



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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"Academic Excellence Since 1923"

Tuesday, June 9, 2015



Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



The last day of school always creates mixed feelings for all of us at Garden.

We know that the year has come to an end, and that so much of what we planned for the school year has been carried out effectively. Yet, at the same time, within a matter of an hour, the school empties out for the summer. That feeling mixes with the joy of having completed our work and leaves all of us somewhat melancholy. After all, a school needs to be filled with children and teachers, learning, talking, arguing and pushing forward in their development.

As I look back over the year, I realize just how much work we have accomplished in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom. The enormous amount of curriculum that was explored was astonishing. If you think about the sixteen levels of education that we offer, the sheer bulk of the subject matter perplexes the mind. The basic formation of a

letter to the solving of complex differential equations takes place within fifty feet of each other. Looking at the setting in a story in the first grade to analyzing the philosophical background of a nineteenth century novel in the twelfth grade happens in adjacent classrooms. The simultaneity of learning defines the scope of our school.

At the sixth grade moving up ceremony this morning, the class sang a song entitled, "We're All in this Together." As I was listening to them sing, I realized that that is exactly right--we are all in this together: "this" being the business, the mission and the vision of nurturing a school that nurtures children through these complex levels of learning. Remember that for a two year old to learn how a letter represents a sound is as proportionately complex as a senior learning the dynamics of motion. All education is proportional.

I am grateful to all of those who have made this year a success: our students, our families, our teachers, our alumni, our trustees and our friends. Together the amount of work that was expended in our wonderful school went beyond all bounds. Our community is tireless in supporting the school's mission.

Have a wonderful summer and come back to us in September ready to push that mission forward.

A Short Video of Friday's Sixth Grade Moving Up Ceremony: <https://youtu.be/NxBufP0Q1UM>





- Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 26: Pre-Season Summer Program (1.5 – 13 year olds)
- Tuesday, June 9 : High School Graduation at 7PM
- Monday, June 29 – Friday, August 21: Summer Camp

Garden School Wins Queens College Math Competition for 3rd Time in a Row!

By: Lucien Gherghi (Chair, Mathematics Department)

In 2002, to promote itself in Queens, Queens College organized an annual math competition for high schools. Envisioned for public schools, Garden was not invited to participate. However, when I found out about the competition, I asked the Chair of the Queens College Mathematics Department if Garden could participate. That first year, we were awarded a 1st and 2nd place in division three! After that, we were there every year and our most significant accomplishment for Garden School students has been in the team competition. In the 13 years we have participated, on two occasions, Garden has been awarded 2nd place and has placed 1st three times.



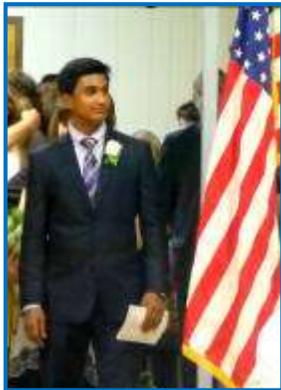
These results demonstrate that Garden School's math curriculum, extracurricular work, and our emphasis on teamwork and helping each other puts us at a high level. Congratulations to this year's team for being awarded first place in the team competition!

Early Childhood Breakfast - June 5, 2015





Garden School Graduation
2015 Senior Class Slideshow: https://youtu.be/BmqL7A_YjE





Garden School Summer Education Program website: (<https://sites.google.com/site/gardensep/>)

By: John Hale (Summer Education Program Coordinator)

The Garden School Summer Education Program site is now online and accessible from the Garden School website under the "Programs" tab (and the link below). It is designed to help students remain focused on learning and keep skills sharp and over the summer. There is a page for every grade from Grade 1 to 12. Please take a look and familiarize yourself with the resources.



Students have worked hard all year and summer vacation provides an opportunity for a well-deserved break. How much of a break is a question that parents must face every year and your child's teacher(s) can be helpful with their perspective.

Other than the required summer reading which can be found at the top of each grade's page (and on the next page of this newsletter), and unless your child's teacher has recommended otherwise, there is no expectation of what work and how much will be completed. However, although not required, keeping your child's skills focused on maintaining academic and critical and creative thinking skills will help to prepare them for next year. The SEP was created to provide parents and students with learning resources should the decision be made that some additional work is a good idea. The resources have been designed to be used with flexibility. So, review the material and use it to craft a learning plan that is individualized for your child.

