



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 95 Number: XIII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, February 2, 2018

Thoughts for the Week



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



Each year at this time all schools begin to look toward the next school year. Educators have plenty to do during this busy second semester, with our many programs and fast-learning students. But, with next year's re-enrollment contracts going out within a week, quite naturally we think about how to shape next year's program by reflecting on what went well this year and what we would want to improve on, or even change.

Plans for the next school year can proceed when re-enrollment agreements are returned by families in a timely manner. Not knowing how many sections of a class or a course to prepare for makes planning very difficult. Once a schedule begins to take shape, it becomes difficult to create another section; it means virtually starting the scheduling and staffing process all over again.

Our planning begins with a reflection on the mission. How did we fulfill our mission this year in our classrooms, with our pedagogy, with projects, trips, discussions, individual attention, communication with families, communication with each other? These areas of questioning form the basis of our self-reflection on the current year as we plan for the upcoming year.

For me, this is one of the most interesting activities of our school community. When a community of learners consistently and regularly reflects and evaluates on the effectiveness of what it has done, is currently doing, and then plans to do, then the ongoing success of that program becomes assured. Regrettably, it appears that Garden School's commitment to creating a school culture of continual self-improvement is yet another way that we are preparing our students to swim against a cultural tide. It appears that our national culture has moved away from self-reflection and self-evaluation. One of today's cultural definitions of success involves simply absolving oneself from culpability and responsibility. The quality and morality of what we do matters less than getting away with it and continuing to function on our own terms.

That is exactly the opposite of what Garden School and other independent schools do and teach. We see our mission as our guiding vision that reflects our guiding principles to which we are responsible. The effectiveness and appropriateness of everything we do, every class we teach, every project, activity, and conversation should be measured by our mission so that its level of success can be ascertained. When we self-reflect and ask our students to do the same, we accept a strategy of engagement with our beliefs and with one another, and we come to know that those beliefs guide the integrity and the quality of our daily activity.

This is why we are an independent school. This is why we are committed to providing genuine education to our students that addresses all aspects of their development. With your help (your timely return of contracts!), with your support (through the Gala and the Annual Fund!), and with your trust (your endorsement and participation in the mission), we can self-reflect and so make the necessary plans to ensure that we live our vision of Garden School to the very best of our ability every day.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster



Remember!

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Monday, February 12th - JV/V Griffin Basketball Playoff Game!!
- Monday - Wednesday, February 12-14 - PTA Book Fair
- Monday, Feb. 19-Friday, Feb. 23: School Closed for February Break

SAVE THE DATE: GARDEN SCHOOL GALA - FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH!!

***GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL FINISH UNDEFEATED!!
CAPTURE I.S.A.L. CHAMPIONSHIP***

By John Vogel (Kindergarten Assistant, MS Girls Basketball Coach)

On Wednesday, January 31st, 2018 the Garden School Girls' Middle School Basketball squad travelled to Lower Manhattan and squared off against Léman School. By beating their opponents, 29-19, the Griffins capped off an undefeated 2017-18 season, compiling a 7-0 record and capturing the Independent Schools Athletic League regular season championship. Throughout the year the team enhanced their individual talents and developed valuable team skills which enabled them to dominate the opposition, winning every contest by an average of 31 points per game.

Garden's offensive attack was led by the P. sisters, Lorenne and Olivia, who scored an average of 13 and 12 points per outing, respectively. Also contributing to the successful campaign were the other team members: Ashley A., Hayden A., Josefina G., Cecilia I., Mackenzie M., Mia M. and Jeileen R.

The coaching staff would like to thank the players, faculty, parents and students for their loyal support.

Congratulations to the players on their outstanding season and incredible accomplishments. Hopefully, these young ladies will continue to work hard and become the future stars of Garden School's Girls' Basketball Program.





GARDEN GALA
2018
Masquerade Ball

— SAVE THE DATE —

THE TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN GARDEN GALA
MASQUERADE BALL

Will be held on
FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH OF APRIL
6:30 PM - MIDNIGHT

Honoring
THE GARDEN SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
JOHN HALE | FACULTY ADVISOR & STATION TRUSTEE
GERARD PILATE | PRESIDENT, HALL OF SCIENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MICHAEL RICATTO | VICE PRESIDENT, HALL OF SCIENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Early Bird Special
8 am January 8 - Midnight January 20
Only

TICKETS ARE ***\$113*** FOR ***13*** DAYS

Get this one time discount at www.gardenschool.org/gala
for a limited time before the price increases to \$130.



