



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: VIII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, November 4, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

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



This I am writing my column early since I will be attending the Heads of School Conference, in Mohonk, New York. Each year the Heads of School from New York State gather together for a three-day conference to discuss, study, review and try to resolve issues in independent school education. We also examine some of the latest ideas for developing our schools, our curriculum and our approach to our students.

This year's conference begins on Wednesday and will end late Friday afternoon. Our agenda for this year is focusing on social issues and pressures that have an impact on education. We will begin with a session on equity and justice. Our keynote speaker, Frank Bruni, from *The New York Times*, will begin our conference with a talk about the pressures and the realities of the college admissions process and the importance and the effect of college admissions on the life of the student.

From this point, there will be a number of smaller workshops, using the keynote address as a starting point. There will be detail discussion about the nature of the college admissions process, the preparation for students and the pressures that may or may not be necessary for success throughout this process.

After these sessions, our focus will shift to more social issues, such as the role of race in our schools, how racial differences are addressed throughout the curriculum and the mission. How do our schools react to difference in cultures, economic levels and academic differences? These questions drill down into the independent school philosophy and experience.

We will address other social issues such as transgender students, creating school leaders who understand the role of differences in our schools and the important role that understanding others has for all of us in our academic and social lives.

All in all this should be a provocative and productive conference. This is all in keeping with my strong belief that we are all live-long learners and Heads of School also have a lot to learn.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Friday, November 4: Marking Period 1 Ends
- Monday, November 7: UPK Picture Day
- Thursday, November 10 : Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, November 11: Report Cards Returned
- Wednesday, November 16: Career Day for Grades 7 to 12
- Wednesday, November 16: Parent/Teacher Conferences 3-8 PM
- Thursday, November 17: Nursery Photo Day and "Retakes"
- Monday, November 21: College Night for Juniors
- Tuesday, November 22: **"Garden Laughs" Comedy Night Benefit**
See next page for more info and Tickets!

Thank you to all our JH Halloween Parade walkers! Best showing ever!

College Visits Next Week:

Monday 7-Nov 12:30pm Manhattanville College, NY

Parent Teacher Association

By: **Maria D'Amore, PTA Vice-President**



The Halloween Spooktacular has come & gone but first...

An enormous thank you the following:

My fabulous volunteers who put in less hours helping me transform the gym & getting everything set up!

To all of the parents who graciously donated goodies for everyone to enjoy...

To Maria Delgado & Peter Melendez for donating so many of their fabulous Halloween decorations.

And to the wonderful Josh & Blair Cohen who not only donated hot food for everyone, but took the time to plan, prepare & even surprised everyone with a delicious chocolate fountain!

We hope everyone had a good time!

The Garden School PTA would like to remind you of some important dates!

- **Deadline for recipe submission for the 'Many Flavors of Garden Cookbook' has been extended to Nov. 7th!!**
- UPK Photo Day is Monday, November 7th in the Library
- Not happy with your photos? Nursery & Re-take day is Thursday, November 17th
- Garden School PTA is now on Facebook - 'Like' us today: [Facebook.com/GardenSchoolPTA](https://www.facebook.com/GardenSchoolPTA)

Questions? Ask! E-mail us anytime at: PTA@GardenSchool.org

We thank you for your past and continued support. We welcome your input. We look forward to a spectacular year. Contact us with questions and to volunteer your time, vision and talent. Email: pta@gardenschool.org



"GARDEN LAUGHS!"



Garden is taking over *New York City's Premier Comedy Club!*

Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:30 PM

An evening of laughter, food, drinks and prizes!



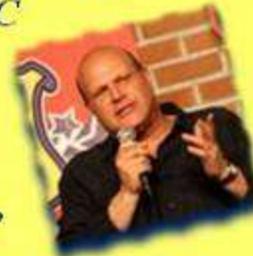
Comic Strip Live

*Second Avenue bet. 81st and 82nd Street
1568 Second Avenue, NYC*



Michael Rakosi

(Garden's "Chair of the Board"!)



D.F. Sweedler

"The most famous comedian among the famous comedians."

Eric Neumann

"One of the hottest rising star stand-up comedians "



Regina DeCicco

Ladies of Laughter Winner - Funniest Female Comic!



José Vega

"Joey Vega Makes them laugh and makes them think!"



Akash Bhasin

First Place in "Catch a Rising Star" Competition



Hosted by: Dan Altano



Tickets: \$55 each or \$100 for two!

VIP Front Row Seating: \$75 or \$140 for two

Available from the Front Office or on the Garden School Website

www.gardenschool.org

[More Information and 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 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 10th. 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 2017)**. 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/>



Garden School

Academic Excellence Since 1923



Independent College Prep School
Nursery - Grade 12

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

for students entering Grades 6 through 10
and

OPEN HOUSE

for all grades

Saturday, December 10, 2016 9:00 AM



Michael and Asia are Full Merit Scholars starting at Garden School this year.

