



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: XXX

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, May 27, 2016



## ***Thoughts for the Week***

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



As we begin the Memorial Day Weekend, it is important of for us to remember that this day was not designed as a day for shopping at blockbuster sales throughout the world of the American Shopping Mall. This was truly a day to remember those who lost their lives in service of their county; it is a day for us to face the reality of the wartime experience and remember that war is not a reality show. This is a day in which memory and historical truth should converge.

Like many of you who have spoken about this with me in the hallway at arrival or dismissal, I am deeply concerned about the dissociation of reality from our public discourse. A number of parents shared this sentiment with me at the Honor Society Induction Ceremony a few weeks ago. In conjunction with the idea of the values embodied with the honor society, we talked about the need for there to be a correspondence between words and reality. We have seen a dramatic increase in this dissociation in our public discourse, particularly in presidential politics.

Our mission as a school focuses on critical thinking and evaluation of material that students encounter in class. This skill needs also to be applied to the world of information or disinformation as a whole. The stunning amount of misinformation, misinterpretation of events, of deliberate distorting of reality for ideological purposes poses a challenge for an educational institution whose values truth, honest assessment of information and the free expression of opinion that results from deliberate and careful self reflection.

Our mission is to help educate a generation of thinkers, who understand the meaning of information, who understand the distortion in ideological rhetoric and who value the truth more than simply winning. This is a powerful mission, since it places the school in a counter-cultural position that schools have never truly faced before. Our electoral process has degenerated into reality show techniques, which places all of our community at the mercy of imagery, demagoguery and the distortion of the truth.

So as we begin the weekend, which remembers those who gave up so much we need to confront the fact that those who gave their lives did so for higher values, values that reflect truth and honesty, not for a charlatan version of television or social media distortion of reality for the sake of profit. Our mission is to prepare out students to confront, evaluate and reject these misshapen versions of reality. We remember, and we think! That is the legacy left to us by those who sacrificed everything.

**Summer Camp Registration Now Open!**

**Summer Registration**



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Monday, May 30 : School Closed for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 31 : Senior Dinner
- Wednesday, June 1 : Last Day For Ecuador Relief Donations! **Dress in the Colors of Ecuador!**
- Thursday, June 2: Lower Division "Spring Fling" Theater Production
- Monday, June 6 – Friday, June 10 : Upper Division Final Exams [Click for Exam Schedule](#)
- Tuesday, June 7 : Lower Division Talent Show
- Friday, June 10: Moving Up Ceremonies – Kindergarten (9AM) and Grade 6 (10:30AM)
- Friday, June 10: NOON Dismissal - No Afterschool Program
- Tuesday, June 14: Class of 2016 Commencement @ 7PM

## Garden School Pre-Season Summer Program

for children 1.5 to 13 years of age

June 13-June 24

9 AM to 3 PM

With Mrs. Reyes

\$100 per day or \$400 per week

(check payable to Garden School with completed Application)

After School available until 6 PM

- Sporting activities in the Gymnasium and on the Field
- Arts and crafts in the Art Studio
- Children should wear sneakers & play clothes
- Sprinklers/Pool may be used. Please send appropriate swim clothes and a towel
- Bring brown-bag lunch with name on bag
- Nursery, Pre-K & K students must have change of clothes & a towel for nap
- Drop-off & pick-up via 79th Street entrance (Front of School)
- Limited Bus Service available @ \$125 per week

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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person & Phone Number  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form and payment by Friday, May 27, 2016**



**Come to NEVERLAND and enjoy the SPRING FLING.**

**Featuring the Sixth Grade in**



**Pre-K through Fifth Grades will perform with the Sixth Grade  
in the celebrated fairy tale themed musical!**

**JUNE 2, 2016**

**12:00 Noon**

**in the gymnasium**

*Join Wendy and her brothers*

*as they are whisked away*

*to the magical world of Neverland*

*with the hero of their stories, Peter Pan!*

**ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

**Early morning drop-off and school begin at the usual time.**

A regular school day will continue at the conclusion of the show. Afterschool and clubs will be in session as usual.



