



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: XX

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, February 26, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



It should not be a mystery to any of us that reading is the foundation of almost all of our learning. This seems so obvious; yet it was not always the case. Within the many centuries of the oral tradition, learning was the result of listening rather than reading. There was no reading, no 'text' from which to gather information, stimulate the imagination or record events. All of these practices were contained within the oral tradition.

However, for millennia, the tradition of literacy has been dominant and has been the single most important factor in the learning process as we have refashioned it to suit the needs of our societal and cultural objectives. Reading, which begins in PRE-K programs, now serves as the pathway through which and from which learning develops.

I have spent most of my professional life teaching reading and literature and seeing how important the idea of reading is to the cognitive and imaginative development of an individual. When the critic Northrop Frye wrote about 'educating the imagination' as the primary goal of learning, he was expressing the insight that reading ultimately focuses on development rather than product. Reading creates the cognitive facility to begin to imagine the world within the many contexts of learning, history, math, art, literature etc. Reading is conditioning.

The importance of this human activity reverberates throughout the entirety of our personal and professional lives. We read everywhere—at work, on the bus, on the beach, on a plane—everywhere. We read on our phones; we read on our computers; we read newspapers, texts, tax forms, road signs. Reading is everywhere and our ability to decode these 'signs' allows us to function in our world. If you ever drive a car in another country, the most important part of that experience is knowing how to read the 'signs.'

Another highly significant value of reading centers on how reading causes the expansion of the mind's ability to 'imagine' certain conditions. I am referring to being able to imagine another world and another time, but I am also thinking how reading allows us to imagine another person and how that person may be feeling or thinking at any moment. Reading contributes to empathy.

From nature to driving, from math and technology to sculpture and poetry—our lives consist of this process of 'reading' and decoding. Our personal, family and professional relationships depend on our skill with this larger definition of 'reading.' Our world is a reader's world. Our schools need to be that place where we read together (collegium) and where we learn to read the world.

Gala Kickoff Wine Tasting, Friday, March 4th at 7:00 PM in Library - Free!

Summer Camp Registration Now Open!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Friday, March 4th : **Gala Kickoff Wine Tasting Event Free! All Welcome! 7:00 PM Library**
- Friday, March 11 : International Night - All Welcome!
- Friday, March 18 : School Closed for Faculty Workshop Day
- Thursday, March 24-Friday, April 1 : School Closed for Spring Break



Monday, April 4 : Classes Resume

Friday, April 8 : **Garden GALA**

[Purchase Gala Tickets Here!](#)

Friday, April 8 : Marking Period 3 Ends

- Thursday, April 14 : Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, April 15 : Report Cards Returned

Garden School PTA

By: Maria D'Amore (PTA Secretary)

Dear Garden Parents,

Would you consider volunteering for some upcoming Garden PTA events?

We have begun working on the Book Fair & the Walkathon!

We would love it if you'd join us! If you are interested in helping, please contact us: pta@gardenschool.org

Also, stay tuned... Some fun activities just for adults are underway!
Details coming soon!

Also, don't forget to purchase your tickets to this year's Gala!

Garden PTA



Garden School Winter Show Videos Are (Kinda...) Here!

Garden School Winter Show videos are finally ready on the Garden YouTube channel! Become a subscriber now!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeWoNvNR-pETydrXI6W8azQ>

There is one for the Early Childhood performances are here: <https://youtu.be/NA-DYhRQycY>

The Elementary performances are here: (We're working on the sound issue, sorry!) <https://youtu.be/bt33TJqeYhw>

Early Childhood Program Chinese New Year Parade Video

Enjoy this short video of the Chinese New Year Parade with the ELA and Early Childhood Program.

<https://youtu.be/3KhtF5P1zwI>

Garden School Chess Tournament - Sunday, March 6th

Beatriz (Director, Chess Educators)

The Garden School Chess Tournament is coming up! All Garden School students can bring Bring-a-Buddy-for-Free!

