



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: VII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, October 28, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

By *Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster*



This was quite a wonderful and exciting week at Garden School. We had our four day visit from the NYS AIS Visiting Committee as part of our decennial accreditation procedure. We celebrated United Nations week; we played in a championship middle school Varsity game, and we continued with our process of educating our children in the fullest sense possible.

Our week began with the visit from the NYS AIS Committee. Nine colleagues from our independent school world spent Sunday through Wednesday visiting classes, talking with faculty, students, parents, trustees and administrators. Each of them had read our Self-Study with care and was prepared to discuss our self-reflections with us. These conversations were thorough, insightful and helpful. The Committee, as I have written about in earlier columns, explored every aspect of our school within the context of our Self-Study. They left to write their own report to us with a solid and clear knowledge of our school, its mission and its identity.

Another major event this week was our celebration of United Nations week. We look at the United Nations not as a political issue during our 'presidential' campaign but more as a symbol for those in world who have struggled for a voice in the modern world. We celebrate the global nature of the UN and its primary purpose in its founding after the monumental and tragic disaster of World War II. The UN was established to attempt to foster peace and justice in our world, and this forms the core of our celebration. We began with an Assembly on Monday about child trafficking. Our students were able to ask questions of the speaker and to gain an insight into this troubling world issue. Our school was decorated with flags, representing every country in our world; our students took a global knowledge quiz and will visit the United Nations on Tuesday of next week. All of this was lead by Sarah Smith and Mr. Gomis, who brings his global perspective to our school.

Our middle school soccer team has its best season ever, culmination in the championship game on Monday. This game was hard-fought and close. We came away not with a trophy but with the knowledge that we played extremely well, have established ourselves in the league as a team to watch and with great hope and spirit for next season. Congratulations to our players, coaches and parents who have supported our team's efforts.

As you can see, this was a busy and productive week. However, this makes school an exciting and dynamic environment. Learning in the classroom for the foundation upon which other learning can take place. Learning through discussion with others, learning through a consideration of the world around you, learning through sports—these are the hallmarks of developing students into life-long learners and critical thinkers. This is our mission.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Friday, October 28: Halloween Parties for Grades PreK-6
- Monday, October 31: Jackson **Heights** **Halloween** Parade!
- Friday, November 4: Marking Period 1 Ends
- Monday, November 7: UPK Picture Day
- Thursday, November 10: Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, November 11: Report Cards Returned
- Wednesday, November 16: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Thursday, November 17: Nursery Photo Day and "Retakes"
- Tuesday, November 22: **"Garden Laughs" Comedy Night Benefit**
See next page for more info and Tickets!

College Visits Next Week:

Wednesday	2-Nov	10:00am	Hunter College, NY
Wednesday	2-Nov	2:00pm	Merrimack College, MA
Thursday	3-Nov	1:15PM	SUNY Canton, NY

Parents, students, families, teachers, staff come and march with Garden School in the parade! Meet on Mon., October 31st at 4:45 pm at SW corner of 37th Avenue and 89th Street. We will be done by 5:45 PM.



UNITED NATIONS WEEK Continues! GARDEN CELEBRATES DIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 1

UN guided trip for grade 8 & ELA students

NOVEMBER 2

Wear UN Blue & white for school wide picture!

Parent Teacher Association

By: Maria D'Amore, PTA Vice-President

The Garden School PTA needs your help! Garden School is filled with such beautiful diversity... What better way to celebrate that diversity than with our very own cookbook!

"The Many Flavors of Garden"

The cookbook will be available for sale by mid-November - but we need you to make it happen! We are requesting a family recipe from each Garden Family/Faculty member! It can be an appetizer, entree or dessert... Please submit your family favorite, along with your child's name/grade & country of origin. Recipe is preferred via email, but please feel free to send in a written recipe with your child!

Help us make this happen! Please send us your recipe today! DEADLINE IS MONDAY 10/31!!!

The Garden School PTA would like to remind you of some important dates!