GARDEN GALA
2018

100/\$100 Raffle

APPLE WATCH HERMÈS
SERIES 3 GPS+CELLULAR

42mm
Stainless Steel Case
Indigo Swift Leather Single Tour

VALUED AT **\$1,199**

100 tickets
- for -
\$100 each

APPLE WATCH | HERMÈS
SERIES 3

**BUY
TICKETS
NOW**

gardenschool.org/gala



GARDEN GALA 2018

WIN A POOL/PIZZA OR ICE CREAM PARTY FOR YOUR CLASS

Help support the 2018 Garden Gala on April 13 by contributing in any of the ways below.

One Upper Division and one Lower Division class with the **highest percentage** of participation in the below activities will win a Pool/Pizza Party.
The Second Place class receives an Ice Cream Party.

Gather points for your class by:

Class Points

10 points each

Pool together funds to purchase a class Journal Ad. Price ranges from \$60-\$1000.

Create a themed class basket for the Silent Auction. See back for ideas. Put it together yourself or the Gala Committee can for you. Or, pool together funds to purchase a high-value item for the auction.

Pool together \$125 to purchase a Teacher Ticket for the Gala.

Individual Points

1 point each

Buy or solicit a Journal Ad of any size.

Purchase a ticket to the Gala. This includes Teacher Tickets.

Purchase a 100/\$100 Raffle ticket.

Donate an item to the Silent Auction.

Make a donation to the 2018 Gala of \$10 or more.



Visit www.gardenschool.org/gala for information on these activities. Email us at gala@gardenschool.org if you have any questions.

The winners will be announced the week after the Gala. In the event of a tie, the class that purchased/sold the most Journal Ads will win.



GARDEN GALA 2018

GIFT BASKET IDEAS

Teacher Basket
Filled with Teacher Favorites

Toys

Sports

Jewelry

Mother's Day

Father's Day

Baby

Books
Children or Adult

Make Up

Perfume or Cologne

College Student

Board Games

Shaving Tools

Men's / Women's

Neighborhood / Borough
Taste of Jackson Heights, etc.

New York City
Metro Cards / Subway Map / etc.

Education

Movies / TV Shows

Alumni

Senior "Welcome to College"

Food / Spirits / etc.

Chocolate

Champagne

Restaurant Gift Certificates

Coffee / Tea

Museum / Zoo Passes

Technology

Wedding Engagement

Sci-Fi

Spring Planting

Grocery



GARDEN GALA 2018

JOURNAL ADS

Honor a loved one or recognize a business in the 2018 Gala Journal.
All ads are printed in color and are available in the following sizes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Congratulatory Message Line	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (gold)	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Third of a Page	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover (front)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover (back)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (white)	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover	\$1000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (silver)	\$300.00		

These ads sell quick! Make sure you order yours in time.
Go to www.gardenschool.org/gala to purchase.

SILENT AUCTION

Have an item to donate to the 2018 Gala Silent Auction powered by Handbid?
Make your donation at www.gardenschool.org/gala.

Past donations include technology, vacations, wine, event tickets, and more.

And be sure to download the **Handbid** app on your smartphone to register for
"Garden School Gala 2018" to bid in the Silent Auction.



HANDBID

Garden School is a Non for Profit 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID #11-1631783. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. All monies raised benefit our students directly. Join us in celebrating our school and supporting its mission to educate our students to the highest of academic, social and personal standards.



GARDEN GALA
2018

YOU'RE INVITED

To the

2018 GALA

KICKOFF
WINE TASTING EVENT



GARDEN SCHOOL LIBRARY
FRIDAY MARCH 9TH 2018 • 7:00 PM

Kick off the 2018 Gala in style! We will have a tasting of select regional wines paired with some nibbles and desserts. Spend a great night with the Garden Community, fellow parents, alumni, faculty and friends of Garden School. Gala tickets, Journal Ads and Raffle Tickets will be on sale and the Gala Committee will be on hand to assist you. Be our guest! We hope to see you there! RSVP at gardenschool.org/gala.

FOLLOW & LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For all updates regarding the 2018 Garden Gala.



