GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Richard Marotta, *Ph. D., Headmaster*

Volume 94 Number: XVII **"Cultivating Success in Every Child"** **Friday, January 20, 2017**

Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster

Independent schools all share one important characteristic as schools and that is an intense level of parent involvement. Our schools, many of which were founded by teachers and parents, have built their long history of success with the ongoing support of their most important stakeholder groups: parents.

Throughout the course of our school's history, parents have contributed their time, money and talent to support and enhance the mission of the school on a daily basis. Whether through donations of funds, which always support and sustain the operating of the school, or through the donation of time, which also supports and sustain the life of the school, or by sharing their talents to add to the work being done, parents form a key center in the world of the school and perform key functions to enhance that life.

At Garden School, parents have traditionally supported the work of the school with projects directed at enhancing the daily life of the children: Holiday Boutique, Walkathon, Halloween parties and more, all add to the community of the school and enrich the life of the students. These events take an extraordinary amount of volunteer time and effort; yet they are worth it because of the wonderful effect each has on the communal and interactive experience that children benefit from at Garden.

Financial support has also always been a way in which parents have enriched the life of the school community. Tuition generally covers about 83-84% of the costs of running the school; all independent schools depend on the generosity of parents, alumni, friends, trustees and faculty to help fund the gap between tuition and expenses. Traditionally the largest donor group in any independent school is the parent body. Parents generally organize and execute the fundraising efforts for the school committee (chaired by a trustee). This model permeates the independent school world and has provided the necessary funds required to sustain and enhance school life. At Garden, unlike some other independent schools, we don't hold families to a particular annual contribution amount, but we do expect and count on 100% participation at whatever level feels most generous to a family.

Each member of a school community shares in the responsibility of supporting that school through work and donations. Our schools, the oldest and most successful schools in the United States and in many cases throughout the world, take their strength, their wisdom and their sustainability from our parents.

If you haven't already donated, or if you have been waiting for a call to share your energy and talent to support our children's education, consider this your invitation. Join us with your donation in support of our mission!

I look forward to seeing Garden parents at the General Assembly next Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 PM in the gym.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.

Headmaster

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Friday, January 20: Marking Period 2 Ends**
- **Friday, January 20: 6:30 PM PTA Movie Night "The Secret Life of Pets"!**
- **Thursday, January 26: General Assembly**
- **Friday, January 27: Report Cards Distributed**
- **Monday, January 30: Report Cards Returned**
- **Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24: School Closed for February Break**

Garden School General Assembly

Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 PM

Next Week!

On Thursday, January 26th at 7:00pm in the Auditorium, the Garden School Board of Trustees will be holding our annual General Assembly. The General Assembly is an important night each year for the Garden School Community, as it offers a chance to learn about the state of our school. I know that the Board hopes that many parents will join us to share in this night of information, planning for the future and good news about the current state of our school.

Communication within independent schools has always been and remains an important part of the culture. Sharing information and plans always enhances the level of participation for all members of a school community. Our schools, which are under the not-for-profit governance model, all have Boards of Trustees whose primary responsibilities include ensuring the fiscal stability and success of the school, of evaluating and supporting the Headmaster, and of engaging in long range strategic planning to guide the future of the school.

All of these elements of the culture of our school will be presented, discussed and explained. You will hear from each of the Board committees who will share their current work, their progress and their goals moving forward. And there will be time for questions.

> **Please come to the General Assembly on Thursday, January 26, at 7:00pm in the Auditorium and join us for an evening of ideas, facts and, of course, refreshments.**

Come Support your Griffin Teams!

Garden School I.S.A.L Varsity Girls Basketball Schedule 2016

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri	1/20	York Prep	HOME	3:45
Wed	2/1	BFS	Away	3:30

Garden School I.S.A.L Varsity Boys Basketball Schedule 2016

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri	1/20	York Prep	HOME	4:15
Tue	1/24	York Prep	Away	4:45

Garden School I.S.A.L Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Wed	1/25	BFS	HOME	4:30
Mon	1/30	FASNY	Home	5:15
Thur	2/2	Churchill	HOME	4:00

Garden School I.S.A.L Middle School Girls Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mon	1/23	BWL	HOME	4:00
Thur	1/26	Dwight	AWAY	4:45
Fri	1/27	LREI	HOME	3:30

Garden School I.S.A.L Middle School Boys Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Tue	1/24	York Prep	AWAY	3:45
Thur	1/26	Dwight	Away	3:45

Garden School PTA

Please join us this evening in the gym for a family night of fun…

Featuring: The Secret Life of Pets!

Pizza will be sold. Snacks will be provided.

We hope to see you then!!!

Please Support

Pennies for Patients!

Garden School students will be taking part in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Pennies for Patients program January 24-February 10.

