



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: VI

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, October 23, 2015



## *Thoughts for the Week*

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



As you know, today was our first Faculty Development Day of the year. These days, during which the faculty participate in professional development, are so important to our fulfilling the mission of the school. These are the day in which our teachers and administrator meet to take a step back to evaluate our program through the primary method of self-reflection.

At today's meeting, we reflected on two main areas: first, the preparation for the NYS AIS self-study, which involves breaking up into our assigned subcommittees and discussing and writing reports on all of the aspects of the organization of the school, from record keeping to curriculum. The second portion of the day was spent in evaluating the first six weeks of school, of reviewing student progress, of reviewing curriculum initiatives, special projects and future projects.

These days play a particularly important role in an independent school. The process of adjustment and development always begins with the educational team of teachers and administrators conducting serious discussion about our program in relation to the Garden mission. Discussions are open, frank and thoughtful. Our goal at the end of the day is to come to a clearer sense of why we are doing what we are doing, and how could we improve individual, team, and institutional performance.

Our topics ranged from how each area of school life reflects the implementation of the school's mission. Today, and at this point in the self-study, we are not identifying solutions; rather we were starting the process of reflection and assessment that we continue throughout the year. Self-reflection is a complex process that requires a clarity of perception and is followed by everyone's commitment to making adjustments wherever necessary. As a part of that self-reflection, we looked at practices and evaluated them for their effectiveness. At the end of this process, we will look at what aspects of growth and development we need to implement. As I have written before, schools are works in progress.



## **Garden School 2015-2016 Annual Fund Letter**

Dear Garden School Parents,

Last year at this time, we held our 2014-15 Annual Fund Campaign, which proved to be a successful event that raised over fifty thousand dollars to support the mission of the Garden School.

As we begin the 2015-2016 Annual Fund Drive, we are pleased and heartened that our Board of Trustees has demonstrated its leadership in this campaign with 100% participation and with gifts and pledges totaling over \$10,000! So, it is in this spirit of recognizing a bright future for Garden School, and choosing to invest in this organization's mission, that I ask you to participate in the Annual Fund Campaign and make a donation.

As evidence of our continued commitment to enhance Garden, our return to school was marked by positive improvements which were guided in part by responses to last year's Parent Survey. In addition to our growth in enrollment, we made significant upgrades to the physical plant with a new kitchen stove, new pre-k and kindergarten bathrooms and new windows in several high school classrooms. We also developed our educational technology program with stronger Wi-Fi, an Engineering Elective in the High School, and a new Character Education Program with constructive effects that are evident throughout the school. We have added a new parent trustee to support additional communication and partnership with our families.

Much of this would not have been possible without the generous support of last year's Annual Fund donors. This year's goal is to achieve 100% participation of our families. As members of an independent school community, all of us assume responsibilities to ensure the ongoing success of our students and our school. These responsibilities include securing the school's financial strength by "bridging the gap" between tuition and actual costs. With everyone's help through the Annual Fund and the Gala, we supplement our tuition revenue and help keep Garden's tuition among the lowest of comparable New York independent schools. The Annual Fund plays a vital role in Garden realizing its mission. Our Board has reached the 100% goal; now we call upon you and all of our families to help reach the goal of 100% participation in the Annual Fund. To be clear, while we ask you to be as generous as possible with your tax deductible donation, it is your participation at any level that helps us to meet our goal.

Please join us in celebrating our school's future and in supporting its mission to educate the children of our community to the highest of academic, social and personal standards. All gifts are tax deductible. Please go to the giving link on our website (<http://www.gardenschool.org/giving/annual-fund/>) and make your donation online or simply submit a check to the school office.

We thank you for your continued trust and support of Garden School and current and future generations of Garden students will also thank you for our generosity.

