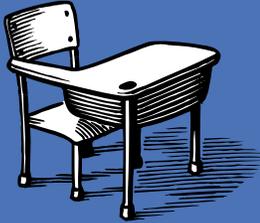


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Garden School News

CIVILITY • RESPECT • HONESTY • KINDNESS



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Headmaster's Column



The Outreach Committee's Newsletter contained an information bulletin about Internet Safety that raised some very important questions for us as a school and for parents of children of all ages.

Internet Safety has grown as a concern for all of us as the internet and access to the internet has become a multi-times a day occurrence. At a conference I attended last year, we, Heads of Schools, learned more about My Space. We learned that when a person has a face book page and thinks that he or she has turned it off, that's not the case. Whatever you put on these sites is there forever, even though it may not be there publicly, all of the information is there. What this can mean for someone later in life is potentially devastating. Nothing goes away.

Among the worst forms of internet hazards is that of the predator, who prowls the internet looking for children to identify and possible meet. These predators know all of the internet tricks, including how to lure a child into revealing identity and location. Sometimes children make it easy for the predator by openly reveal-

ing their names, their location and even the school they attend. Many Face book and My Space pages contain this information. Even though only your 'friends' have access to your page, others can easily get to it themselves, or find information about you by what another 'friend' has put on his or her pages.

Once the predator has made contact, then he or she works on the child's weakness; if a child is lonely, he will be a friend; if the child's parents don't understand him, then of course the predator is understanding; if the child likes dogs, the predator has such a great dog and on and on. Like Shakespeare's Iago, the internet predator looks for strengths, weaknesses, and likes and then transforms them into vulnerabilities.

We all need to caution, supervise, and advise our children in as many ways as possible. While we don't want to destroy their innocence, we don't want that innocence to be taken and exploited as a weakness. Caution and concern will serve us best in this venue.

Upper Division Highlights

High school students will gather on February 11 for the Tenth Annual Poetry Recitation @ Garden School. Students will listen to forty selected students recite poems from William Butler Yeats. Each spring, students prepare, memorize, and dramatize poems under the aegis of the English Department. Headmaster Richard Marotta says that this is his favorite assembly of students. "Those chosen to recite are so well prepared, so enthusiastic, so sincere, that it turns into a celebration of language and the power of poetry. The kids are good-looking, energetic, and sincere. I am glad I don't have to judge as there are so many worthwhile entries."

English classes are devoting the week of

Lower Division Updates

Students learn in many different ways and with a variety of learning tools. These might include textbooks, workbooks, primary sources, hands-on projects, reenactments, drama productions, or even field trips. At Garden, students are exposed to as many different educational avenues as possible.

Nursery children can learn through stories, artwork, imitation, experimentation, and observation. Winter animals, such as penguins and polar bears, have been the theme in the Nursery class. *The Little Penguin*, by A.J. Wood and Eric Carle's *Polar Bear, Polar Bear What do you Hear?* are the books that have been read. Children constructed their own penguins gluing on

We learn from our students...

Students continued their study of the presidential inauguration by recalling many of the events and classroom activities that occurred earlier this month: marching music, presidential sports, inaugural history, poet laureate readings, famous speeches, and “swearing in” reenactments. All gathered in the gymnasium to see the “Swearing In Ceremony” on January 20th; as a group we witnessed this historic moment. Well, almost all of us. Jahi Murray, a second grader had a closer experience. He journey to Washington, D.C. with tickets procured by Congressman Joseph Crowley, who spoke at a Garden School Assembly earlier this year. Jahi kept a journal of his experience and shared his views in an interview with his teacher, Ms. Macy.

Ms. Macy: Jahi, could you tell us a little bit about that day?

Jahi: I had a good time at the inauguration. There were 2 million people there. I went with my mother. We drove for four hours. I visited my friends. I woke up at 6:00 am in the morning. There were so many people!

Ms. Macy: What were some of the things you did that day?

Jahi: I got an American flag. I saw my friends. I remember the speech that Barack Obama gave after he took the oath. There was a mistake that the man (Chief Justice) made when giving the oath. People around me were crying.

Ms. Macy: Why do you think people were crying, Jahi?