Registration is available online! If you are bringing a buddy for free, please write your buddy's name in the comment box during registration. If you have any questions, please email us at info@chesseducators.com.





The Garden Gala Committee cordially invites you
to be our guest at an evening of

Wine Tasting
Friday March 4th 2016
7 PM
Garden School Library

We will have a tasting of select regional wines expertly
chosen by Andreia Frison* Gr. 7 and her sommelier at
Wine Stop

paired with some nibbles and desserts contributed by
Between The Bread, arranged by Sean Martin Gr. 7

Come kick off the 2016 Garden Gala in style!
Gala Tickets, Journal Ads and Raffle Tickets will be on sale

*Our 2016 raffle
2 Carat Diamond Necklace
will be on Display!*

The Gala Committee will be on hand to assist you.

*Owner of Wine Stop 30-08 Broadway,
Astoria

winestopnyc.com
Garden School Gala
Terrace on the Park
April 8th 2016



Garden School • 33-16 79th Street Jackson Heights, NY • 11372 718 335-6363

We would like to thank the Frison Family,
Grade. 7, owners of Wine Stop
www.winestopnyc.com in Astoria. Wine Stop
will once again be contributing the wine for
the evening. The wine has been handpicked
by Wine Stop's sommelier!

Thank you to our gala committee member,
Sean Martin and the Martin Family Grade 7.
Between The Bread
www.betweenthebread.com, where Sean is
VP & General Manager, will, once again, be
donating the amazing food.

This will truly be a Garden Community event.
Come bring a friend and help raise a glass to
Garden School.

[Purchase Gala Tickets Here!](#)

On Friday, March 11, 2016 the International &
Diversity Clubs will be hosting their annual
International Night from 4-7pm in the
gymnasium. This event, acknowledges and
celebrates all the wonderful diversity which
exists within our school and our community!

Students and their families will have a chance
to relish the rich culinary offerings and see
firsthand how many cultures comeingle every
day at Garden! We hope to see you all there!

Enjoy this short video from last year's International
Night 2015! <https://youtu.be/6ulqefbbS3U>

Save the Date!



International Night!

Friday, March 11, 2016
4:00-7:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate our cultural diversity!
Donations of food, drink, dessert, and paper products welcome!





Garden School Pre-K For All Program

By: Mosammat Khalid Class – 7 (PKFA Teacher)

February is the shortest month of the year but there was no shortage in our activities. This is the time of the year when we start to wish for warm weather, more sunshine, and a brighter outlook. We introduced lights around us in this month which coincide perfectly with our wishes. We have been learning about nature's lights, manmade lights, sources of lights, importance of lights, dark, shadow and so on. Students also learned how lights help us in our home and world around us. They began to understand the concept that light helps us see, grow plants and stay warm.

We also incorporated the celebration of Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day. We learned about Valentine's Day with special focus on kindness and love since it is the month of kindness, love, and compassion. Students were able to identify different sources of lights around us. They have been exploring lights and shadows. They read different books including the Sources of Lights by Daniel Nunn. After reading the book, they drew pictures and described the sources of lights. They also learned new vocabulary by using flash cards such as lights, sun, flashlights, yellow, dark, and so on. It is the last week of the month and we will end our light unit by making a light show in class.



Early Childhood

Nursery - Social Studies

By: Carmella Knopf (Nursery Teacher)

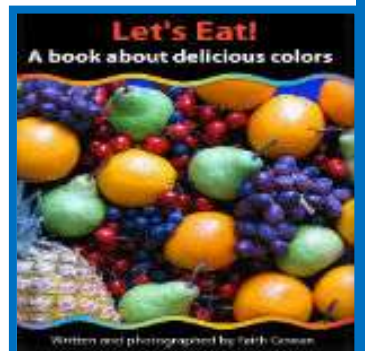
Dental Health was the theme this week in Nursery. We glued cotton balls on a tooth and colored a toothbrush and toothpaste. As a class, we collaged a large mouth cut out by gluing mini marshmallows as teeth and making it a happy healthy smile. We read *How Many Teeth?* by Paul Showers to reinforce our lesson. We also learned the brush your teeth song from Raffi both on cd and the smart board. We watched *The Berenstain Bears - Visit the Dentist* and our Sesame Street friends sing how important it is to brush our teeth, eat healthy and drink water on the smart board.