During this program, students will collect money to support LLS's mission: to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

We have our own online giving page that students, parents, and faculty can share with friends and family: **http://events.lls.org/pages/nyc/Garden-School-2017**
Please go to Classroom and type in your grade to donate!

Thank you in advance for helping LLS to create a world without blood cancers!

For more information on the Pennies for Patients program, please visit
http://www.studentseries.org

Kylie, Age 4
Leukemia Survivor

Just two days before her second birthday, Kylie was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). She developed small red dots on her skin that started on her ears and spread down her body, and doctors found an extremely high white blood cell count in her blood panel. She continues to keep a smile on her face everyday. Thanks to LLS supporters like you, Kylie is 4 years old and cancer-free.

If you would like to donate, please fill out the form below.
The class with the most raised will win a Dominos pizza party!

_____
Name

_____
Grade/Teacher

☐ Cash
☐ Check

Amount Enclosed: _____

Pre-K For All Science

By: Yesenia Romero (PKFA Teacher)

“Learning about Every Day Transportation” is what our Pre-K for All children are engaged in. Transportation can move us on land, sea and in the air. We’ve been learning about cars, trucks, buses, trains, airplanes, boats, and our own feet. We talked about how vehicles are made and their similarities and differences.

Your child will also learn about a variety of vehicles and how they are used in everyday life. The children will name several different types of vehicles and realize that walking is also a form of transportation. We will talk about vehicle safety, especially the rules you must follow.

Our goal is to encourage children to make responsible choices for their own safety while walking or in any transportation vehicle. As you go outside, please continue to foster the concepts of this unit at home by talking about rules on the streets, safety, and traffic signs. Another thing is to practice is the “Stop, Look, and Listen" safety procedures when they come to a crossing. Helping children to identify pedestrian cross walks and lighted crossing signals will build their personal safety skills.

Enjoy your child as you explore the concepts of safety procedures in transportation.

Nursery Social Studies

By: **Carmela Augello-Knopf *(Nursery Head Teacher)***

The nursery have been enjoying our gingerbread unit and has been busy with many activities for the past two weeks.

We colored a gingerbread man and a girl. We painted a brown stenciled gingerbread figure and collage it with many different accessories. They're all hanging up in our classroom for all to see. We also used pom poms and cotton balls to collage a gingerbread house. In cooking, we decorated a gingerbread cookie using icing, cereal, candy bow ties and balls. On the Smartboard, we listen to some of the gingerbread stories. We also used a program to make a gingerbread boy or girl adding eyes, nose, button shapes and colors and then it sang the gingerbread song. Finally, we read many different versions of the gingerbread story, here are some: *The Gingerbread Man by Jim Aylesworth, The Gingerbread Girl by Lisa Campbell Ernest, Gingerbread Friends by Jan Brett, The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School by Laura Murray and The Gingerbread Girl goes Animal Crackers by Lisa Campbell Ernest*.

So run, run as fast as you can to the nursery classroom to see all our gingerbread collages!

Pre-K and Kindergrten Physical Education

By: Cherie Wangenstein (PE Teacher)

Pre-K and Kindergarten have been going strong to the end of second quarter. Since we returned from break we started several days during the week devoted to one specific activity. We added tumbling Tuesdays where students will learn different rolls such as forward roll and backward roll. Also added, wacky Wednesday where we start our day with an active warm up and stretch then continue the class with music and a good time! Finally, we added parachute Friday where student's get a chance to work as a team with the parachute and different exciting activities. Besides our specific days we started our basketball unit. Student will learn the fundamentals of dribbling and shooting.

Grades 1 to 3 Fine Arts - Art

By: Tiina Prio (Fine Arts Department, Chair)

The First, Second and Third grade artists are learning about Pablo Picasso and his fantastic world of abstract faces. They all sat in awe as they learned about Picasso's life and watched a video of how to create an abstract face with paper, scissors, crayons, markers, glue and imagination. I couldn't help but smile as the students couldn't wait to get started. They just about ran to the art tables to quickly pull out their supplies. The artists had free reign on how many eyes, noses and mouths their faces would contain. The choice of what color and what geometric shape each feature would occupy was another choice. Lastly, what media would their features be drawn with. So many choices, so little time. Each Picasso face is an original creation born from the depths of a child's creativity. Picasso once said, "All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once they grow up."

Grades 1 to 3 Fine Arts - Music

By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)

Students in grades First through Third have been singing and discussing the content of songs, such as 'Rainbow Connection' and 'Old Man,' that they heard other grades sing at the show. First graders are continuing with an exercise they began previously, listening to various instrumental Jazz recordings covering eras from the 1920s through today. They determine whether the music is slow or fast, quiet or loud, and reflect on how the music makes them feel. Students suggest what animal seems to reflect those characteristics based upon the music's speed, volume, and mood, and then mimic the animal's movements while the recording is played again. This gives them the opportunity to hear the music a second time and experience it through movement.

