



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 95 Number: II

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, September 29, 2017



Thoughts for the Week

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



This past Wednesday evening I attended the first of three Heads of School meetings, which is sponsored by the Guild of Independent schools of New York. We meet three times a year to share information about educational issues, to be briefed on any important developments in our school community, and to establish networking contacts with each other.

Among the topics that were discussed was the idea of reclaiming our lives from all of the electronic devices that seem to have overtaken much of our daily, weekend, vacation, and leisure time. Just today on the drive into school, I saw five drivers texting on the highway, numerous pedestrians texting while walking, and two high school students in Flushing cross in the middle of Northern Boulevard while texting. Last week, when out to dinner in a restaurant, there were about thirty people and we and one other table were the only ones talking, the rest of the patrons were on phones, texting or simply checking messages.

There is clearly something amiss with this kind of social preoccupation with media and technology. A number of schools have begun constructing protocols for email and text use on the part of teachers and parents. Their goal is to establish boundaries for the use of this communication technology. For example, one way of controlling usage would be to limit the sending nor receiving of emails to only during working hours to avoid those emails at three in the morning. Another idea is that if an email communication goes beyond two or three exchanges, it is time to have a face to face conversation.

These are interesting and thoughtful ideas. Our goal is, of course, to communicate as much as we can and need to so that the needs of students and families are met and sustained by that communication. However, the idea that it is time, as one school document puts it, "to detach us from our devices for the purposes of rejuvenation' is a very perceptive and useful idea. We do live in a world of over-produced communication. We know that so much of internet content is not factually accurate, that it is propaganda and downright false. This downside seriously detracts from the many positive elements of the this technology, which has improved the quality of our lives in so many ways.

Now, it is time to make certain that we improve the quality of our personal and social interactions with each other and not filter them through electronic media. We should be able to take a walk with our thoughts rather than our cell phones. We should be able to go to dinner and talk with our dinner companion rather than check our messages, and finally we should be able to address the important issues in our lives face to face, with honesty, openness, and good will. We do not need to hide behind social media nor do we need the protective anonymity to express our thoughts. Modern technology is wonderful; human interactions are more wonderful!

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.

Headmaster



**New for 2017-
2018 Newsletter!**

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **FOUNDATIONS CLASSES POSTPONED ONE WEEK!** You have one more week to sign up! [Click here for schedule and class info.](#)
- **Tuesday, October 3:** PTA Meeting for all at 8:30 am in the Library
- **Wednesday, Oct. 4 – Friday, Oct. 6:** Camp Herrlich Trip for Grades 5 & 6
- **Monday, October 9:** School Closed for Columbus Day
- **Tuesday, October 10:** **Fall 2017 Foundations Classes** begin!
- **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/>

Marketing and Communications - Can Your Help, Please?

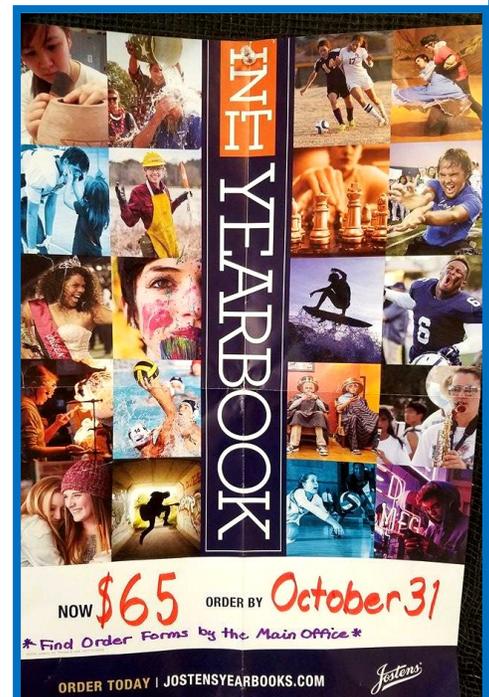
By [Jim Gaines](#), Director of Outreach and Upper Division Admissions

Garden Marketing is Seeking Parent Help!

Hello Garden Families, we are looking for **someone to help with graphic design skills** as we create some new collateral. The project is fairly straightforward and I suspect will take about 10-15 hours. Most of the artwork details have been set and we are looking for layout and design support.

Also, we are looking for a couple of **volunteers to help us with delivering marketing materials to schools** in our AND YOUR neighborhood about the Open House and Merit Exam. This can happen on your own time and can be anywhew in Queens, Brooklyn, and Mahattan. This needs to happen in the next few weeks.

