

GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: X

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, November 18, 2016







Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



We have seen over the past years and months how our culture has moved away from a spirit of altruism and generosity and into a mode of taking and acquisition. In some ways, this manifests itself both in concrete terms, giving, and in more emotional ways such as the shrinking of the human sense of kindness and acceptance. This seems to be a national (and perhaps international) trend that will be with us for a while.

Garden School and its faculty, students, trustee, parents and alumni have always supported the idea that education should expand one's viewpoint, should open the world both geographically and intellectually to our students and should support the idea of independence, critical thinking and generosity of spirit. In the past several years, I have seen our students organize relief efforts for Nepal, for Haiti and for Ecuador. They have worked in soup kitchens, hospitals, and senior citizens homes and have given themselves to making a better community.

We are dedicated to educating our students to be citizens of the world, to think openly about complex issues, and to insist on civility and kindness toward each other. When it happens, we rejoice; when it doesn't, we educate once again. This sense of justice, fairness and kindness forms a cornerstone of our mission that we invoke each day.

Many of us are questioning what it is we can do to support the better nature of our communities and its members; how to have a local impact on these cultural trends. As parents and educators of an independent school, perhaps the answer to what we can do is right in front of us on a daily basis. We all bring so much to ensuring the very best for our children and Garden students. We care for and educate them every day guided by the Garden Mission. So, to continue with our mission seems to me to be the most direct, paramount, and positive response we can have.

Garden families are generous in so many ways with our school, and we value them for all that they do for Garden. Now, at this time of year, I am asking all members of our community, parents, teachers, alumni, trustees and administrators to contribute to the Annual Fund. Your contribution helps us continue the work that is now needed more than ever in our culture and in our world. We see with dramatic consequences how important it is for us to educate our students in the necessary art of critical thinking, of knowing history and of being able to evaluate the correspondence between language and truth. The world needs out students to be knowledgeable, thoughtful and analytical. Now more than ever, our students need to recognize the difference between a sound-bite and truth.

Therefore please support our mission to educate our students and to create a society that is kind, generous and ethical. By contributing to the Annual Fund, we all not only support our school, but we support building the kind of future that we want, deserve and need. Please contribute.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D. Headmaster



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, November 21: College Night for Juniors

Tuesday, November 22: "Garden Laughs" Comedy Night Benefit

Click here for more info and Tickets!

Wed & Thur. Nov. 24-25: School Closed for Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 2nd: Senior Class "Pasta Night" Fundraiser

Mon, Dec. 5-Wed, Dec. 7: Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 10: Merit Exam & Open House (9AM – 12PM)

• Friday, December 16: Noon Dismissal

Mon, Dec. 19 – Mon, Jan. 2: School Closed for Winter Break

Tuesday, January 3: Classes Resume

Mark Your Calendars! Thursday, January 26th, Garden School Annual Meeting, All Parents Invited

Garden School I.S.A.L Varsity Girls Basketball Schedule 2016

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Tue	11/29	MMD	AWAY	4:00

Garden School I.S.A.L Varsity Boys Basketball Schedule 2016

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mon	11/28	FASNY	AWAY	4:15
Tue	11/29	MMD	BBALL CITY	4:00

Parent Teacher Association

By: Maria D'Amore, PTA Vice-President

Who doesn't love delicious pies?! Help support the PTA!



We are selling the following pies for the Holiday:

Apple, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato, Apple Crumb, Blueberry, Cherry - \$8

No Sugar Apple or No Sugar pumpkin - \$8

Pecan - \$10

Any combination of 2 pies only \$15!

Visit this link to order and collect your pies at Pick up on Wednesday, 11/23! Easy piesy!

http://evite.me/PsPZb9Jv4s

Garden School PTA is now on Facebook - 'Like' us today: <u>Facebook.com/GardenSchoolPTA</u>

We thank you for your past and continued support. We welcome your input. Contact us with questions and to volunteer your time, vision and talent E-mail us anytime at: PTA@GardenSchool.org.



GARDEN SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND APPEAL LETTER 2016-'17

September 21, 2016

Dear Garden School Parents,

Welcome back! With school now in session, your family is back in the busy and productive Garden community routine of planned field trips, rekindled friendships, creative projects and homework, and afterschool clubs and sports teams. Perhaps, you as a parent are being reminded about why you chose to enroll your child at Garden School in the first place. I trust that you are inspired again at how Garden School takes seriously the trust you have placed in us, and follows through on its commitment by investing itself fully in the education of your child.