- Deadline for recipe submission for the 'Many Flavors of Garden Cookbook' is Oct.31st
- UPK Photo Day is Monday, November 7th
- Not happy with your photos? Nursery & Re-take day is Thursday, November 17th
- Garden School PTA is now on Facebook - 'Like' us today: [Facebook.com/GardenSchoolPTA](https://www.facebook.com/GardenSchoolPTA)

Questions? Ask! E-mail us anytime at: PTA@GardenSchool.org

We thank you for your past and continued support. We welcome your input. We look forward to a spectacular year.

Contact us with questions and to volunteer your time, vision and talent. Email: pta@gardenschool.org



"GARDEN LAUGHS!"



Garden is taking over *New York City's Premier Comedy Club!*

Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:30 PM

An evening of laughter, food, drinks and prizes!



Comic Strip Live

***Second Avenue bet. 81st and 82nd Street
1568 Second Avenue, NYC***

Michael Rakosi

(Garden's "Chair of the Board"!)

D.F. Sweedler

"The most famous comedian among the famous comedians."

Eric Neumann

"One of the hottest rising star stand-up comedians "

Regina DeCicco

Ladies of Laughter Winner - Funniest Female Comic!

José Vega

"Joey Vega Makes them laugh and makes them think!"

Akash Bhasin

First Place in "Catch a Rising Star" Competition

Hosted by: Dan Altano

Tickets: \$55 each or \$100 for two!

VIP Front Row Seating: \$75 or \$140 for two

Available from the Front Office or on the Garden School Website

www.gardenschool.org

[More Information and Purchase "Garden Laughs" Tickets Online Here](#)



Garden School U.N. Week

By: Sarah Smith, Social Studies Teacher, Model UN Faculty Representative

As one walks through the hallway of Garden School one can't miss the fact that it's United Nations Week. Students were looking at the hanging flags and searching for their home country. Others were talking about the presentation to grades 7-12 from UNICEF representative Hannah Gould about child labor. They were commenting on the sheer number of students who have been affected by this horrific situation worldwide. Others were considering ways to shop with a conscience so as not to contribute to this issue.

On Tuesday, students were challenged to test their United Nations knowledge during a short UN quiz. Students were questioned on the parts of the United Nations as well as the Secretary Generals from the past as well as current leader Ban Ki Moon. Wednesday was Ethnic Dress Day. One could see soccer national team jerseys as well as shirts representing the fashion of the nations of the world.

Next Tuesday, the English Language Academy as well as the eighth grade will be touring the United Nations. Wednesday, November 2, 2016 will be **Blue** and **White** Day in honor of the United Nations. All students should wear **blue** and **white**, the colors of the United Nations, (and Garden School!).





Garden Relief for Haiti

By: Arianna N., Anthony P. and Merna H.

Keep those donations coming!!! We are collecting clothing items, hygiene products and non-perishable foods to send to Haiti in the main hall. We have a GoFundme account to donate money to Haiti. Donations will be accepted for one month. Use this Gofundme link to donate:

<https://www.gofundme.com/GardenHelpforHaiti>

All money and donation items will go directly to the Haitian Consulate. Please donate as much as you can AND spread the word. Your gift strengthens our teams' ability to respond around the world and help people during their most desperate time of need.

Pre-K For All Language Arts

By: Dimitria Grafanakis (PKFA Teacher)

Exploring the Five Senses further this week in PKFA, we investigated how we rely on our senses for our health, safety and good nutrition. We learned that we depend on our sense of sight to keep us safe, such as when crossing a street, or climbing stairs, and our sense of hearing helps us to be alert to our surroundings. Hearing music and adding stimulating scents such as lavender in hand soap, relaxes our bodies and minds while washing away germs. We feel how our bodies stretch and move during yoga poses and the changes that occur (sweating, elevated heart-rate) while exerting ourselves during outdoor play. After our taste test, we discussed "What is good nutrition?" and "What are healthy foods?"

