



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: IV

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, October 9, 2015



Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



In his most recent book, French intellectual and publisher, Guy Sorman, wrote about the culture of generosity in American Life. In *Le Coeur American*, Sorman examines the origins, the history and the practice of giving within the American community.

His intended audience is not American readers but the French reader, since the culture of giving is particularly American. In France, Italy and most other European countries, giving to schools, private schools, has very few roots in the culture. Perhaps because there are few independent schools, which do not and have not played an historical role in continental European education. Sorman directs his book at the American experience in an attempt to influence the French experience, since there are now about eighty French schools outside of France that have now entered into the mainstream of the culture of giving.

Not-for-profit, independent schools, such as Garden, have all developed a culture of giving. At Garden, while we anticipate and rely on everyone being as generous as they can be, our philosophy of giving is about achieving 100% participation as much as it is about the size of the amounts. All of the pieces of our fundraising program, the Gala, The Annual fund, PTA Fundraising Activities, all of these together with the participation of all of our stakeholder groups—parents, trustees, teachers, alumni, students—all of us unite and our community comes together as a 'whole' to support, sustain and fulfill the mission of the school.

The participation of all community stakeholders in giving has more important consequences than simply financial. When a community member gives to these efforts, it represents their understanding and appreciation that generous participation evolves into responsibility. That is our goal: for all Garden community members, past and present, to take on the responsibility for supporting Garden School through the next phase of our growth, and sustaining the school for the next generation. Sorman's book points out how this coming together of generosity and responsibility elevates the idea of giving to the value of care-giving. As members of an independent school community, each of us assumes a responsibility to maintain our school through our generosity and care-giving.

Therefore, the purpose of Annual Giving and the Gala is not a simply financial one; it is a community endorsement of the vision and the mission of Garden School. This is the way it has been at Garden School for over 92 years. In giving, we recognize the participation of those who have given before us, while, at the same time, sustaining the present and fulfilling our obligation to those who will support our school in the future.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Monday, October 12: School Closed for Columbus Day
- Wednesday, October 14: PSATs for Grades 10 & 11
- Friday, October 16: **Jeans Day for Charity! \$3, charity TBA...**
- Friday, October 23: School Closed for Faculty Workshop Day
- Friday, October 30: Halloween Parties for Grades PreK – 6
- Friday, November 6: Marking Period 1 Ends
- Friday, November 6: City Hall Trip for Grade 5
- Thursday, November 12: Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, November 13: Report Cards Returned
- Wednesday, November 18: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday, November 18: United Nations Trip for Grade 8 & 9
- Thursday & Friday, November 26-27: School Closed for Thanksgiving Day

College Visitors Next Week:

Tuesday 10/13

1pm St. John's University (NY)

2pm College of Mount Saint Vincent (NY)

Wednesday 10/14

1pm St. Joseph's University (PA)

Thursday 10/15

8:45am University of Rochester (NY)

12pm Utica College (NY)

Friday 10/16

2pm Lafayette College (PA)

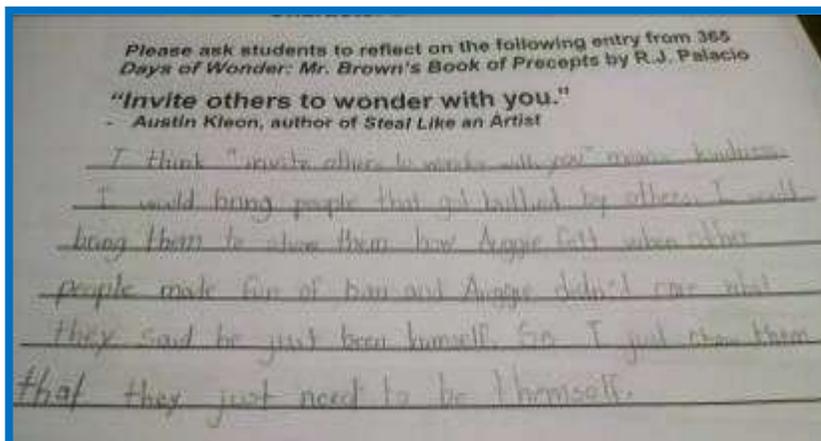
Garden Character Education Program

By Ms. Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling, Upper Division Coordinator)

This week students in grades 1-12 (including those on the Camp Herrlich and Frost Valley trips) were asked to reflect on the following quotation from *365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Brown's Book of Precepts* by R.J. Palacio:

"Invite others to wonder with you." - Austin Kleon, *Steal Like an Artist*

This invitation -- in itself an act of kindness -- is particularly important as we study and learn together, both in the classroom and in the world.