Just as Garden School is investing in your child and family, we need you to invest in the school and right now, the Annual Fund needs your help. As you know, like all independent schools, Garden's tuition does not cover the entire cost of educating your child. Every year, it is standard for a "fundraising" line item to be included in an independent school's budgeted income. Therefore, the school depends on this annual fundraising, and especially the Annual Fund, to support the successful implementation of Garden School's mission.

Last year, this community raised over \$50,000 towards the Annual Fund and we thank you for your support in achieving that milestone. With your help, Garden has continued to improve its educational offerings and its physical plant in ways seen and unseen:

- With the assistance and support of the PTA and the Library Committee, we completed a much-needed renovation of the Library;
- 40 new computers were purchased for the computer room and classrooms;
- A cashless, electronic payment system was installed in the cafeteria;
- Two new commercial refrigerators were purchased for the kitchen;
- Much needed new and more efficient heating boilers were purchased for the main building.

Naturally, we have plans for more program and facility improvements, which is why your participation in the Annual Fund is so critical.

While the size of your donation is important and we encourage you to be generous, our goal is 100% participation within the Garden Community, and we need your help to achieve that goal. Our Board of Trustees has demonstrated its leadership by already achieving that goal with gifts totaling over \$10,000 to the Library renovation, and has set its goals higher for the Annual Fund. In support of Garden School's Mission, and in recognition of the investment and trust you have placed in your child's school, we ask you make a donation now to the Annual Fund and help us reach this goal.

Please join me in celebrating our school and in supporting its mission to educate our students to the highest of academic, social and personal standards.

Please go to <u>www.gardenschool.org/giving</u> for information and to make your donation online. On behalf of all alumni, current and future generations of Garden students, we thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.

Headmaster

Alumni Parent '00

Current Grandparent '31

Michael Rakosi, '64 President, Board of Trustees Jean Kinn, Alumni Parent '06

Chair, Annual Fund

Jean Kin

Member, Board of Trustees



NEXT WEEK! LAST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS!!

Please bring in non-perishable food donations next week!

Purchase "Garden Laughs" Tickets Online Here





Open House and Merit Scholarship Exam Saturday, December 10th, 9:00 AM

Garden School will host our annual Open House and Merit Scholarship Exam on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 to 11:30 AM for families interested in any grades of the school. No RSVP is necessary.

Please <u>invite friends</u>, <u>family members and colleagues</u> 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 10th. The Merit Exam and the <u>scholarships are eligible to both incoming new and current Garden students presently enrolled in grades</u>

<u>5-9 (entering 6-10 in 2017)</u>. Pre-registration using the form from the web link below is required by December 7th.

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/admissions/merit-scholarship-program/



11/17/2016

Members of the Garden School Community,

Every year, the senior class of Garden School hosts fundraisers to raise money for their Endof-Year Prom in May. On November 17, the Class of 2017 begins its second fundraiser, the Senior Raffle. A wide array of products are being raffled this year including a 40-inch 1080p HDTV, the new Apple Airpods, a JBL Flip 3 Wireless and Splash-proof Speaker, a FitBit Flex, \$280 in tutoring gift cards and Mr. Grusky's famous baked goods.

Raffle tickets cost \$1 each and you can buy 6 tickets for \$5. For small orders, you can fill out the raffle tickets attached. For large orders, write how many tickets you would like to purchase on the given line.

The winners of the raffle will be announced Friday, December 2 at the annual Pasta Night, between the end of the first seating and the beginning of the second seating.

Tickets for Pasta Night will start being sold soon...

Help us fundraise for our prom while getting a chance to win one or more of these amazing prizes while enjoying an amazing pasta dinner.







Garden School

cademic Excellence Since 1923



Independent College Prep School Nursery - Grade 12

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

for students entering Grades 6 through 10

OPEN HOUSE

for all grades

Saturday, December 10, 2016 9:00 AM



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

Pre-Register Online by December 7th for Merit Scholarship Exam No RSVP necessary and children welcome for Open House

www.gardenschool.org

(718) 335-6363

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Enrollment Referral Program

The upcoming Open House is a great opportunity for current Garden families to take advantage of Garden's Referral Program and to refer new families to attend the Open House and consider enrolling at Garden.

Remember, for every NEW full-time Garden student that enrolls and the family pays the tuition due in full and that indicates you are the 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 the tuition in full.

Although it is not necessary for us to have a referral card available in the school office, 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 igaines@gardenschool.org. With your permission, we will follow up with the prospective family.

Garden Relief for Haiti

Thank you to everyone who helped raise around \$1,000 and LOTS of clothing and hygiene supplies to help those in Haiti effected by Hurricane Matthew.

