



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: III

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, October 2, 2015



Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



In the Fall issue of *Independent School*, a quarterly published by NAIS, there is an important article by Amanda Torres that focuses on student engagement in independent school. NAIS conducted a survey of forty-nine schools with the intent to understand what students find most important in their experience as learners. Questions from the survey ranged from what students found most engaging in the classroom to what attracted and held their interest outside of the classroom.

Some of the results were very revealing. A majority of students indicated that what engaged them most was active discussions and debates within the classroom. For these students, the level of active engagement became a significance activity in which they took ownership of the learning process. The second highest preferred activity involved the use of technology for doing research and as part of the daily lessons; third among

the preferred activities were group projects.

An additional part of the survey asked student to identity what they thought were the most effective teaching areas in our schools. The results certainly add to our understanding of the role of the independent school in the learning process. Students felt that learning how to write effectively was a high priority and was done well in our schools. Thinking critical and being able to understand challenging material also received high praise from those surveyed. Ideas such an independent learning, creative solutions, using technology, speaking effectively all ranked high among what our students felt were the strengths of the learning process in independent schools.

So much of this points to the missions our schools have and to the independence and responsibility that we encourage among our students and our families. Independent schools, such as Garden, focus on developing a sense of responsibility for the learning process. Learning needs to be and often is a community based activity; yet within that communal forum resides an equally strong sense of the independent and responsible learner. Taking responsibility for one's education and learning emerged as one of the strong points in student attitude.

As we as an independent school reflect on what we do and how we implement our missions, we can see that many elements that this survey reveals remain at the center of our educational process. Writing and thinking skills, independent learning, vibrant classroom discussions, using technology for research and an open and safe environment which guarantees and sustains the idea of the free exchange of idea all form part of the daily life of our school. These are the areas the make a school a vibrant learning community; these are the areas the all schools need to sustain, enhance and expand.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Tuesday, October 6: Curriculum Night @ 6PM**
- **Monday, October 12: School Closed for Columbus Day**
- **Wednesday, October 14: PSATs for Grades 10 & 11**
- **Friday, October 23: School Closed for Faculty Workshop Day**
- **Friday, October 30: Halloween Parties for Grades Pre-K - 6**

College Visitors Next Week:

Wednesday 10/7
 10am Mitchell College (CT)
 2pm Hofstra University (NY)

Garden Outreach

By: **Jim Gaines (Director of Outreach)**



Stay in touch with Garden School events and news by clicking on the link below and "liking" our Garden School Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/GardenSchoolNY>

Follow Garden on Twitter <https://twitter.com/gardenschoolnyc>

Garden Enrollment Referral Program

Garden has a Referral Program in place to incentivize current families to refer new families who enroll at Garden. For every NEW full-time Garden student that enrolls and pays their tuition due in full and indicates that you are their referring family, the referring family will receive \$1,000 tuition credit. For each *additional* new student that enrolls, the referring family will receive a \$1,500 tuition credit once the new family has paid their tuition in full.

Although it is not necessary for us to have the card below, it allows us to keep track of your participation in a new family's enrollment. You can also choose to send an email with the information on the card directly to Jim Gaines, Director of Outreach, at jgaines@gardenschool.org. With your permission, we will follow up with the prospective family.



Garden School Enrollment Referral Card for Prospective Families

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

The following family might be interested in receiving information about Garden School for their children.

Referred Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade Next September: _____ Current School (if known): _____

Notes/Comments: _____

Please return this form to front desk, or the Outreach office or simply contact the Garden School Outreach Office directly at (718) 335-6363 x28 jgaines@gardenschool.org www.gardenschool.org



Open House and Merit Scholarship Exam Saturday, December 5th, 9:00 AM

Garden School will host an Open House on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 to 11:30 AM for families interested in all grades of the school. No RSVP is necessary.

Please **invite friends, family members and colleagues** who may be interested in learning more about Garden School. There will be a presentation at 9:30 AM on the school and its educational and enrichment programs.

The same morning, we will also be offering the annual Merit Scholarship Exam on Saturday, December 5th. The Merit Exam and the scholarships are eligible to both incoming new and current Garden students presently enrolled in grades 5-10 (entering 6-11 in 2016). Pre-registration using the form from the web link below is required by December 2nd.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 718-335-6363. Use this link for more information and forms: <http://www.gardenschool.org/open-house-and-merit-scholarship-exam-sat-december-5th-900-am/>



Garden School

Academic Excellence Since 1923



Co-Ed Independent College Prep School
Nursery - Grade 12

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAM (9:00 AM)

for students entering Grades 6 through 11
and

OPEN HOUSE (9:30 AM)

for all grades

Saturday, December 5, 2015



Garden School

33-16 79th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Call 718-335-6363 before December 2 for Merit Exam Registration

No RSVP necessary for Open House
visit www.gardenschool.org

“Cultivating Success in Every Child”



PTA Fall Fundraiser!