A couple of guiding thoughts:

Studies have shown that certain academic subjects are easier for students to forget than others. Math skills suffer most because fewer opportunities for numerical calculations exist outside the classroom. Although the loss is not as severe as in math a decline in reading skills has also been demonstrated. Summer studies, therefore, should place particular emphasis on math and reading in addition to other subjects.

To help students reap the benefit of summer instruction, it should not consume all of their free time and so become a burdensome task. Just as every student is unique, their academic needs are also different. Parents and students can decide how much learning is enough in order to keep skills sharp and retain knowledge learned.

For younger students in particular, simply reading with your child as often as possible, especially aloud and discussing story elements or favorite words can be enough. Others are ready to write about the story or write one of their own. Similarly with math, number games, counting aloud and timed flashcards with prizes or incentives if helpful can also be sufficient to support skill retention.

Quality is as important as quantity when it comes to summer learning. Many summer learning activities such as workbook pages can be accomplished in an hour or less. Matching the material to a student's ability and interest level is as important as the amount of time spent studying.

Supervision is critical to a summer learning plan. While it may not be necessary to stand over your children while they do their work, check periodically on their progress and checking for attention to detail will demonstrate the value you place on their efforts.

To help meet the needs stated above we have created a website (<https://sites.google.com/site/gardensep/>) of resources that should help give you and your child focus during the summer. We hope that you enjoy your summer and please feel free to contact us at jhale@gardenschool.org if you have any questions or concerns.



2014-2015 Summer Reading Requirements

Sixth graders going into seventh grade:

<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	Irene Hunt
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred Taylor

Seventh graders going into eighth grade:

<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Chinua Achebe
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee
<i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Anne Frank

Eighth graders going into ninth grade:

<i>Watership Down</i>	Richard Addams
OR	
<i>David Copperfield</i>	Charles Dickens

Ninth graders going into tenth grade:

<i>Night</i>	Elie Wiesel
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury
<i>Siddhartha</i>	Hermann Hesse

Tenth graders going into eleventh grade:

Three books	
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald
<i>The Life of Pi</i>	Yan Martell

For American History, both sections:

Either

<i>Bully Pulpit</i>	Doris Kearns Goodwin
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OR

<i>Ragtime</i>	E.L. Doctorow
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Eleventh graders going into twelfth grade:

<i>A Walk in the Woods</i>	Bill Bryson
<i>Metamorphosis</i>	Franz Kafka, not Ovid
<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Arthur Miller

All students are required to do the readings. Miller's work is a play that could be watched on DVD. Essays will be assigned at the beginning of the school year.



Nursery

By: Joanne Vogel (Nursery Teacher)

My, look how far we have come! We have many new friends, follow school routines, and have learned many new concepts. We are inquisitive, creative, purposeful, imaginative, healthy, and active. We can be very independent, but also work well in groups. We sing, move, experiment, observe, speak Mandarin, share, use manners, and love to eat. Our eyes light up when we see our favorite books!

We love to share stories about everything. So help me continue to grow by sharing experiences with me for the summer. We can be anywhere, and observe and talk about what we see and hear. The world is our classroom. And let's read together! Let's run and jump and be kids.

Physical Education for Early Childhood

By: Flance Dervishi (Athletics Director)

Pre-K and K have had a very interesting year and a very productive one. They have learned so much from motor skills such as walking, running, skipping, galloping, hopping, jumping, sliding, walking backwards and leaping, tumbling forwards, tumbling backwards, pencil roll, egg roll and much more. They have learned about teamwork while playing different types of tag games and importance of helping each other along the way. They have learned different dances such as Hip Hop, Jazz, Pop, and Ballet. We have learned different types of stretches and how important stretches are for everyone. We can successfully say everyone can touch their toes and is a lot more flexible than when we first started. The kids have learned different Yoga poses and how to demonstrate them on their own. We had an exciting year and are very happy with the results and look forward to next year.

Grade 1

By: Jacquelyn Renner (Grade 1 Teacher)

First grade is wrapping up with a reflection of the year. First Grade is creating a keepsake newspaper of events throughout the year.

Swimming, field trips, double reading, and a storyteller were among the memories. Each one listed sparked a discussion filled with excitement and laughter. Also recent SAT testing brought back memories of earlier work this year and often the sentiment of that used to be hard but isn't anymore. Something else that isn't hard anymore is the routines first graders needed to learn to be successful as they entered the elementary grades. Tasks that required long stretches of time such as unpacking, finding pages, and homework have been cut down and are independent activities.



