



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 95 Number: IX

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, November 17, 2017

Thoughts for the Week



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



From the first time an independent school opened its doors more than 300 years ago, we have always engaged families in a cooperative mission of educating children academically, socially, and emotionally. Many of these early independent educational models, which predate the idea of the public school by a century, focused on how to educate children in the most effective way possible. Some schools mainly reflected the vision of an individual founder, others represented more of a community vision, such as our school, which was conceived and founded 95 years ago by a group of parents in our community.

Our schools all had and continue to have one thing in common: the support of parents. Since we are independent of state regulations, which frees us from the politics of education and the smothering effects of bureaucracy, we depend on tuition and gift-giving for our support. For the vast majority of schools in NAIS, (National Association of Independent Schools), tuition covers about 80 to 85% of the cost of running and growing the school. For this reason, all independent schools depend on fundraising to close the gap between income and expenses.

In the tradition of our schools, the Annual Giving Fund takes place every Fall. This allows us to gather and assess the income needs for the remainder of the year. The Annual Giving Fund provides families and friends with the opportunity to support their child's school directly, and work toward supporting and enhancing the mission, which is primarily "to promote academic achievement, personal development and social involvement."

I am calling upon all of our families, faculty, trustees and alumni to help support this effort by making a donation to the Annual Fund. These donations support the educational program, bolster the budget, allow for longer-term planning, and affirm the partnership that Garden School has with all of its stakeholders. Schools like ours are partnerships in the fullest sense of the word. Not only are all members responsible for its well-being, but we also have a relationship and a responsibility to the past and to all of those who maintained our school before us.

We are entrusted with Garden School by those who, for the past 95 years, supported and nurtured our mission and our dreams for the future. We are the caretakers of an institution that was the collective vision of people in our community early in the twentieth century. We, all of us in our community, have a responsibility to the past and a commitment to our future.

Please join me and my family in supporting the mission and the vision of Garden School by making a donation to the Annual Fund.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Wednesday, Nov. 22: **Alumni Thanksgiving Gathering**, Library 10:30am
- Thursday, Nov. 23 – Friday, Nov. 24: School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- Friday, Dec. 1 : **Pasta Night!** at 5PM & 7:30PM
- Monday-Wednesday, December 4-6: **Holiday Gift Boutique!**
- Saturday, December 9, 9:00 AM: **Garden Open House and Merit Scholarship Exam** - Invite families!
[Register for Exam by clicking here](#)

- Friday, December 22 : Noon Dismissal
Lower Division Show at 9AM
Upper Division Winter Trip
Faculty Gathering: 1-4PM

- Monday, Dec. 25 - Friday, Jan. 5 : School Closed for Winter Break
- Monday, Jan. 8 : Classes resume

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



Garden School

Cultivating Success in Every Child



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

Nursery to Grade 12, Independent College Prep School

- NYSAIS 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

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

For more information and forms: <http://www.gardenschool.org/admissions/merit-scholarship-program/>

Pasta Night

Come and enjoy a Delicious Italian Dinner prepared by **Chef Richard Marotta** in the William Poll Dining Hall in Garden School on Friday, December 1st!



Admission: \$10 for 1 / \$25 for 3

Seatings will be at 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM

**Tickets can be purchased at the door and from any Senior!
All money raised will help the Class of 2018 fund their prom!**



Garden School Annual Fund Appeal Letter 2017

Dear Garden School Families,

School is back in session, and it is time once again for all Garden families to support Garden School's most significant fundraiser, The Annual Fund.

All independent schools depend on fundraising every year, and in particular, on families donating to The Annual Fund. Tuition does not cover all the expenses of providing the first-rate, well-rounded, and enriched education that you have chosen for your child and your involvement in fundraising is expected in order to close that gap.