Garden is proud of Arianna, Anthony and Merna for demonstrating the Garden Mission value of "social involvement" by responding to those in Haiti left devastated by Hurricane Matthew. This project and the creation of the Garden's Relief For All Club was entirely their idea and **this link to a local newspaper article** is some well-deserved recognition for their compassion, initiative and determination to see this project through! Congratulations!

Use this Gofundme link to donate:

https://www.gofundme.com/GardenHelpforHaiti

All money and donation items will go directly to the Haitian Consulate. Please donate as much as you can AND spread the word. Your gift strengthens our teams' ability to respond around the world and help people during their most desperate time of need.



Pre-K For All Science

By: Hazel Machado (PKFA Room 4 Teacher)

Our children are the greatest assets in our community. We need to invest more time towards their mental and physical health. Exercise, specifically yoga, is the ticket! This form of physical activity helps maintain both mind and body health. It also promotes discipline, and we all know that being a 4 year old is tough work!

This week, we learned these fun yoga moves in class: star pose, mermaid pose, lion pose, frog pose and rainbow pose. We encourage you to try these poses at home and focus on healthy habits such as washing hands properly, getting a full nights rest, drinking water and eating healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables. These habits will contribute to an overall healthier lifestyle. I can't wait to watch our children grow and become stronger, independent, little beings throughout the year!



Nursery and Pre-K Social Studies

By: Carmela Augello-Knopf and Eileen Reyes (Early Childhood Faculty)

In Early Childhood, the social studies classes have been filled with lessons on Pilgrims and Native Americans and how they gave thanks for all they had.

In preparation for Garden's annual Thanksgiving Feast celebration, the students made Native American vests and headbands, complete with beads and feathers. Also, collars and hats were created in remembrance of the traditional clothes worn by pilgrims. The students enjoyed wearing this regalia to the celebration while reenacting the first Thanksgiving. Mr. Grusky graciously bought vases of beautiful fall flowers to complement our tables. Dr. Marotta carved the turkey, and the ELA students helped set up and serve the students. Much fun was had by all!



We Wish Everyone in the Garden School Community a Very Happy Thanksgiving!



Kindergrten Physical Education

By: Flance Dervishi (Athletics Department, Chair)

We have learned so much in PE class and the kids are responding so well this year. They have le,arned different motors skills such as walking, running, skipping, galloping, hopping, jumping, sliding, walking backwards and leaping. We've learned how to balance, hop over hurdles and hop onto spots. We learned how to ride scooters, played tag games on scooters and shared them with classmates. We have also learned how to work as a team.

We added a fitness game called Shape Shifters. The teachers call out different shapes and the students make those shapes with their bodies as fast as possible. It can be challenging and fast-paced. We also learned "Clean"



Your Yard". This is a game where every team must clear house (a hula-hoop) of within five minutes walking only on balance beams, spots and arrows without touching the gym floor.

It has been a very productive two months with Kindergarten and First Grade.

Grades 1 to 3 Fine Arts - Art

By: Tiina Prio (Fine Arts Department, Chair)

The First and Third grade artists are learning about the genius Alexander Calder and his wonderful world of mobiles. They love to look at the way random air currents move his sculptures around. They are working together to make a Wire Friendship Quilt based on the concept of LOVE. The materials used in this project are Aluminum wire, fuzzy wire, un-fuzzy wire and beads. The friendship quilt will be on display, balancing and moving to random air currents.



The Second grade artists have learned about Andy Warhol and his silkscreen art. They are currently working on a tree theme and blocking off areas on their micro-fiber material. Soon the squeegee-ing will begin and the magic will appear. Please be sure to send in a new T-shirt for the silk screen.

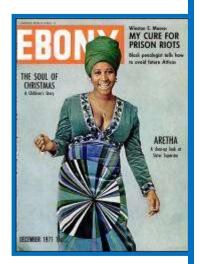
Grades 1 to 3 Fine Arts - Music

By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)

At the center of recent first through third grade music classes, students have been exploring the rhythm behind tunes counted in three. 'Happy Birthday,' perhaps the most frequently performed song in existence, is in three. Several of the songs students had been singing this year, such as 'Brahms' Lullaby,' 'Golden Slumbers,' and 'Aiken Drum,' are also in three. Students tried performing these songs while clapping and patting; a different experience, to be sure, when you are really feeling the time. They attempted movement patterns in three around the classroom while singing, as well.