Concentrating on good hygiene, we practiced proper hand washing as we sang, "Wash, wash, wash your hands, wash the suds away, soap and water, soap and water, germs go down the drain." Keeping our bodies clean, getting enough sleep, trying new healthy foods and regular exercise all contribute to children's optimal growth and development.

Nursery to Kindergarten Fine Arts - Music

By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)

Nursery have begun singing 'A Ram Sam Sam,' a Moroccan children's song with three sets of motions that correspond to three short phrases. Students often take to songs that contain integrated motions which are built-in to the tune. One of the class favorites is 'Little Bunny Foo Foo,' a cautionary tale about an ill-disciplined rabbit. The song lends itself to movement, and the students find the idea of the titular bunny being reprimanded for pestering a population of field mice quite humorous.

To celebrate Halloween, Nursery students recited the poem '5 Little Goblins' (based on 'Five Little Monkeys') and sang 'Roll Roll Roll Your Pumpkin' and 'One Skeleton' (based around 'Row Row Row Your Boat' & 'One Elephant', respectively).



GARDEN RELIEF FOR ALL CLUB

GARDEN RELIEF FOR HAITI

It is our time to offer HELP TO HAITI!


Please donate to help Haitians in their time of need. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands displaced after Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti.

Garden Relief for Haiti has several ways to do this:



DOLLARS

✓ Donate to the GoFundme account to donate money to Haiti. Donations will be accepted for one month, so please donate as much as you can AND spread the word through social media. The money will go directly to the Haitian Consulate.

Use this GoFundme link to donate 

<https://www.gofundme.com/GardenHelpforHaiti>

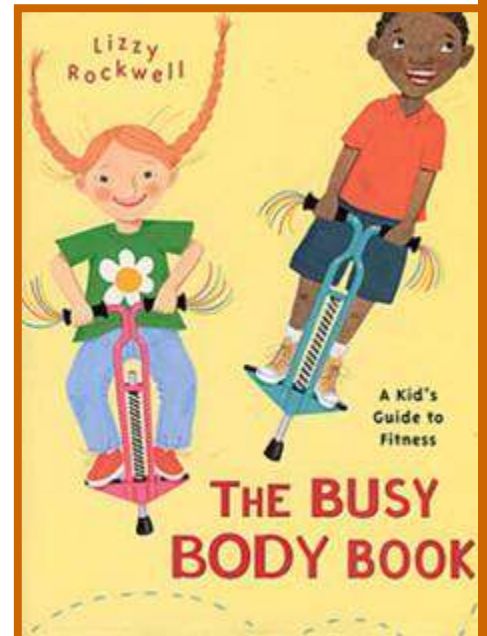
DONATIONS

Donate

- ✓ non-perishable food (cans preferred)
- ✓ new or gently used clothing
- ✓ hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.)
- ✓ businesses can donate and will be recognized in the Garden newsletter.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT EITHER ARIANNA N. OR ANTHONY P. AT: gardenreliefclub@gmail.com





Pre-K was engaged in Halloween activities, as well, such as performing a circle game to the song 'Hi Ho for Halloween' (an adaptation of 'The Farmer in the Dell'). One student expressed the fact that they still liked 'The Farmer in the Dell', fearing that it had been permanently replaced by the Halloween variant.



Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten students created ghost figures with scarves and then moved them to Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* to try and demonstrate the length and volume of the principal melody's notes. Kindergarteners even created their own words and acted out Halloween characters and actions to the song 'If You're a Ghost And You Know It' (based on 'If You're Happy And You Know It'). They also learned 'O Jack-O-Lantern', a song for the UNICEF organization taken from the beautiful melody of the German song, 'O Tannenbaum'. Students were taught about the work carried out by the UNICEF organization and thought about the importance of giving to children in need.

Grade 1 Mathematics

By: Kristen Ahfeldt (First Grade Teacher)

Our focus in math this week has been addition using doubles and doubles plus 1. Learning to add doubles is a helpful strategy for learning addition facts, and contributes in building mental math skills.