If you can help, or know someone who can help, please get in touch with Jim Gaines, Director of Outreach, at jgaines@gardenschool.org.



ORDER THE CLASS OF 2018 YEARBOOK AT THIS DISCOUNTED PRICE UNTIL 10/31!
Remember, ALL students are represented in the yearbook! Get yours ASAP!



Parent Teacher Association

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

Greetings Garden Families,

School has just begun and we have already accomplished so much! **Photo Day** was a tremendous success and I could not have done it without all of my wonderful volunteers. I greatly appreciate your time and your efforts to help!

Last night was our **Self-Defense Workshop**! Over 40 parents & children learned self defense techniques & did hands on exercises! Thank you to all who attended and an enormous thank you to Mr. Tony Meloni, Founder of the NY Anti Crime Agency - for coming to teach this awesome class & to Maria Delgado (Peter, 5) for organizing & making it happen!!!



Important Information

- Join us for our **first PTA Meeting** of the year on **Tuesday, October 3rd at 8:30 am** in the Library!
- The **Yankee Candle Fundraising Sale** is in full effect! Please consider purchasing some amazing products (that would also make some great holiday gifts!). These purchases help raise money to support Garden & your children. Kindly submit your order forms asap!
- We are gearing up for our next event - **International Night**! It's going to be an International Night like never before! Please join us as we celebrate with a live DJ & food from our native countries! Please consider helping us by making a food from your native country as well. It can be a dessert, appetizer or main entree dish! Questions? Please ask! Your forms were included in your child's Curriculum Night folder*
- We have created an awesome **Garden Griffins Hooded Sweatshirt** as we gear up for the cold days ahead! You will be looking super cool in this distressed Griffin hoodie! Details will be emailed shortly & order forms will go out on Monday. Great for everyone!



Thanks again everyone! I greatly appreciate your support!

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

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/>.



Pre-K For All Math

By: **Yesenia Romero (PKFA Teacher)**

As the parent of a preschooler, you probably enjoy experiencing the world through your child's eyes (and hands and feet!) as he or she explores and learns with great enthusiasm. Giving preschoolers a solid foundation in early math literacy is critical to their future academic success, not to mention how important it is to their day-to-day functioning.

What do you need to know and do to help your preschooler learn about math?

Most preschoolers, even without guidance from adults, are naturally interested in math as it exists in the world around them. They learn math best by engaging in dynamic, hands-on games and projects. Preschoolers love to ask questions and play games that involve the many aspects of math.

The table below lists the key aspects of preschool math, along with simple games and activities you can use to help your child learn them.



Math Aspect Games and Activities

Number Sense

- Count food items at snack time (e.g., 5 crackers, 20 raisins, 10 baby carrots).
- Use a calendar to count down the days to a birthday or special holiday. Help your child see the connection between a numeral like "5," the word "five," and five days on the calendar.
- Practice simple addition and subtraction using small toys and blocks.
- Play simple board games where your child moves a game piece from one position to the next.

Geometry

- Have your child name the shapes of cookie cutters or blocks.
- Arrange cookie cutters in patterns on a cookie sheet or placemat. A simple pattern might be: star-circle-star-circle.

Measurement

- Let your child help you measure ingredients for a simple recipe - preferably a favorite!
- Measure your child's height every month or so, showing how you use a yardstick or tape measure. Mark his or her height on a "growth chart" or a mark on a door frame. Do the same with any siblings. Help your child compare his or her own height to previous months and his or her siblings' heights.

Math Language

- Talk through games and daily activities that involve math concepts.
- Have your child name numbers and shapes.
- Help him or her understand and express comparisons like more than/less than, bigger/smaller, and near/far.

Spatial relations

- Play games where you direct your child to jump forward and back, to run far from you or stay nearby.

