

100/\$100 CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT GARDEN SCHOOL GALA - 2017

Good evening. My name is Mallika Walia, Class of 2012.

I am here tonight as an alum that has been “Pigmanized.” Yes, we all know what that means. Mr. Pigman is an idea machine. He thinks up more ways to engage students, teachers, parents, the community, in a never ending search to broaden the horizons for his students, and I sincerely believe, to amuse himself! He has a wicked sense of humor. We have all been exposed to it in his puns if nothing else. Have you ever asked for a Kleenex only to be told he has none - only Dirty Y’s! We groan and roll our eyes, but we smile, relax and want more.

Well, he’s done it again. It wasn’t enough to take students to the theater, or the many museums of New York. It wasn’t enough to coach girls’ softball and tennis. I wasn’t enough to teach Astronomy or create the Writing Project. He doesn’t rest. His mind is always perking away, coming up with new programs and adventures. China? Machu Picchu? Paris, Amsterdam? Ireland? He has organized over 30 international trips for Garden students, teachers, and parents. Yes, his “Pigmanizing” is also a form of mentoring, reaching out to teachers, including them in his adventures so they gain confidence in their own abilities to carry on this tradition of using the world as a classroom.

The annual trip to Nantucket is a tradition at Garden School. Over 60 students will make this last trip with Mr. Pigman this year. Some students go every year, from 7th through 12th grades. The Cliff Walk, the ferry ride, the small inns, the fresh baked cookies, the exhilarating rides around the island - all make this a Garden School favorite trip. All because Mr. Pigman loves nature, loves the variety of this country, and wants to share that love with his students.

So his latest idea? Mr. Pigman's 100/\$100 Club. He is challenging the alumni to contribute \$100 per year for five years, the funds dedicated to a new science lab. Yes, a man who loves words, great literature, puns and anagrams, crossword puzzles, sees the absolute value in a strong science education for our students. Science is a subject of wonder. It makes us see the world in new ways, explains the world to us. It makes us think and marvel. And it all begins in school, where a student's interest is peaked by a good teacher asking good questions, and then sending students to discover the answers. A new lab, a 21st Century lab, will help students find those answers. So, can we do it, alums? Can we meet Mr. Pigman's challenge? What's \$100? A dinner out with you significant other? It's a small give back to honor the man and the institution that set you on your path in life.

When you make your donation, a brick will be engraved with your name and graduation year. It will be installed in the new walkway to the front entrance to Garden School. Everyone will see your name; it will pay homage to your time at Garden School. The walkway will be installed in August, 2017, so buy now! Go to the Garden website, click on "Alumni" and then "100/\$100 Club." Follow the prompts and voila, you are a member of the prestigious 100/\$100 Club!

Mr. Pigman has done so much for Garden School. Teacher, mentor, punster, advisor, all around instigator. What other school has an official Ferris Bueller Day, where the entire upper division "cuts" school for a day exploring the city? Only Mr. Pigman could think it up, and only he could sell it to the faculty and the administration. It is a glorious thing to be Pigmanized. It makes you feel part of something bigger than yourself. A group effort, where camaraderie is encouraged and learning happens effortlessly. This latest effort, to raise funds for a much needed science lab, is our chance to honor the man who has always honored us, with his intelligence, his passion, his guidance and insight, and his humor. We love you, Mr. Pigman.