

Everything you need to know about Beforever

Doll MAG

September/October 2014

fun crafts and
ideas for
Halloween

Revisit
*Hopscotch
Hill School*

Shop our
BACK TO
SCHOOL
Style Guide

PLUS!
Read our
interview with
Caroline!

PUMPKIN
FOR SALE





Caroline looks stunning in this Robert Papp portrait! Her interview can be found on page 8.

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September/October 2014 Contents

Meet a Reader: Meghna and Amber

Each month, we ask our readers to answer a set of questions for their doll for the chance to be featured in the upcoming issue. This month's winner is Meghna and her doll, Amber!

DM: What's your goal for the school year?

A: I want to get straight A's in Math this year. It's one of my weaker subjects, but I'm sure I can surprise myself with good grades if I focus!

DM: What's your favorite book?

A: That's a hard one! I love all books, but I guess I would have to choose one, I would choose Harry Potter! It's magical and keeps you on the edge till the last page!

DM: Your yearbook superlative would say...

A: Most Likely to Become the Next Shakespeare

Letter From the

Editors

**Doll Mag September/
October 2014 Volume 4,
Issue 2**

Editors: Bella and Lulu
In-Field Reporter: Lulu
Art Director: Bella
**Communications
Director:** Bella
Social Media Guru: Lulu
Special thanks to...
Interviewee Jaclynn

Want to contribute?
Please contact us
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On the Cover

Josefina looks as cute as can be as she searches for the best pumpkin! She wears pieces from the Bitty Baby Harvest Plaid Set {2003} and Saige's Sweater Outfit {2013}. Her boots are the Cozy Casual Boots from 2010.



Love the Earth!

Read this online instead of printing it out.

Dear Readers,

After weeks of sleeping in, spending time outside, taking plenty of fun trips, and eating *lots* of ice cream*, **going back to school can feel like such a chore!** However, by taking time to appreciate all of the little, yet exciting, things that this time of year brings, you'll quickly realize that autumn isn't all that bad. We, for example, can't wait to bake delicious recipes with fresh apples {see page 6}, pick the best Halloween costume {flip to page 14}, and celebrate with cake on Lulu's birthday {look to page 18}. While you may not get as giddy as we do over new school supplies or the changing of the leaves, the two of us have little doubt that **you'll find something to look forward to this fall, if not the next few months!** Let's make this school year one to remember, shall we?

xo,

Bella and **LULU**

*Ice cream is acceptable year-round, of course ☺

Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, Goldfish or pretzels, apples, one of Bella's cookies, and a juice bag!

-Lulu, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Salad with chicken, strawberries, and goat cheese; snack bag of popcorn; apples with cinnamon; and water.

-Bella, Co-Editor-in-Chief

What is your typical
**BROWN BAG
LUNCH?**

NEXT ISSUE'S QUESTION: What are you most grateful for?

Bella's blog >> chicandpetite.wordpress.com | Lulu's blog >> theawesomeadventuresoflulu.wordpress.com
Email >> dollmagblog@gmail.com | Site >> thedollmag.wordpress.com | Pinterest >> <http://www.pinterest.com/dollmag/>

BITS & PIECES

A peek behind the scenes in the doll and Doll Mag world!

Shop Owner Spotlight

Shop Owner: Jaclynn // Shop: Bitty Beanies {Etsy} // Site: <http://littlehouseofamericangirl.com>



What inspired you to start your shop?

My mom taught me to crochet and when she saw that my products were of great quality, she encouraged me to start selling what I made, so I could earn money doing what I love :)

How do you come up with the ideas for your outfits?

Most of my outfits are costumes, so I get my inspiration

by looking at pictures of the Disney Princess dress I'm making. However, all of my pirate costumes are inspired from movies and then my own imagination, which is super fun!



FUN FIND OF THE MONTH!

Fans of *The Aristocats* movie – like Lulu {see more on page 18!} – will take pleasure in this food set's nod to the film's iconic kitty: Marie!

Aristocats Marie Cupcake and Cookies from Stacey Morgan Studios on Etsy, \$11.75

doll mag birthdays this issue

- Model Hannah / September 7th
- EAH Doll Grace / September 9th
- AG Doll Emily / September 29th
- AG Doll Saige / October 8th
- Editor Lulu / October 9th
- Model Gabby / October 9th
- Model Louisa / October 10th
- AG Doll Nellie / October 15th
- AG Doll Caroline / October 22nd



On the Doll Mag Website

You can find these and much more on the Doll Mag website this month! *The following posts will appear throughout September and October, so please be patient!*

- Update an old pair of jeans with a simple craft!
- Your Bitty Twins will look adorable with our mini hairstyles.
- Need outfit inspiration – and fast? Browse our stylish new features for help!