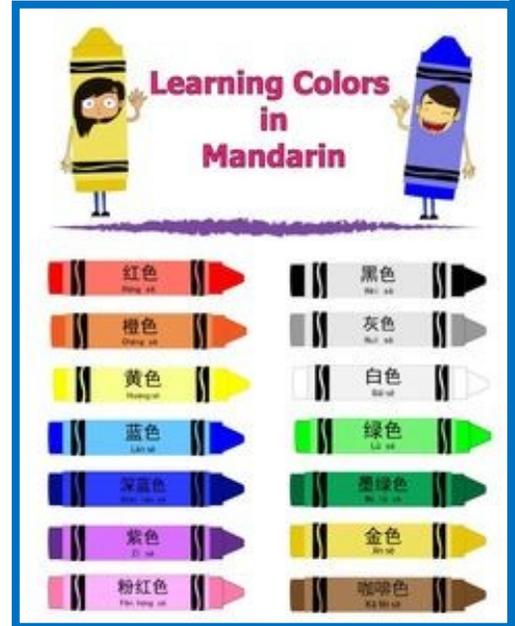


Early Childhood World Language, Mandarin

By: **Jie Yang, Mandarin Teacher**

The early childhood student is learning numbers from 1-10 in Mandarin Chinese. They can recognize, say out loud, rhyme, and sing the numbers in and out of the classroom. Initially, Children will interpret and react to signs, songs and games. Then students will interact with teachers and classmates by engaging in activities related to numbers.

This week we begin to learn colors in Chinese. The early childhood students will gain the ability to identify colors in Chinese, such as red, blue, green, brown etc. Students will ask and respond to simple questions about colors. Students also will express whether they like or dislike specific colors. Students will practice sorting according to colors in addition to recording data of class likes and dislikes of colors.



Grades 1 Social Studies

By: **Kristen Ahlfeld, First Grade**

Our focus in social studies this month has been on our community and on kindness, our first character trait in our [character program](#).

The first graders' social awareness and experiences grow daily. In social studies this week, the students are learning the new responsibilities of being a good citizen in our school and community. The children are excited to hold jobs and be helpful within our classroom. In our social studies book we are also exploring concepts such as cause and effect, main idea and details, and comparing and contrasting. These skills can be applied across the curriculum and evolve over time. It has been exciting working with our neighbors to create a kindness bond on our floor. Through literature and activities we are promoting the students to "choose kind".





Grades 2 Social Studies

By: **Paula James (Second Grade Teacher, Grades 1-3, Dean)**

The social studies curriculum for second grade has centered around building a culture of kindness within our classroom and our school. Students have worked on writing their own class rules. Everyone contributed three rules they thought were most important, then the class voted for the top five rules we would use in our classroom. Establishing rules that the children have voted on shows that their ideas are important and valued. On several occasions, we have discussed ways to be kind to others in the school. One activity was to create a bulletin board in the hallway with our "Keys to Kindness". Each key identifies ways that we can be kind, and we are reminded of these values throughout the day.



This week the first, second, and third grade students spent time getting to know each other and worked together on a friendship activity. To begin the friendship lesson, we shared a story called The Sandwich Swap, by Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah. It is a story about two school friends that learn lessons about difference, tolerance and appreciation. The end of the story brings the students together in a wonderful way that led many children to make a connection to Garden School's International Night. After the story, students created a paper friendship chain. Each link contains words about kindness and friendship. The children enjoyed assembling the chain, and the students understand how our friendship with one another links all of us together.



Grades 3 Social Studies

By: **Rachel Vidal (Third Grade Teacher)**

Third graders are starting the year exploring different types of communities and what makes a good community. Our first social studies project involves exploring their own community. How is their community different from other types of communities? How is theirs special?

Our "Community Collage" project will be a compilation of pictures, drawings, newspaper clippings, maps and anything the third graders can find relevant to their community. This visual representation of their neighborhood will show how diverse, culturally rich and exciting our community really is!





Grades 4-6 Physical Education

By: *Michelle Ferreira (P.E. Teacher)*

In Physical Education class we have been using the pool a lot, which the kids enjoy and look forward to, and we have started our first unit which is soccer.

We have been focusing on drills which are dribbling, passing and shooting on their own and with a partner. The reason we focus on each of the drills, is so they can be proficient and ready for soccer games. We always start class with a warm-up to make sure the blood is moving, and then we stretch to prevent any injuries while playing. During this time we talk to the students about how to breath properly, we talk to them about a proper diet, and other health related topics. We play fun games and do relay races that involve the drills we have practiced in class, such as Monkey in the Middle, and Steal the Bacon etc.



Next week, we will begin our regular season games which will lead to an in-house tournament where all teams play in one game eliminations, on the way to crowning a champion. We are enjoying this soccer unit and seeing the students demonstrate and improve their skills in class.