Second Grade students have begun a large-scale project in which they watched an animated short without sound and considered the sounds we should hear in the video. They also reflected on how they themselves could re-create a sound. Students have to really think about the essence of various sounds and ways of generating them as they are not permitted to use the actual sound itself for the recordings (i.e. the sound of a door closing cannot be created by shutting a door). The next step is creating the sounds as a group and assigning several sounds for students to make individually (e.g. vacuuming, typing, a car engine). The final stage will be having the students voice the characters in the video before assembling all of their voices and sounds in the finished product.

Gaining a preliminary understanding of the science behind sound is a focal point of recent Third grade classes. The class has just begun learning about bats and their extraordinary use of sound to make their way and locate their prey in the dark. Even though the mystery of how they accomplish this has long since been uncovered, it still seems totally remarkable. On the horizon for Third graders will be exploring how this system has been put to use by people. Third Graders will also be discussing what sounds we hear on the street that are designed to aid us, and they will watch a video of a person who is blind who describes how they use sound in their travels. We as people use sound in navigating and other daily activities far more than we're aware.

Grade 4 and 5 Math

By: Michelle Sclafani (Math Teacher)

The fourth and fifth grade wrapped up the first half of the school year in Mathematics on a strong note!

This marking period, Fourth Grade focused on addition and subtraction of large numbers. That's not all! They also took a leap straight into multiplication and long division of larger numbers. Focusing on why it is important to learn both methods, the students also learned how to check their work, and how that is an important key to success.

The Fifth Grade class took on fractions by storm and kept the ball rolling straight into decimals. As both topics are important to their future studies in Mathematics, we also focused on relating the use of money when dealing with decimals. From here, the students learned how both topics relate to one and another, and are eager to step into the next marking period to learn about percentages and geometry!

Going, forward, the students of both grades will stay on track of learning the key foundations to Mathematics that they will use for many years to come, but also focus on student-led group work and solving complicated word problems.

Grade 6 Math

By: Sarah Blakeley (Math Teacher)

Wrapping up the end of the semester, 6th graders have been investigating fraction addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. To spice things up, we've also been throwing in some one step algebraic equations. The guest star for this unit is the reciprocal, nicknamed by the kids as the 'flippy thing'.

This unit we've also been experiencing math online. As many of you have undoubtedly noticed, there has been more assignments on deltamath.com. While Delta Math is unsuitable for learning new math

material, we have used it to review previously learned materials. Delta math has been useful as a means to deliver differentiated instruction. I'm able to assign more difficult, multi-step problems to students who have mastered the material, and more general review materials to students who need some additional practice, and a few of the students who need supplemental instruction work with me.

At the close of this unit, I ask that you help me connect fractions to the lives of your children. Look through your cookbook for a beloved family recipe. Have your child adjust the half cups and quarter teaspoons to fit the needs of your family. For example, if you have four people in your family, but the recipe feeds eight people, and the recipe calls for one and a half cups of flour, your child now knows the math needed to make the adjustment to that recipe. As a bonus, you can train your child to cook for the family so you can take a much-needed break.

G7 and G8 English

Now that we have finished with our mid-term exams, we will return to our study of literature in the seventh and eighth grades. In Seventh Grade, we are beginning the study of John Knowles' *A Separate Peace,* which will lead us into discussions of the developing self, the turmoil of adolescence and the importance of self-discovery and identity.

In Eighth Grade, we will resume our study of *The Secret Piano* by Zhu Xiao-Mei. Here we will continue to investigate the heroic character of the individual in the face of an all powerful state. Some of our discussion will focus on how the inner sense of self can sustain us through very difficult conditions imposed on us by external forces.

Grade 9 and 10 World Languages - French and Spanish

By: ***Agustín Melara and Gabriel Gomis (World Languages Department Faculty)***

Jean Jaures said, "*Qui ne connaît pas de langues étrangères ne sait rien de sa propre langue*". In other words, you may not know much about yourself if you fail to understand other people's languages in particular, or cultures in general. These words are indeed debatable. However, it goes without saying that the world is better off if we take the time to learn about each other's ways and traditions. Learning another language is a path to peace, understanding and fraternity. In teaching French, Spanish, and Mandarin, Garden School affirms that one cannot ignore the significance of being a polyglot. Being a polyglot nurtures acceptance and tolerance. It is celebrating one another as a people. Thus, Nelson Mandela states it as follows:

"*If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." It is widely known as "Ubuntu" in Zulu language. We are all bound together.*