We were able to squeeze in one last trip among the busy end of year activities. Mrs. Prio led the class and many chaperones through the Brooklyn Museum of Art on Wednesday. We examined our feelings as we viewed different pieces of art. A carved elephant tusk that even though it was quite beautiful made us sad when we realized how the tusk had been obtained. A large sculpture made of corn was fascinating to search through for hidden objects but made us upset when we thought about the statement being made about avarice. A peaceful feeling came over us once we reach two pastoral Tiffany stained glass windows. We felt as though we were in the meadow during spring and fall. Last we wandered through period houses which made us appreciate the modern conveniences we enjoy. Thank you Mrs. Prio for a fun and thought provoking trip.

Grade 2

By: Stephanie Parker (Grade 2 Teacher)

We had a wonderful year in Second Grade! It was amazing to watch the students develop and grow over the year.

They expanded their writing from related sentences to structured paragraphs and creative stories. They utilized strategies to decode unfamiliar words and had insightful discussions about the characters and plot. They demonstrated greater independence with solving word problems in math as they drew pictures and made tables to solve. They were always curious and asked many thoughtful questions (especially about animals and space!) This class loved Social Studies and made many interesting connections. In particular, they enjoyed Geography, Native Americans and Colonial America.

I am proud to say that they are moving on to Third Grade prepared and motivated to learn and explore! Please read, solve problems, and write stories about your adventures over the summer! Have a wonderful vacation!



This group photo was taken on a field trip to Historic Richmond Town in front of a Colonial Farmhouse. 5/28/15



Grade 3

By: Nilla Ingravallo (Grade 3 Teacher)

We had a productive and exciting year in third grade! This class approached lessons with enthusiasm, and they demonstrated an eagerness to learn about new and advanced topics.

In the area of writing, they worked on sentence structure, parts of speech, proper paragraph structure, and guided essay writing. The third graders learned various writing forms, including descriptive, persuasive, nonfiction, story writing, and literature responses. The students read trade books and texts in different genres. During reading lessons, they made inferences, conclusions, and connections, which they supported with text evidence. The third graders explored mathematical concepts, utilizing manipulatives and visuals, as well as memorized their multiplication and division facts. The importance of community was a theme discussed in social studies as well as in the classroom environment. The students participated in partner and cooperative learning activities in which they learned how to work together to accomplish a task.

Field trips enhanced their knowledge of areas of study, like our last field trip to Historic Richmond Town, which allowed them to better visualization and understand the Colonial America and Revolutionary time period studied in class. Throughout the year, the third graders developed their skills, confidence, and love for learning!



Have a wonderful summer! During vacation, please read daily, practice your multiplication and division facts, and keep a journal about what you read and/or your summer vacation.

Thank you third graders and third grade parents for a terrific year! I appreciate all your hard work, dedication, and support!

Grade 4

By: Lara Leggio & Tiina Prio (Grade 4 Homeroom Teachers)

We have had a successful 4th grade year! It has been an all around learning experience; from academics to socialization to overall independence.

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the highlights of our fourth grade school year. We had a wonderful time at Caumsett State Park and bonded as a class at the sleepover. We have become well acclimated to transition from class to class without a worry. This was also the first year that we were eating our lunch in the cafeteria and changing into our gym uniform during physical education.



Overall we have been delighted with the growth and accomplishments of each and every fourth grader. Congratulations on becoming a 5th grader! Have a wonderful summer!



Grade 5

By: Amy Ledden & Sarah O'Sullivan (Grade 5 Homeroom Teachers)

As all good things come to an end, the fifth grade reflected on their busy year. They decided to continue a now retired tradition of David Letterman's top ten memories of the 2014-2015 school year.

10. After learning about the Constitution, we composed a "Cookie Constitution" during recess.
9. Participating in the show "Into The Woods".
8. Working on projects in Lego Robotics
7. Acting like spies during the "Harriet The Spy" unit.
6. Participating in debate tournaments
5. Giving presentations in music on Jazz and in Social Studies on the Industrial Revolution
6. Learning about turtles and teaching the students in the lower grades about these amazing creatures.
5. Reading the Last Book In The Universe in Language Arts class.
4. Learning about soccer during "Soccer Club".
3. Swimming in the Garden pool.
2. Going to Camp Heirlich with my classmates.
1. Seeing the Lincoln Memorial, White House and the Smithsonian museums in Washington D. C.