Grades 7 and 8 Fine Arts - Art

By: *Christopher Zelles (Fine Art Teacher)*

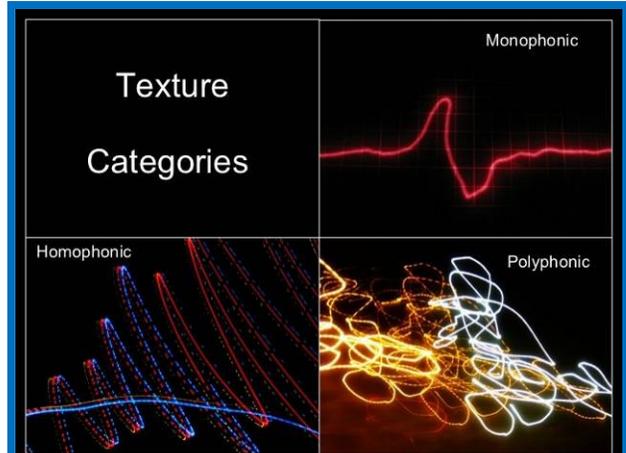
The 7th and 8th grades students are completing their projects for Spanish Heritage Month. To commemorate this month, students learned about the history of *dia de los muertos*. The project for the students was to design a skull that reflected the holiday and to put their spin/personality into their drawings.

The medium they had to use was colored pencils where they learned how to shade and cast shadows using them. The results of these projects have been very positive and it's been great to see how many of the students have surprised themselves by how well their work turned out to be.

Grades 7 and 8 Fine Arts - Music

By: *Thomas Heineman (Music Teacher, Fine Arts Department, Chair)*

Students in 7th grade are learning about how we discuss and analyze Popular music and Rock and Roll. The theory that they've been absorbing thus far concerns the music's structure, timbre, dynamics, and rhythm. Comprehension of the concepts is guiding students toward becoming deeper and more perceptive listeners, to know *what* to listen for in a piece of music, to differentiate between and consider specific aspects of what they're hearing, and to be able to intelligently speak and write about the music. This will also aid them when they reflect upon the origins and evolution of Rock and Roll during its 60-plus-year history.

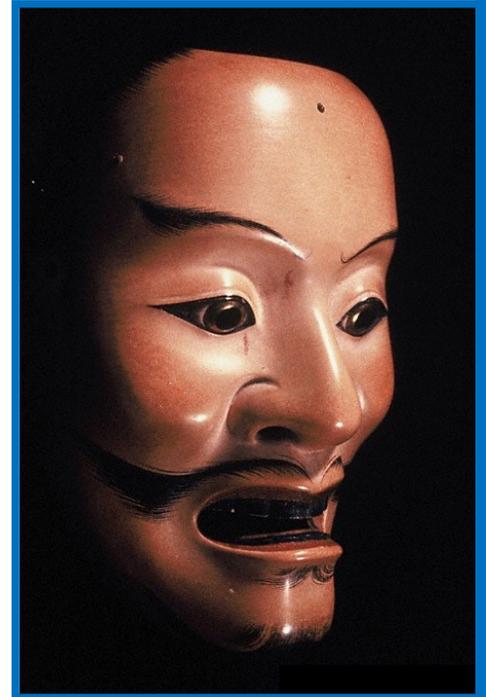




The song selections are quelled from an incredibly diverse group of genres such as Rockabilly, Post Punk and New Wave, Philly Soul, recent Pop & Singer-Songwriters, R & B, Electronica, Hip Hop, Hard Rock and Heavy Metal, Motown, the British Invasion, Funk, and Synth Pop. It gives students the opportunity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

To both gain a new perspective and a greater understanding of Japanese musical and theatrical traditions, 8th Graders have explored the country's rich history and culture in music class. They were given a historical overview of the nation's ancient past and some insight into the culture through the written language. Students even had the opportunity to write characters in the Chinese and Japanese language (Japan borrowed the Chinese written language before developing their own and uniting the two to create the modern written language).

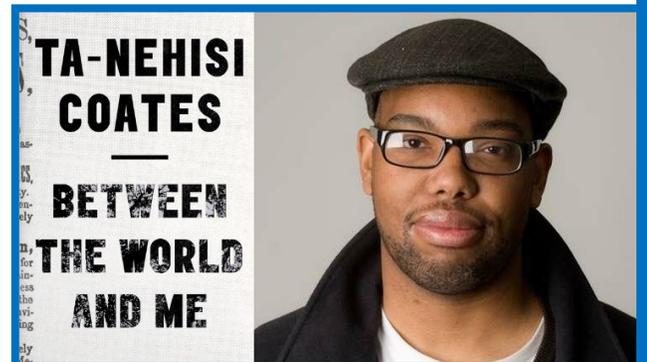
Students are currently comparing two ancient forms of musical theatre still existent today: Noh and Kabuki. The origins and intended audience of these two art forms were polar opposites, as Noh served the upper class, which were the samurai during the medieval period, while Kabuki was performed for common people. Equipped with this information, students are able to draw conclusions about other aspects of the music and performances. They viewed a copy of a woodblock print depicting the interior of a Kabuki theater. Kabuki dates back to the early 1600s, and the original wooden theaters have long since burnt to the ground. The woodblock prints help inform us about the theaters' construction and décor as well as aspects of the performance and the audience; 8th grade students garnered information from the print the same way scholars do. After we complete our examination of Kabuki, students will tackle some of the more modern music with an eye on how it relates to the ancient culture, still deeply embedded in today's Japan.