Sincerely,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.  
Headmaster

Michael Rakosi  
President, Board of Trustees



## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Monday, October 23: 8:30 am Morning Meeting, JHBG donation presentation, Thanksgiving Food Drive Launch**
- **Friday, October 30: Halloween Parties for Grades Pre-K – 6**
- **Friday, October 30: Grades 7 and 8 Pumpkin Carving Contest**
- **Friday, November 6: Marking Period 1 Ends**
- **Friday, November 6: City Hall Trip for Grade 5**
- **Thursday, November 12: Report Cards Distributed**
- **Friday, November 13: Report Cards Returned**
- **Wednesday, November 18: Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- **Wednesday, November 18: United Nations Trip, Grade 8 & 9**
- **Thursday & Friday, November 26-27: School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

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## ***College Visitors Next Week:***

### **Monday 10/26**

1pm Long Island University - Brooklyn (NY)

### **Wednesday 10/28**

9am Mt. Holyoke College (MA) – women only

### **Thursday 10/29**

10am Fordham University (NY)

### **Monday 11/2**

12pm Ithaca College (NY)

## ***Garden Character Education Program***

***By Ms. Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling, Upper Division Coordinator)***

In conjunction with the celebration of Back to the Future Day on Wednesday, this week's Kindness activity was a "Kindness to the Future" time capsule. All students in grades 1-12 were asked to write their hopes for the future of Garden School or the world on index cards. Then, the fifth grade (otherwise known as the Class of 2023) collected the completed cards from homerooms and houses. When Garden School celebrates its centennial during the 2022-2023 school year, the current fifth grade class -- who will then be seniors -- will open the capsule.

## ***Garden PTA***

***By Diane Sarro (PTA President)***

Volunteer needed from 8:30 a.m. until 1p.m. for UPK photos are on November 24, Seniors, October 22 and retakes November 19. Contact Bruce Campbell at [camfam99@juno.com](mailto:camfam99@juno.com) or Diane Sarro at [dbartonesarro@aol.com](mailto:dbartonesarro@aol.com).

Plans for our Halloween Celebration are underway! An email was sent with the details. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! So, if you are available to volunteer on October 30, contact Maria DiAmore at [diamore533@aol.com](mailto:diamore533@aol.com).

Finally, Career Day is taking place in November (details to follow) and save the dates to get all of your holiday shopping done on December 1, 2, 3, at our **Holiday Boutique!** We need volunteers for setting up on November 29 and 30 and on the days of the Boutique for sales and wrapping. The students always have an amazing time!

**Please also purchase a coupon book and the Charleston Wrap products!!**



# GARDEN SCHOOL

## Every Purchase Makes a Difference!

- We encourage ALL families to participate by sharing the catalogs with friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers.
- This is our most significant source of funds for the year, and it is used to enhance the experience and education of the entire student body.
- A major portion of the funds from this year's campaign will be used to redo our library.
- Remember, when you order two or more items, you will receive a **FREE digital Cooking Light™ Cookbook**.

## Orders & Money Due:

- All money and the top 3 copies of the order form are due on: **October 23, 2015**.
- **NO CASH**. Checks or Money Orders Please
- Make checks payable to: **GARDEN SCHOOL PTA**
- Please **DO NOT** collect sales tax.
- Additional order forms are available at the school office. **No door-to-door sales!**
- Receive a text alert when your order is available for pick up at the school by entering your phone number on the order form. No other text or solicitations will be sent.

## Online Ordering Made Easy... Over 500 items to choose from:

- Online shopping is easy, safe and the best way to reach the most amount of people.
- Register your student at [www.charlestonwrap.com](http://www.charlestonwrap.com)
- **Our School's online ID# is: 9027**
- Students will receive a 6 digit code to receive credit for all online sales.
- **Invite out-of-town friends and relatives to shop with our easy invite generator after registration.**
- Share your student's code with friends and family via social media like Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter.
- **Personalized and Online Only Items** cannot be ordered via the 4 part order form. If these items are written on the 4 part order form, they will NOT be fulfilled.