Double Dutch

One hair technique to master this fall? Dutch styling! Although the end results look complicated, working “Dutch” is quite simple. Also known as styling in reverse or inside out, the Dutch braid - and some more complicated styles - will instantly upgrade your autumn wardrobe.

Dutch Braid

1. Take three sections of hair from the top of your doll's head. Cross the right strand under the center strand. Cross the left strand under the new center strand. Repeat once.
2. Now, cross the right strand under the center strand again, taking a small section of hair from the right side as you cross.
3. Do the same as you cross the left strand under the center strand.
4. Continue this pattern until all of the hair has been added to the braid. Braid the rest of the way down, going under rather than over, and secure.



Dutch Fish Tail

1. Pull hair back into a high pony.
2. Divide pony into two sections, holding one in each hand.
3. Take a small strand of hair from the outside of one section and cross it *behind* to the other section.
4. Repeat on the other side, and continue until the bottom. Secure.



Dutch Braid Pony

1. Take a small section of hair from one side of your doll's part. Divide into three sections, and begin a Dutch braid.
2. Stop Dutch braiding when you reach your doll's ear and braid as normal. Repeat on the other side.
3. Secure the two braids together, brushing them out into a pony.



apples GALORE

Apples are a famous fall favorite! Fulfill your "apple a day" requirements by whipping up one of these recipes: a healthy snack or a tasty treat.

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY BELLA

apple white chocolate scones

Mix together the flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, and cinnamon. Work in the butter with your a pastry cutter, so that the dough looks like coarse crumbs. Whisk in the eggs and applesauce, then stir in the apples and chocolate. If your dough is not sticking together, add in $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of water to help! Flour a baking sheet. Place the dough on top, and roll it into one large circle, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. Cut into wedges with a sharp knife. Let the scones chill for thirty minutes in the fridge. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Bake for 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

INSPIRED BY KING ARTHUR FLOUR



peanut butter yogurt dip

Combine $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of vanilla Greek yogurt or plain yogurt, 1 tablespoon chocolate peanut butter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons maple syrup, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of cinnamon. Serve with apples; store unused portion in the fridge.

INSPIRED BY FITSUGAR

INGREDIENTS

- $2\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped apple in $\frac{1}{4}$ " pieces
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup white chocolate chips
- 2 eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup applesauce



FRIGHT night

Halloween is a holiday of WITCHES, GHOSTS, GOBLINS, and, of course, CANDY! Honor the spooky night with these creepy, but creative, crafts.



T-SHIRT

- Download the free [t-shirt template](#) on the Doll Mag website.
- Using the template, cut out the coordinating pieces from [felt](#).
- Glue the pieces to a [white shirt](#) with [hot glue](#) or [fabric glue](#).



PILLOWCASE

- Loosely trace with [marker](#) your doll's [pillow](#) on an [orange sheet of felt](#) and a [light purple sheet of felt](#) {Don't put your marker too close to the pillow; you will want extra fabric}.
- Cut out your felt shapes, as well any details that you want to put on the front of the pillowcase. We, for example, spelled "Boo."
- Sew your details onto the orange piece of felt with [matching embroidery thread](#).
- Sew your two felt sheets together, but inside out so that the stitching doesn't show.
- Reverse your pillowcase and slip it onto your doll's pillow.



TREAT BAGS

- Download the free [treat bag template](#) on the Doll Mag website.
- Using the template, trace and cut the pieces from [glitter scrapbook paper](#).
- Glue the pieces to [mini treat bags](#), adding any other detail with [marker](#).

WRITTEN BY LULU · MODELED BY LOUISA · FORMATTED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELLA

Smooth Sailing



Caroline Abbott is bold, brave, and adventurous, so it's no wonder that she is one of American Girl's most popular dolls! Here's what this daring girl had to say in our exclusive interview...

Written by Lulu • Formatted by Bella • Picture from AG

Did you know?

Caroline's father built her a skiff called "Miss Caroline!"

Caroline is very good at reading people's expressions.

Caroline was born in a log cabin.



DM: We know you love living in Sacket's Harbor! What are some of your favorite things to do there?

I love going sailing throughout the summer on Lake Ontario, and I also enjoy fishing. During the winter, I love going ice skating. Everyone's saying I'm getting pretty good at it too!