To make the lesson more meaningful, the students were paired into doubles and played math games with manipulatives. They enjoyed rolling dice and adding numbers while celebrating double rolls. They also enjoyed matching and adding doubles with dominoes. The students easily completed independent practice of these skills in their math workbooks.

We will continue to work on mastering doubles and near doubles next week.



Grade 2 Mathematics

By: Paula Sirard-James (Second Grade Teacher, Grades 1-3, Dean)

In second grade, the students have successfully completed their work with math fact families. With October harvest festivals and Halloween just around the corner, we have begun to explore concepts of estimation, weight, and measurement using pumpkins.

The students shared their knowledge of the weight of several ordinary objects. We then weighed a variety of items on the different types of scales we have in the classroom to gain a better understanding of what some tangible objects weigh. The students estimated the weight, height and circumference of our large pumpkin. Each child had an opportunity to accurately weigh and measure the pumpkin, and check their findings against their estimates.



Our class later carved a small pumpkin to find out how many seeds it held. Students were able to practice skip counting by fives and tens to calculate the number of seeds. Each student then estimated how many seeds the large pumpkin might hold. The children are looking forward to carving the large pumpkin on Monday and finding out the answer.



Grade 3 Mathematics

By: Julia Schatten (Third Grade Teacher)

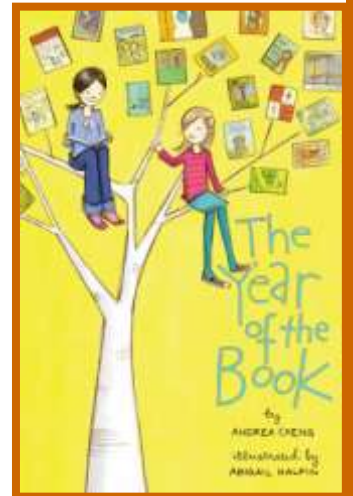
The third graders have been wearing their mathematician hats every day. Last week, they completed the second grade review and have now moved on to working on Place Value. This week, students engaged in hands on activities, using base ten block manipulatives, to attain a concrete understanding of 'hundreds', 'tens', and 'ones' place value. Children wrote numbers in both expanded and standard form, acquired two strategies -- comparing place values and implementing a number line -- to accurately sequence numbers. Third grade students have courageously volunteered to share their ideas, strategies and answers by writing on the whiteboard in front of their teacher and peers. The sharing of ideas, both correct and something incorrect, provides all students the opportunity to strengthen learned information both individually and collectively.



Grade 4 Social Studies

By: Phil D'anna (Social Studies Teacher - Grades 4-6, Dean)

Fourth grade can be a difficult year: starting a new system of moving from class to class, being responsible for all new courses, homework, tests, quizzes, all the while hoping to see old friends and make new ones. It is not an easy transition. For Anna, the protagonist of The Year of the Book, the same struggles exist each day. She is a Chinese fourth grader who is conflicted about how to be friends with her peers; some seem genuine while others only want to be friends when it's convenient. She is embarrassed of her mother's job — a house cleaner — and worries what her classmates would think of such a career. Anna attends Chinese school on Saturdays, too, and doesn't always want to go. She does, however, learn the true meaning of friendship, and her compassion for others helps her to model kindness.



The first novel that the fourth graders have been reading, The Year of the Book by Andrea Chang, discusses some very important themes that become present in the fourth grade year. There is an increase in responsibility, there are more social pressures, and students yearn to be accepted and validated. As a class, the students have been analyzing what behaviors other characters (like Laura, Camille, and Allison) have been demonstrating and considering which ones are commendable or not. It is through this lens that the students learn empathy for one another, welcome new students to their class, and engage each other with respect and care. It is a wonderful novel that the students have all related to in some capacity – making connections to experiences they've had and/or other novels they've read in the past. Throughout the year, we will read novels as a way to understand characters, develop reading and writing skills, and apply both to the everyday experiences we have.