Jahi: Because Obama is a very good speaker and he makes people feel sad and happy at the same time. Obama is the first African American President.

Ms. Macy: Jahi, you experienced one of the most important days in American history. You were right there! What do you think you will remember most?



Jahi & his Mom in Washington DC



What will you tell your children about?

Jahi: I will show my children the journal I wrote in about that day. I would like to take my children to an inauguration, and I would want it to be in July instead. I will remember all of the people breaking down the fence. I will remember how excited I was.

Ms. Macy: What does it feel like to be a part of history in this way?

Jahi: It feels pretty good. I'm glad I learned about Martin Luther King Jr. before we went to Washington. I feel like Barack Obama will be a great president.



Instilling in our children our four cornerstones of behavior, “*Civility, Respect, Honesty and Kindness*” is a work in progress. Children learn by example, both overt and subliminal... then there comes a time when we as educators see a light go on and we realize that children reach the next level... the birth of an awareness of the world around them, how they fit in and how they can help.



Fourth grader, Michele Markman, shares some words of wisdom...

“Wow! We are so lucky. Unfortunately, not everyone is. I discovered if you go on freekibble.com or freerice.com you can donate food for free for those in need. It’s easy—just go to either of those websites an answer a question. It doesn’t matter if you get the questions right or wrong. Either way, ten pieces of rice or kibble (depending on which website you go on) will be given to people or dogs that are starving.

Lower Division Updates—Continued from page 1

eyes, a beak, feet, and a belly. To help celebrate the past snowy day, each child depicted a snowy day scene adding Peter, the boy from the *Snowy Day* book, to their creation. The Nursery students also enjoyed bringing in some snow from outside and watching it melt just like Peter's snowball in the story.

The Pre-K children have been learning about the groundhog and other animals that live underground in their Science classes. They enjoyed hearing the groundhog story, and they are excitedly waiting for February 2nd to see if the groundhog will see his shadow. Predictions have been made!

Braving the sleet and snow, the Kindergarten, 1st grade classes, and many chaperones went to see the Paper Bag Players at LaGuardia Community College on the morning of the very snowy day. Some of the characters and all the props were made of paper and cardboard. There was lots of dancing and singing with much audience participation. Everyone made it back to school safely, just in time to have some warm lunch waiting for them.

The Kindergarten has been learning about the painting styles of Vincent Van Gogh. Their Van Gogh inspired art is displayed all over the walls of the Kindergarten room. Math class has been quite fun since edible subtraction has been the new skill acquired. The children enjoyed learning the concept of "take away" by eating their examples.

First graders are enthusiastically exploring place value through the use of place value caterpillars. Each segment of the caterpillar's body can be filled with ones or tens. Another fun-filled math game, "expanded form concentration" was a huge hit. To make a match first graders compared numbers in standard form to those in expanded form.

Second graders are learning about wildlife and history in Africa and more about their adopted baby elephant in an orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. Students are conducting research on ways of life in Kenya and will be forming pen pals.

In discussing the new president's rhetoric of change and coming together to work together to provide that change, the second graders are currently investigating the nature of altruism and civic duty. Students are getting together in groups and brainstorming on ideas for how to get more involved with the community. The class will then

create posters and a PowerPoint presentation to deliver at morning assembly. Second graders may execute some of their plans for the community later in the year.

Third Graders have already studied our local communities and created brochures of various neighborhoods in Queens. Native American communities, past and present, is the new topic of study. In class students study the geography and culture of various groups, such as the Anasazi people, as well as Native American folktales. In the planning stages are museum trips to extend our studies.

Students in grade 4 constructed dioramas of scenes from *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*. This project allowed students to apply their own creative energy recreating what they imagined the scenes to actually look like. The dioramas revealed a familiarity with the novel as well as fantastic and fun recreations of things such as the "Nut Room" or the "Chocolate River."



In the fifth grade students are currently exploring the American Revolution. In addition to relying on textbooks for information, students are expected to research prominent Revolutionary figures for an upcoming project entitled "Revolutionary Portraits." Students must use secondary sources such as biographies, encyclopedias, and internet sources for this assignment. The fifth grade teachers are in the process of planning a tour of local historical homes, such as Bowne House, to better inform students about this significant historical epoch.

