



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 95 Number: I

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, September 15, 2017



Thoughts for the Week

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



As we move towards the completion of our first full week of school for the year 2017-18, I wanted to extend genuine welcome to all of our new and returning families. We are thrilled that you all have chosen Garden School, a NYS AIS accredited independent school, for your child's education.

By joining an independent school you have entered into a relationship with us that is based on trust, care, and performance. Our goal for your child is to provide a learning environment that blends an academic and social experience with your child's individual interests and talents. Our mission is to provide positive opportunities for each child that will stretch that child's talents and evoke an appreciation for new and possibly life-changing experiences. Each child here is an individual whose interests and talents will be developed through classroom work, social interactions, and institutional goals.

Our commitment to families rests upon the fundamental principle that all children can develop into life-long learners who understand the value and importance of academic learning, social interactions, the need for collaborative work, for problem solving, and to cultivate the intellectual ability to focus. These characteristics together form the recipe for a successful life.

In support of the bonds of trust that exists between this school and our families, there is also the need to support the mission of the school by endorsing the program through donating to the fundraising efforts that help sustain and enhance that program. Each family has become a member of the larger 'school family', which means that, just as in a relationship family, each member has an obligation to help the other. Independent school communities are designed to model the family. Each member of that family supports the growth and the development of the other family members. The school provides the 'nourishment', intellectual and social, that fosters growth in each child and, in return, families endorse those efforts with the intellectual and financial support through tuition and fundraising.

As our school year unfolds, our engagement with the intellectual and social growth of each child deepens; so too should family support of both the program and the fundraising efforts. The bond between Garden School and its families is the most important element in sustaining the educational and social vision of the school. Together, we form an educational community that support and enhances the development of our children. Here's to a magnificent school year together!

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.

Headmaster



New for 2017-2018 Newsletter!

Teacher and staff names by the articles are also email links!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Thursday, Sept. 21-Friday, Sept. 22: School Closed for Rosh Hashanah
- Monday, September 25: Lower Division Photo Day
- Tuesday, September 26: Upper Division Photo Day
- Tuesday, September 26: College Night for Juniors & Seniors
- Wednesday, Oct. 4 – Friday, Oct. 6: Camp Herrlich Trip for Grades 5 & 6
- Monday, October 9: School Closed for Columbus Day
- Wednesday, October 11: PSATs for Grades 10 & 11
- Friday, October 20: School Closed for Faculty Workshop Day

Merit Scholarship Exam Saturday, December 9th, 9:00 AM

We will also be offering the annual Merit Scholarship Exam on Saturday, December 9th. The Merit Exam and the **scholarships are eligible to both incoming new and current Garden students presently enrolled in grades 5-9 (entering 6-10 in 2018)**. Pre-registration using the form from the web link below is required by December 6th.

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.

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/admissions/merit-scholarship-program/>

Enrollment and Communications - Did You Know?

By [Jim Gaines](#), Director of Outreach and Upper Division Admissions

Garden Referral Program - Strengthen our Community, and Save Money!

The upcoming Open House is a great opportunity for current Garden families to take advantage of Garden's Referral Program and to refer new families to attend the Open House and consider enrolling at Garden.

Remember, **for every NEW full-time Garden student that enrolls** and the family pays the tuition due in full and that indicates you are the referring family, **the referring family will receive \$1,000 tuition credit**. For **each additional new student that enrolls, the referring family will receive a \$1,500 tuition credit** once the new family has paid the tuition in full. Using a referral card, available in the school office, allows us to keep track of your participation in a new family's enrollment. You can also choose to send an email with the information on the card directly to Jim Gaines, Director of Outreach, at jgaines@gardenschool.org. With your permission, we will follow up with the prospective family.

Garden "Community" Site Improves Communication

Garden parents use the Garden School website to access everyday information. The trouble is, it *costs Garden School every time you use Google to find us and it can take a while to load and it is so many clicks to find what you want!* We have a simple solution, **the Garden Community Site!** Click on or visit the link ON YOUR PHONE to check it out and save the icon to your phone homepage. Visit <http://www.gardenschool.org/community/> and quickly access all the info you need! Save time and money!

Garden School

Cultivating Success in Every Child

[Afterschool / Camp](#) ▾ [Garden Life](#) ▾ [Admissions](#) ▾ [Parents](#) ▾

News

Teacher Pages

Thinkwave

Contact

Calendar

Athletics

Programs

PTA

Menus

Forms

Payments

Store

Alerts



Parent Teacher Association

By: [Maria D'Amore](#), PTA President

Welcome Garden Families! For those of you who do not know me, my name is Maria D'Amore and I have been a Garden School parent for 8 years now. My daughter, Ariana, is in 7th grade and my son, Preston, is in 2nd grade. I have had the pleasure of serving the PTA since 2014 as Corresponding Secretary, Vice President and this year is my first year serving as your PTA president.