Among the challenging material students are tackling are the Todd Rundgren song 'Hello It's Me', and 'Old Man,' a Neil Young penned and performed tune, in first and second grade, respectively. The third grade is singing a Stevie Wonder song popularized by Aretha Franklin, 'Until You Come Back to Me.' All three songs are from the 1970s and have in common a heavy degree of emotional content reflective of the era. Students are considering how to bring out those emotions when they perform the songs; differentiating between dynamic levels (loud and quiet) throughout the song is one way of doing so. To this end, although Aretha Franklin's reputation is that she can belt out a tune with the best of them, in practice she uses dynamics in a very subtle way. This song of hers is a perfect example.



Grade 4 Math

By: Michelle Sclafani (Math Teacher)

Fourth grade Math students have wrapped up the first marking period and started the second marking period without skipping a beat. The students are focusing on how they can check their work by doing reverse operations with numbers ranging from ten to a hundred thousand! Being able to check your work will play a role in all of their future studies at every grade level. Starting next week, they will continue to add and subtract larger numbers as well as focus more on critical thinking and solving word problems!

Grade 5 Math

By: Michelle Sclafani (Math Teacher)

Fifth grade math has conquered multiplication and now moving forward with division. The students are also learning how reverse operations can be used to be certain their answers are correct. Going into Thanksgiving, we will be wrapping up multiplication and division of large numbers and diving right into working with fractions. The students will be kicking December off at this pace and will build upon their previous knowledge of fractions and focusing on word problems. Being able to critically analyze a word problem and break it down into parts will help students succeed through all levels of math and other subjects!

Grade 6 Math

By: Sarah Blakeley (Math Teacher)

This week 6th grade wrapped up its first foray into algebra with inequalities and started the very applicable skill of mathematical operations with decimals. Decimals are such fun and are so important! We encounter them almost every single day while dealing with money, contemplating taxes, and calculating probability that we won't be late for work if we get those extra 5 minutes of sleep.

I encourage you to start taking your child with you when going grocery shopping for Thanksgiving. This week I examined their knowledge of addition and subtraction of decimals by giving them a hypothetical shopping situation with a budget. I am pleased to report that your money will be in good hands. Have them predict the end tally and, if paying in cash, about how much change they will be receiving from the cashier.

In the coming week they will learn about decimal division and the mystery of why when dividing a decimal by a decimal the answer becomes bigger, whereas when multiplying a decimal by a decimal the answer becomes smaller. We will more closely investigate the relationship between decimals and fractions.



Grades 7 English

By: Nancy Masand (English Teacher, Middle School Dean)

The Eighth grade English classes wrapped up our study of Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* and transitioned to some short stories by contemporary Ugandan authors Rutangye Crystal Butungi and Sneha Susan Shibu. We looked at common themes in the novel and the short stories and talked about the way literature is driven by culture and experience. Reading fiction by these authors enriches our Area Studies curriculum, which is now learning the history and culture of western, central and eastern African nations. We wrote about the common threads and made observations about the shared history and experiences that shaped the literature. We talked about the common theme of boundaries: racial, gender, language and class.

After the short story unit, we examined another type of boundary in an excerpt from Daniel Keyes' *Flowers for Algernon*, in which the mentally challenged protagonist is excluded because of his limitations. Desperate to "fit in" with society, he undergoes an experimental operation to enhance his brain capacity, with tragic results. We wrote position papers wrestling with the question of what is "normal" and to what extent we should take medical risks to alter what some people view as nature's mistakes. Needless to say, our positions spanned a wide spectrum with thoughtful introspection. Often there are no right answers.

Our next novel is John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Prepared by our discussions of society's varying attitudes toward the mentally challenged, we will examine George's and Lennie's dilemma and the way they are viewed by those around them. And as this literary classic unfolds, we will see that it's not just about the mentally challenged; it's about all of us. Just as we learned the African experience shapes its literature, the American experience shapes its literature as well.

Who are we? What is it in our shared heritage that births a book like this? The theme of boundaries continues, in a different time and place. Anyone have some thoughts on this? We will read, discuss, write, form opinions, challenge opinions, maybe change our opinions, or maybe become more sure of what we already think. We're on a learning curve on many levels.

Grades 8 English

By: Nancy Masand (English Teacher, Middle School Dean)

The seventh grade English classes concluded Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* with a drama project in which we adapted scenes from the novel to a script and formed teams to act them. We learned that language is



not only spoken but seen and felt. Although many felt awkward at first, students overcame their inhibitions as they learned how to "look natural" on the stage. Good comedy is hard work--the hardest thing some of them have ever done! But after a few weeks of practice, as Tom says to Becky about being in love, "Why, it ain't nothin' at all!" Now we can stage fights, love scenes, river rafting, murders and meltdowns with ease. Our performance will be 6th period on Monday, with the sixth graders as our guests.

