day of fun and PLAY at the University of Alberta's Alumni weekend! The event was held at the Universities campus on Saturday, September 24th, 2016. Our play leaders showed up to the event with big dreams of providing kids with the space and means to build and create in whichever direction their imagination would take them. To facilitate this vision our FUNtastic team of volunteers created a boxes station for kids and their families to explore. The station included all of the most necessary of ingredients to build great things. Boxes, paint, string, soap, scissors, markers, loose paper, glitter, to name a few tools, and oh so much more! Boxes stations are always a favorite of children and volunteers alike. This play day was a massive success, which was only made possible by all those whom took the time out of their day to come join us for a little play. Thank you to Joel Johnston, Anna Woodman, Lauren Turner, Svetlana Olimpiev, Jamie Cassie, Tracy Simon, Morgan McKinney and Taylor Seal.



Currently, I am working for the Metis Nation of Alberta as the Health, Children, and Youth Research Assistant. I started to develop my interest in Aboriginal health in my second year, and PAW provided me the opportunity to gain a different perspective on the health of children and youth. As part of my job, I was able to assist with a youth conference that we were hosting and was able to utilize some of the principles that PAW taught me. One of these is following the children's lead, in my work with youth at the MNA youth conference I was able to extrapolate this to empower the voices of the Metis youth in Alberta.

I am very thankful for all the experiences that PAW provided to grow in my interest and understanding of Aboriginal health in Canada. I am sure as I continue on in my journey I will come to realize other ways that PAW has impacted me. Lastly, I just want to share how privileged I feel about my entire experience, being given the chance to engage with such amazing students and passionate program leaders will leave a lasting impression on me as I tackle different projects and journeys.



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Thanksgiving Turkey Express Train

On October 8, 2016 Play Around the World joined Millwoods Town Centre to celebrate Thanksgiving. Children and families were invited to join us in building and creating right in the middle of the mall. We built the Turkey Train Express along with other crafts and were lucky enough to be joined by Toy Story's Woody and Jesse. We ended the play with a parade of our train car creations around the mall, complete with an engine and conductor! A special thank you to the Mill Woods Town Centre volunteers and to all the children and families that came out to play! Thank you to Rob Spindler, Jaime Little, Joel Johnston and Ryan Kuefler for volunteering.



National Child Day

Play Around the World was thrilled to be invited back to support National Child Day on November 20th, 2016 at the Jamie Platz YMCA. Our first time play animators were shown the ropes by the most qualified play experts: the kids! It was an exciting day because we had the pleasure of creating with giant cardboard boxes leftover from new appliances. They created things from big to small from small handheld puzzles and kites to cardboard fridge box homes and caves. Seeing the children modeling belonging by creating spaces and objects together and inviting one another to join in their play was a wonderful way to celebrate this year's them of the child's right to belong! Thank you to Taylor Seal, Yana, Sharmayne and Tracy Simon.



Current PAW Committee Members

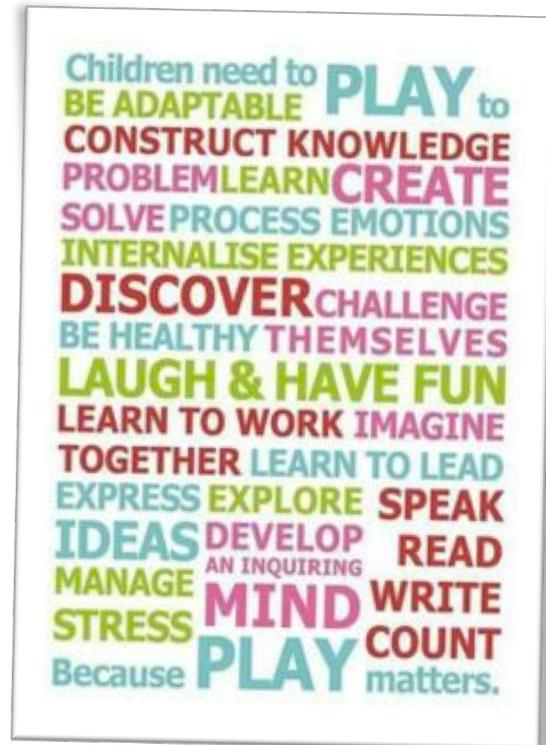
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Christine Ma
Gord Stewart
Colleen Mooney
Kirsten Gamblin
Mary Ann Rintoul
Royal Harris
Susan Green
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Katrina Maximchuk

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Program Coordinator– Heather Crowe
Community Connections – Anthony Bourque
Advisory Liaison – Kirsten Gamblin
Budget Coordinator – Jane Erdmann
Fundraising – Tracy Simon
Leadership – Jacquie Kingston
Play Day Liaison – Taylor Seal & Meghan Klettke
Members at Large – Joel Johnston & Nicole Farmer

“ Children’s play belongs to children; adults should tread lightly when considering their responsibilities in this regard, being careful not to colonize or destroy children’s own places for play through intensive planning or pursuing of other adult agendas”
– Lester and Russell (2010)



For more information contact:

Mary Ann Rintoul, Program Director

Call: 780-492-9621 or email:
mrintoul@ualberta.ca

Heather Crowe, Program Coordinator

Email: hcraig@ualberta.ca

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