The sixth grade is exploring sources in historical study. They have been studying the ancient world using not only their textbook, but reading about ancient Greek and Roman myths, viewing photos of ancient temples, and reading excerpts from the writings of Socrates. In addition, students are participating in a project entitled "Eyewitness to History." Students are to interview a family member about a historical event they were present for. This project not only sharpens their interview skills, but also allows them to realize that history is constantly around them, and that people are responsible for primary sources.

Math in the Curriculum

by Joan Weiss

The mathematics program at Garden School is centered on a well-integrated and sequenced series of courses. The goal of this department is to impart an appreciation for mathematics as being invaluable in the world surrounding the student, both inside and outside of Garden School. We present mathematics as a thought process, not just as a subject consisting of arithmetic and algebraic facts. To this end, we seek to teach students to reason and communicate mathematically as well as become technologically literate; once accomplished, it is our strong belief that a student will gain in confidence regarding the application of mathematical principles to his or her everyday life.

We follow the “Principles and Standards for School Mathematics” from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The “Principles” include “equity” (high expectations and strong support for all students), “curriculum” (a focus on important mathematics that is coherent and well-articulated across the grades), “teaching” (challenging and supporting students to learn mathematics well), “learning” (students must have understanding and must build new knowledge from experience and prior knowledge), “assessment” (useful information to be furnished to both teachers and students), and “technology” (to enhance students’ learning).

The NCTM “Standards” lists required learning that must be embraced in the fully sequenced mathematics curriculum. From computation and estimation, to recognition of patterns, relations, and functions, to transformations and visualizations in geometry, to measurement techniques, to data analysis and probability, to problem solving techniques, our mathematics teachers impart the full gamut of these

“standards” to every one of our math classes. In the early childhood grades, students are introduced to concepts of number, counting, and comparisons. In grades 1 through 3, students become immersed in the basic principles of mathematics: basic computations, meanings of operations, estimating, processes of measurement, time telling, currency, situational problem solving. Mathematics classes in grades 4 through 6 address expansion of the basic principles. Departmentalization begins in grade 4. Fractions, decimals, percent, ratios, proportions, elementary statistics and data analysis, geometry, and puzzle solving are emphasized. By grade 6, students are comfortable with basic algebraic equation solving of one-step and two-step equations. In grades 7

and 8, reinforcement of algebraic concepts provides the foundation for the next level of courses.

The Algebra courses set the foundation for all future math courses a student will take. Our Geometry courses place particular emphasis on deductive reasoning, bolstered by the study of “statement and reason” proofs. Algebra II and Trigonometry presents many of the same topics as those addressed in Algebra I, but in significantly greater depth. The trigonometric portion of the course is presented early in the year and progresses simultaneously with the algebraic portion. Functions are formally introduced.



Our Precalculus course familiarizes the student with the advanced algebraic concepts crucial in performing efficiently in Calculus, with an emphasis placed on the study of functions and their graphs. In this class and beyond, the graphing calculator becomes an invaluable tool to enhance learning. The Advanced Placement Calculus course is the culmination of students’ mathematical study at Garden. We offer AB Calculus, the standard advanced placement course, equivalent to a college freshman calculus course. We have also offered BC Calculus, equivalent to three semesters of college calculus. Occasionally, seniors accelerated enough to finish our calculus curriculum by the end of grade 11 have been offered Advanced Multivariate Calculus, a course rarely offered at the high school level. Garden boasts its individualization in teaching, and this is a prime example of our flexibility in math offerings based on the abilities of our students.

Foremost among our mathematics electives is Statistics, open to all seniors and select juniors. This course is inter-disciplinary in nature, in that we study applications in fields as diverse as medicine and marketing. Students are taught to view statistical concepts as a vital part of everyday life, via the study of surveys, polls, measures such as the SAT exam, and quality control in business. We also offer an elective in Web Design and Computer Programming, which introduces students to HTML, JavaScript and Java. This full-year course presents various types of computer languages, resulting in recognition by the student of the applicability and importance of each.