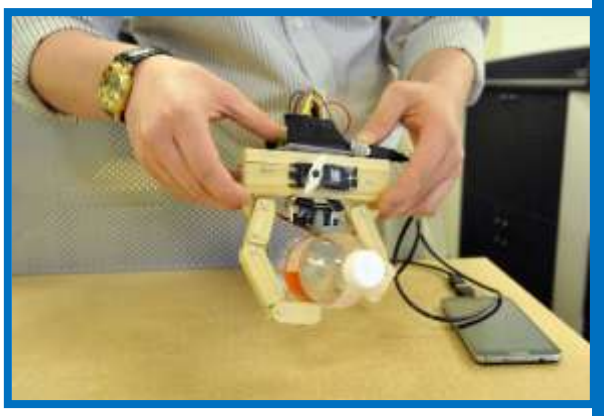
Grade 11 and 12 Science - AP Biology

By: **Marlene Dapice (Science Department, Chair)**

Students have been taking midterm exams and completed their final one this Thursday, January 19, 2017. It's now time to return to class and continue preparations for the AP exam in May. Practice exams, essays, critical thinking exercises, laboratory exercises, and daily readings will once again take up a portion of their already crammed schedules. Let's wish them continued success as they begin the second semester of the year.

Grade 11 and 12 Science - Engineering II

By: **John Hale (Science Teacher)**



With the start of a new semester we are also starting a new elective. This year the juniors and seniors will get a to take Introduction to Engineering II.

Last year our students focused on mechanical engineering and this year they will get a change to delve into the biomedical and electrical engineering world. This is a one semester, project-based course in which students will have the opportunity to practice authentic engineering skills. Students will work in teams to develop, build and test designs to solve various problems. They will learn to prepare appropriate documentation for their designs and communicate the outcome of their projects.

We look forward to see what designs they come up with this year.

Ham Radio Club Roundup

By: **John Hale (Science Teacher)**

During the week of October 17th, the Garden School Amateur Radio club participate in the National ARRL School Club Roundup. The objective was to exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.

Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs. Garden School was able to place 12th Nationally in the Mid/Intrmd/Jr High School-W/VE division. We are very proud of the accomplishment during their first competition.

In addition, the students of the **Garden School Amateur Radio Club** have been hard at work the past few weeks learning to solder circuit boards to make their own receivers for an Amateur Radio Activity called a Fox hunt. We have one completed and should have the other two finished by February. We should be ready for our first hunt in early March.

Fox hunting is when you use a radio and normally some kind of directional antenna to search for a signal. The signal that you are looking for can be a malicious transmission or it could be transmission that is being sent out by someone to help you train to find that malicious transmission. Fox hunting has come a long way in the past ten years or so. With the help of radio equipment getting smaller and smaller, the fox could be anything from an actual person talking on a radio to a automated transmitter small enough to fit in a lawn sprinkler.

Fox hunting can be very fun. Not only are you getting out and doing something with your hobby but you are learning something about it in the process. You learn about propagation, amplitude, how objects can interfere with transmissions, etc.

Fox hunting can be done on any band in the amateur radio spectrum. Fox hunts can be a local thing that your club does where everyone is on foot, it could be a little bigger like encompassing a whole city or even be on hf and cover a few states or a large 100+ mile radius. The size and scale of fox hunting is limited only by your imagination.

Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club

Get Your Amateur Radio License

Garden School Amateur Radio Club

For interested people from grades 7 through Adult

Do You Want To:

- Talk around the world
- Talk with Astronauts
- Help your community in times of Emergency during earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes
- Serve as a trained Spotter for the National Weather Service

The **Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club** in conjunction with the **Garden School Amateur Radio Club** will be holding a Technician License course where you can learn everything you need to earn your Technician (Entry Level) FCC Amateur Radio License. Depending on the class size it should take 8 classes to complete the course. The Technician License is your gateway to the world-wide excitement of Amateur Radio… … and you do NOT need to learn Morse Code!

Class Meeting Schedule

All classes will be held at Garden School (33-16 79th Street, Jackson Heights) in Room 30 (Mr. Hale's Room) starting at 6:30 PM and should end no later than 8:00 PM.

The class is free but you will need a textbook (The ARRL Ham License Manual 3rd Edition - Level 1) about $30 on Amazon and the test will cost $15.

What You Will Learn

- The exciting world of Amateur Radio
- Radio and Signal Fundamentals
- Electricity, components and circuits
- Antennas and Radio Propagation
- Amateur Equipment
- Licensing Regulations
- Operating Regulations
- Electrical Safety
- and much more!

Mon - 06-Feb	Mon - 13-Mar
Mon - 13-Feb	Mon - 20-Mar
Mon - 27-Feb	Mon - 27-Mar
Mon - 06-Mar	Mon - 03-Apr

Wed - 05-Apr Test

To Register or for Information please contact : John Hale at kd2lpm@jrhaleteacher.me.