## ***National Honor Society***

***By: Agustín Melara (National Honor Society Adviser)***

On May 16, Garden School formally acknowledged twenty-six students in grades 8 through 12 who were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society during a ceremony attended by teachers, students, and parents.

Since its establishment in 1921, the National Honor Society (<https://www.nhs.us/?SSO=true>) has recognized and encouraged academic achievement while developing the ideals of scholarship, leadership, service, and character among its members. Through various service activities, the members of the National Honor Society reaffirm and continue the qualities that won them acceptance into this prestigious organization. Membership is, therefore, an honor and a commitment.

Congratulations to all.

### **8th**

- Nower C
- Julie E
- Joelle G
- Taher R

### **9th**

- Gabriella G
- Jessica K
- Matthew R
- Dylan T
- Sam V
- Matthew V

### **10th**

- Mirabella C
- Aneesh D
- Shan Shan G
- Calvin H
- Lea Marie M
- Arianna N
- Anthony P
- Jasmine P

### **11th**

- Dennis A
- Kyle C
- Marian C
- Yuqi (Uni) D
- Piki S
- Hanna V

### **12th**

- Michael V





# Wednesday, June 1

**Last Day For Ecuador Relief Donations!**

**Students, Families, Faculty and Staff**

**Dress in the Colors of Ecuador Day!**



## Ecuador Blackout Drive



What would you do without light at night?

Cooking? Safety? Reading your child a bedtime story?

You can help the Ecuadorian families recover from the earthquake by donating new batteries and new/used flashlights or candles.

### PLEASE DONATE NOW...

Please bring your donations to Garden School Main Hallway.

They will be delivered to Ecuador via the Ecuadorian Consulate.



## **Early Childhood**

### **Nursery PE/Health**

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

Nursery had some visitors to take care of in their classroom for the past couple of weeks.

Our visitors began as five baby caterpillars and, after resting in their cocoons, they transformed into beautiful butterflies. On the smart board, we watched and listened to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* story read by Eric Carle himself. We made our own *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* books and butterfly puppets. We also read *Born to be a Butterfly* by Karen Wallace and *Butterflies*, a Scholastic discovery book.

After having the butterflies in our classroom for a short time, we took them to the playground and set them free.



## **Pre-Kindergarten / Kindergarten PE/Health**

**By: Vonetta Trotter (Physical Education Teacher)**

This week, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes have worked on indoor and outdoor activities.

On Monday, students performed in a variety of track and field activities in the gym, group activities consisted of jogging around the gym, moving on the scooter at the center of the court and cheering for the runners from the sideline. Tuesday, after class rehearsals in the gym, the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes went outside to participate in various balancing and tumbling obstacles in the playground. Students balanced on beams, stepped over hurdles, went down the slide to land on a gymnastic mat and perform a final pencil roll across the length of the mat. The obstacles also included walking over the bridge and going down the slide. Wacky Wednesday started with a dance challenge of following direction with the music. Thursday PE was also held in the playground. After stretching in the shade under the tree, the class participated in a soccer unit of kicking and stopping the ball. Today was our weekly activity of parachute, from creating a bubble to waving the parachute to making flying popcorn, students have successfully engaged in our activities in all group settings throughout the week.



## **Elementary**

### **First to Third Grade - Fine Arts**

**By: Tiina Prio - (Art Teache, Fine Arts Department, Chairr)**

The First, Second and Third grade artists are learning how to plan ahead. This is a skill that helps students in all areas of life. The students are centering words on a line so that they fit and no letters are crushed or falling off the end. Planning begins with counting letters and figuring out what the center letter of the word is. Then this





'center' letter is drawn in the middle of the line. Working left and right, backwards and forwards, the rest of the letters will be drawn and the word will be centered.