As all can see it was a fabulous year! Have a safe and enjoyable summer! Until we meet again in September, keep reading!

Grade 6

By: Phil D'Anna & Patricia Georgi (Grade 6 Homeroom Teacher)

What a year it's been! From the very first week of school, the sixth grade has been an enthusiastic, energetic, and eager group of learners.

Welcoming many new students to the Garden community, the sixth graders have built great new friendships and strengthened existing ones. They have explored the natural wonderland of Camp Herrlich, delved into the community of the Museo del Barrio, and explored the historic sites of Washington DC. With each exciting trip, the class learned about old and new ways of life from a range cultural experiences. They've read a number of novels by various authors; they've explored and developed their own writing styles; they've studied almost 4,000 years of history. All of this work requires attention, dedication, and responsibility – things that each student has learned and worked on at their own pace.





For many, this year has been the culmination of five or six years in the lower division. As we end the school year, it is a time to reflect upon the great strides that each student has made. I am incredibly proud of the work that the class has put in, as a whole, to achieve their goals. The Upper Division will bring new and exciting challenges, but the sixth grade class has proven that they are more than capable of rising to these challenges. It has been a fantastic year – have a great summer, and good luck next year!

Grade 7

By: Tom Heineman (Grade 7 Homeroom Teacher)

This year in music, 7th graders attempted to view the world from a perspective other than their own.

On a surface level, the students were immersed in global studies, broadening their horizons by experiencing music from around the world. However, in digging a little deeper, they were considering the very meaning of culture. The 7th grade contemplated the insights they can draw from language when approaching Japanese music and history. They listened to the structures found in the Classical music of India that reflect moods, the time of day, and the seasons. 7th grade students studied South Africa's history during the Apartheid era through songs, and investigated the breath of West Africa's cultural reach around the globe through its traditional and contemporary music. They explored the great variety and roles of instruments in music of Latin America, and expression of politics and triumph over poverty when reaching into Jamaican music. Every area of the world they reached into augmented their growing grasp of and appreciation for culture and the connections between music, language, history, politics, art, and literature.

Congratulations 7th graders on a great year! You're on the path to becoming truly global citizens!

Grade 8

By: Dylan T. (Garden School 8th Grader)

As the end of the school-year nears, I reflect on all the positive experiences that I have been fortunate to be a part of this year. 8th grade has been a life-altering experience. Through classroom discussions, written assignments, projects, and overnight trips, I have emerged a different person, seeing the world in a different light. The learning experiences of the 8th grade are like no other. At first glance, the fast-paced curriculum may seem more challenging, but in the end, this experience betters and prepares one for high school.

The classes of the 8th grade have been absolutely spectacular, every class a new and unique experience like no other. English was a journey through the many worlds created by great writers, acting as a god would, creating vivid worlds from their innermost thoughts. Algebra was an eye-opening experience as to the influence of numbers in the world around us. Spanish helped me understand the world around us and the people in it through the use of a beautiful romance language. Physical Science taught me how everything works and to take that information to create something better. Area Studies helped expand our minds and made us less oblivious to the global mindset.

Another integral part of the 8th grade was getting to know my classmates personally. Frost Valley and the Adventure Park trip were not only fun, but we got to participate in activities in which we had to literally depend on one another to help us achieve goals. This might have never happened if we did not participate in trips like these. I feel I have made life-long friends at Garden and have learned to appreciate them so much more because of these trips.



Another wonderful year in Garden School draws to a close. I feel that I have had a transforming year and feel that I have grown leaps and bounds, both as a student and as a person. Throughout the year, I have realized several things about Garden School. The Garden School experience is very unique and personal for everyone, but what really gives the school its character are the people in it. I am very proud that I have been a Garden School student for 11 years and am fortunate to call Garden School my second home.

Grade 9

By: James Pigman (Grade 9 Homeroom Teacher)

What is the first thing I want to do when the last paper is graded, the last final examination marked, and the alarm can be jettisoned? Come June 10 and the realization comes to me that I am free to read and write. On my shelf for a while has been Oblomov, a Russian novel by Goncharov, and The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes. Freedom from the daily cycle of teaching and grading never means the chance to turn away from what I love, which is reading and writing. Too often the immature answer to “What are you going to do?” is “Sleep,” then “Hang out with my friends” or “Video games.”

And so, it was with great anticipation that I broke the seal on a new Moleskin journal, placed my Fisher Spacepen on top of it, and put my travel money with those items. Anticipation of the pleasures of summer for a teacher—to do more of the things we love and to read and think and write our thoughts. We hope our students are learning the joys of being a human capable of digesting books and having original thoughts. Summer really should be for the most activity, not the least.

