

Garden School News

October 17, 2008

Volume 8 Issue 3

Headmaster's Column

At the end of last year, we talked a good deal about embarking on an ambitious Faculty Development Program. Our plan was to involve our teachers in as many faculty workshops and seminars as possible throughout the school year. Since faculty development remains a significant area for teachers to acquire additional skills that will support and enhance their work in the classroom, we thought that engaging in a bold program would only benefit the Garden School.

This year we have undertaken several new initiatives in the area of faculty development. For the first time, we have sent two teachers to the NYSAIS Beginning Teachers Institute, a three day program held at Rensselaer, for teachers in their second year. Ms Sarran and Ms Macey attended this three day program on October 15,16,and 17. In February, Ms Renner and Ms Smith will attend the Experienced Teacher Institute, also held at Rensselaer, for teachers who have six or seven years experience.

In addition, Mr. Hale will be attending a science teachers workshop in Cincinnati; Ms Stenos will attend a history teachers conference in Texas; Mrs. Reyes and Mrs. Friedman will attend a workshop on ESL. This is only a few of the workshops that our teachers will be attending this year.

Our goal is to give our teachers a serious chance to grow and develop their skills through professional associations with their peers.

Honesty

Which College??

Garden's Seniors are actively involved in the college search process and have been taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with college admissions representatives here at the School. The visits provide students with a chance for small meetings with representatives of the colleges, where they learn about programs, opportunities, campus life and the application process and are a key element of the college process at Garden School.

The following colleges have already visited Garden School to meet with members of the Senior Class: NYU, Colgate University, Marist College, Adelphi

University, Mount Holyoke College, Fordham University, Canisius College, Ursinus College, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Hartwick College, Pace University and the City University of NY (CUNY)

The visits to Garden School will continue through November and the following colleges are currently on the schedule: Drew University, Albright College, Miami University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, SUNY Oneonta, Wheaton College, Iona College, Columbia University, Bentley College, CW Post University, University of Rochester and Manhattanville College.

Upper Division

The Key Club went to Boston for four days last weekend. President Patrick Galarza said the purpose of the trip was to remind members of their history and their role as citizens of the United States, and to promote club spirit and see Boston.

Each year the Key Club goes on a trip to a site that played an important role in our history. Since our Key Club has the stated goal of rendering service to the community, visiting historical sites, which form some of the more important moments in US history, seemed appropriate to the Club's charter. Being a citizen involves service as well as rights, and Key Club defines citizenship as a form of service to improve the conditions of ones community. Boston is a perfect venue for such a trip because of the very important role it played in developing the 'idea' and the 'ideal' of America.

Sunday found the students at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum in Quincy. The tour included two explanatory movies of Kennedy's life from his early years in World War II through his entry into

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Lower Division Highlights

The nursery children continued with their fall theme by reading, *Apples and Pumpkins*, by Anne Rockwell and *Fresh Fall Leaves*, by Betsy Franco. They extended their fall theme to art class where pumpkins were made of orange construction paper. The students experienced the letter A and the number 1.

Pre-K was introduced to Social Studies for the first time. They had fun learning about Christopher Columbus in a variety of ways. They began with a big book, then a flannel board story, next an art project, and finally a song. Everyone loved wearing their Christopher Columbus hats with feathers made in art class, while singing and moving to the Christopher Columbus song. Bb and Cc were the letters of the week.

The Kindergarten continues to explore Social Studies on the world map. Recently, they explored Christopher Columbus' journey from Italy, Portugal, and Spain to the new world. The students used clay to sculpt Christopher Columbus's three ships, and they created dioramas to sail their ships. In addition, the kindergarten is discussing fire safety as they look forward to their trip to the firehouse.

First, Second, and Third grades are completing their studies of the first topics in math. First grade has prac-

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Kindness

Lower Division Highlights Cont...

ticed counting and ordinal numbers. Now they are using a variety of manipulatives to explore joining groups of objects together to add. Second grade has also been focusing on adding. They are beginning to write their own double digit word problems to share with classmates. Third grade has been investigating counting patterns and place value with the help of hundreds boards and base 10 blocks. Next third graders will be using their new skills to practice comparing and estimating money.

In preparing for the Presidential elections, the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students have been busying themselves with various political projects. Grade 5 created political mobiles on subjects such as the First Ladies, Branches of Government, Presidential Candidates, Presidential Eligibility, and How a Bill becomes a Law. These proudly hang in the hallway outside their classrooms.

Fifth and sixth graders will soon visit City Hall, originally built in 1803. Visiting the city's center for government will enhance student knowledge of local government and will expose the

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR A FOUNDATIONS COURSE

SEE OUR WEBSITE OR EMAIL

jflanagan@gardenschool.org

FOR DETAILS

Dates to Remember

- Monday, 10/20—Grade 5/6 trip to City Hall
- Wednesday, 10/22—Club Photos for Yearbook
- Thursday, 10/23—Lower Division Halloween Parties
- Friday, 10/24—Faculty Workshop Day—School Closed
- Sunday, 10/26—Big Bulb Bash—Community Service Project (See page 4 for details)
- Monday—Wednesday, 10/27-29—Grade 5/6 trip to Camp Herrlich
- Monday, 10/27—Senior Class Raffle Begins
- Tuesday, 10/28 Annual Fall Blood Drive
- Wednesday & Thursday, 10/29&30—Mock Presidential Debates
- Thursday, 10/30—Assembly with Congressman Joseph Crowley
- Friday, 10/31—Senior Class Halloween Dress-up
- Friday, 10/31—Jackson Heights Halloween Parade
- Friday, 10/31—End of first marking period



Garden School Outreach Committee

As part of Garden School's ongoing expansion of our communication with our entire community, we have established the Garden Outreach Committee. Headed by parents, this committee seeks to strengthen and enhance the channels of communication within the entire Garden community, including parents, teachers, students, administrators and the Board.