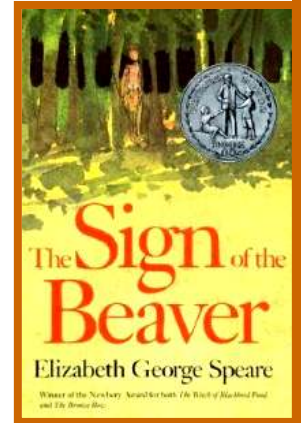
Grade 5 Social Studies

By: Phil D'anna (Social Studies Teacher - Grades 4-6, Dean)

Matt and Attean are two boys from very different cultures. Matt, a white settler from Massachusetts, has moved to the developing Maine territory. Attean, a member of the Beaver Tribe, has inhabited those lands for many years along with his family members. These two boys, despite their very different upbringing, have been bound by a treaty whereby Matt will teach Attean to read and write while Attean teaches Matt survival skills essential to the success of his family's land. What neither boy realizes, though, is that they are learning much more than they expected. It initially would seem that Matt and Attean have nothing in common, but as days turn to weeks the boys develop a mutual respect and humble admiration for the others' way of life.



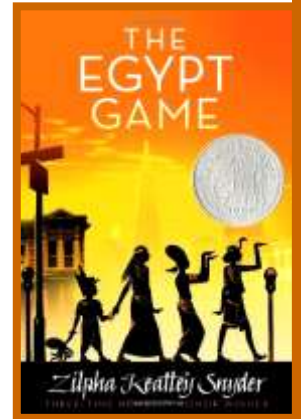
The novel The Sign of the Beaver is the first novel that the fifth grade is reading as a class. Paralleling the social studies curriculum with an investigation of the lives of native settlers, the fifth grade is discovering that even people from vastly different backgrounds and bond over commonalities. As they watch Matt and Attean's relationship develop, the class has discussed the importance of respect, the ways by which we benefit from our friendships, and the necessity for responsibility in our everyday lives. With character building and critical thinking at the forefront of our curriculum, the students have already begun to take note of key elements to Matt and Attean's friendship. It is the goal that throughout the year the students will apply these praiseworthy behaviors to their own interpersonal dealings.



Grade 6 Social Studies

By: *Phil D'anna (Social Studies Teacher - Grades 4-6, Dean)*

April Hall isn't your typical sixth grade student. She is snobby, pretentious, and downright judgmental. Luckily, she doesn't attend Garden School. Instead, she attends Wilson School in a small college town in California. She is the protagonist of the novel The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder. She and a friend – Melanie – invent a game that is meant to help pass the time, but when she realizes that her mother won't be coming back any time soon, the game becomes the hinge that joins April and her other friends closer together.



This year the sixth grade has already applied this motif to their own experiences. There were many new students who joined the class this year and, although some were wary of the changes that would come, there has been a shift in the social dynamic of the class. What started as a game at Camp Herrlich has now become the current recess phenomenon. Recess for the sixth grade has become something entirely different than it was in September. Now, unlike then, students are immersed in a large-scale "Elimination Newcomb" game while others sit together and share their love of reading as they intently delve into the worlds of their novels. Similar to April and Melanie, the sixth grade has been joined by their common interests and they explore these interests daily.

Now, as the first novel comes to a close, the sixth grade has been charged with reading a second Zilpha Keatley Snyder novel on their own; the focus being to compare and contrast that chosen piece to The Egypt Game. Analyzing novels through an author study will be a major practice of our language arts course. It is through that microscope that students will just read more closely or develop stronger writing skills, but also think more critically about ideas and concepts and justify their ideas with support and reasoning.

Grade 7 Science

By: *Lou Albano (Science Teacher)*

The seventh grade has continued a deeper level of science by studying Life Science. Students have a basic understanding of life science from the lower grades, but are being exposed to these concepts in greater detail.