Grade 9 English

By: Tyler Rivenbark (English Teacher, Chair of English Department)

Over the past month of class, 9th grade has explored singular essays that explore the relationship between the personal and the political. Writers like James Baldwin and Zora Neale Hurston have sparked classroom discussions that range from how our identity is shaped to the nuances of prejudice. We are now reading Ta-Nahisi Coates' memoir *Between the World and Me*, which builds on the ideas and questions raised in the essay unit and brings the conversation into our contemporary times.



In addition to reading these works, the 9th grade is currently working on their own memoirs centered around their experience in their particular neighborhoods. The first essay is challenging the students to ask questions about their relationship to their surroundings, how they can better understand the environment, and what it means to speak one's own experience.



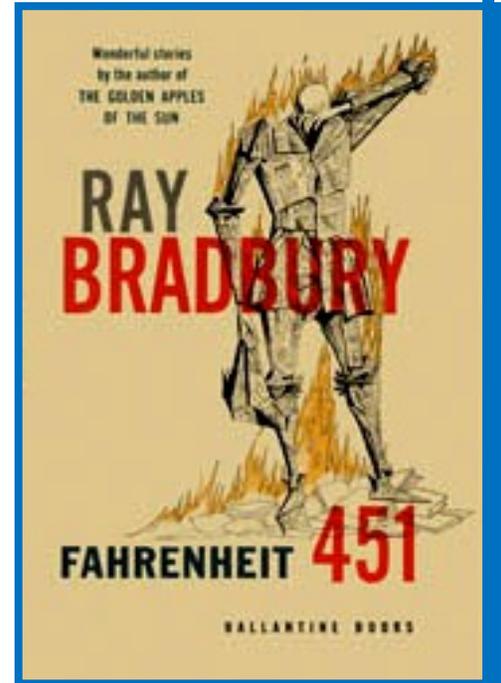
Grade 10 English

By: *Amira Booth-Soifer (English Teacher)*

The 10th grade is off to a great start this year in English class. We've begun by closely examining one of the summer reading books, "Fahrenheit 451," through class discussions, group questions and answer presentations, creative writing, and analytical essays. We have been delving quite deeply into the issue of censorship, raised in "Fahrenheit 451" and quite relevant to the current political climate. We have discussed the limits of free speech, how social media affects censorship and free speech, and how these issues connect to the "message" intended by Ray Bradbury, the author of "Fahrenheit 451."

Students were asked to pick a text that they found personally significant and write a rationale for how they would defend the text of their choosing from school censorship.

Bearing these issues, and questions of how community, free speech, reading, and different methods of communicating in mind, students have now begun reading "Night," Elie Wiesel's memoir of the Holocaust. After examining the issues raised in this book through in-class activities, discussion, and analytical writing, we will begin our next unit, focusing on Shakespearean history and language (with a particular focus on Shakespearean insults). I look forward to continuing to work with this strong group of scholars as the year develops.



Grade 11 and 12 Mathematics

By: *Lauren Little (Math Department)*

In Pre-Calc Honors we have been working on the basics of functions. This is an important topic that lays the foundation for everything else we will be studying throughout the year and also next year in AP Calculus. We have covered the Domain and Range of functions, sketching and analyzing graphs of functions, transformations of functions, and different ways to combine functions. Today we started talking about one-to-one functions and their inverses, which will be the last thing that we cover in this chapter. We will have a chapter test next week, and then we will move on to a more detailed study of polynomials and rational functions.

In AP Calculus, we have been studying limits and continuity. We have discussed different ways to evaluate limits, limits at infinity or the end behavior of a function, and continuity of functions. Today we started to discuss the continuity of trigonometric functions and the squeeze theorem, whose name the students found amusing. After we finish covering the continuity of trig functions we will have a chapter test, then we will move on to derivatives.