Garden PTA

By Diane Sarro (PTA President)

It was great to see so many parents and class representatives at Curriculum Night. Class representatives, parents, guardians and teachers are the key to a strong PTA. Thank you all for your support. The momentum is building and we have a terrific and fun year planned!

Our first photo day went well and still to take are UPK photos on November 24, Seniors, October 22 and retakes November 19. If you are available to volunteer for any of these days, contact Bruce Campbell at camfam99@juno.com or Diane Sarro at dbartonesarro@aol.com. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 a.m. until 1p.m.

Plans for our Halloween Celebration are underway! An email was sent yesterday with the details. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! So, if you are available to volunteer on October 30, contact Maria DiAmore at diamore533@aol.com. Finally, Career Day is taking place in November (details to follow) and save the dates to get all of your holiday shopping



done on December 1, 2, 3, at our **Holiday Boutique!** We need volunteers for setting up on November 29 and 30 and on the days of the Boutique, volunteers are needed for sales and wrapping. The students always have an amazing time! Please also purchase a coupon book! thank you all for your hard work and dedication!

PTA Fall Fundraiser!

Our school is selling valuable, family-friendly "KidStuff Coupon Books" filled with hundreds of national, regional and local coupons for all ages! The KidStuff Book is conveniently organized, offers incredible savings and is sold exclusively through schools! **Our school earns 50% or more profit for every book we sell!**

KidStuff Coupon Books are \$25. You can save at Macy's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sears, Loft, Aéro, Payless, Outback + more! Use just a few coupons and easily save more than the \$25 cost of the book...Remember to keep KidStuff in your car! Most coupons are long-term and valid for 16 months! You will enjoy fabulous savings from a lot of stores in your area.



POST and TWEET! Family and friends will love saving with KidStuff...The books are great for gifts too. Your family earns 1 FREE book worth \$25.00 for every 5 books you sell! Payment is due ASAP.

Please make checks payable to Garden School PTA. NO CASH PLEASE – We will not be responsible and will not reimburse any monies.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Brie at (917) 859-4252. KidStuff does not promote door-to-door sales by children. KidStuff ships books to our school. Message me ASAP to order! Thank You for supporting our school!!!



BOOK ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL OCTOBER 23RD!



DATE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

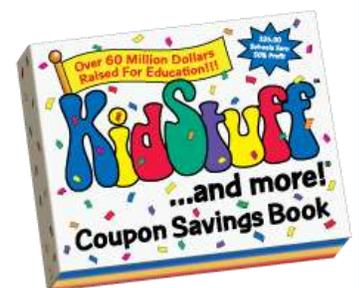
GRADE: _____

HOME ROOM TEACHER: _____

Cost per book is \$25.00

Amount of KIDS STUFF BOOKS I'd like to purchase: _____

Amount enclosed: _____



**CHECK OR MONEY ORDER WRITTEN OUT TO:
GARDEN SCHOOL PTA**



Read this week's inspiring Alumni News article on page 9 from a previous Merit Scholar...

Open House and Merit Scholarship Exam Saturday, December 5th, 9:00 AM

Garden School will host an Open House on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 to 11:30 AM for families interested in all grades of the school. No RSVP is necessary.

Please **invite friends, family members and colleagues** who may be interested in learning more about Garden School. There will be a presentation at 9:30 AM on the school and its educational and enrichment programs.

The same morning, we will also be offering the annual Merit Scholarship Exam on Saturday, December 5th. The Merit Exam and the scholarships are eligible to both incoming new and current Garden students presently enrolled in grades 5-10 (entering 6-11 in 2016). Pre-registration using the form from the web link below is required by December 2nd.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 718-335-6363. Use this link for more information and forms: <http://www.gardenschool.org/open-house-and-merit-scholarship-exam-sat-december-5th-900-am/>



Garden School

Academic Excellence Since 1923



Co-Ed Independent College Prep School
Nursery - Grade 12

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAM (9:00 AM)
for students entering Grades 6 through 11
and

OPEN HOUSE (9:30 AM)
for all grades

Saturday, December 5, 2015



Garden School
33-16 79th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Call 718-335-6363 before December 2 for Merit Exam Registration
No RSVP necessary for Open House
visit www.gardenschool.org

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"



Early Childhood

Nursery to Kindergarten World Language

By: Kelly Jie (Mandarin Teacher)

In this multi-days unit, the early childhood students will be learning how to count number 1-10 in Chinese, name different color and fruit in Chinese.

Students will be able to recognize, say out loud, rhyme, and sing the numbers from 0-10. Initially, students will interpret and react to signs, songs and games. Then, students will interact with teachers and classmates by engaging in activities related to numbers.