Last year, this community raised \$50,000 towards The Annual Fund and we thank you for your support in achieving that milestone. With your help, we continue to improve our educational offerings and our physical plant in ways seen and unseen:

- Ensuring our continued excellence through NYS AIS accreditation
- Improving campus security
- Upgrading the school heating system for cost efficiency
- Renovation and bricking of the front entrance walk
- Renovation of Upper Division's Room 23
- Installation of two hydration stations to reduce bottle waste and keep Garden "green"
- New doors for our Main Hall rooms

Also, through a generous alumni donation, we launched Garden's popular Amateur Radio Club that adds to our technology and science offerings, and which recently won a Blue Ribbon at the NY Makers Faire. These and other improvements are made possible by your donations. More necessary program and facility improvements are planned, and your participation in The Annual Fund remains critical. Longer term plans include renovating the Science Lab in the Main Hall and renovating several more classrooms. We need your help with these capital projects and for you to support the successful implementation of Garden School's mission!

We count on every Garden family being generous, and our more imperative goal is 100% family participation. We must have your help to achieve that goal! Our Board of Trustees has demonstrated its leadership once again by pledging over \$10,000 in contributions to the Annual Fund—all in support of Garden School's Mission. We ask you to make a donation to The Annual Fund and help us reach our goals.

Please join me in celebrating our school and in supporting its mission to educate our students to the highest of academic, social and personal standards.

Please go to www.gardenschool.org/giving for information or to make your donation online. On behalf of all alumni, current, and future generations of Garden students, we thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster
Alumni Parent '00
Current Grandparent '31, '34

Michael Rakosi, '64
President, Board of Trustees

Jean Kinn, Alumni Parent '06
Chair, Annual Fund
Member, Board of Trustees

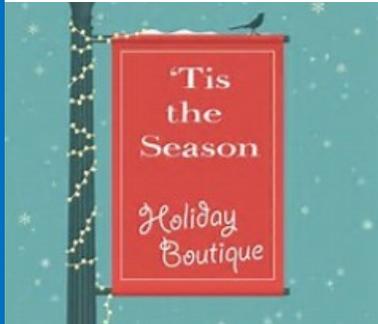


Garden School Holiday Boutique Details

December 4th, 5th, & 6th

Set-up: December 2nd & 3rd.

It's that time again!



One of the most popular events at Garden is almost here... Your child will enjoy shopping for their family members & friends in the library, which will be transformed into a winter wonderland! Each gift will be wrapped and labeled. It is truly a wonderful and exciting experience for everyone...but I need YOUR help.

Volunteers are needed to transform the library on December 2nd & 3rd.

Volunteers are needed on the 4th, 5th & 6th as personal shoppers, wrappers & check out.

The boutique will run from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm on all 3 days. Please volunteer! If I do not have enough volunteers, we will have to cancel this event. Kindly respond with your availability & what you would like to do as soon as possible, if you are interested!

pta@gardenschool.org

Questions? Please ask.

Thank you,

Maria D'Amore

The Student Council
Of Garden School

Aneesh Didwania
President

Mirabella Chau
Vice President



Aliyah Mohammad
Secretary

Isabel Wilder
Treasurer

Ariel Marvin
Asst. Secretary

— *Thanksgiving* —
FOOD DRIVE



MON. NOVEMBER 13

— *to* —

WED. NOVEMBER 22

Please donate **canned goods, non-perishable items, dried food boxes, and household products** such as dish soap, sponges, etc. to support the Jackson Heights community this Thanksgiving.



BOXES WILL BE LOCATED IN THE MAIN HALL.



All proceeds will be donated to the Lion's Share Food Pantry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.



Pre-K For All - Math

By: [Lauren Murray](#) (PKFA Teacher)

As we continue our exploration of our thematic unit of Nutrition, students shared how unhealthy foods affect our bodies; specifically, our teeth. Students created charts and learned new vocabulary terms. Including, cavity, calcium, toothbrush, Dentist, hypothesis and experimentation. They applied these terms when sharing in discussions in both large and small group activities.

Scientific experimentation is a key way for the students to make stronger connections and have more in depth conversations. This week, we created a science experiment by placing eggs in soda and milk and documenting the results. The students made hypothesis, observed the eggs in the liquids and shared their thoughts on the results. This type of experimentation allowed the students to make connections between the change in color in the eggs and how that correlates to keeping their teeth strong and healthy.