@gardenschoolgala



@gardengala



@gardenschoolgala



Pre-K For All Science

By: [Hallie Tenenbaum](#) (PKFA Teacher)

During the Month of January the students learned about transportation. This last week we focused on airplanes. We talked about the airport that is close to Garden School and how they always see airplanes when they look up into the sky. The students discussed all the planes they have been on and the many places that want to go to. Such as; the beach, Disney world, and Chuckie Cheese!

With this transportation unit, the students were able to learn about the different modes of transportation that they use. They also learned about the different forms of transportation that are used around the world. The students discovered the way we travel and how vehicles move.



Nursery Social Studies

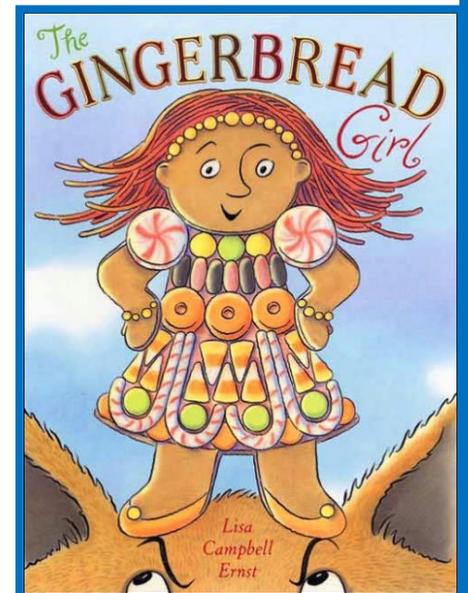
By: [Carmela Augello-Knopf](#) (Nursery Head Teacher)

Nursery has been having fun working on their gingerbread and arctic units. The gingerbread activities consisted of reading, watching the stories on the smart board and making a poster. We read The Gingerbread Man by Mara Alperin, The Gingerbread Girl by Lisa Campbell Ernst and Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett. Our posters composed of a gingerbread man, girl, baby and house, which are displayed in our classroom. We also decorated our very own gingerbread cookies to eat at home.

We enjoyed learning about which animals live in the arctic such as: moose, snowy owl, wolf, seal, arctic hare, polar bear, narwhal, walrus and the arctic fox. On the smart board, we learned the names and sounds of the arctic animals in a winter land park and listened to their realistic sound effects and food choices for each

animal. We read Arctic Animals (Who's That?) by Ted Carpenter guessing which animals they'll find beneath the flaps. As a follow up lesson, we glued cotton balls and the arctic animals taught onto an arctic scene to take home.

Groundhog Day was also an exciting topic for us. We made puppets and read Groundhog Day by Betsy Lewin. We sang songs and watched Punxsutawney Phil on the smart board to see his prediction which was 6 more weeks of winter. We all wanted an early spring!





Kindergarten and First Grade Physical Education

By: F lance Dervishi (Athletics Department, Chair, PE Teacher)

Pre K and Kindergarten have been moving in the right direction in class. They are ahead of the learning schedule and are picking up locomotive skills very quickly.

This week on Monday, we had a fun week of Hungry Hippo games with scooters. Tumbling Tuesday where the students learned how to do a "back bend bridge". Our weekly Wacky Wednesdays consisted of dancing to music and singing along. Thursday, we continued Hungry Hippo but use bouncy balls, and the kids love Parachute Fridays where they play games such as Washer and Dryer, Bubble House, and their favorite Spin Mania, during which a few students sit on the parachute while the rest of the class spins the parachute quickly clockwise and counter clockwise. At times we also include music with Parachute Fridays and students enjoy the rhythmic addition to the parachute activities.

Overall, Pre-K and Kindergarten have been going extremely well. Soon, we will begin learning the basics of Karate.



Grades 1 to 3 Fine Arts - Art

By: Chris Zelles (Art Teacher)

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders have been doing wonderful work all year. Like the rest of the lower division they are working on a unit in perspective. For one of their projects they are doing self-portraits as if they are falling backwards. During this project the students first trace their shoes and hands onto a piece of paper. They then draw their bodies in the background, which gives the viewer the illusion that the hands and feet are coming at you. My goal for this project is for students to have an understanding that objects become bigger when they get close to you and smaller when they go further away. The work they have done so far has been outstanding.