Garden School is not just a place where your child comes to get an education, but over time you'll find that it also becomes your child's second home. As your new PTA president, my mission is to:

- Encourage parent participation
- Provide Garden children and families with fun and enriching experiences
- Organize fundraising events to give back to Garden as much as possible.

However, NONE OF THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT YOU! Parent involvement is critical, not just to Garden School, but also for your child's education. A BIG THANK YOU to the classroom parents who have volunteered this year. Expect to hear from them soon and often!

Class Reps:

Nursery: Rita Avalos & Zafirah Alamgir

PK/3: Cindy Rodriguez & Jennifer Durst

PK/4: Renata Almeida

Kindergarten: Marsha Oropeza & Stacey Galitos

1st Grade: Rimpa Biswas

2nd Grade: Clara Solomon

3rd Grade: Nicole Adams

4th Grade: Dawn Dahlia

5th Grade: Maria Delgado & Blair Papagni

6th Grade: Yelena Shalamov & Christine Reyes

7th Grade: Emma Orejuela & Maria D'Amore

8th Grade: Monita Pichardo and Hazel Roseboro

9th Grade: Yelena Shalamov

10th Grade: Jenny Deras & Christopher Lynn

11th Grade: Emily Ades & Rachel Gladstein

12th Grade: Mary Petruso

As we all know, time flies & we are already gearing up for Photo Day, preparing our Halloween parties for both the upper and lower division, we have a fantastic new crew who have already begun designing a haunted house which will be an incredible experience for all who dare to enter! And of course, the countless other events that will be here before you know it!

I hope that you have each received the folder provided by the PTA, filled with important information about upcoming events such as International Night, the PTA calendar, Save the date information, our first fundraiser from Yankee Candle and for our annual Garden Gala on Friday, April 13th, which we encourage all families to attend!

Please return your photo day forms along with other important forms provided to you in the folder as soon as possible. I thank you for your support, I encourage you to help in any way you can and I ask that you please feel free to contact me any time with any ideas, questions or concerns at PTA@gardenschool.org or 718-517-0769.

Like us on Facebook to receive up to date information & reminders: <https://www.facebook.com/GardenSchoolPTA/>

Let's have a great year everyone! Thank you.



Key Club Crazy Day Raises Eyebrows and Money for Hurricane Victims

This Friday, kids and staff were encouraged to "dress crazy" and donate \$5 to raise money for All Hands Volunteers, an organization that sends volunteers to areas of the world affected by natural disasters. Please consider donating to this worthy organization: <https://www.hands.org/>



Nursery Language Arts

By: [Carmela Augello-Knopf](#), Nursery

The boys and girls in the Nursery class have been busy making friends and learning their daily routines. They are enjoying their Mandarin and Music classes. We've been focusing on using communication skills to help us get our needs and wants met. The children return each day with enthusiasm and excitement! Some books we've been reading in class and reinforcing on the smartboard include:

- [Llama Llama time to share](#) by Anna Dewdney
- [I am sharing](#) by Mercer Mayer
- [First Friends](#) by Lenore Blegvad
- [Hands are not for hitting](#) by Martine Agassi
- [Feet are not for kicking](#) by Elizabeth Verdick

[Teeth are not for biting](#) by Elizabeth Verdick





Pre-K Language Arts

By: [Eileen Reyes](#), Pre-Kindergarten and Dean of Grades N–K

The Pre-K 3&4 class has had an exciting first week of school. Learning our daily schedule, meeting new teachers and friends, and getting to know some new school rules has been our focus. Rules help keep us safe and happy. The students are learning independence, some for the very first time. Following directions and expressing needs and wants are some of the very first skills that are emphasized. As the children become comfortable, they learn to express their ideas with great confidence. Labels and signs are found throughout the classroom centers and material bins to help keep us organized. Parents can help their child to be organized as well by labeling things inside their bedroom, their toys, and personal items.

Name recognition is another important skill that is reinforced daily. Place cards are used to take attendance and to help the children know where to sit for lunch. They also will see their name printed on their cubbies and mailboxes. As the children learn to work and play together they are taught that they are part of the Pre-K team.