Pre-Kindergarten - Science

By: Eileen Reyes (Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Dean of Early Childhood)

Growing children require a balanced diet to ensure healthy development. Eating the right amount from each food group can help them get the vitamins, nutrients and minerals required. Getting students to understand the importance of a nutritious diet at a young age can set the stage for a lifetime of healthy habits. The students have been sorting pictures of food into five food groups in the science center this week. We sorted foods and made a collage to help them remember the foods in each group. They have also been noticing the variety of colors of fruits and vegetables. They will be making rainbow fruit kabobs in the cooking center on Monday. *Let's Eat! A Book About Delicious Colors* by Faith Gowan, Scholastic magazine entitled *Eat Your Colors*, and *Jamberry* by Bruce Degen are





some of the readings we did this week. We will be following up with lessons on the importance of exercise and healthy teeth.

Kindergarten - Science

By: Kristen Ahlfeld (Kindergarten Teacher)

February is Dental Health Month. This week in kindergarten we have been exploring teeth and healthy dental habits. Through discussions, books and smartboard activities the children are identifying healthy and unhealthy foods and drinks that impact their tooth development.

In addition, we have been learning how teeth are designed for the food that different animals consume. For example, we watched an herbivore giraffe grinding plants with its flat teeth. While tigers' canine teeth are designed to tear meat. The children are connecting the importance of their own teeth for their food consumption. The students were given a chart to take home to keep track of their health tooth brushing activity.



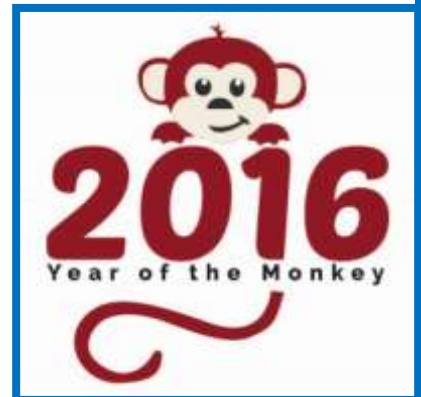
Elementary

Grade 1-3 World Languages

By: Kelly Jie (Mandarin Teacher)

In this multi-day unit, 1st through 3rd grade students watched videos about the origins of Chinese New Year, to gain knowledge and understanding of Chinese New Year tradition and customs.

This week we begin to learn to describe different physical features of family members and friends in Chinese, such as tall, short, fat, thin, old and young. Students will ask and respond to simple questions about physical features. Students will also express their own descriptions regarding the physical features of family members and friends. Finally, students will be able to compare different physical features of family members and friends in Chinese.



Grade 4 Social Studies

By: Philip D'Anna (Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher)

Before the break, the fourth grade took a short quiz about the Midwest region. Part of that quiz required the students to label 8 of the 12 states on a map. The class came to school that morning with social studies on the brain – they walked the halls quizzing each other on facts and information and proudly shouted answers to one another. When it came time, they approached this quiz with great confidence and executed their task in the same manner. I was so pleased to see that an overwhelming majority of the class was able to label the map correctly!

More than simply labeling the map correctly, though, I was even happier to notice that many of the students have begun utilizing successful test-taking strategies: they draw a compass rose next to their maps to help answer questions about directions. I notice them flipping through the exam to check their work and assure me they've checked it carefully before submitting it. They





use the exam as a resource to ensure proper spelling, for example. Even this week, as we discuss the Midwest's climate, the class is recalling information from the beginning of school to help them make sense of what they're learning now. I'm so glad that the class has been developing these skills because it's important for each student to find a practice that works for them. Creating a routine that helps support learning is an essential skill in every endeavor, academic or not. It brings me great pride to know that, at their own pace, the fourth grade students are finding what works for them and loving what they learn in the process. Keep up the great work!