Grades 1 to 3 Fine Arts - Music

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

This week, First grade students started a unit on poetry this week. We considered how words can possess a certain sound and rhythm when grouped together as well as conveying meaning. Students were already familiar with rhymes, having just reviewed the concept with Mrs. Ahfeld. The class gave examples of both rhymes (same sound at the end of a word) and alliteration (same sound at the beginning of the word). We examined some simple poems, such as the nursery rhyme, 'Hark, Hark, The Dogs Do Bark.' Students paired words together that rhymed, and we associated various symbols with the rhyming words. Students then approached the poem with instruments; in three groups, they recited the poem



and played the instruments with the paired words. During the unit, 1st graders will learn about various poetic devices (such as onomatopoeia, similes, and metaphors) and consider the rhymes and rhythms of various poems (including excerpts from Shakespeare, Hughes, and Poe). They will also write their own poems based upon the sounds of nature.

Second graders have started a big project in which they watched an animated short without sound and reflected upon all of the sounds we would expect to be present in the video. The students also considered how they could re-create a sound. Students must really think about the crux of various sounds and ways of producing them as they are not allowed to use the actual sound for the recordings (i.e. the sound of a phone receiver being hung up cannot be created with a phone). Second graders have already put forth some clever ideas, such as moving the palm of their hand across their desks to simulate the sound of squeaky rocking chairs. After we are done recording as a group, the remaining sounds will be assigned for students to make individually. The last step will be having the Second Grade students give voice to the characters in the video before gathering their sounds and voices in the finished product.

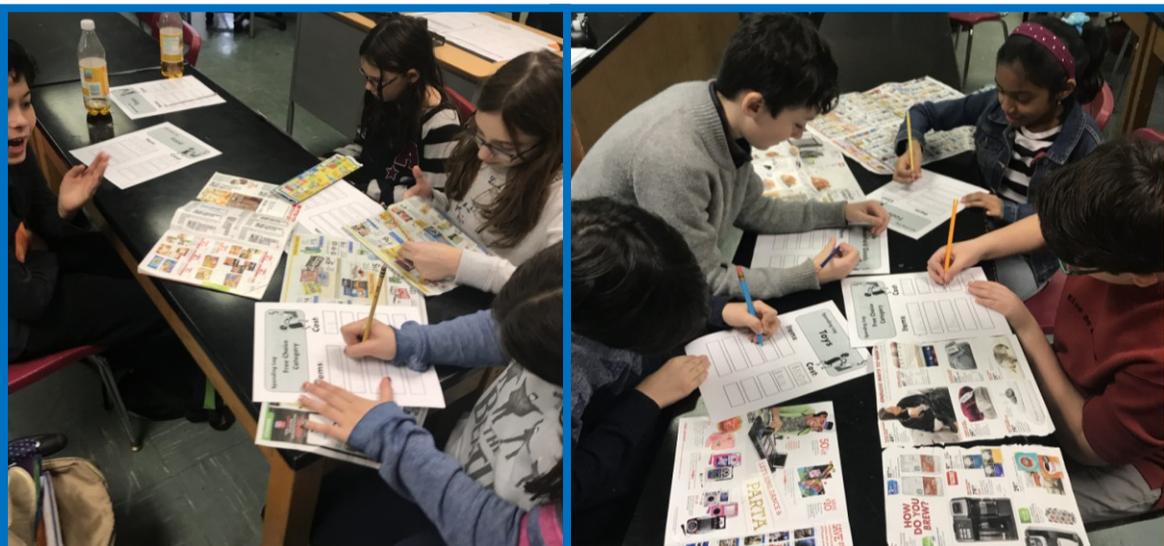
A focus of recent Third Grade classes is achieving an initial understanding of the science behind sound. The class has started learning about bats and speculated on how these animals could avoid obstacles and catch flying insects in relative darkness. Students were given a certain amount of information pertaining to past studies of bats' success rate when burdened with certain handicaps, and they were surprised to find out that it was bats' astonishing use of sound that allows them to subsist in the air at night- an absolutely remarkable adaptation.



Grade 4 Math

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

Fourth grade Mathematics finished the first half of the year with two very important topics—division and multiplication! Going through both topics very diligently they wrapped up the unit by connecting this to real life experiences and shopped for certain goods! Using circulars that the students brought from home to class and a very strict budget, they conquered and divided our local stores in small groups. This activity had the students multiplying and dividing money with products that they are used to seeing around their houses!