The goals of every one of our mathematics courses are consistent with the mandates of the National Council of



Foundations Update

We are set to launch our Spring schedule of courses on Monday, February 2nd. Classes are filling up fast—our Poetry & Creative Writing Class is closed, with TaeKwonDo, Architecture, and Fashion Fun almost full.

We were lucky enough to be able to offer two demo classes.

- Children in PreK to first grade got a taste of things to come in our “Fantastic Tales” class offering on January 22nd. Kat Collins, professional actor and Garden School parent, took students on a creative journey using imagination and movement to tell a fantastic tale.
- Children in grades 4-6 and 7-12 gathered in the gymnasium for a taste of long-form improvisational comedy courtesy of Jill Donnelly of *Cake Improv* (www.cakeimprov.com). Children using only their “brains, hearts and a healthy dose of goofiness” worked as a group to create a comedic scene using audience suggestions. Both classes are beginning next week... so be sure to register as soon as possible—space is limited.



The highly anticipated return of Fashion Fun is set to launch on February 6th. Limited space is still available. Below is a list of supplies and recyclable—donations would be appreciated. Please drop off in the Art Room.

Capri Sunpacks	Empty toilet paper rolls
Metrocards	Buttons
CD's	Wool
Bottle Caps	Cushions
Pillowcases and Linens	

If you are enrolled or plan to be in the class, please come dressed ready to “get messy”!



New on Saturdays!

Rhythm takes on a new meaning in this interactive, joyful workshop as voices chant a West African welcome song, hands play out rhythms to songs from around the world on percussion instruments as the class comes together in a conga line...join Andrea Pryor (teaching artist for the Museum of African Art and the 14th St. Y) for *babyConga* beginning on Saturday February 7. For information email jflanagan@gardenschool.org

Got Chess???? Join WIM & Life Master Beatriz Marinello for a new Saturday Chess Program beginning February 28th. Course description, fees and a class calendar are now available at www.ChessEducators.com or you can pick up flyers in the main office

“The idea isto think

Photography

Garden’s Club structure is always changing and, this year a Photography Club has been added to the offerings in the Upper Division. Founded by junior, Alexander Marinescu, the club now has 14 members—and it’s still growing! With students planning to explore both digital and film photography, the club’s activities include learning about photography, photographic equipment and photo printing and developing. Even though the club is new, there are already plans for an exhibit of student work in the coming months.

Many students have their own cameras, but Alexander hopes to supplement the existing equipment through fund raising and donations of cameras and memory cards. If you would like to donate a camera that you no longer use, please contact the main office.

Math in the Curriculum*Cont. from Page 4*

Teachers of Mathematics. Our sequencing of material from grades N to 12 allows for easy transitions from grade to grade, and our layering approach to continuous topics, building more complex layers upon easier ones, allows students to firmly grasp important, advanced math techniques. Reasoning and problem-solving have been our emphasis throughout all grades, and we continuously offer varied strategies that are applicable to open-ended problems. Most of all, we stress communication, whereby our students are taught and encouraged to organize and consolidate their mathematical thinking, to express their mathematical thinking clearly and coherently to their teachers and their peers, and to use mathematical language to precisely express their mathematical ideas.



Asian Lunar New Year

Asian New Year has been the focus of the Early Childhood Social Studies classes. With stories read, the students waited in anticipation for the first day. Each PK student made a dragon mask with colorful streamers. The Kindergarten students made a huge dragon complete with swirling eyes and sparkle scales. The Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade classes paraded through the



halls of the school in celebration of the 2009 year of the ox. All were delighted to see the enormous dragon dance through the halls. Follow-up cooking lessons included Chinese fried rice and

chicken stir fry.

Older students joined the festivities by assisting the younger students. The International Club held a Bake Sale of homemade delicacies from a variety of Asian countries. These students were happy to share their favorite dishes and explain the cuisine to all of us. Foods were sampled, with the proceeds being donated to charity.

Upper Division Highlights*Cont. from Page 1*

January 25 through the 30 to the poems in the small book, "Early Poems of William Butler Yeats." Students select poems to memorize and recite before their classmates. Teachers or sometimes a vote of the students selects the top students to be entered in the auditorium competition. Finalists practice delivery before their classes, and then Ms. Marcia Elkind works out stage settings and the order of speaking approaches to the stage and lighting.