Early Childhood - World Languages, Mandarin

By: [Jie \(Kelly\) Yang](#), (Mandarin Teacher)

This month, early childhood students are learning different fruits in Chinese. They can identify and name common fruits, such as apples, grapes, watermelons, oranges, pineapples, strawberry, blueberry and bananas. Also the young children are able to name common colors, such as red, yellow, blue, green, orange, and purple.

Now we are learning to express our preferences related to fruits and colors. The children will respond questions about their preferences for different fruits and colors. Students also will express whether they like or dislike specific fruits and colors. Finally the Kindergarten students will practice sorting according to colors in addition to recording data of class likes and dislikes of colors and fruits.





Grade 1 Social Studies

By: [Kristen Ahlfeld](#) (First Grade Teacher)

For social studies this week, we incorporated activities in math, writing and history to our Thanksgiving theme. The first graders used their prior knowledge, various literature and classroom lessons to expand their knowledge of how this special custom began. Through our "Scholastic News Magazine", the students were able to take an in-depth look at the daily life of pilgrims. The students learned the roles and obligations of male, female and children pilgrims. They marveled at how women washed clothes in streams and how children had chores instead of school. We compared jobs of modern day life with those of early settler life. The first graders are enjoying working on their Thanksgiving creative stories.

On Thursday our school community came together to celebrate Thanksgiving. In grades 1, 2 3, the students enjoyed coming together and sitting at great, long tables to feast on delicious turkey and trimmings. It was the perfect opportunity to recognize our nation's history from Native Americans to immigrants from every corner of the world. The students decorated place mats, helped trim the tables, and participated in a meal time discussion of for what we are thankful. There was simply delicious apple and pumpkin pies for dessert! A big thank you to Anna, Daniela and Walter for helping the entire school share this opportunity together!





Grade 2 Social Studies

By: [Paula James](#) (First Grade Teacher)

Second Grade students have been learning about community government over the past several weeks in social studies.

Our focus began with a discussion about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students shared ideas about the importance of voting and actively participating in electing local leaders. We also discussed our recent election, the candidates running for different offices, and the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State.

The topic of immigration came up in our discussions about Jackson Heights, as it is such a diverse community with many different immigrant groups. Students enthusiastically shared stories about some of their family members that moved to America, and we identified the countries from which they came. With Thanksgiving around the corner, we began a discussion about the Pilgrims that landed in MA in 1620, and how they were immigrants too. Our conversations moved forward to modern times, and we talked more about the many reasons that people decide to emigrate to other countries. These discussions were relevant as we began reading a new book called *Molly's Pilgrim*.

Molly's Pilgrim is a story about a young girl that comes to America from Russia. The book teaches lessons about tolerance and acceptance, freedom of religion, and the importance of being kind. Molly, the main character, is able to overcome obstacles and challenges, and adjusts to her new life and friends. There will be more discussions and activities related to the book and to our immigration theme over the next few weeks.

I am pleased that we will have a guest speaker in Second Grade on Wednesday. Xavi's father will be visiting our class to speak about his job as an immigration lawyer, and how he helps new immigrants when they move to the United States. We are looking forward to his visit!

Grade 3 Social Studies

By: [Rachel Vidal](#) (First Grade Teacher)

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, the third graders have been learning about the Pilgrims and their voyage to the New World. The third graders were especially interested in learning about Pilgrim children. This week, the kids have been making comparisons between Pilgrim children and children today. They enjoyed comparing the clothing children wore to their own clothing. The children were surprised how hard Pilgrim children had to work and how much they had to help their families and their new community. They were amazed that some of the games children played in 1620 are still played today, such as leap frog, marbles, and tic tac toe.

The third graders transformed into Pilgrim children where they wrote letters to their friends back in England who couldn't make the long voyage to Plymouth. They explained how their lives have changed and what the New World is really like. They illustrated their letters with a self-portrait in Pilgrim garb. The third graders worked very hard on their projects and enjoyed making the comparison between themselves and Pilgrim children.