Grade 5 Math

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

Fifth grade Mathematics wrapped up the first half of the school year in one whole piece! With our topic being fractions, our fifth graders learned the concepts to adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Understanding these fundamentals, the students are now focusing on relating fractions to decimals as we take on our decimal unit. Both fractions and decimals will be a part of the Mathematical careers through high school and it is important our foundation is strong.

Grade 6 Math

By: [Sarah Blakeley](#) (Math Teacher)

In Sixth Grade, we are starting to transition from proportions to percents. Percents are a continuation of both fractions and proportions. Percents are a fraction with a denominator of 100.

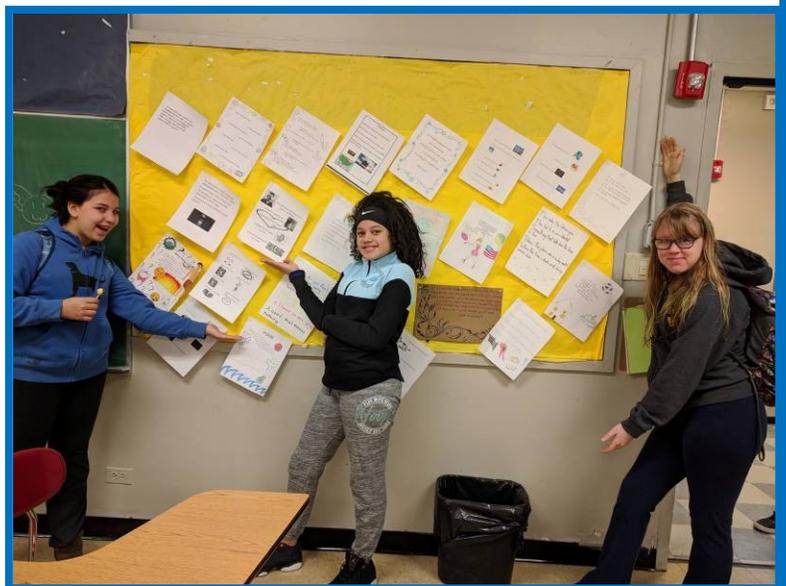
By the end of this unit students will be able to calculate tax, commission, tip, and final price after discount. A fun project for this unit is to go out to dinner. Students will go to one of four restaurants. There they will add up their family's order, calculate the tax, and be the one to instruct their parents on how much to tip the waiter. Students will return to school with a menu as proof of their excursion.

However, before we can get to that point students need to know the basic fractions, decimals, percents conversion. At the end of this week and going into next week, they will be playing various card games such as Go Fish, Matching, and War, to find equivalent fractions, decimals, and percents.

G7 and G8 English

By: [Nancy Massand](#) (Middle School Dean)

The 7th and 8th grade English classes are studying African American poetry in preparation for Garden School's annual poetry competition coming up in February. This rich and varied body of literature spans over 200 years and is important in its historical context as well as its form. We are looking at the evolution of poetic form in the genre as well as the passion of its expression. Each student has chosen a poem to research as to form and content. They are writing papers that identify the structural "building blocks" of the poems, as well as analyzing the content and discussing the historical context. Finally, they will recite their poem from memory in the class semi-finals on Monday, February 5. The winners from each grade in the semifinal rounds will go on to compete against the other finalists in grades 7-12 in this year's competition.





Grade 9 and 10 World Languages - Spanish

By: [Agustín Melara](#) [Gabriel Gomis](#) (World Languages Department Faculty)

The second semester of our study course will emphasize the development of more complex thoughts and ideas using compound structures such as the *Past Perfect* tense (to reiterate what *had happened* prior to a secondary action), the *Present Perfect* tense (to state what *has been done* once or multiple times), the *Imperfect Progressive* (to indicate what *was happening* at a specific moment in time), and intrinsic vocabulary (to better describe the nature of a subject). Later in the year, students will read and analyze short stories in order to become familiar with influential Latin American writers.

Grade 9 and 10 World Languages - French

By: [Gabriel Gomis](#) (World Languages Department Faculty)

We read the final chapter of *Le Petit Nicolas*, "Je quitte la maison". Students shared their thoughts on young Nicolas' untimely decision to leave and seek wealth and prosperity away from his parents. He decided he could not stand his parents anymore. He would not be screamed at anymore for petty mistakes he made around the house. The story is about dream, despair, and illusion in children's lives.