For color and fruit sections, students will gain the ability to identify different fruits and colors in Chinese. Students will ask and respond to simple questions about fruits and colors. Students also will express whether they like or dislike specific fruits and colors. Students will practice sorting according to colors in addition to recording data of class likes and dislikes of colors and fruits.



For this unit, I adapted to my students by only teaching the colors of different balloons so that the kids do not need to deal with too many new words at the same time with the concepts of different colors for different fruits. And I will teach different fruits for next couple weeks, at the same time to review the color words by using some activities in this unit. We also learn the "color songs in Mandarin" song to practice the color words.

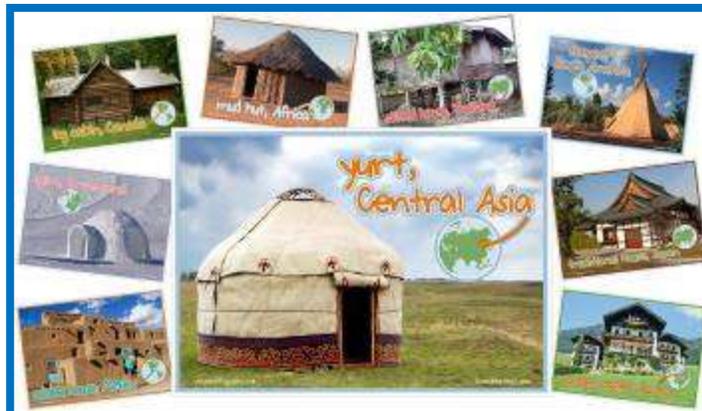
Elementary

Grade 1 Social Studies

By: Jackie Renner (Grade 1 Teacher, Dean of Grades 1-3)

First Grade begins the year exploring neighborhoods and communities in social studies.

Students named places where people live, work, and play. After that they wrote what makes their own neighborhoods a good place to live. To activate prior knowledge, students described the homes in our community. Students explained that with the many people living in our area apartment buildings and homes close together are able to house everyone.



During reading this week, students were introduced to homes in other regions of the world. They thought about the locations with different weather and physical environments and how houses are built in response to the conditions. These conclusions were reinforced through a PowerPoint presentation that included six additional homes. Students were able to plot the homes on a world map. Each student chose a different house to write about what makes it a good home for its location. In upcoming classes, students will compare urban and rural communities.



Grade 2 Social Studies

By: Paula James (Grade 2 Teacher)

The second grade students have been learning about different cultures and traditions. We have been reading about how families acknowledge and celebrate some traditions and holidays. Students have had an opportunity to share some of their family traditions with their classmates. Over the long weekend students will finish their family trees and we will take time to present them next week.

We have also been working on building map skills. Students have been identifying different places on local street maps using a map key, and we will continue to build on these skills throughout the year.

Grade 3 Social Studies

By: Laura Ingravillo (Grade 3 Teacher)

In social studies, the third graders have begun the school year learning geography skills. They have explored Pangaea and studied the names and locations of the seven continents and five oceans. They identified the continents and oceans on globes and maps. Globe terminology such as equator, North Pole, and South Pole have been taught and identified. The students practiced and reinforced these skills through the use of technology and interactive maps. To further demonstrate their knowledge of these concepts, the students created globes, which they labeled with the names of the continents and oceans.



The third graders also will be learning about maps and their features (map title, compass rose, symbols, map key, and locator). They will study various maps for these elements. Then, the students will become cartographers and apply their newly learned map knowledge; they will make maps of their environments, such as the third grade classroom, computer lab, science lab, and art room.

The third graders will use these globe and map skills throughout the year as they study each continent in depth, learn the different types of maps, and use maps to learn about different places.

Grade 4 Physical Education

By: Venetta Trotter (Physical Education Teacher)

The 4th graders are performing in a range of movement skills from flexibility to agility, through static stretching, yoga and playing fun tag games. We have started our soccer unit, practicing the fundamentals of team passing, dribbling and scoring.

Next week, we are incorporating soccer games, students will be able to show off their skills and learn about teamwork.

Grades 5 and 6 Physical Education

By: Venetta Trotter (Physical Education Teacher)

5th and 6th grade have kicked off the year enthusiastically with our soccer unit.

With an introduction to passing in partner formation and dribbling between cones across the gymnasium, the students have shown improvement in their coordination within a few weeks. Currently, we are playing soccer games that are on a team rotating basis, reviewing player positions and areas on the court.