Nervous reciters watch anxiously as their classmates arrive for the assembly in the Grand Hall. The Upper Division students pick their favorites, often their classmates, and a hush falls over the multitudes as microphones are adjusted, palms sweat, and James Pigman, Chair of the English Department, calls the meeting to order. Richard Kruzcek and Nancy Massand will serve as prompters. Sometimes the competition turns on a barrel-chested resonance as when Larry Suarez '02 boomed out Poe's "The Bells," or on a beautiful accent such as Christopher Anderson's '08 Jamaican or the perfectly enunciated dulcet tones of Christina Dumitrescu's Sonnet in '07. "I am so nervous," said So Young An '13 a recent ELA student who still will bravely stand with the others if she is selected. Board of Trustees member Mike Rakosi '64 donates prizes of books, theater passes, and pens for the winners, but all in the spirit of a celebration of language, poetry, and camaraderie.

Book Talk

By William Vogel

February marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president. Many references have been made to the presidency, leadership, and political and social climate of Lincoln's era, especially in relation to this year's presidential election and Barrack Obama's use of the Lincoln Bible. During the month of February, students often study the Civil War, slavery, and civil rights. Many may wish to reread Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. To discover more about one of the leading characters, Rhett Butler, or the famous Belle Watling, pick up a copy of *Rhett Butler's People* by Ronald McCaig.

On a more historical note, the changing views of suffering, death, burial, and patriotism are discussed in a masterful work by Drew Gilpin Faust, president of

Continued on Page 8

Brooklyn Museum

The fifth and sixth grades went on a class trip to the Brooklyn Museum where they were whisked up to the Kehinda Wiley Passing/Posing exhibition area. The docent for the fifth grade group, Madalena, asked the students to lie down on the floor because, Go, 2003, one of Kehinde Wiley's grand scale paintings, is mounted on the ceiling and lying on the floor is the best way to appreciate it. Kehinde Wiley is best known for his paintings of contemporary urban African American men in poses taken from the annals of art history. As an art student, Kehinde admired the grand style paintings he saw in museums, but then he brought it a step further by digging beneath the pomp and pageantry and creating something more like 'Hip Hop meets the Old Masters'. The students compared the poses of five Kehinde Wiley paintings to ancient poses and then Madalena had everyone 'strike a pose'.

The next stop in the Museum was a sculpture by Louise Bourgeois called De'contracte'e, made in 1990. This roughly finished marble block had exquisitely carved body fragments of arms seamlessly growing from the stone mass. The arms were in the process of communication and most of the students agreed that the arms were feeling sad. Some students thought the arms belonged to a doctor or a teacher. All agreed that the sculpture was beautiful.

The last stop at the museum was the famous Burghers of Calais sculpture by Rodin. This sculpture spoke of sacrifice which is on the minds of many Americans today. The 'Burghers' were ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of the people of the town of Calais in 1347, during the Hundred Years War. The students sat in awe listening to the saga of a place far away and long ago.

Everyone received a free pass to return to the museum. The students were excited that they could share their experiences in this special place with their family members. This return trip is best experienced from March 27 to July 5 when the museum will feature 'Gustave Caillebotte: Impressionist Paintings from Paris to the Sea'. This Impressionist painter is one of the best in the genre of 'urban impressionists' and the focus is on paintings that feature water as the magical element that reflects its surroundings. A must see!

Summer in the Garden

For Children Ages 2-13

Monday, June 29 through Friday, August 21

- Nursery
Full and Half Day Programs
- Juniors 3 – 6
Full and Half Day Programs
- Specialty Options —Ages 7 to 13

Weeks 1&2	TADA! Youth Theatre www.tadatheater.com Super Soccer Stars www.supersoccerstars.com Young Scientists
OR	
OR	
Weeks 3&4	Awesome Artists First Shot Basketball www.firstshotbasketball.com Reading, Writing and Math Adventures
OR	
OR	
Weeks 5&6	TADA! Youth Theatre www.tadatheater.com Super Soccer Stars www.supersoccerstars.com Young Scientists
OR	
OR	
Weeks 7&8	Awesome Artists First Shot Basketball www.firstshotbasketball.com Reading, Writing and Math Adventures
OR	
OR	