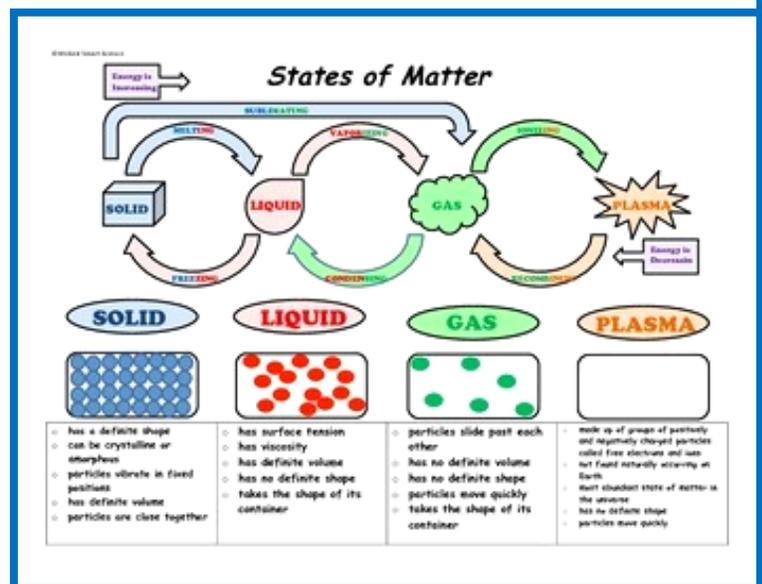
Earlier this week, we compared the *passé composé* and the *imperfect*, the two most common past tenses in French. While the *passé composé* is a complete past, the *imperfect* is a tense that expresses ongoing, descriptive, incomplete, or repeated actions in the past.

Grade 11 Physics

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

Physics started our third marking period in a state of molecules! Wrapping up the first half with a strong grasp for the material at hand demonstrated by solid midterm grades, the students did not skip a beat and jumped right into the next topic!

Focusing on our States of Matter, the seniors studied about the differences between the states as well as the key principles involved in the states of matter. Connecting the states and the gas laws the students will be focusing on finding certain pressures including atmospheric and water pressure. Our seniors will finish the third marking period by incorporating some student led discussions which will help prepare them for the years to come, on topics such as how physics connects to the "real world".





Grade 11 and 12 Science - AP Biology

By: [Marlene Dapice](#) (Science Department, Chair)

Now that midterm exams are over, students are entering the final stretch. They have a great deal of work ahead, but each perseveres. Students will be carrying out a myriad of investigations that will expose them to new techniques and equipment, such as spectrophotometers, gel electrophoresis, centrifugation, and sterile technique. Of course, they will continue working on their critical thinking skills and essay writing, each of which is important to their successful completion of the AP exam later in the semester.

Grade 11 and 12 Science - Engineering

By: [John Hale](#) (Science Teacher)

The juniors have embarked on a new elective this quarter, Engineering. Engineering is the application of science and math to solve problems. Engineers figure out how things work and find practical uses for scientific discoveries. This will be a project-based course in which students will have the opportunity to practice authentic engineering skills. Students will work in teams to develop, build and test designs to solve various problems. They will learn to prepare appropriate documentation for their designs and communicate the outcome of their projects. Currently, the students have started their work on building a bridge made out of popsicle sticks. Their goal is to make one bridge using no more than 200 sticks that can hold 10 pounds and must span 14 inches. The design is theirs and we will see what design the class comes up with.

Grade 11 and 12 Science - Human Genetics

By: [Lou Albano](#) (Science Teacher)

Human Genetics is a new course at Garden School which is designed to expand upon the Genetics unit introduced in Life Science and Biology courses.

This course will demonstrate the importance of Genetics by taking our understanding of humans to a new level. The goal of the course is to make students aware of the complexity involved in designing organisms, specifically humans. Student are being exposed to the fragility, complexity, and sturdiness of the materials that make up the human genomes. Student are valiantly working to reacquaint themselves with vocabulary terms that are incorporated in the study of Genetics. For some students it is like learning a "new" language, but for others, it is simply becoming reacquainted with their past experience in the study of genetics.