Student  
Registration

## New for this year... Two Shipping Options for Online Orders:

1. **Ship to the home:** Online orders can be shipped directly to the purchaser's home. **FREE Shipping** on orders over \$75.
2. **Ship to the School:** Shop online and have orders **Shipped to the School** with the scheduled school delivery and receive **FREE Shipping!**
  - **At checkout, enter the Ship to School code: shiptoschool9027.**
  - By entering the Ship to School code, your order will be **DELIVERED** to the school, regardless of the ship to address entered. The order will be packed in its own box to the attention of the credited student and the person who made the online purchase.
  - Ship to School option ends the day after orders and money are due at the school.

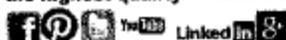
## CHECK OUT ALL OF THE COOL PRIZES!!!

Prizes for sending 10 or more emails!

Prizes for ordering 1 or more items!

Daily Prizes and MORE!

*Charleston Wrap™*  
Simply the highest quality in fundraising



Thank you for Supporting Our School!



**Parents, students, families, teachers, staff are encouraged to march with Garden School in the parade! Meet on Sat., October 31st at 11:30 am at SW corner of 37th avenue and 89th street**



**Poster art by Garden alum parent, John Cebollero!**

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**Garden Volunteers Plant Bulbs with The Jackson Heights Beautification Group Bulb Brigade!**





# GARDEN SCHOOL HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!

*This year's Garden School Spooktacular Halloween Party*

## **Friday, October 30th!**

1. *The first party (Nursery, Pre-K 3 & 4 and K) will take place from 2:00-3:30 in the Gym.  
The children will be served Pizza and juice.  
Your child will be delighted & have lots of fun!*

*We have arranged for 90 minutes of Magic, balloon animals, cotton candy, singing & dancing!*

2. *The second party (Grades 1-6) will take place from 4:00-6:00 in the Gym.*

*This year is sure to be a blast!*

*First, our very own Josh Cohen (Dylan 5, and Maggie 3) will be preparing the delicious food.*

*DJ Dino from Allure Entertainment will get the party started.*

*An incredibly talented Face Painter will be on hand to work her magic.*

*Beware! The 4 witches are back with an all new & spooky haunted house.*

*Plus: Activities, Popcorn, Cotton Candy & a very special guest!*

3. *At 7:00 pm, the upper division students take over with a party of their own!*

*A few sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board shortly.*

*First, we still need volunteers!*

*For those of you who have already offered to volunteer - Thank you!*

*Secondly, we are asking for some help with donations!*

*If you can, any donations for water, juice, chips, pretzels, cookies or cake/brownies would be great!*

*To keep our event fun & safe, please read the following:*

- *Your child **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.  
Your child will not be able to attend without a guardian.*
- *To ensure the safety of children, children/adults wearing a mask must remove their mask at the door.*

*Again, if you would like to donate decorations, treats, volunteer, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me: Maria D'Amore (Ariana, 5 & Preston K) Halloween Chairperson*

*[DiAmore533@aol.com](mailto:DiAmore533@aol.com)*

*Call or Text: 718-593-2867*

*So join in on the fun! Come in costume, dance, socialize!*

*It's going to be faBooolous and frighteningly fun!*

*Garden PTA*



*Please see published newspaper article "Garden Alum in The News" on Page*

## **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/>

## **Back To The Future Day**

*By: John Hale (Math and Science Teacher)*





## **Early Childhood**

### **Nursery Math**

**By: Carmella Knopf (Nursery Teacher)**

In math, nursery has been having fun learning their shapes. We already learned about circles, triangles, squares, rectangles and ovals. More shape fun is yet to come learning about hearts, stars and diamonds. For every shape introduced, we trace and color each one and take the sheet home to reinforce. We read books with eye-catching photographs to help children explore the shapes. Finding different shapes in our classroom and the playground has been an exciting activity for all!

