Once upon a time the New York Times had a children’s fashion magazine section. While most kids were bemoaning back-to-school, August Sundays found me anxiously ripping apart the paper, hoping to find buried treasure. I would pour over the pages for inspiration and then set to drawing long-legged creatures in plaid kilts and corduroy bell bottoms. It was this dog-eared insert that likely launched my career in fashion. Every season presented something fresh and new. These days, not so much. Maybe it’s because I’ve seen it all before, but it’s hard to get all fired up over midi skirts (it’s about time!) and motorcycle jackets. My lifestyle on the Shoreline doesn’t really call for outsized fake fur or head-to-toe chunky knits, two trends this fall. Although, I must say, the return of the culotte is slightly intriguing. Call me suburban, but I do get excited about a perfect legging and nothing beats a poncho for one-size-fits-all, throw-on chic! Read on for my picks.

The Perfect Legging at Ella

Folks flock to Ella Where She Shops for easy sportswear pieces, casual dresses and store manager Carol’s expert opinion. New this season at Ella is Prana, the well known yoga collection that can be sported as easily outside the studio as in. But what I liked best are these indispensable Lysse leggings. True, a legging isn’t the most exciting fashion item, but when you find a good one, buy two (see my Ten Shopping Tips here). What’s so great about these? Everything! The medium weight ponte knit...
Once upon a time the New York Times had a children’s fashion magazine section. While most kids were bemoaning back-to-school, August Sundays found me anxiously ripping apart the paper, hoping to find buried treasure. I would pour over the pages for inspiration and then set to drawing long-legged creatures in plaid kilts and fake fur or head-to-toe chunky knits, two trends this fall. It’s because I’ve seen it all before, but it’s hard to get all fired up over midi skirts (it’s about time!) and motorcycle jackets. It’s also not the most exciting fashion item, but when you find a good fake fur or head-to-toe chunky knit item to wear until winter coat season is upon us. Flutterby believes strongly in this trend, too, and has a decent selection to choose from. These babies by Wooden Ships are handknit in a soft (read non-itchy) mohair/acrylic blend. The colorblock poncho at $88, is a fall wardrobe builder and I love the drama of this cardigan with a fitted sleeve and slits up the side ($98). Say you saw it on the-e-list and take 20% off your purchase through 9/30.

www.flutterby-ct.com

Big, Bigger, Biggest at Flutterby
You’ll be seeing lots of capes, ponchos and oversize sweaters this season and I for one, am happy about it. Easy to layer, they make a great transitional item to wear until this trend, too, and has a decent selection to choose from. These babies by Wooden Ships are handknit in a soft (read non-itchy) mohair/acrylic blend. The colorblock poncho at $88, is a fall wardrobe builder and I love the drama of this cardigan with a fitted sleeve and slits up the side ($98). Say you saw it on the-e-list and take 20% off your purchase through 9/30.

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Cortland Park, 23 Main Street, Essex
While we were so sad to see Silkworm depart Essex, we were cheered up by Cortland Park, its fresh replacement. Owner Molly Soper knows her way around retail, with three other family-owned locations in this chainlet. But she lives here on the Shoreline, so it made perfect sense to bring her brand of easy outfitting to Main Street. The inventory is built around their own cashmere label, Cortland Park, offering shapes from classic crews to mini dresses and drapey, oversized cardigans. Some of my favorite lines fill in the gaps: tops and dresses by Susana Monaco, C.P. Shades perenniially popular tunics and leggings from Annie Griffin, all in all, a perfect assortment for mother/daughter shopping. If you’re in the market for a fall tote, the Annabell Ingall oversized (but

www.myellastore.com
lightweight) leather version is a standout. Molly envisions the white-washed shop as a lifestyle destination, offering everything from party dresses to hostess gifts and fresh flowers. Say you saw it on the-e-list and take 20% off one item of Cortland Park cashmere through 9/30.

www.cortlandparkcashmere.com

P.S. from Erica

We are loving Dara Artisans, a new website devoted to handcrafted goods from all over the world. Find home decor to accessories (and our very own Ann Lightfoot Jewelry!).

www.daraartisans.com


Find unbelievable buys on European and American designers at Astrid Couture’s September Sale. Read more…

Field House Farm in Madison hosts a series of field-to-farm, intimate dinners featuring the best local chefs. Read what I had to say here and find out more about upcoming dinners, here.

Find a trinket to a treasure at the Outdoor Antiques Show on the Madison Town Green, this Saturday. Read more…

Is your 2nd through 6th grader interested in Field Hockey? Sign them up for a Field Hockey Clinic at Polson Middle School in Madison. Read more…

Our events calendar is BURSTING with fall events, see more here.