Since students in these grades have studied hieroglyphs at the Brooklyn Museum Mummy Exhibition, they also drew pictures to compliment the words, just like the ancient Egyptians did. The First grade drew a bee for their project as they are writing the words, 'SMILE, BEE HAPPY'. The second grade's message was 'DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY'. The Third grade was free to choose whatever 'happy' phrases they wanted. Everyone enjoyed this lesson as they understood that in the future, when they make posters for school projects, the posters will be very professionally completed.



## ***First to Third Grade - Fine Arts - Music***

***By: Tom Heinemann (Music Teacher)***

Students in First through Third grades are busy working on their songs for the Lower Division Spring Show, Peter Pan Jr., which will be performed next Thursday at noon. Each grade has a short number in which the students are featured and sing on their own. All three of these numbers, variations on the songs 'You Can Fly' and 'Second Star to the Right,' were born out of the 1953 Disney Animated feature, "Peter Pan", and are sung by the Darling children. First and Second grades are collaborating on 'Following the Leader,' another song from the film. It involves Native American and Lost Boy characters, orphans in Neverland, and is sung from both perspectives. First Grade is also chanting and singing in another number meant to represent a Native American viewpoint, 'What Makes the Brave Man Brave.'

Second and Third grades are working in partnership on two songs: the show opener, 'Fly to Your Heart,' and a Pirate's song, 'Yo Ho! A Pirate's Life for Me.' Second Grade's focus has been on making accurate musical entrances; this is a task made more challenging in instances where there is a lack of indication of tempo prior to an entrance. Third Grade has expanded upon a skill we practiced during the year, singing in harmony. They have an opportunity to display their abilities in performance briefly in 'Fly to Your Heart,' and, to a greater extent, when they team up with Fourth Grade and are singing autonomous parts throughout the collaboration.

## ***Fourth Grade - Mathematics***

***By: Natalie Sangiovanni (Math Teacher)***

The phenomenal fourth graders completed the unit on statistics. They learned how to read, interpret and create their own pictographs, circle graphs, line graphs, bar graphs and line plots. They also learned how to calculate how many different combinations would be possible when given choices.

As a project, the students created menus and figured out how many different combinations their pretend restaurant served. They included appetizers, main courses, side dishes, drinks and desserts. (By the way, teachers can eat for free at one student's restaurant! ) I am so proud of their hard work and effort that they have put into their projects!





Presently, the fourth graders have been exploring fractions. We learned how to use fraction bars to compare equivalent fractions. We focused on fractional number lines to help us estimate if a fraction is closer to zero, one half or one. In the last few classes, the 4th graders will learn how to add and subtract fractions with and without common denominators.



## ***Fifth Grade - Mathematics***

***By: Sonia Ambarsom (Math Teacher)***

The fifth graders have been learning about integers and integer operations. The concept of integers was introduced as real world applications, including movement, temperature and money. This movement was then seen in action on the number line as the operations of addition and subtraction. For the first time, they saw the left side of the number line and discussed absolute value!

Next, after extensive practice, the students took a look at the rules for these integer operations and were now able to make the connections between what they saw and the written rules. Each student is able to understand how to add integers by choosing the manner which most appeals to them.

Lastly, this past week, the students focused on the operations of multiplying and dividing integers. When polled, they unanimously decided that, in fact, the rules for multiplying and dividing integers was much easier to remember!

## ***Sixth Grade - Mathematics***

***By: Natalie Sangiovanni (Math Teacher)***

The sensational sixth period - sixth graders have been working hard mastering the operations with fractions. They practiced solving one-step equations and evaluating expressions involving fractions.

We will continue to practice multiplication and division of fractions.

The second period - sixth graders are well into the Geometry unit. We learned about the different types of angles, parallel lines with transversal and solving equations involving complementary and supplementary angles. We are mastering new vocabulary terms, such as congruent, perpendicular bisector, supplementary, complementary, vertex, corresponding angles, alternate interior and alternate exterior angles, and transversal.

During the last few weeks of class, we will explore the area of polygons and apply formulas to real life situations.