Some of the books we read this week are: *The First Day of School* by Jen McVeity, *What Will I Do If I Can't Tie My Shoe* by Heidi Kilgras, *Following the Rules* by Regina G. Burch, *What are Some Rules at School* by Margaret McNamara, and *Look Out Pre-K, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson.

Kindergarten Language Arts

By: [Lauren Yandow](#), Kindergarten Teacher

What an exciting first week of school it has been for us in Kindergarten! We have made new friends, played with new toys, learned new routines, and begun studying new topics in phonics, math, science, you name it!

Everywhere you look around the classroom, students can find letters, numbers, words, labels, books, pictures, and more, exposing them to new information and concepts that will foster the development of phonemic awareness. Students have been exposed to various informational and fiction texts to help them adjust to the first days of Kindergarten, such as *On the First Day of Kindergarten* by Tish Rabe, *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, and *Hands Are Not for Hitting* by Martine Agassi, which discusses how to play with friends and use our hands in a kind way.

We also used literature to learn about our first letter of the week: Aa! Students were exposed to different words that start with the letter A as well as words that have the /a/ sound in the middle of the word, such as cat. As a group we have been practicing the short /a/ sound and how to recognize in different words that we hear. Students used play-doh to learn the shape of uppercase and lowercase A, and drew and labeled pictures of things that start with this letter in their new writing journals.





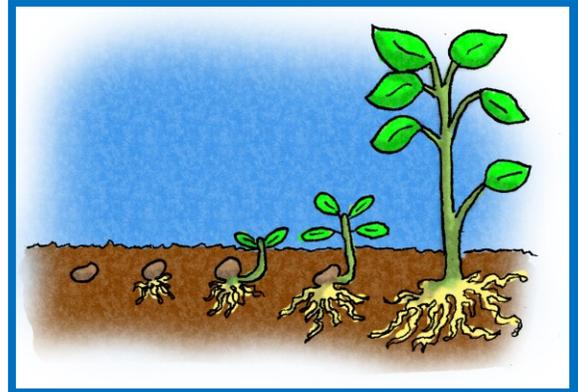
We look forward to having more opportunities to write and learn new letter sounds in the upcoming weeks of school!

Grade 1-3 Science

By: [Michelle Sclafani](#), *Math and Science Teacher*

First, Second, and Third grade Science has kick started the school year at full blast! The students familiarized themselves with the science lab they will be using this year as they learned about what to expect this upcoming school year.

Our first unit for all three grades will be Life Sciences. Life Sciences will cover various topics such as plants, life cycles of butterflies, the animal kingdoms and their habitats. The students will be able to plant seeds and watch them grow throughout the marking period. In the coming weeks, first grade will learn about the parts of plants as second and third grade will focus on the life cycles of plants, their importance, as well as the parts of plants. The science department as a whole is looking forward to an awesome school year!



Grade 4-6 World Languages French

By: [Gabriel Gomis](#), *French Teacher*

French 4

French 4 are learning the phonetics (alphabet, nasal sounds, combination of vowels.). They also have been showing great enthusiasm as they learned their very first French courtesy words. They are reviewing number in French presently.

French 5

French 5 have been reviewing the greetings and courtesy words. Presently they have been learning vocabulary related to music.

French 6

French 6 have been reviewing the adjectives. They have been showing their oral skills expressing their opinion about things and people using the adjectives learned in class.



GARDEN SCHOOL UPPER DIVISION - Grades 7 to 12

Message from Upper Division Head

By: [Brad Battaglia](#), *Upper Division Head and Director of College Counseling*

Dear Garden School Community,

It has been a joy to begin work at Garden. First, I want to thank those who have been so hospitable during these first days and weeks. You have made me feel at home and it is greatly appreciated.



I would like to tell you about my goals for both the Garden School Upper Division and the college counseling process for our juniors and seniors. My immediate focus is seeing our students in action, both in the classroom and out. I want to witness classroom discussions, see students participating in our numerous clubs, attend sporting events and be an ear for students wanting to speak about matters of concern as well as excitement. I want to be visible in the hallways and available for you as parents. Also, as Division Head, I oversee safety and discipline, and want you to know your child's physical and emotional safety are of utmost importance to me, as well as to everyone at Garden. If you feel there is something we can do better to support this mission, do not hesitate to contact me. Last, as a college preparatory school, we are working every day to cultivate our already strong relationships with institutions across the country. The rigor of the Garden School curriculum and the quality of our graduates is well known, and we will continue to make strides both in the region and nationally with our college counseling program. To this end, over forty colleges and universities are sending admissions representatives this fall to meet with members of the senior class. Institutions slated to visit include Vanderbilt University, The University of Southern California, Mount Holyoke, Trinity, and Dartmouth College.