Grades 4 - 6 Physical Education

By: [Michelle Ferreira](#) (Physical Education Teacher)

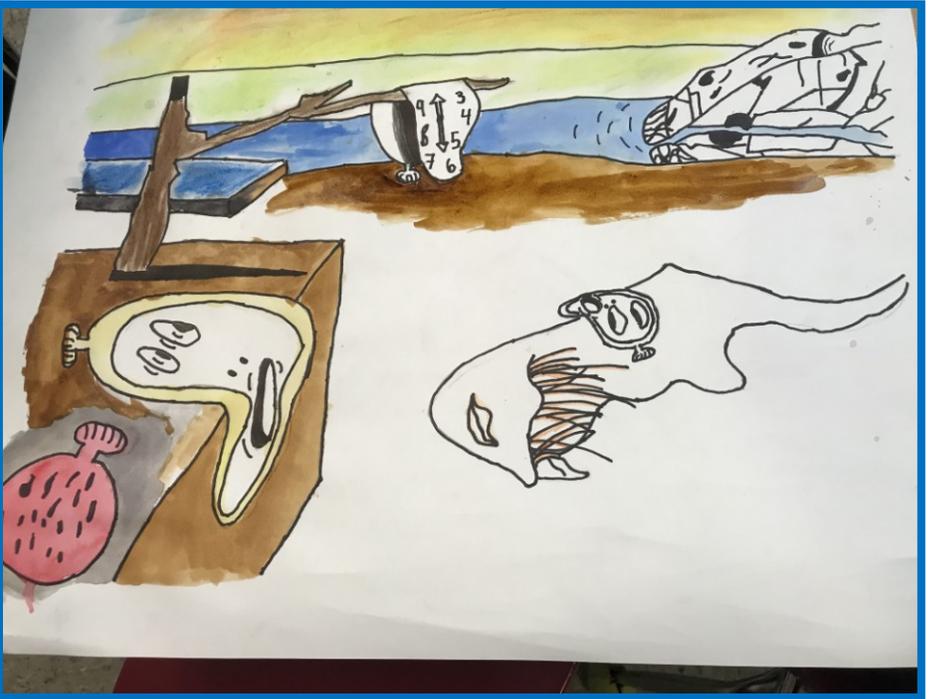
We have started the basketball unit with the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade students. First they're reviewing the rules and learning how to dribble properly, pass, and defend. For the first two weeks, we executed drills on each skill and they improved.

We have now begun the tournaments. Students are divided into teams and they will begin the playoffs next week. For the 6th graders they are playing 5 vs. 5 like a regular basketball game. However, we modify some of the rules to make it more even for everyone. For the Fourth and Fifth Graders, we modified the game more by using floor markers to show students where they should be shooting. A point guard brings up the ball each time and everyone gets a chance to shoot to score points for their team. Each day, we increase the challenge by spreading the poly spots further apart to help them improve. Next week, we will gradually remove the markers to see if they can better understand where to be on the court when shooting a basket.

Grades 7 and 8 - Fine Arts - Art

By: [Chris Zelles](#) (Art Teacher)

The 7th and 8th graders are working on putting their own twist on Edward Munch's *The Scream*. This project is called "Something to Scream About". Students choose a famous work of art and incorporate *The Scream*'s theme into their drawing or painting. So far, the results have been amazing, and I cannot wait to see the final results. Here are some examples of the students' work in progress.





Grades 7 and 8 - Fine Arts - Music

By: [Tom Heineman](#) (Art Teacher)

When the Beatles became overnight sensations in America at the dawn of 1964, they helped spark a revolution in Popular music as British versions of American music made their way back to their country of origin. The bands in the initial wave of the British invasion were each unique, bringing their own sound and ideas to an American Art form. Arguably none of the British Invasion bands were more distinct than the Kinks, from London. While the Beatles influence on both music and popular culture was immeasurable, the Kinks also sent shockwaves through music that are still being felt today when they released a couple of big singles in 1964. Seventh graders had the opportunity to experience what it might have felt like to be a teenager at that time and experienced the raw power of the Kinks' 'All Day and All of the Night,' creating both Hard Rock and Heavy Metal in a few strokes. Exploring the characters and themes in subsequent Kinks' songs such as 'Waterloo Sunset' has led to some lively discussions, as the bands' clever lyrics centering on, as one student put it, outcasts seem to deal with aspects of society that others choose to ignore (particularly in Popular music).