Grades 5 Social Studies

By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies Teacher)

"No taxation without representation" is the phrase of the week for the Fifth grade. They are eagerly examining the causes of the American Revolution. We have analyzed political cartoons. Students have realized how a picture is worth a thousand words. This was important in a society where not everyone was literate. Many fifth graders connected the Committee of Correspondence as an early version of Twitter. All realized how important locally elected official and assemblies were to a society. Next we will meet the interesting Paul Revere.

Grades 6 Social Studies

By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies Teacher)

Uncovering the roots of government, philosophy, religion, and the impact of geography are major themes of sixth grade social studies. These themes were evident as we studied Ancient Greece, Rome and Arabia. Students learned about historical figures like Julius Caesar, Plato and Muhammad. To culminate these units students collaborated on Greco-Roman newspapers. They are currently analyzing the impact of the Five Pillars of the Faith on the lives of Muslims.

Middle School

Grades 7 and 8 PE/Health

By: Vonetta Trotter (PE Teacher)

The 7th and 8th Graders are enjoying our new warm up game called 'Numbers'. Various numbers between one and ten are called out by the teacher, representing specific exercise movements and postures. From running across the court to balancing in a yoga tree pose, students engage in a variety of performance skills. This is a game with elimination; in order to advance, students are required to act on every movement number quickly and efficiently. Ultimately, there will be a few students left in the game who compete until one student remains and wins the 'Numbers' challenge.



Starting with basic racket swinging techniques and movement strategies on the floor, 7th and 8th graders have successfully reviewed the skills to actively play in badminton matches. For the past two weeks of classes, students have concluded the unit by playing in singles and doubles, bracket-based tournaments. Our following unit will be whiffle ball. We will practice form passes and running bases next week. With Spring weather approaching us, most of our whiffle ball games will take place in our outdoor space.



High School

Grade 9 Math

By: Sonia Ambarsom (Math Teacher)

The ninth grade Algebra I class has reviewed multiplying binomials by the FOIL method (First, Outer, Inner, Last) and paid particular attention to special products, namely perfect squares and perfect cubes. The next study was to identify the characteristics in the expression of the form $a^2 - b^2$, which is called the difference of two perfect squares. Once the patterns had been identified and studied, the next step was to factor the expression, which is the reverse of multiplying expressions or FOIL. Next week, the students will extend this process to trinomials of the form $ax^2 + bc + c$, which is merely a slight variation of the same process. It's all relative!

Grade 10 Math

Algebra 2 and Trigonometry

By: Lucian Gherghi, Chair of Mathematics Department (Math Teacher)

In Algebra 2 and Trigonometry, we started the Trigonometry part. So far the six trigonometric ratios in a right triangle were introduced. Students applied these ratios to solve triangles and also real life problems, such as finding the height of a building or the angle of elevation to the top of a flagpole. Angles of any size, positive and negative, and the definition of trigonometric ratios of these type of angles were also introduced. Next week we will talk about trigonometric ratios of real numbers.

Geometry

Mrs. Natalie Sangiovanni-Mathematics Teacher

The 10th grade geometry class has just finished learning about similarity in polygons. They have mastered the skills used in solving proportions. The tenth graders are able to identify and apply the various properties of similar polygons. The properties of similar triangles were also topics of discussion. They have learned how to prove similar triangles using postulates and theorems. Lastly, the students conquered the challenge of applying the proportional lengths and angle bisector theorems to basic diagrams and real life situations. Our next topics will cover similarity in right triangles, Pythagorean theorem applications and touch upon some trigonometry basics.

As an enrichment activity, the 10th graders had a brief lesson about tetrahedrons and they learned how to fold a circle into a 3-D tetrahedron. The students used their creativity and attached these complex pieces into "Works of Art." Awesome job!!