Grade 10

By: Richard Kruczek (Grade 10 Homeroom Teacher)

This group are the personification of motivation, and a paradigm of community service. They are the ones who CANNOT sit idly by and wait for things to happen; they are the ones who, in short, more than any other group, care. About themselves, their classmates, their grades, their community outside of Garden. Period. It has been an honor to be their academic adviser, as we value the same things: honor, integrity, hard work and a commitment to this institution.

Anyone who has had the good fortune to get to know this group would agree with me. So, let us celebrate the doers and achievers that comprise this incredible grade.

Grade 11

By: Marcia Elkind (Grade 11 Homeroom Teacher)

Educators understand that summer vacation can sometimes set students back in their learning process. That is why we assign summer reading for all of our students. We would like them to indulge and engage in the habit of reading as a year-round activity. Titles are carefully selected for each grade's reading level and interest. For the juniors, going into their senior year, they must read METAMORPHOSIS, by Franz Kafka, DEATH OF A SALESMAN, by Arthur Miller and A



WALK IN THE WOODS by Bill Bryson. It is important to keep the mind active. Students will write about their summer reading experience during the first two weeks of school in September. These reflections and formal essays will earn seniors their first grades of the fall semester.

But more importantly than reading to fulfill an assignment is the habit of reading for pleasure. Reading should not be a chore. It should be a pleasure. Summer reading selections are chosen with that in mind. The titles above are considered "classics" of world literature. They became classics because through the ages these books have been read by successive generations and deemed "good." Kafka has produced a masterpiece in surrealism, where a man wakes one morning to discover he has become a bug! How does one navigate the world as an insect? And Miller's play explores the idea of the American Dream gone sour in a play that challenges our preconceptions about tragedy and the dignity of the common man. We hope to provide a rich reading experience for our students and entice them to pick up books and plays as their fancy strikes. READ, READ, READ! Read often, for fun, for information, for passing the time, for enriching your understanding of what it means to be a human being.

Summer vacation is at time to recharge the batteries, take side trips from curriculum into experienced based learning, to read what you like along with what you must. The more we know the more likely we are to succeed in life. So read, and enjoy.

Grade 12

By: Marlene Dapice (Grade 12 Homeroom Teacher)

You may think that once you graduate you will be forgotten. You couldn't be more wrong. You have been a part of our lives as much as we have been a part of yours. We have shared the joys as well as the sorrows, the laughter as well as the tears, the triumphs as well as the failures. As you prepare for the next chapter in your lives, don't go forth in sadness but rather take comfort in the fact that the memories we have created will endure. You will be missed. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope that you will think of us once in a while just as we will think of you. This is not goodbye, it is just the beginning. Safe journey!

Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony - June 5, 2015



Dive Into...

SUMMER CAMP!

We Make Summer Easy & Fun!



Fine Arts / Academics / Sports / Technology



Garden School Summer

JUNE 29-AUGUST 21 • Nursery-13 Years Old

Half/Full Days • 7:30am-6pm Available

Choose As Many Days or Weeks As Needed

- ✓ Swimming Pool + Lessons
- ✓ Flexible Scheduling
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Drop In Available
- ✓ Lunch & Snack Included
- ✓ Door to Door Transport



Register Before We Fill Up!

33-16 79th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372

(718) 335-6363 • gardenschool.org



Summer Camp Registration

Student Name: _____ Gender: _____ DOB: _____

Grade in Sept. 2014: _____ School: _____ T-Sh1rt Size: _____

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle your week of interest @ \$575 per week:

Week 1 June 29 (4 days)

Week 5 July 27

Week 2 July 6

Week 6 August 3

Week 3 July 13

Week 7 August 10

Week 4 July 20

Week 8 August 17

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 \$575 = \$ _____ +

Add transportation option (circle below) x \$125 per week \$ _____

Round Trip Bus / One way Bus-AM or PM **TOTAL FEE: = \$ _____**

Mother's Name & Business No: _____ () _____

Contact person if Parents unavailable Name & Telephone No: _____

Father's Name & Business No _____ () _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$575 secures a place for your child. The balance of the total summer fee must be paid in full by May 29th, 2015. Payment can be made by cash, check, Mastercard, Visa or American Express.

Parent Signature: _____

How did you hear about our Program? _____