## ***Middle School***

### ***Grade 7 - English***

***By: Nancy Massand (English Teacher, Dean of Middle School)***

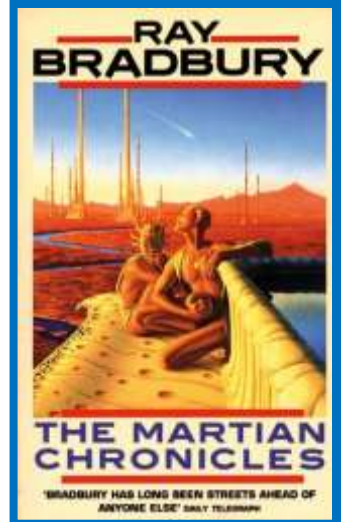
English 7 is wrapping up the year with a classic science fiction read by C.S. Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet*, a story of a brilliant but misguided physicist who believed he is justified in using any means in order to preserve the human race. We grappled with open-ended philosophical values like the common good vs. individual freedom, taking a stand and listening to each other's reasoning. As a yearend project, we are writing short fiction stories in genres of our choosing that incorporate the elements of fiction we have been examining this year.



## **Grade 8 - English**

**By: Nancy Massand (English Teacher, Dean of Middle School)**

English 8 has just finished *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury, a science fiction collection that examines American values as a country on the brink of nuclear war attempts to place a colony on Mars in order to preserve the human race. We tackled issues including colonialism, censorship, racism, ecology and technology. It was an eye-opening experience to discover that issues central to political thought in Bradbury's generation are still controversial today.



## **High School**

### **Grade 9 - World Languages - Spanish**

**By: Agustín Melara, (Chair, World Languages Department)**

The end of the school year is always a busy time at Garden School: finishing up the curriculum, extracurricular activities, examinations, review for finals, etc. In spite of all this, students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade took it upon themselves to give back to strangers in need: the victims of the earthquakes in Ecuador. Spearheaded by Olivia Engelfried, the students in grade 9 organized and conducted a successful bake sale that raised \$375 for the victims. This humanitarian effort proves that students at Garden School can be responsible scholars while finding the time to help those who need it most, even those who are thousands of miles away.

### **Grade 10 World Languages - French III**

**By: Gabriele Gomis (French Teacher)**

As we completed the reading of *l'Enfant Noir*, students have been giving presentations on themes related to the history and culture in sub-Saharan Africa. The themes that have been discussed so far include colonial Africa, the traditional religions in Africa, and the social structures in West Africa. By discussing these themes in French in front of a panel led by Dr. Marotta and Augustin Melara, students have greatly contributed to a better understanding of African traditional values and post-colonial African literature for themselves and their classmates.

### **Grade 11 - Science - Engineering**

**John Hale (Science Teacher)**

The Engineering class has been focusing on Electrical Engineering this quarter. Students have been working on two main projects. The first is building a Crystal Radio and the second is building a low powered radio transmitter. These projects fit into a new endeavor that Garden is undertaking: HAM radio.

For the past three months, we have been working with HOSARC (Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club) to bring amateur radio to Garden School. Our students learning how to build receivers and transmitter will pave the way for Garden School to operate its own HAM station which will allow our students to be able to contact and collaborate with students from around the world. All the hard work will pay off when we are on the air by September. It will be an exciting time and we look forward to see what new opportunities this communication method will bring us.



## **Grade 12 - AP Science**

***Marlene Schultz-Dapice (Science Department, Chair)***

Students in AP Biology are diligently working on their final exam project. The project involves the examination of several different invertebrate species and plant species. A portfolio is being created that will contain detailed sketches of the organisms as well as taxonomic and systemic information. Having an opportunity to do such investigative and detailed work will afford students an opportunity to experience first-hand how scientists in the field approach categorizing organisms by evaluating similarities and differences observed.

## ***Class of 2016 Senior Prom***





# CATCH A WAVE

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



**F**ine 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](http://www.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. 2016: \_\_\_\_\_ 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](mailto:campdirector@gardenschool.org) Fax to: (718) 565-1169 Apply online: [www.gardenschool.org/summer](http://www.gardenschool.org/summer)