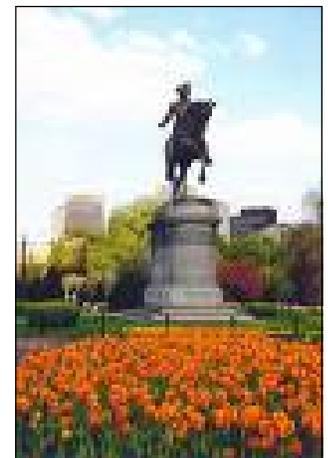
The Committee will solicit ideas, information, and suggestions from members of our community, establish a bi-weekly communication and coordinate assistance between members of the school community to enhance our experience.

If you have any ideas you would like to share, please use this e-mail address for your thoughts: communication@gardenschool.org

Upper Division Cont...

politics. Then a second movie outlined the issues and the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis under Kennedy's leadership. Kennedy's assassination and funeral were the features of the last room and included moving eulogies by Ted Kennedy and others.

In the final great hall, Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage* was the source of the featured quotations. Jessie Wartski '09 was so moved by the heroic statements that he bought a copy of the book in the museum shop along with two uncirculated Kennedy half dollars. "I learned a lot in the museum," said history buff Sidney Texiera '10. "Yes, very interesting," said Mehaulo Chachane '10.



Boston Commons



Kennedy Half Dollars

Lower Division

Citizenship

What can artists do to be good citizens? They could paint in the style of Social Realism, as the first two artists we studied this year. Painting to point out social injustice, to better society and to improve the overall quality of life were major goals for both Phillip Evergood and George Tooker.

We studied the painting, *Sunny Side of the Street*, by the American artist Phillip Evergood. Not only is it a wonderful lesson on perspective, but it demonstrates the use of social realism to express the artist's unhappiness with wide spread joblessness, poverty and the political corruption of the time. His incisiveness as a social critic emboldens his work.

Learning one point perspective, which was developed during the Renaissance, was challenging. Many schools do not teach the rules of perspective until the 5th or 6th grade, but Garden students begin these lessons in the first grade. The young art students appreciate the advanced instruction and they love the way it makes their buildings look "real". I was so proud to find out that one of my second grade students practiced his perspective lesson at home, on his own free time.

The students used their knowledge of perspective to create three dimensional buildings complete with creative landscapes ranging from shopping malls to the wild western towns of long ago. This project used pencil and crayon with a watercolor

wash. The student artists followed Leonardo Da Vinci's words when he said "The most praiseworthy form of painting is the one that most resembles what it imitates."

The next artist we studied was an expert at creating "art as a tool for social justice". George Tooker believed that art should help people in their quest for equality and justice. Using the medieval medium of egg tempera, his paintings are luminescent and mysterious. His use of faces without emotion encouraged the art students to learn how to create a face with emotion. The students learned about the correct placement and size of features on a face.

We studied the painting, *Government Bureau* (photo right), where the clones of humanity waited hopelessly in line for their turn. This painting evoked many horror stories of experiences in places where we felt de-humanized. The art students are using make-believe egg tempera on illustration board to convey their emotion of choice.

As the leaves begin to fall from the trees, we turn to Alexander Jackson, whose beautiful painting, *The Red Maple*, will inspire the art students to paint many fall colors on an autumn tree. This project will be a wet-on-wet tempera painting. When the painting is dry, a tree trunk and paper leaves will be added to finish the effect.

Upper Division

The ninth grade Renaissance class is almost finished with the Michelangelo portion of its studies. After completing four image recognition watercolor pencil drawings, the students tried their hand at painting a fresco, and they marveled at Michelangelo's skills. In the coming weeks, the students will explore the life of Leonardo Da Vinci and draw four images by the original Renaissance man himself. All the drawings created in class will be made into a booklet for the students to take home.

The tenth grade Impressionism class discussed Pierre-Auguste Renoir and they have completed a chalk pastel rendering of his *Bridge at Chatou*. The students are really excited to begin

their next project because

they get to choose a Renoir painting they like, to be created using acrylic paint. Degas and Monet will be studied in the upcoming weeks.

The Art History and Interpretation class began this year by using ceramics to create an Anti-Ashtray project. This project had three criteria that needed to be met. First, it must be impossible to use as an ashtray. Second, it must be precisely constructed with attention to detail. Finally, it must present such a powerful and thought-provoking statement as to cause smokers viewing it to discard their cigarettes and declare, "What was I thinking?" This project had many good solutions and all the artists were moved by the information and statistics they learned.

**Congratulations to the
Monasterio Family!!!!**

Winners of the 2008 Tuition Raffle



Government Bureau

Garden School's Big Bulb Bash!!



Our entire community is invited to dig into a bulbalicious project with the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. JHBG is providing us with 500 daffodil bulbs and the long swath of neglected dirt at the corner of 78th St. and 34th Ave.; Garden School is providing the adult/kid power to get the bulbs into the ground so that there will be a bright splash of yellow next May for all to enjoy.

Come be part of a great Garden moment!

**Big Bulb Bash
Sunday, October 26 from 2-4 p.m.**

78th St. is closed to traffic on Sundays. Garden's Stephanie Sarran will be leading *"Story-time with Ms. Stephanie"* from 11–12 and the Green Market will have stands selling locally grown and homemade foods, so come prepared to spend an afternoon with Garden friends.

- All students must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian.
- If you have any gardening tools--shovels, trowels, gloves--please bring them.
- In the spirit of taking Green Steps, please bring your own mug because we'll be serving hot chocolate

Questions? E-mail them to info@gardenschool.org