Grades 11 and 12 Fine Arts

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

The Art Elective Class artists are continuing with various projects. Some of the students are working on two point perspective creating landscapes with buildings with windows, bridges connecting them and parking lots with designated spaces. Students are amazed that following the rules of two point perspective can give one the ability to represent three-dimensional objects and space on a two-dimensional surface.

Other students in the art room are working on self-portraits. First they need to take a selfie, then use the printer to enlarge it and finally, decipher the value scale using a monochromatic palette. Self-portraits are difficult because people really don't want to draw themselves and 'look bad'. Art Web states that, "You can often tell a self-portrait, they stand out from portraits of other people. They seem to reveal more, there seems to be less distance between the canvas and



the person and the honesty is louder than ever.” There is the option of ‘slicing’ the self-portrait after its finished and being creative with it, so the stress is off the artist and usually that means a better job.

Sculpture, which is the branch of visual art that operates in three dimensions, is also in the works in the busy art room. Some students are trying their hand at carving a block of soapstone into an object using stone carving tools and rasps. Many different polishing steps will follow the cutting and a smooth work of art will emerge.

Finally, Tingting X. and Tina X. are working on a tile project using glass and ceramic tile. They are working in tandem to create Garden School’s front steps and copula. This is an exciting project as they have never worked with tile before. In preparation they discussed the steps, tried a few variations and finally the gluing began. I am looking forward to the finished project with great anticipation.

Garden School World Languages Trip

On Thursday, February 11th, students in 5th grade toured the Museo del Barrio to get an insight into Marisol' s art works. Then, the students participated in an interactive workshop to emulate the artist's work. Finally, the students tested their French by ordering their meals and enjoyed the French cuisine at Les Halles! Pas mal du tout!





CATCH A WAVE

at
Garden School Summer Camp
We Make Summer Easy & Fun!



Fine Arts **A**cademics **S**ports **T**echnology



Garden School Summer

June 27th - August 19th • Nursery - 13 Years Old

Half/Full Days • 7:30 am-6 pm Available

Choose As Many Days or Weeks As Needed

- ✓ Swimming Pool + Lessons
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Lunch & Snack Included

- ✓ Flexible Scheduling
- ✓ Drop-In Available
- ✓ Door to Door Transport



Register Before We Fill Up!

33-16 79th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372
(718) 335-6363 • gardenschool.org

More information and download Summer Camp 2016 brochure here:

<http://www.gardenschool.org/programs/summer/>



Garden School Summer Camp Registration

Student Name: _____ Gender: _____ DOB: _____
Grade in Sept. 2015: _____ School: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____
Parent Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____
Parent 1's Name & Business No: _____ () _____
Contact person if Parents unavailable Name & Telephone No: _____
Parent 2's Name & Business No _____ () _____

Circle your week of interest @ \$600 per week:

Week 1 June 27	Week 5 July 25
Week 2 July 4 (4 days)	Week 6 August 1
Week 3 July 11	Week 7 August 8
Week 4 July 18	Week 8 August 15

Choose your program:

RATE

- Nursery (Ages 1.5 to 3) # of Days _____ AM/PM Full \$ _____
- Junior (Ages 3-4) # of Days _____ AM/PM Full \$ _____
- Intermediate (Ages 5-6) # of Days _____ AM/PM Full \$ _____
- FAST Specialty (Ages 7 to 13)

IMPORTANT: PLEASE CHOOSE AND CIRCLE YOUR SPECIALTY BELOW

Fine Arts

Academics

Sports

Technology

Second Child - Deduct 10%

Less Discount

\$ _____

Total # of weeks: _____ x \$600 = \$ _____ +

Add transportation option (circle one/two way below) x \$125 per week \$ _____

Round Trip Bus / One way Bus-AM or PM

TOTAL FEE: = \$ _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$600 secures a place for your child. The balance of the total summer fee must be paid in full by May 27th, 2016. Payment can be made by cash, check, MasterCard, Visa or American Express.

Parent Signature: _____

How did you hear about our Program? _____

Scan/send to: campdirector@gardenschool.org Fax to: (718) 565-1169 Apply online: www.gardenschool.org/summer