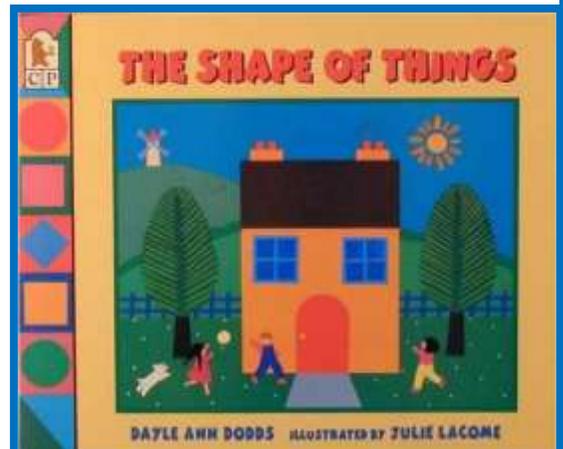


### **Pre-K Math**

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

Shapes have been the focus in The Pre-Kindergarten for the past couple of weeks. Circle, square, and triangle have been introduced in math class. The children will be taught a new shape each week. Since the world is built of shapes, it is very easy to notice shapes in our surroundings. They have also noticed how shapes come in all different sizes as they learn to combine shapes to create new shapes in the block corner.

Comparing lengths and widths of different shaped blocks is another fun activity being done. To further explore shapes, the students took a walk around the school grounds in search of shapes of different colors and sizes. We read *The Shape of Things* by Dayle Ann Dodds and *Shapes, Shapes, Shapes* by Tana Hoban to help build vocabulary.



### **Kindergarten Math**

**By: Kristen Ahlfeld (Kindergarten Teacher)**

Our focus in math has been on identifying and creating patterns, which is the beginning of lifelong mathematical skills. Through understanding patterns, children are able to make predictions and build logical connections, which enhances reasoning skills. The kindergarteners have been recognizing simple and complex patterns through observations, art projects and building with manipulatives. Hands-on learning is very exciting for the children, and gives tangible representations to concepts learned using materials in the world around them.







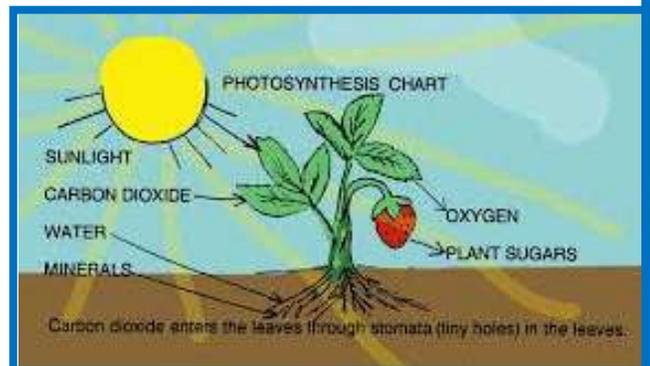
During the first week of this unit, the third graders read and discussed the role of teachers both inside and outside of the classroom. Stories such as *The Homework Lesson* and *First Day Jitters* allowed the students to recognize what they learn from teachers in school. The students made connections while reading these texts. For the second week of the unit, the third graders investigated the power of books. The realistic fiction text, *Amazing Grace*, expressed how books and stories can influence and change people. During the following week, the third graders examined different types of schools and analyzed the underlying similarities of these institutions by reading articles from *Time for Kids*. Last week, the students began investigating how stories can teach about animals, with a focus on wolves. The fantasy story, *Wolf!*, as well as the fractured fairytales, *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* and *The Three Ninja Pigs*, allowed them to examine how this animal is portrayed in stories. The expository texts, *The Truth about Wolves* and *Return of the Gray Wolf*, will provide the students with factual information about wolves, which they will compare to the fictional view. To complete the unit, the third graders will study special places and the learning that happens there.

Through personal experiences and literature, the third graders have been able to identify ways of learning and why learning is important. They have observed how learning helps people find out about the world around them and how it can help people become who they want to be.