As the year progresses, I hope to use the newsletter as a means to communicate how things are going within the Upper Division and of plans we have for the future. That said, I encourage you to reach out to me whenever you like. A school cannot be successful without an engaged parent body and I have every confidence you will find ways to help both your own child and the greater Garden community as we march through the calendar.

Here is to a wonderful year.

-Brad Battaglia

Upper Division Advisors and Emails

Grades 7 and 8 Dean: Nancy Massand, English Faculty. <mailto:nmassand@gardenschool.org>

Grade 9 Advisor: Sarah O'Sullivan, Social Studies Faculty. <mailto:sosullivan@gardenschool.org>

Grade 10 Advisor: Richard Kruczek, History Faculty. <mailto:rkruczek@gardenschool.org>

Grade 11 Advisor: Amira Booth-Soifer, English Faculty. <mailto:aboothsoifer@gardenschool.org>

Grade 12 Advisor: Marlene Dapice, Science Department, Chair. <mailto:mschultz@gardenschool.org>

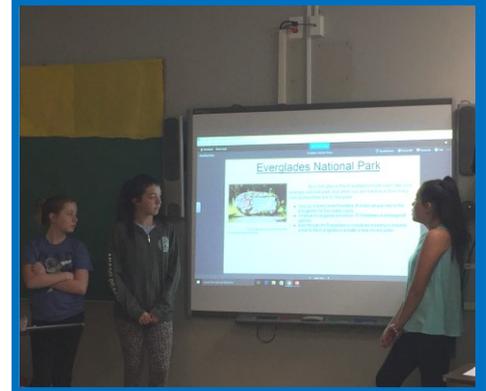


Grade 7 Social Studies

By: [Sarah O'Sullivan](#), *Social Studies and History*

September is always a time of beginnings in the world of education. A new year brings new information, experiences and activities. Seventh grade at Garden School is no exception. These young scholars have jumped into learning and are embracing American History. We began with an analysis of the physical geography of the United States. Students collaborated their research on National Parks and presented their information through power points.

Next week we will examine the origins of society and the magnificent civilizations of the Americas.



Grade 8 Social Studies

By: [Sarah O'Sullivan](#), *Social Studies and History*

Garden School provides a diverse environment in which ideas are discussed and challenged. This is evident in the eighth grade Area Studies class. These students have spent the first two weeks of school examining the impact of the Nazi regime on Europe through the eyes of a twelve year old in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. We questioned how such an evil regime could overcome a continent and implement such horrific actions. Many wondered how this event could have been prevented. Others were challenged to think how an individual could stop the Nazi programs.

Next, we will discuss the summer reading book *Things Fall Apart*. Students will be engaged in lessons that illustrate the impact colonialism has on ethnic groups such as the Igbo of Nigeria. We will question the validity of the British idea of a dual mandate.

Grade 9 Art

By: [Christopher Zelles](#), *Fine Arts Teacher, Chair of Fine Arts Department*

The 9 graders have just begun their class on the Italian Renaissance. During this course students will be introduced to various artists who molded the Renaissance, as we know it today. They will investigate natural forms, cultural traditions as sources of imagery through time. They will also investigate the use of pattern and emphasis in the creation of compositions, along with experimenting with value, light atmosphere, and color selection to reflect mood in composition.

For their first project, they will be putting their own twist on Michelangelo's famous work of art, *The Creation of Adam*. The goal for the students is to take the image of Adam's hand and do something completely creative with it. I have encouraged the students to research famous artists and paintings and to draw Adams hand in that artist's style. I have been encouraged by the enthusiasm the students have for this project and look forward to see the finished product by the end of the month.





Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education

By: [Flance Dervishi](#), Athletic Director

In PE Class, we're starting the year with soccer for our 11th and 12th grades. Soccer is a very popular sport in our PE classes, in our school, and in our Athletic teams. Students can get a bit competitive with each other in class and eager to show off their skills on our Garden Varsity Soccer team. Teaching soccer and playing games in PE class allows the upper division students to improve and get ready and focused for their season.

This first week, we went over different drills such as passing the ball correctly, dribbling, stopping the ball, and cutting. We played 6 vs. 2 monkey in the middle and performed some shooting drills. We make sure the students understand all of all these drills and why they are important to use with their teammates.

Next week we will create teams to start our regular season tournament. After two weeks of competition, we will rank the teams and have a playoff bracket for them to play for the championship.

Scenes from Opening Day and Curriculum Night 2017