DM: What do you do when you're not out on the water?

I like sewing and embroidery, but there's plenty of chores I have to do around the house too. I help my mother and grandmother with the baking and cooking (although I'm not very good at it!), and I spend a lot of time at my father's shipyard.

DM: Speaking of your father, what's your relationship like with him?

He's my role model; we're both so proud of one another! He also teaches me lots about sailing and being brave and strong.

DM: You have a great friendship with your cousin Lydia; what do you two do together?

Lydia and I are both friends with Rhonda, a girl who lodges with my family. Even though they're both older than me, we still find things to do together. Some of our favorite things to do are playing with my cat Inkpot, ice skating, and sailing, of course! Once I even stayed at Lydia's farm for a while and helped her tend to the animals.

DM: You want to be the captain of your own ship one day. How exciting! We would love to know what your favorite part of sailing is.

I just love the feeling when the wind picks up and the boat moves swiftly across the water! It makes me feel like I can do anything ♥



DOLL MAG'S



BZS

style[@] guide

Back-to-school shopping is one of the best things about heading to the classroom again in the fall, so treat your doll to a new wardrobe too! Her first day of school outfit will be all smiles and no stress when you shop with our guide in hand. From classic denim to stylish bags, she'll be the best dressed through Halloween.



BY BELLA & LULU / PHOTOS FROM RESPECTIVE SHOP OWNERS / BACKGROUND FROM MISS TIINA

TOP OF THE CLASS

Today's Lesson

How to rock the coolest of graphic tees this school year!

Peek-A-Boo!

Let your small, but cute graphic peek through the opening of a pretty sweater.



Lost in a Jungle



Liberty Jane



Janie Jumps

From Echo with Love



Lori Liz Girls and Dolls



Aunt Katy Clothing

IN THE BAG



Don't Forget!

Bring your best art supplies and most fashionable bag to tomorrow's art class!

- Pink Medallion Print Backpack from If Dolls Could Dream
- Denim Cupcake backpack from Lily Bee Bug
- Fox and Owl Backpack from Camelot's Treasures



Mon Chat Dans La Lune



Val's Unique Boutique

A+ Embellishments

Add some charm to your doll's outfit with details that make the grade. These patches are a great example!



Janie Jumps



Closet 4 Chloe

DENIM FILES

Tonight's Homework:
Wear stylish denim pieces with plenty of cute accessories!

Patterns + Textures

Combine a variety of contrasting fabrics and colors to create loads of visual interest.

RAISE THE SALE



Come Join!

Only the most savvy of shoppers know where to score the best deals on Etsy.



- \$6 Floral Pocket Tee from The Elegant Doll
- \$10 Purple Hoodie from Cutie Pie and Me
- \$15 Plaid Outfit from My Dressed Up Doll
- \$18 Gray Tunic Outfit from Circle C Sewing
- \$20 Pink Sweater outfit from Quest 4 Craft
- \$15.50 Lace Jacket from MZ Doll Designs

what's your perfect costume for

HALLOWEEN!

It's time for Halloween! Take our fun quiz to discover which costume is the right one for you, whether it's an adorable witch or a soccer star.

You can be found at recess....

- a) Creating colorful chalk masterpieces.
- b) Soaring high into the air on a swing.
- c) Performing a gymnastic routine for your friends.
- d) In the middle of an intense game of tag.

Your favorite part of Halloween is....

- a) Decorating your walls with fake spider webs and streamers.
- b) Trick-or-treating, of course!
- c) Having a spooky dance party with your best buds.
- d) Running through haunted houses... in the dark!

Your bedroom walls are covered in...

- a) Paintings and sketches you made in art class.
- b) Photos of you, your family, and your friends.
- c) Fashion pages your ripped out from magazines.
- d) Mini basketball nets

Which afterschool club would you sign up for?

- a) Yearbook
- b) Student Council
- c) Drama
- d) Track

Your favorite sweet treats are...

- a) Cupcakes! They're so fun to decorate.
- b) Chocolate chip cookies, a classic.
- c) Ice Cream! What else?
- d) Yummy lemon bars

If you were part of a play, what would your job be?

- a) Set designer
- b) Director
- c) The star
- d) Stage manager

Your favorite book genre is...