## Grade 4 Science

**By: John Hale (Science Teacher)**

The 4th grade science class is finishing their investigations of the plant life cycle and the beginning of photosynthesis. The used hand lenses to identify the different parts of plants and have started to get practical knowledge of science lab equipment. Through practice they have learned the proper use of the Microscope, the Triple Beam Balance, and the Graduated Cylinder. Next week they will be breaking up into groups to start the Weather Board Project. This is a yearlong project where the students will use different equipment to collect and predict the weather each day.



## Grades 5 Science

**By: Marlene Dapice (Science Teacher)**

Fifth grade students have been very busy. Our Turtle Teach project is underway and progressing nicely. Students learned how to properly pick up, hold, and transport the turtles. The turtles certainly seemed to enjoy their exercise session outside of the tank. As a part of the project, Lego turtles were designed and are in the process of being built. These models will accompany the turtles when the fifth grade visits classrooms to teach younger children what they have learned about turtles.

Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, was Back to the Future Day at Garden. To mark the occasion, students designed and built Lego time machines. These are currently on display in the main hallway. Hopefully you will have a chance to stop by and view them.



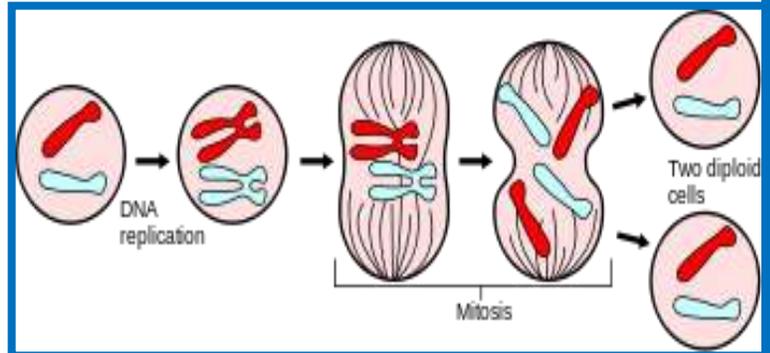


## Grade 6 Science

By: *John Hale (Science Teacher)*

The 6th grade science class is finishing their studies of plant and animal reproduction. They used microscopes to see the different phases of mitosis and were able to calculate which phase lasted the longest. With a good understanding of Mitosis, they were able to see how this process relates to Meiosis.

To help keep their laboratory skills sharp, they worked on their measuring skills using the Triple Beam Balance and the Graduated Cylinder.



## Middle School

### Grade 7 World Languages

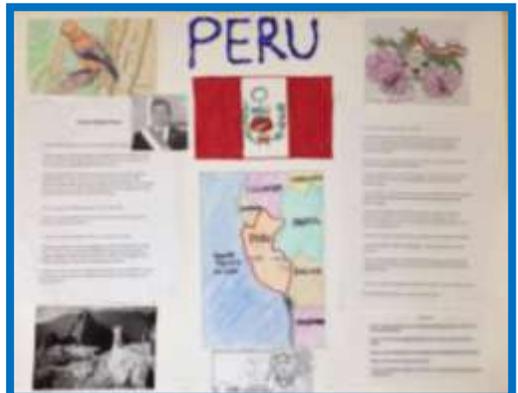
By: *Augustin Melara (World Languages Teacher, Dean of World Languages)*

After having learned basic vocabulary related to places around the city and family members, students in seventh grade Spanish were introduced to the concept of verbs and verb conjugations. The vast majority of verbs in Spanish end in –AR. Learning verb conjugations is a significant step in the language acquisition process because now students can formulate sentences about what they do. For example, it allows them to express daily activities such as, “Yo escucho la radio,” (*I listen to the radio*) or perhaps what a family member does, such as: “Mi madre toma el metro,” (*My mother takes the subway*). At the end of this chapter, students will be assessed on chapters 1-4.

### Grade 8 World Languages

By: *Augustin Melara (World Languages Teacher, Dean of World Languages)*

For the past few days, students in Spanish 8 have been presenting their cultural projects to the class. Each student had to conduct research about a Spanish-speaking country of their choice and provide cultural information, such as its location, capital, date of independence, current president, literacy rate, population, major religion(s), and natural resources. This activity has provided students with a more comprehensive understanding about Spanish-speaking countries around the world, including Equatorial Guinea in West Africa. Next week, they will learn about definite articles, nouns, adjectives, and the verb **Estar** (*to be*).