Every culture eighth graders encounter in their studies of music from around the globe this year lends itself to a different approach. The traditional Classical music of India is stunning and absolutely unique; the sounds themselves, be they tablas (pairs of pitched drums) or the tambura's drone don't sound remotely like anything else in the world. The class, therefore, dived into this culture by first considering the sound of the instruments above, along with the sitar, veena, harmonium, and sarod. They had an opportunity to hear both Hindustani music from Northern India (musicians from all over the world admired Ravi Shankar) and Carnatic music from the South (as performed by S. Balachander). Students attempted to follow the musical structures and understand the actual terminology before listening to the traditional Indian Ragas. The rich music of India was mined by admirers in the West such as the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Miles Davis, and forward-thinking musicians such as Talvin Singh and the Tabla Beat Science collective; students tried to determine what they had borrowed from the traditional music when listening to these artists.

Grades 9 and 10 - English

By: [Christopher Vallario](#) (English Teacher)

For Ninth Grade English, the students submitted their final drafts for the literary analysis of James Baldwin's *Go Tell it on The Mountain*. They all are improving, and because we keep all drafts, they see their progress. We are currently reading S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*, and this week, the students engaged in group work where each member has a specific task, and they come together at the end to share their insight.

For Creative Writing, the tenth graders handed in their first drafts of their spec TV Scripts. They are motivated because they selected their favorite show, and they are mimicking the writers by creating their own episode. We are working toward our larger goal of creating an original script as a cohort, which includes eleventh and twelfth graders. Watch out for these tenth graders, as we have very talented writers on the horizon.



Grades 11 and 12 - Math

By: [Lauren Little](#) (Math Teacher)

In Pre-Calc Honors we just wrapped up a chapter on quadratic functions, polynomials, and rational functions. This chapter focused on analyzing these types of functions and their graphs. The students learned how to find certain characteristics of the functions and use them to sketch a graph of the function. We are now starting a new chapter where we will examine exponential and logarithmic functions.

In AP Calculus we just finished a chapter on derivatives. The derivative is a mathematical tool for studying the rate at which one quantity changes relative to another. Most of the chapter was spent on techniques of differentiation and using the derivative to find the slope of a function at a specific point. In the next chapter we will explore applications of the derivative.

Grades 11 and 12 - Math

By: [Sonia Ambarsom](#) (Math Teacher)

The eleventh graders are learning about the different forms of the equations of lines, parabolas, and circles. For example, they have learned about the center-radius form of an equation of a circle $[(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2]$ where the center is given as (h, k) , the radius of the circle is given as the variable r , and any point on the circumference of the circle is given as (x, y) . Once they are given this center-radius form, they can then multiply out the binomial factors and rewrite the same equation of the same circle in standard form. In the end, a circle by another name is still that circle!

The seniors in Pre-Calculus class have begun their exploration of exponential functions and its behavior by graphing multiple transformations of exponential functions by varying the base and/or exponent. These types of functions are used in cases of population or bacteria growth over a period of time. It may also be used in cases of growth of a particular virus within a particular group which may lead to infection. The students also explored simple and compound interest and its growth. The shock that they expressed when calculating interest on a particular sum of money compounded daily was priceless!

Grades 11 and 12 - Computer Science

By: [Sarah Blakeley](#) (Math and Computer Science Teacher)

We've moved into our third unit of computer science, web page design. This week, the students learned about the basic HTML programming tags. They have started constructing their own website, which is going to become their midterm project. The students researched online for similar websites and sketched their own design, which they are now creating. I'm very proud of how the students put thought into the purpose of their website and how to display their information.



GARDEN SCHOOL YEARBOOK CLUB

JASMINE PETROV
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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You can e-mail text and images to jasminepetrov00@gmail.com with the Subject Line: Dedication. Deadline is February 1, 2017!