Middle School

Grade 7 Fine Arts - Art

By: Tiina Prio (Art Teacher and Chair of Fine Arts Department)

In art class, students are learning about the Turquoise Mosaic Masks created by the Aztecs. These masks were created in a variety of ways for a number of purposes, but there's one thing that may surprise you about a typical type of mask – they were often made for display, *not* to be worn. That's why you'll often see masks with no eye-holes, or masks placed on stone or on skulls.



To create our masks, first we are mixing acrylic paint with paste powder, placing the mixture onto paper and using a comb to make textural lines. Next, after cutting the painted paper into mosaic shapes, they will be glued onto card stock that has a mask outline. An Aztec border, made with mosaic squares, will give the project that final touch.

Grade 8 Fine Arts - Music

By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)

Students in 8th grade are learning about how we discuss and analyze Popular music and Rock and Roll. The concepts that they've been absorbing thus far concern the music's structure, sound, and aspects of time. Comprehension of the concepts is guiding students toward becoming more astute listeners, to know what to listen for in a piece of music, to differentiate between and consider specific aspects of what they're hearing, and to be able to intelligently speak and write about the music. This will also aid them when they reflect upon the origins and evolution of Rock and Roll during its 60-plus-year history.

The song selections are quelled from genres as diverse as Philly Soul, recent Pop & Singer-Songwriters, Post Punk and New Wave, Electronica, Hip Hop, Heavy Metal, Motown, Synth Pop, the British Invasion, Trip Hop, Grunge, and Southern Rock. It gives students the opportunity to hear and test these ideas in different musical contexts. One of the ultimate goals of the course is for students to have a greater understanding and appreciation of music, be it the music to which they currently listen or music they will experience in the future.

High School

Grade 9 English

By: James Pigman (English Teacher, Chair of English Department)

Robert Marianetti, P '14, spoke to the ninth grade English class and the junior senior Creative Writing elective recently.

"Follow your bliss!" he quoted Joseph Campbell when talking to the students about jobs and work and their talents. Mr. Marianetti was the chief animator for the recently released HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA II, a children's movie using characters similar to Dracula. 'I was trying for a movie of depth and not like the usual screaming, loud movies that pass for





kids' fare," he told the classes. He then showed the trailer for the movie and some animated pieces that he had done for the show SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. It was at SNL that he met Adam Sandler and would later get his break in the business from that connection.

"Be ready," he told the students, "because you never know when you may get a chance." Tina X. '16, an aspiring artist, was asked by Mr. Marianetti to show some of her artwork and hear his criticism.

First grader Sophia M, who had just seen the movie last weekend, was treated to a sketch by the guest and even a personalized autograph!

Grade 10 English

By: Marcia Elkind (English Teacher)

The tenth grade has completed its discussions of the summer reading. Students were asked to "save" a book, the way Guy Montag, the protagonist in FAHRENHEIT 451 did, by memorizing it. Each student chose a book to "become" and explained why it was important to save their particular selection. The choices ranged from *Dr. Seuss's ABC*, to *The Bible* to *Of Mice And Men* to *Alice In Wonderland*. The reasons for saving the books were as diverse as the titles. The essays are on display in room 25 should anyone care to stop by and give a read.

We now turn to the first work we will read and discuss in class together, Sophocles' classic tragedy, *Antigone*. The play is as relevant today as it was 2,400 years ago. It focuses attention on common human dilemmas: What do you do when faced with two equally bad choices? How do you argue with authority? What defines good citizenship, following the laws of the land or acting in accordance with your conscience? The play is named for its fifteen year old protagonist, Antigone, which allows tenth graders to see themselves in her shoes. It is challenging reading, full of thought provoking ideas. There will be spirited discussion. As always, the reading will be accompanied by writing. The writing will focus on developing an argument in support of a position. The ability to express your opinions clearly, forcefully is an essential life skill. Students will be required to use quotations from the play to support their views, thus reinforcing the idea that opinions must be supported with logical, persuasive argument and factual information. Congress, take note.

Grades 11 Mathematics

By: Sonia Ambarsom (Mathematics Teacher)

The 11th graders in the Algebra II and Trigonometry course have begun the year with a review of rational and expressions. A strong foundation in these concepts are needed in order to relate and apply them to trigonometry and the trigonometric functions.

The integration of past mathematical concepts of geometry, algebra and other branches of mathematics will be further expanded and emphasized throughout the year. The students will be challenged to apply what they've learned to the solution of both routine and non-routine problems in the upcoming months.