- a) Fantasy
- b) Realistic fiction
- c) Mystery
- d) Non-fiction



Mostly A
Artist



Mostly B
Witch



Mostly C
Movie Star



Mostly D
Athlete

together forever

For some American Girl fans, Beforever is a collection that brings refreshing light to the historical dolls. For others, it's a goodbye to an era they didn't want to go. Here's everything you need to know about AG's newest line! BY BELLA AND LULU

welcome back *samantha!*

Everyone was anticipating the return of Samantha Parkington from the archives for the Beforever revamp. With her big return came an all new collection filled with outfits, accessories, and even furniture sets that have sparked lots of new interest.



Samantha's Holiday Set

Samantha's Bicycle



Samantha Doll and Accessories

BLAST from the PAST

Not only did the Beforever dolls' books get compiled into two larger volumes, they also received a new book set in their time where the reader can interact with their favorite characters. Head to 1904 with Samantha, or to the 30's with Kit! The ending can change every time you read, depending on the choices the reader makes throughout the story.



meet the *mini dolls*

AG didn't forget about the little people! The historical mini dolls also got new outfits, face molds, and now have all vinyl bodies. Do you think they're tiny-rrific?



Photos from American Girl



what do
doll mag fans
think of
BEFOREVER?

65

READERS
participated.
thank you!



I am *in support* of
BEFOREVER because...

“ I think that the historical line has been due for a bit of a facelift for awhile.

I think it it great that AG is focusing on getting girls more interested in history.

I love the idea of having a time-travel series of books!

I don't like the big changes American Girl is making and would rather have things remain as they are.

THEY ARE BECOMING MORE EXPENSIVE.

I do not like the new book cover illustrations, [and] I don't like the change of six individual books to the six books in two volumes.

Doing this re-vamp will increase the sales and maybe interest more and/or different girls to the American Girl collection.

I've felt that the historicals have been neglected for a long time.

I AM EXCITED THAT THEY [BROUGHT] BACK SAMANTHA.

I am *not in support* of
BEFOREVER because...

I am not a big fan of the new story formats; time travel... really?”

I just feel that Mattel is trying to make the historical line “more appealing” to the target audience since the moddies have been selling better.

They are retiring all of the friends.



SCHOOL FOR GOOD AND EVIL



CHUCK

HAPPY
biRthDay

MARIE FROM THE ARISTOCATS



LULU!
BANNER FROM FREEPIK.COM



5
PINE - APPLES

It's a special day this October for an extraordinary doll mag editor! We're celebrating her birthday by sharing what she loves most. BY BELLA



WICKED: THE MUSICAL



4 PURPLE PANDAS



Be sure to stop by the Doll Mag blog to wish Lulu a happy birthday on October 9th!

Happy Birthday Lulu! 18

life in the DOLLHOUSE

By Bella

Working with miniatures is a fun way to explore a different level of doll play! Here, we share our best steps to going small.



Bella made this **mini schoolhouse** at an art camp in 2013!

1. Buy the home: Whether you are refurbishing your childhood dollhouse or building a base from scratch {cardboard walls and a scrap wood floor, for example}, make sure **the space is easy to access from at least one angle.**



While the typical dollhouse scale is **around 1:12**, they can be as small as 1:48 or as big as 1:3 for AG dolls!

2. Furnish the walls: Like a real home, dollhouse walls can be painted in a colorful or neutral palette or covered in "wallpaper," also known as scrapbook paper. Creative types might even want to paint a bright mural!

3. Shop for furniture: Building your own mini furniture is easier than you may think! Use of cardboard or balsa wood {with the help of a hot glue gun} makes crafting a tiny desk or shelf a breeze.