Next week, we will begin our next novel, Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*. Twain's tongue-in-cheek social commentary gives place to a more serious examination of our nature. Yes, it's about dogs, but it's ultimately about us. (We're in seventh grade! Isn't everything?) We will form teams to learn about the Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon Territory as we read London's classic about survival of the fittest. Through reading, sharing ideas, writing and interpreting, we will examine what it takes to survive challenges, whether they be environmental or social.



Grade 9 World Languages - Spanish

By: Agustín Melara (Chair, World Languages Department)

One of the most important lessons of the year is learning about reflexive verbs and about parts of the body. *Reflexive* verbs belong to a special category of verbs in which the subject performs an action and then that same action comes back (or is *reflected* back) to the subject. In non-reflexive verbs, the action is performed by the subject but it is received by a direct object. For example, "Yo lavo el carro" means, "I wash the car" (the action of washing is going to the car), whereas, "Yo me lavo las manos" means, "I wash my hands" (the action is performed by the subject and comes back to the subject). Reflexive verbs are essential in everyday conversation because they help us describe our daily routine to others. Students will be tested on their knowledge of this concept in the coming week.

Grade 10 World Languages - French

By: Gabrielle Gomis (French Teacher)

We learned the reflexive verbs and the household chores in French. The students are in a position to talk about their daily routine using the reflexive verbs, and the chores. Also, we watched "The African Doctor", a French movie based on a true story. A young African doctor fleeing the Mobutu dictatorship found himself in a small village in Paris where she experienced xenophobia and racism. The movie ends with a good note on acceptance and integration.

Grade 11 and 12 Science - AP Biology

By: Marlene Dapice (Science Department, Chair)

Students often wonder about what goes on in a course such as this. Is there a great deal of reading? Writing? Analyzing? Discussion? Certainly; however, there is also a laboratory component that allows students to learn techniques and use equipment that they have never encountered before. Most recently, proper sterile technique was learned and used to not only pour agar plates but also safely transfer microorganisms and make streak plates. The use of a micro-centrifuge allowed a lab group to separate cells from liquid media and see the formation of the solid portion (pellet) and the supernatant (liquid). Removal of the "soup" from the centrifuge tube, without disturbing the pellet, was done. In future classes, gel electrophoresis will be performed, staining techniques employed, and DNA banding examined. Additional equipment not normally encountered in previous laboratory based classes will also be used. Which equipment? That shall remain a mystery for now.

Grade 11 and 12 Science - Forensic Science

By: John Hale (Science Teacher)

The Forensic Science class has been hard at work. Last month, they investigated a mock crime scene at Garden. It was a coin heist that took the students on an adventure where they used their knowledge of crime scene protocol to help find and evaluate the physical evidence left behind. They then created a preliminary report about their findings and gave their ideas about what should happen next in this scenario.

About 2 weeks ago, the students investigated hair and fibers. Using microscopes, they studied hair cuticle, cortex, and medulla to figure out which different hairs came from which animal species, and they learned how to categorize human hair into different races. Once the students finished their investigation of hair they worked on identifying natural and synthetic fibers and how to use this forensic evidence in helping police and lawyers solve crimes.

Last week the students were visited by a Narcotics Detective who discussed with them the dangers and legal ramifications of drug use and abuse. Currently they are working on Blood Spatter Analysis and will start to categorize the different types of spatters that they might find at a crime scene.



English Language Academy

By: Grieg Roselli (ELA Instructor)

In the context of the American presidential election, we discussed the essential question, "What is government?" Students were able to express their ideas about how government works in their own country compared to how it operates here in the states. We thought it was interesting to look at the American political process from different points of view, and this is what we tried to do in our class.

First, we talked about how elections are different in the United States than they are in other countries. For example, some of the students noticed that in the United States citizens take great pride in the election process and are very happy to broadcast their views on social media. Second, we read about the American system of government. Our reading led to a survey of different government systems and how citizens participate in government. Third, we wrote about ways citizens participate in government. Using the United States as a model, we discussed key concepts like

democracy and the role of the common good.

Finally, we watched both the victory speech of President-Elect Donald Trump and the concession speech of Secretary Hilary Clinton. We tried to analyze the words each politician used in the speeches and we spoke about how what each said would become famous words in history.



YEARBOOK CLUB OF GARDEN SCHOOL

MATTHEW HELSING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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You can e-mail text, images or both to <u>yearbook@gardenschool.org</u> with the Subject Line: Dedication. Deadline is December 23, 2016!