Our school is selling valuable, family-friendly "KidStuff Coupon Books" filled with hundreds of national, regional and local coupons for all ages! The KidStuff Book is conveniently organized, offers incredible savings and is sold exclusively through schools! **Our school earns 50% or more profit for every book we sell!**

KidStuff Coupon Books are \$25. You can save at Macy's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sears, Loft, Aéro, Payless, Outback + more!

Use just a few coupons and easily save more than the \$25 cost of the book...Remember to keep KidStuff in your car! Most coupons are long-term and valid for 16 months!

You will enjoy fabulous savings from a lot of stores in your area.

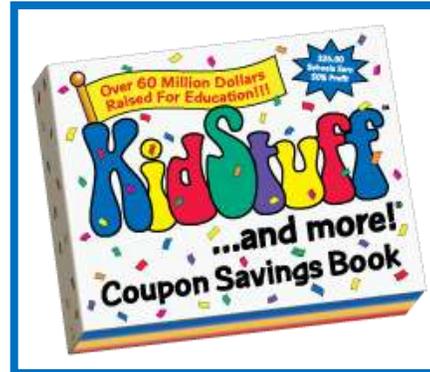
POST and TWEET! Family and friends will love saving with KidStuff...The books are great for gifts too. Your family earns 1 FREE book worth \$25.00 for every 5 books you sell! Payment is due ASAP.

Please make checks payable to Garden School PTA. NO CASH PLEASE – We will not be responsible and will not reimburse any monies.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Brie at (917) 859-4252. KidStuff does not promote door-to-door sales by children.

KidStuff ships books to our school. Message me ASAP to order! TY!

Thank You for supporting our school!!!



BOOK ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL OCTOBER 23RD!



DATE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

HOME ROOM TEACHER: _____

Cost per book is \$25.00

Amount of KIDS STUFF BOOKS I'd like to purchase: _____

Amount enclosed: _____



**CHECK OR MONEY ORDER WRITTEN OUT TO:
GARDEN SCHOOL PTA**



Early Childhood

Nursery Language Arts

By: Carmela Knopf (Nursery Teacher)

Nursery has been busy decorating our classroom for Autumn. We have collaged leaves, colored apples and made mobiles. We learned that apples come in three different colors: red, yellow and green. In cooking, we made apple smiles using apples, cream cheese and marshmallows. We read *An Apple a Day* by Melvin Berger and *Autumn Is For Apples* by Michelle Knudsen to reinforce our lessons.

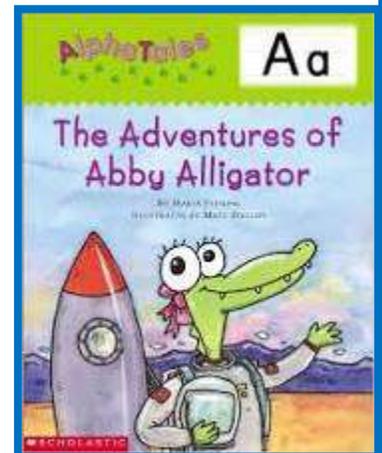
We have also been reinforcing some positive classroom interactions by reading, *Hands Are Not For Hitting* by Martine Agassi and Elizabeth Verdick's books: *Feet Are Not For Kicking*, *Teeth Are Not For Biting* and *Germs Are Not For Sharing*. After we read each book, we talked about each topic. These books also support our "Act of Kindness" school wide character education initiative.



Pre-kindergarten Language Arts

By: Eileen Reyes (Pre-K Teacher, Dean of Early Childhood)

Name recognition is an important part of school especially during the beginning of the school year. For some children this is a skill that has been learned already, however many are being introduced to this skill for the very first time. Every cubby and mailbox has been labeled with a name and a photo to help with name recognition. Labeling personal items at home is a good follow up activity. Pointing out each letter of your child's name is one way to reinforce letter recognition. Name cards are shown each day. Acts of kindness can be seen as children help their classmates to recognize their printed name when needed. This week the Pre-Kindergarten students have been working on the letter *Aa*. They have been learning to recognize this letter and the sounds that it makes. We have been identifying the names of familiar things that begin with this letter. Connections from the spoken word to the written word have been made as we made an *Aa* chart listing words that begin with this letter.