Grades 12 Mathematics

By: Sonia Ambarsom (Mathematics Teacher)

In the web design course, the 12th graders have begun to create their own HTML pages which include basic formatting and designs with images. They have created hypertext links, those words to take them from one page to another when you click on them. They have also studied and used to make graphic images into clickable links, and graphical links which can enhance any page and make it visually more appealing to the user. Lastly, they have learned the difference between "interpage" links and "intrapage" links which also enhance any page and make navigation as easy as possible for the user.

Alumni News

By: Dr. Sabrina Sukhan (Garden Class of 1996, Attending Physician at Pennsylvania Hospital)

I have read a lot of fiction over the years. Inevitably, the drama would achieve its maximal impact when the protagonist had to make a decision. And this decision would take the form of a fork in the road, with one direction signifying success and the other failure. However for me, the most important decision I've made in my academic career occurred without fanfare.

I grew up in Jackson Heights, walking by Garden School on a weekly, if not, daily basis. I underestimated that this routine path along 34th avenue would come to signify option, chance, and opportunity. I attended I.S. 145 for junior high school. And when it came time to start thinking about my options for high school I looked far and wide, considering Townsend Harris and Stuyvesant high schools as viable. However, as I looked more in depth, neither of these schools seemed to be the right fit. As chance would have it, a favorite teacher suggested that I consider Garden School. Her daughter was a senior in high school at the time; and she had only positive stories in regards to the classes, teachers, student body, and preparatory process for college.



Garden School sounded great. However, my family did not have the means for four years of a private school education. Yet this was the very moment that the opportunity to take the Merit Scholarship Exam presented itself. I took the examination; and was delighted to receive a full scholarship! My time at Garden School was special in that I understood the experience to be unique not in retrospect, but in the moment. From Ancient and Medieval History to Political Philosophy to Calculus BC to English literature, I received a blueprint for current and future success. The small classes along with the nurturing environment and personalized attention allowed me to develop a solid foundation from which I could grow into the person that I am today.

Currently, I am employed as an obstetrician and gynecologist in Philadelphia. And whether I am in the operating room at work or reading a favorite author on a day off, I often feel like a student—interested in life and ready to learn. This continued passion for education, formal or informal, is for me the legacy of the Merit Scholarship Exam and my resultant four years at Garden School. I remain humbled by my experience and deeply appreciative. And that is fact, no fiction.



STUDY ABROAD: CUBA

February 11th to February 20th, 2016

September 30, 2015

Dear Students and Parents—

Maria Diaz of World Travel has offered us a chance to go to Cuba this year. She holds one of the few licenses for organizing legal trips. This is a rare opportunity to visit Cuba to see this country before it opens up to incredibly rapid changes.

- We anticipate that the trip will last nine days, from New York.
- The cost will be around \$3,400, plus about eight meals & a visa, \$85.
- Twenty five students, four or five chaperones with the group.
- Ms. Diaz will accompany us from JFK and throughout the trip. In addition, we have an official government guide with us at all times in Cuba.
- We will have to visit an elementary school or university as part of our research.
- Three days in Havana, Hotel Nacional de Cuba or similar; two nights in Cienfuegos; two nights in Varadero, which could be the most beautiful beach in the world.
- Visits to two UNESCO World Heritage sites, Trinidad city, 1819, & Cienfuegos
- Delta Airlines direct flight from NYC.
- Options: baseball game, ballet, Deep Sea Fishing from Cojima where the fisherman of The Old Man and the Sea started out to go fishing. Hemingway property and study.
- Return Saturday February 20th to JFK, arrive 3 PM.
- Relatives and friends will be considered but the group has to be primarily students and teachers Mr. Pigman, Ms. Elkind, Ms. Prio, Ms. Smith-O'Sullivan, Mr. Melara.
- Safety---very safe. A group of 15 teachers, alumni, and parents visited Cuba in the summer of 2014 with the same itinerary. The country was very orderly, the people incredibly friendly and interested in the United States.
- Hot and humid and we like to walk around and see as much as possible. Temperature prediction: 82 degrees Fahrenheit at Varadero Beach. 100 miles south of Miami so great winter weather.
- **Decide by October 30th. Make a deposit of \$1,000. Credit card ok.**
- **Open to 7th through 12th graders who have shown the maturity and decorum to benefit.** The trip is chaperoned throughout with travel within Cuba being by chartered bus.
- This is a 100% legal, authorized trip under the auspices of the United States State Department.
- Questions? Pianoman203@gmail.com.

You are invited!!! Marcia Elkind, Tiina Prio, Sarah O'Sullivan, James Pigman, Agustin Melara

NOTE CORRECTION: Papers given out announcing the Cuba February trip inadvertently listed the dates. The correct dates are Depart February 11, Thursday, 2016, Return February 20, Saturday, as stated above.