Our discussions have included the scientific method and inquiry. Students are challenged to think as scientists and to understand how experimentation and analysis of results are essential to being good scientists. The students have become more aware that every experiment does not necessarily lead to a favorable result. The role of technology has had an important role in science throughout time. Proper safety procedures are of the utmost importance in the laboratory environment.



The characteristics of life and the needs of living things were also discussed. We then proceeded to understand the basic unit of life: the cell. A fun and creative project was assigned to student to construct an edible cell. The design and materials used were completely decided by the student. The projects were presented to their classmates, and then they were allowed to share the edible cell with their classmates. The level of creativity and accuracy was outstanding!

Students are working hard, but at the same time enjoying the experience that come with the study of Life Science.



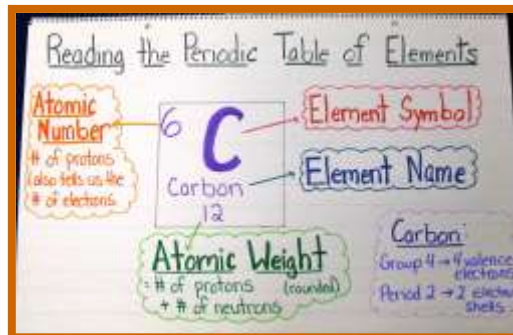
Grade 8 Science - Physical Science

By: John Hale (Science Teacher)

The Physical Science students just wrapped up their investigation of the periodic table and chemical reactions. They used the patterns in the periodic table to understand how the oxidation numbers and valence number work with chemical reactions.

After learning about the periodic table, they started to work on chemical reactions and the different types and factors that affect the rate of reaction.

To help solidify their understanding they conducted chemical experiments with Acids and Bases and will conduct an experiment on how to best clean money with household chemicals.



Grade 9 and 10 History

By: Richard Grusky (History Teacher)

The History Program at Garden School exposes the tenth year to European History. The group is divided into two sections and approach the reign of Louis XIV. The closing point aimed for is Napoleon I and the Congress of Vienna. We look forward to another successful year.

Grade 9 and 10 History

By: Richard Kruczek (History Teacher, Science Department, Chair)

After tracing the prehistoric age, the students spent time basking in the wonder that was - and is - Ancient Egypt.

From their magnificent pyramids, to the way they controlled their environment - specifically, the Nile - the students were fascinated by the contributions that the Egyptians made to civilization, as a whole. The same applies to the ancient Sumerians and their successors, the Babylonians - in particular, Hammurabi. "An answer for a grade," as the old chestnut goes.



Grade 11 and 12 World Languages

By: Agustín Melara (Chair, World Languages Department)

The Spanish IV/AP class has been reading, *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*, written by the 1982 Nobel Laureate Gabriel García Márquez. In this novel, students have been introduced to the fascinating concept of “Magic Realism”, a literary style brilliantly adopted by Márquez in which the characters in the novel perceive magical elements as normal. Upon completing the novel, the students will have to decide *who* is responsible for the murder of the protagonist: the friends who murdered him or an entire society who knew of the assassins’ intentions but did nothing to prevent the crime. Besides studying *le passé simple* (a literary tense) the Juniors in French IV have been reading Saint-Exupéry’s most beloved novel, *Le Petit Prince*. This philosophical tale, which is actually directed at adults, relates the story of a little prince who has fallen to Earth. His journey will guide him to what truly is essential in life. Seniors at the Advanced Placement level have been reading, and analyzing, their second novel of the year--Albert Camus', *L'étranger*. In this existentialist novel, the main character (Meursault) must withstand trial for a murder he committed but ultimately ends up in death row for his indifference after the death of his mother.

Congratulations Celebration for Soccer and Volleyball Teams!

By: Gabriel Gomis

Mrs. Andrea Frison, mother of Justin, eighth grade, extended her generosity for the Garden School soccer and volleyball teams end-of-season party in her elegant and warm restaurant, Favela, in Astoria. Students, parents, and coaches enjoyed fine dining of exquisite Brazilian cuisine! Nice season, Griffins!

Muito obrigado!!! Nós somos gratos!!!