My "a" Book by Jane Belk Moncure and *The Adventures of Abby Alligator* by Maria Fleming are some of the books we read this week.

Kindergarten Language Arts

By: Kristen Ahlfeld (Nursery Teacher)

Each week in kindergarten our language arts studies focused on a different letter of the alphabet. This week the students brainstormed words that began with letter *Tt* and then practiced writing on the lines in their notebooks. The children are also learning sign language signs that begin the letter of the week.

In addition, our geographer of the week located countries on the world map that also start with letter *Tt*. The children have also received their word journals and are learning to use the dictionary to record words corresponding to our letter of the week.



Elementary

Grade 1 Science

By: Lou Albano (Science Teacher, Dean of Grades 4-6)

The enthusiastic first graders have ventured into the world of science. They have learned about the basic differences between the living and non-living worlds and the interactions that occur in order to maintain life. We have carefully travelled through the daily requirements of plants with hands-on activities.

We will proceed to investigate the requirements for animals. Life on Earth is diverse, and not all living things can survive in all parts of the Earth. The discussion of habitat and survival will further enhance their inquisitive minds. All in all, the first graders are diligently working in their study of science and enhancing their knowledge of life on Earth.



Grade 2 Science

By: Lou Albano (Science Teacher, Dean of Grades 4-6)

Our inquisitive second graders have investigated plants, their parts, their groupings, and how new plants emerge. We have discussed how they grow and change, and how they adapt to their diverse environments. We are working on an ongoing hands-on investigation of how seeds sprout.

We will shortly begin our discussion of animals, such as vertebrates, mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. We will be looking at adaptations that animals have made in order to survive on the complex Earth. We will also be discussing invertebrates. The second graders are working hard in their science class.

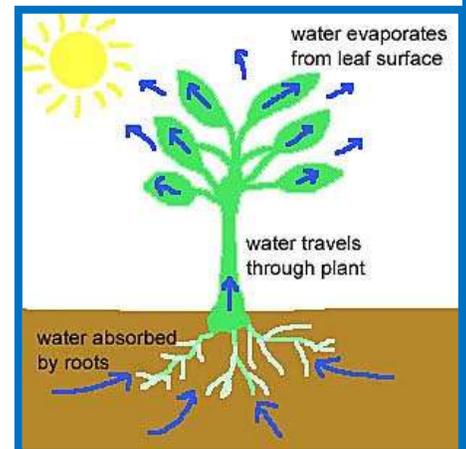


Grade 3 Science

By: Lou Albano (Science Teacher, Dean of Grades 4-6)

Our ambitious third graders have encountered the fabulous study of life science. We have investigated plants, their parts, their groupings, and how new plants emerge. We have discussed how pressure changes the ability of plants to draw water from their roots. We have investigated topics such as transpiration and capillary action of plants by using hands-on experiments.

Our next adventure will include a detailed discussion of animals, how they are grouped, how they grow and change, and how they adapt to their environment. The third graders are working hard in their science class.





Grade 4 World Language

By: Gabriel Gomis (French Language Teacher)

In French, Fourth Graders have been exposed to the phonetics (nasal sounds, combination of vowels...). They also learned courtesy words, cardinal numbers, and a French nursery song. Through dialogues and games, they learned to greet each other and count in French.

In the coming weeks, they will be introduced to the subject pronouns, the verbs, and likes and dislikes in the coming weeks. Students have so far shown great excitements in the French language by getting involved in class work. As we emphasize on other lessons, we will still work to strengthen the reading skills.

Grade 5 World Language

By: Gabriel Gomis (French Language Teacher)

French 5 reviewed the greetings, cardinal and ordinal numbers. They tested their understanding of the courtesy words through dialogue.

Grade 6 World Language

By: Gabriel Gomis (French Language Teacher)

In sixth grade French, we have put a good deal of stress on oral expression and orthography. They have participated enthusiastically in classroom dialogues and games. Earlier in the school year, we studied French phonetics, courtesy words, and numbers.

For students that have already been exposed to French, it was a reviewing of knowledge acquired last year. For new students, it is a new experience.