Plus.....Red Cross Swim Instruction, Arcade Game Room, Arts & Crafts, Field Activities

Lunch and Snacks included for Full and Half Day (AM) Campers

Pricing Available for Door to Door Transportation

Camp Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Pricing Available for Extended Day: 7:30 am to 6:00 pm

Summer 2009 Rates

- Full Day Program—9:00 am to 4:00 pm
\$450 per week
- Discounted Rate for Full 8 week Program
\$3,400

Book Talk*Continued from Page 6*

Harvard University and the Lincoln Professor of History. *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* reveals the change in feeling about death, as the Civil War marks a period in history where people, in mass numbers, die far from home, separated from loved ones, buried in sometimes unmarked graves, and later interred in newly formed National Cemeteries. Some of these issues will be discussed with our fifth and sixth graders as we journey to Gettysburg and tour the battlefields. Later on during this same Spring trip, we will visit Arlington National Cemetery. Students are often surprised to learn that Arlington is not the largest National Cemetery. In fact, Calverton, in Long Island holds this distinction. Today, even in our own backyard, Civil War heroes continue to be recognized. In September of this year, a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, buried in an unmarked grave in Calvary Cemetery, was identified and received a new headstone through the efforts of the Marine Corps.

A more recent book, by James M. McPherson, *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*, speaks to the brilliancy of Lincoln as a war strategist. Lincoln's "on the job training" propelled the American nation through one of the most difficult periods in our history. Some consider Lincoln to have been the greatest Commander in Chief. Many study this great man for his leadership abilities.

Many books on Lincoln, slavery, the Civil War, and civil rights can be found in our school library. Look for changing displays during February.

***In residence at Garden School***

A **Valentine's-inspired** evening of script-in-hand short plays and songs of love gone right, wrong, and somewhere in between. Come celebrate being in...or out...of love!

Plays by Jackson Heights' own Christen Clifford, Les Hunter and Justin Warner, as well as Jenny Lyn Bader, Barbara Blumenthal-Ehrlich, Carl Kissin and Melanie Wehrmacher. **Songs** by Ben Morss, Simon Gray and more...

FALL IN LOVE...with Jackson Rep
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8th 7:00pm

The Garden School Cafe Space
 33-16 79th Street / Jackson Hts, NY 11372

TICKETS - \$12 (\$10 Students or 65+yrs)
BUY EARLY – LIMITED SEATING

www.SmartTix.com / 212.868.4444

?’s - E-mail info@jacksonrep.org or call 718-874-9431.



*We are pleased to invite you
to join us for
Garden School's General Assembly
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
@ 7:00 pm
in the Gymnasium.*

*Please join members of our
Board of Trustees
and our Headmaster
as the President of the Board discusses
the current school year, its finances and the
School's vision for the future in accordance
with our
long range planning*

Blue & White Night
&
Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

*Garden School PTA
graciously invites you to its*

Blue and White Night

*An evening of Wine and Cheese with a Silent Auction
Friday, February 6th, 2009
7:30 P.M.*

*Garden School
33-16 79th Street
Jackson Heights, NY*

*Tickets: \$15 in advance
Limited number at door: \$20*

Adults Only

SAVE THE DATE

*Spring Fundraiser
Saturday, April 18th, 2009*

“Let’s Kill the Boss”

*Interactive
Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
@ Garden School*

Garden School Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, February 3rd—College for Juniors
- Thursday, February 5th—Jean Day for Operation Smile
- Thursday, February 5th—Trustees Meeting
- Friday, February 6th—PTA Blue & White Night
- Sunday, February 8th—Jackson Repertory Theatre
- Tuesday, February 10th—General Assembly
- Thursday, February 12th—AM Coffee Series with Ms. Sohmer
- Thursday, February 12th—Upper Division Trip to Ireland departs
- Friday, February 13th—Student Council Valentines Day Activities
- Friday, February 13, Upper Division Trip to Spain departs
- Monday, February 16th to Friday, February 20—School Closed for Winter Break
- Monday, February 23rd—Classes Resume