## **High School**

### **Grades 9 and 10 Physical Education**

**By: Vonetta Trotter (Physical Education Teacher)**

At the beginning of the school year, 9th and 10th grade worked on various soccer skills in partner and group settings. From learning how to pass the ball to dribbling around defenders, students have practiced various styles of movement typically used in a soccer game. As their overall performance and form improved, the students played in soccer related games such as 'battle ship' and 'line soccer' for the remainder of September. These have played an important role in their ability to incorporate skills learned in previous classes while also encouraging a sense of teamwork. Moving ahead, in the first two weeks of October we organized teams, reviewed areas of the court, player positions and played teacher officiated games throughout class. This week was our soccer tournament in which all teams competed to advance into the final championship game.

### **Grades 11 History**

**By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies, History Teacher)**

One often takes for granted their almost innate knowledge of American History. Everyone knows that George Washington was the first president and Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. In addition, as Americans we all know it's our right to vote and elect our political leaders. What would happen if you never knew these simple truths and you were never exposed to this reality? This is the very challenging experience of my eleventh grade American history students. These courageous and ambitious students are in their second year of schooling in the United States and for these young Chinese exchange students this information is all new. This does not stop them from learning and grasping each fact and idea.

This challenge involved an analysis of the Native American people as well as the geography of the United States. In addition, we examined who settled in each colony and the reasoning for their settlement. Many were intrigued by the variety of religions that were followed in each colony. Next week we examine the creation of an American Identity as well as the development of government in the colonies.

**By: Richard Kruczek (History Teacher)**

The Advanced Placement US History class has been working incredibly hard. Our efforts have wound us into the period where our Constitution was formed. This pivotal epoch is one that was marked by compromise for a common goal: forming a new nation under a set of bylaws and a centralized federal government. The contrast between this period and that of the quest for pure liberty that marked that of the revolutionaries is fascinating. The students are attuned to this, are engaged and are producing true college-level work. It has been incredible to see, and I eagerly await the rest of the year!

### **Grades 12 History**

**By: Richard Kruczek (History Teacher)**

In Economics, the students have been engaged in the study of the price elasticity of demand. It is a study of how a change in price affects a change in demand for a given consumer good. It has been intensive and thorough, and the students have responded by working hard and asking tremendously insightful questions about the topic. Next on the docket is the cross-elasticity of demand, which I am sure the students will both grasp and revel in.



## **English Language Academy**

**By: Stella Stenos (ELA Instructor)**

Our ELA students recently visited with their young schoolmates in Kindergarten. As part of their Speech class-ELA students had a chance to practice their language skills by reading books inspired by the autumn season to the kindergarteners! The ELA students have been researching about fall holidays such as Columbus Day and Halloween. In advance of Columbus Day-students learned about the famous explorer and then made cannolis from scratch! They shared their new found knowledge & culinary expertise with the 2nd grade!

By working with schoolmates-ELA students practice their language fluency, learn about our rich American culture, and constantly make new friends at school!

## **Garden School Athletics - Middle School Soccer - 10/20 vs. York Prep Won 3-2**

Garden School soccer is back to its winning ways!

Garden School has the youngest team in the league with 99% of the players in the first year of Middle School. They are always excited and enthusiastic during training. The quality of play is paying off. They have improved their passing and defensive skills. The confidence is up. Alex and Justin always keep the fans spellbound with their technical abilities.

We thank all the parents who supported us during all these moments. They showed up in the game and cheered up the kids.



**Come and support Garden soccer at their last season game against Steiner on Oct 29!**

Many thanks to Mrs. Frisson for your support for the students and the game!!!!

You are an indefatigable supporter of the team.

"Obrigado"!!!





# STUDY ABROAD: CUBA

February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.