Middle School

Grade 7 History

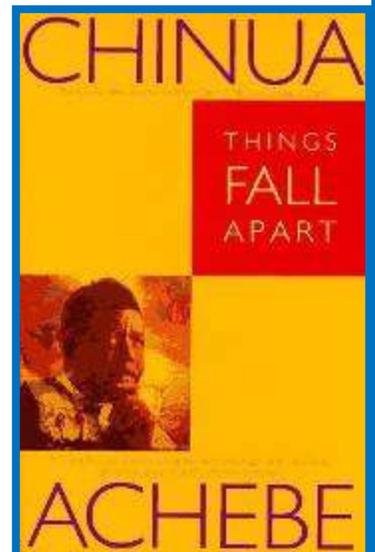
By: Richard Kruczek (History Teacher)

The seventh grade is well on its way to the revolution! The students have become acquainted with homework, testing and the art of creating a term paper, all the while doing so with energy and enthusiasm. We are currently finishing colonial times and are entering the march toward Independence! I can't wait to see how the students respond to it; if the first month is any indication, my excitement is warranted!

Grade 8 History

By: Sarah Sullivan (History Teacher)

Area Studies is a course that exposes eighth grade students to the world around them. We look at how countries are interdependent throughout history. Students realize how issues that affect one country can create problems for another and if these nations work together they can form positive results.





Our year long analysis of the world begins with the continent of Africa. Students read the novel "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe. This renowned novel illustrated the rich traditions and culture of the Ibo people in Nigeria. In addition, it shows the impact of European imperialism. These themes will be present throughout Area Studies. Lastly, we have begun studying the geography of Africa which has had a tremendous impact on the people and their history.

In the weeks to come we will learn about South Africa and the development and end of Apartheid. Students will learn about the heroes and villains of this period.

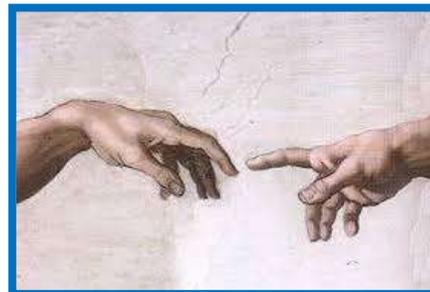
High School

Grade 9 Fine Arts

By: Tiina Prio (Chair of Fine Arts Department)

The Ninth Grade Renaissance Art students began their study of the Renaissance by learning about tonal values and how they create depth.

The first project they tackled was the 'Hand of Man' from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, which, of course, was painted by Michelangelo. Being able to 'round out' the hand using tones to make it look three dimensional is a trick called *trompe l'oeil* translated from French, " means "to fool, mislead, or trick the eye". For that very reason, *trompe l'oeil* was frequently utilized by the great artists of the Renaissance period, for example, to momentarily trick the viewer into believing that the painted objects they were looking at were real. "It is a very difficult technique used by many artists throughout history", quotes Eric Jonsson in [A Brief History of Trompe L'oeil](#).



'Hand of Man' will be the first of eight projects will become part of a booklet which is cherished and kept by students for years to come.

Grade 9 Writing

By: James Pigman (Chair of English Department)

Writing 9 students scurried through the library stacks looking for books by authors with their initials. They are beginning short stories for the next two weeks. They will copy out the first page of their selected novel and then design characters and situations to fit into that beginning. And then they will plot and write dialogue to create their own story. People become better writers by writing, by testing their style in different contexts. This assignment will stretch their experiences and challenge their styles.

And---they need to volunteer to write for the school yearbook. Graham P. the editor is always in need of writers for stuff from Pre-K excitement to the soccer team. Go see him and get practice writing!! Now---at the start of the year. And the more assignments done well, the more assignments he will give. Do not wait until junior or senior year. Go now.

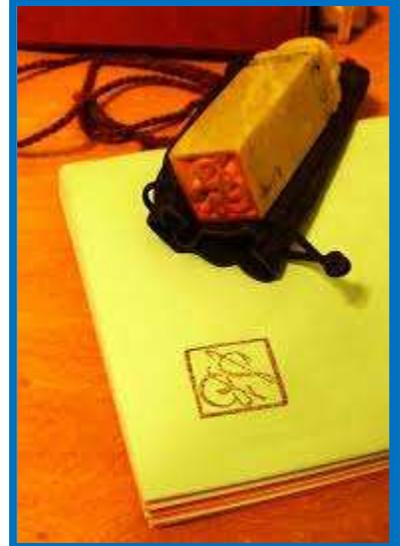


Grade 10 Fine Arts

By: Tiina Prio (Chair of Fine Arts Department)

The first project that the Tenth Grade Chinese Art students are working on is designing a name seal or a chop, as it is commonly known as, to use as their 'signature' on projects. They are carving it out of a soft rubber material and it will be the only 'name' they will use during the course as they hand in homework, class work and projects. Given that it will be used so extensively, they aim for it to be a personal symbol which they associate with their character. This semester I have seen hearts, flowers, animals and luxury fashion brands carved for personal name seals.