Grade 11 and 12 Computer Science

By: *Sarah Blakeley (Math Department)*

We have just completed our first topic in computer science, project planning and management. This unit has laid the groundwork for the detailed planning necessary when constructing algorithms or designing a computer.



Over the course of the past month students have identified the specific problem they need to solve, learned how to construct a plan that accounts for possible successes and failures, and used their observations of their tests to help them redesign and make a new plan. Making a plan sounds easy, until one realizes the amount of forethought that goes into making a solid, detailed plan. Their unit project was to individually plan and construct a catapult out of limited materials to accurately hit a target. Starting next week, we will begin our second unit focusing on the internet.

Grade 11 and 12 Mathematics

By: *Sonia Ambarsom (Math Faculty)*

11th grade Algebra II & Trigonometry class has been reviewing essential elements of Algebra and applications of these elements to word problems. This is an especially important class for the 11th graders as they think about and prepare for their college entrance exams. After having researched SAT and ACT math questions, I have been incorporating many of these types of questions and reviewing the terminology used in their directions and problems. This past week, we have been focusing on applications of linear and quadratic equations to problem-solving. After repeated practice, the students can begin to recognize particular patterns in the questions asked and approach the problem in a logical and systematic way.

12th grade Pre-Calculus students have used this time to review material learned in Algebra II & Trigonometry, and explore the extensions in equations as they pertain to the graph and patterns in the transformations in the graphs of particular functions. This past week, the students have been studying and applying the basic operations (+, -, *, /) to functions and studying the composition of functions and how it changes the graph of the aforementioned composition.

English Language Academy

By: *Mr. Roselli (ELA Instructor)*

This week Mr. Roselli's class did read-alouds with Ms. Yandow's class in the library. As a teacher, I admire my students when they take charge of their own education. When kids can teach other kids - what better gift can be given the teacher?





Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club
Get Your Amateur Radio License
Garden School Amateur Radio Club

For interested people from grades 7 through Adult

Do You Want To:

- Talk around the world
- Talk with Astronauts
- Help your community in times of Emergency during earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes
- Serve as a trained Spotter for the National Weather Service



The Hall of Science Amateur

Radio Club in conjunction with the Garden School Amateur Radio Club will be holding a Technician License course where you can learn everything you need to earn your Technician (Entry Level) FCC Amateur Radio License. Depending on the class size it should take 8 classes to complete the course. The Technician License is your gateway to the world-wide excitement of

Amateur Radio... and you do NOT need to learn Morse Code!

Class Meeting Schedule

All classes will be held at Garden School (33-16 79th Street, Jackson Heights) in Room 30 (Mr. Hale's Room) starting at 6:30 PM and should end no later than 8:00 PM

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ☞ Mon - 16-Oct | ☞ Mon - 13-Nov |
| ☞ Mon - 23-Oct | ☞ Mon - 20-Nov |
| ☞ Mon - 30-Oct | ☞ Mon - 27-Nov |
| ☞ Mon - 06-Nov | ☞ Mon - 04-Dec |
| ☞ Wed - 06-Dec Test | |

What You Will Learn

- The exciting world of Amateur Radio
- Radio and Signal Fundamentals
- Electricity, components and circuits
- Antennas and Radio Propagation
- Amateur Equipment
- Licensing Regulations
- Operating Regulations
- Electrical Safety
- and much more!

The class is free but you will need a textbook (The ARRL Ham License Manual 3rd Edition - Level 1) about \$30 on Amazon and the test will cost \$15.

We have a limited spots for this class so please register soon. To register or for information please contact: John Hale at kd2lpm@jrhaleteacher.me.



Garden School

Cultivating Success in Every Child



Merit award winners receive 25%-100% tuition discounts
Merit families receive school tour during Merit Exam

Realistic Alternative to Manhattan Schools
Near Public Transportation / Private Bus Available

Nursery to Grade 12, Independent College Prep School

- NYS AIS accredited, strong academics, small classes
- AP Classes, athletics, college counseling, character education

Saturday, December 9th - 9:00am

Open House for all families, Nursery to Grade 12

- **Presentation 9:00 am - 11:30 am.**
- **Children welcome. Refreshments served.**

Merit Scholarship Exam for grades 5-9, pre-register by 12/2/17

- **Arrive by 9am for presentation. Open House until 11:30am**
- **Children welcome, No RSVP, Refreshments served**