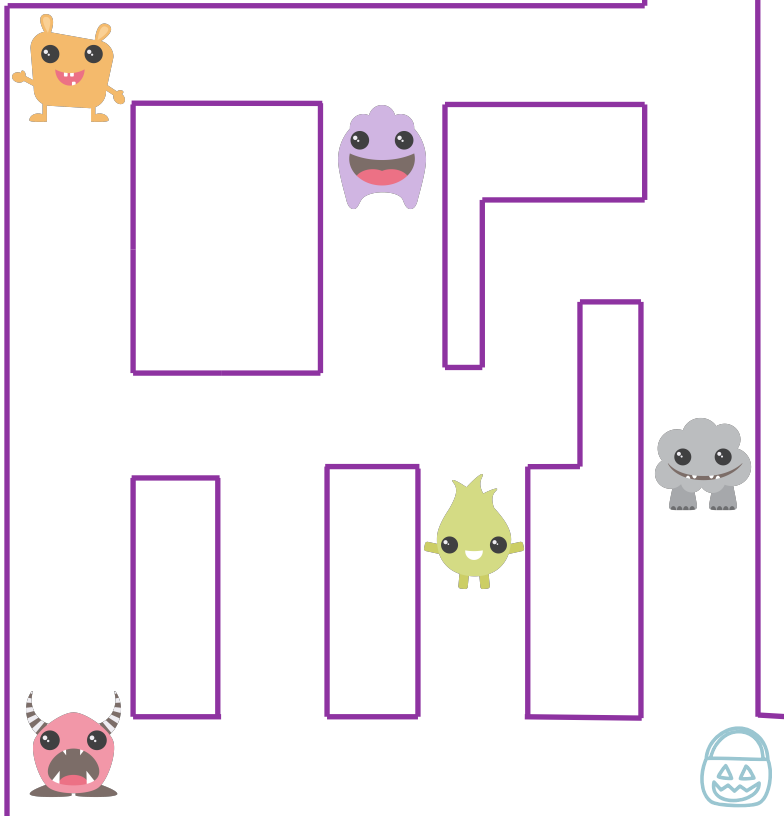
4. Decorate like crazy: One of the best parts of working with miniatures is the accessories! Be on the lookout at craft stores for small scale items; your home is a terrific source as well for little pieces to convert.

*** Most importantly, have fun! It can be easy to get frustrated when working on such a small scale, but the final product is entirely worth it.**

DOLL FUN AND GAMES

September and October can be loads of fun, especially when you try out our new activities below: a maze fit for Halloween and a school matching game!

By Lulu / Photos from American Girl Wiki / Clipart from That Girl Designs



Work your way through this **SPOOPY MAZE** to help the trick-or-treaters find the candy! Watch out for monsters though - you can't move past them.



TO PLAY: Match up each historical character with the school supplies from her time period. Check your answers below!

ANSWERS: 1D, 2A, 3C, 4B

at Hopscotch Hill

by lulu & bella; miss sparks and razzi images by joy allen

Meet the Kids...

Avery

Avery is kind and a great listener. She's just the person to go to when you need help working out a problem.

Conner

Organized Conner is a great leader and is always on top of his projects. He's great at coming up with games to play at recess.

Delaney

Delaney loves to dance and perform for her friends! Whenever she gets the chance to be in the spotlight, she's ready with her purple tutu.

Gwen

Gwen is a sports star at Hopscotch Hill! She always puts 100% into a game, and she is sure to encourage her teammates no matter what.

Hallie

Hallie is a sweet, hard-working girl who loves pretty things! She also knows that even when things get challenging, you can't give up.

Lindy

Lindy is always coming up with new ideas to share with her friends! Her creativity shines when she's able to complete her latest project.

Logan

Animal loving Logan is always up for an adventure! She loves taking care of the class pet Razzi, and she spends lots of time outdoors.

Nathan

Nathan is imaginative and happy to swoop in to help his classmates whenever they're in a sticky situation.

Skylar

Skylar is one of Hopscotch Hill's most talkative and entertaining students. She's charismatic and always has something to add to the conversation!

Spencer

Trickster Spencer is the class clown of Hopscotch Hill School! He can brighten anyone's day by putting a smile on their face.

Welcome to Hopscotch Hill!

Hopscotch Hill is an American Girl retired doll line marketed to 4 - 6 year olds. Although it was discontinued back in 2006, the line's dolls, stories, and lessons touch both doll collectors and fans. Hopscotch Hill centers around the children of Miss Sparks' second grade class and the lessons they learn from each other during their classroom adventures.

American Girl released a total of four Hopscotch Hill dolls, several furniture and accessory sets, and



a series of books written by the popular AG writer Valerie Tripp and illustrated by Joy Allen. AG no longer sells these items, but you

can find lots of them on secondhand sites.



You can't forget about Miss Sparks and Razzi!

In the November/December issue of

Doll Mag...

Easy as Pie

Your doll's Thanksgiving feast will be the envy of all with these easy and tasty-looking pies.



2014 GIFT GUIDE

Doll Mag's annual gift guide is back! From your budding sports star to your theatrical queen, we have a present for everyone on your list.



Friends to the end

While Marie-Grace and Cécile were archived with the Beforever launch, they still hold a dear place in the hearts of each other and AG fans alike. Catch up with these adorable friends in our interview!



Sweater Weather

Keeping stylish in the cold can be a tough challenge, but doll clothing sellers have got you covered for the winter season.