The Chinese Art students are viewing a documentary by **Great Museum's Television**. This documentary is called China: West Meets East at the Metropolitan Museum. The producers go on to say that "The Metropolitan Museum of Art is home to the finest collection of Chinese artistic masterpieces of any museum outside of China. The collection spans 5,000 years of changing political dynasties and varying religious and foreign influences and represent every period of Chinese history." I recommend watching it at home, as it is not only educational but also engrossing.



Grades 11 and 12 Physical Education

By: Flance Dervishi (Athletic Director)

In PE Class, we're starting the year off by introducing our first unit (Soccer). Garden has a Middle School and Varsity Soccer team so teaching soccer and playing it in PE class allows the kids to practice more often.

The first week we went over many different drills such as how to pass the ball inside foot, dribble, stop the ball and shooting. We make sure the kids understand the importance of all these drills so they can take the skills learned in the classroom onto the field. We have now given each student a team and we're starting off the regular season tournament. Our kids love soccer and are having a great time working together to try and score for their team. We also play games such as steal the beacon and line soccer which is a big challenge for the kids as they are playing 1 on 1 against other teams in PE class trying eagerly to score first to earn a goal for their team.

Next week we will start ranking the teams and having a playoff bracket for them to play for the championship.

Hispanic Heritage Month

By Agustin Melara (Chair of World Language Department)

On Thursday, October 1st, students in Ms. Stenos' ELA class were joined by their peers in Mr. Melara's Spanish III class to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at a nearby restaurant.



Both classes have been learning about the major historical events that have shaped the culture of Latin America since the arrival of the Spaniards on October 12, 1492 and the subsequent impact it continues to have in the United States. From the language to the world of entertainment, the contributions made by Hispanics to the fabric of American culture abound, but perhaps its most prominent one can be found in the rich variety of Latin American cuisine throughout the United States. Buen provecho!



Garden Volleyball honors Breast Cancer Awareness





STUDY ABROAD: CUBA

February 11th to February 20th, 2016

September 30, 2015

Dear Students and Parents—

Maria Diaz of World Travel has offered us a chance to go to Cuba this year. She holds one of the few licenses for organizing legal trips. This is a rare opportunity to visit Cuba to see this country before it opens up to incredibly rapid changes.

- We anticipate that the trip will last nine days, from New York.
- The cost will be around \$3,400, plus about eight meals & a visa, \$85.
- Twenty five students, four or five chaperones with the group.
- Ms. Diaz will accompany us from JFK and throughout the trip. In addition, we have an official government guide with us at all times in Cuba.
- We will have to visit an elementary school or university as part of our research.
- Three days in Havana, Hotel Nacional de Cuba or similar; two nights in Cienfuegos; two nights in Varadero, which could be the most beautiful beach in the world.
- Visits to two UNESCO World Heritage sites, Trinidad city, 1819, & Cienfuegos
- Delta Airlines direct flight from NYC.
- Options: baseball game, ballet, Deep Sea Fishing from Cojima where the fisherman of The Old Man and the Sea started out to go fishing. Hemingway property and study.
- Return Saturday February 20th to JFK, arrive 3 PM.
- Relatives and friends will be considered but the group has to be primarily students and teachers Mr. Pigman, Ms. Elkind, Ms. Prio, Ms. Smith-O'Sullivan, Mr. Melara.
- Safety---very safe. A group of 15 teachers, alumni, and parents visited Cuba in the summer of 2014 with the same itinerary. The country was very orderly, the people incredibly friendly and interested in the United States.
- Hot and humid and we like to walk around and see as much as possible. Temperature prediction: 82 degrees Fahrenheit at Varadero Beach. 100 miles south of Miami so great winter weather.
- **Decide by October 30th. Make a deposit of \$1,000. Credit card ok.**
- **Open to 7th through 12th graders who have shown the maturity and decorum to benefit.** The trip is chaperoned throughout with travel within Cuba being by chartered bus.
- This is a 100% legal, authorized trip under the auspices of the United States State Department.
- Questions? Pianoman203@gmail.com.

You are invited!!! Marcia Elkind, Tiina Prio, Sarah O'Sullivan, James Pigman, Agustin Melara

NOTE CORRECTION: Papers given out announcing the Cuba February trip inadvertently listed the dates. The correct dates are Depart February 11, Thursday, 2016, Return February 20, Saturday, as stated above.