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 pays their tuition due in full and that indicates 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 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 jgaines@gardenschool.org. With your permission, we will follow up with the prospective family.



Garden School Continues U.N. Week with All PKFA and Core Program Photos!



PKFA Program Staff and Students



Core Program Staff and Students



Garden Relief for Haiti

By: Arianna N., Anthony P. and Merna H.

Keep those donations coming!!! We are collecting clothing items, hygiene products and non-perishable foods to send to Haiti in the main hall. We have a GoFundme account to donate money to Haiti. Donations will be accepted for one month. 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 Math

By: Dimitria Grafanakis (PKFA Teacher)

We just finished exploring our unit on the five senses and have started a nutrition unit this week.

For a smooth transition from five senses to nutrition, we are focusing on fruits (sense of taste). We have learned about different ways to stay healthy by eating fruits, vegetables, drinking water, eating grains & dairy, exercising regularly, getting enough rest, and maintaining good hygiene. In math, we worked on counting and sorting real objects and manipulatives. Our children tasted apples, bananas, strawberries, and grapes; we kept track of student's answers about their favorite fruits and made a graph. After making the graph, we counted how many students liked each fruit. We also compared the fruits from our least to most favorite.

Throughout the month of November, we will continue counting objects, sorting objects and comparing objects in order to practice our mathematical skills.

Nursery Language Arts

By: Carmella Knopf (Music Teacher)

Nursery has just finished up the shapes unit. We learned circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, heart, star and diamond. For each shape, we read engaging books with kid - friendly images and easy to read text. We also read the 'I Know My Shapes!' series by Jeremy Lee. These big books use familiar rhymes to help make it easy to learn shape words! They are set to popular children's songs so children can easily sing and "read" along to - developing fluency. On the Smart board, we listen to shape songs which the children sang and danced to. The children also did a painting project to reinforce our lessons.

Next week, we will do our shape collage project to wrap up our unit. You can help reinforce the shapes and colors at home by looking for and talking about shapes and colors wherever you go!

GARDEN RELIEF FOR ALL CLUB
GARDEN RELIEF FOR HAITI
 It is our time to offer HELP TO HAITI!

Please donate to help Haitians in their time of need. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands displaced after Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti.

Garden Relief for Haiti has several ways to do this:

DOLLARS
 ✓ Donate to the GoFundme account to donate money to Haiti. Donations will be accepted for one month, so please donate as much as you can AND spread the word through social media. The money will go directly to the Haitian Consulate.

Use this Gofundme link to donate: [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/GardenHelpforHaiti)
<https://www.gofundme.com/GardenHelpforHaiti>

DONATIONS
 Donate:
 ✓ non-perishable food items (preferred)
 ✓ new or gently used clothing
 ✓ hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoos, etc.)
 ✓ businesses can donate and will be recognized in the Garden newsletter.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT EITHER ARIANNA N. OR ANTHONY P. AT: gardreliefinfo@gmail.com








Pre-K Language Arts

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

Research shows that learning letter names and understanding that words are made up of individual sounds provides a basis for reading success. In Pre-K, the students are taught the basics of uppercase and lowercase letter recognition, letter sounds, and phonemic awareness. Because children have a range of learning styles, letter lessons are taught using a variety of materials and tools to accommodate visual, auditory, and tactile learners. We sing songs, use the Smartboard, read books, and complete phonics pages every day to reinforce letter recognition. We also explore letters during center time as we put together letter puzzles, string letter beads, play letter bingo, trace sand letters, etc.



Asking your child to point out certain letters on a page when reading to your child is a good way to practice letter recognition. Initial letter sounds of words can be practiced when taking a walk or looking around a room and playing a game of pointing out objects that begin with the sound of *a, b, c...* Don't be surprised if your child tells you that we play this game at school!

Kindergarten Language Arts

By: Lauren Yandow (Kindergarten Teacher)

This week in Kindergarten we have been focusing on many different aspects of language arts and phonics. Our new letter of the week is Oo, and students have been learning to listen for the short o sound both at the beginning of words as well as in the middle of words, such as ostrich and fox. As we build phonological awareness of this letter, we are also learning a new word family: the -ob family! Students learn to use this short o sound to come up with rhyming words in this word family such as job, mob, rob, cob, bob, etc. One activity that the students are really enjoying when we study word families is listening to these words in a poem! We work together to listen for and identify these words in different, silly poems.

Each week we also focus on new sight words in order to build our reading skills. The words this week include: was, that, in, it, and for. Students create their own sight word cards that they practice in school and at home, and together we create our own sentences with these words that we see and hear every day! It is a great way for the students to conceptualize these words and their meanings. We look forward to our new letter Pp and its -op word family next week!

Grade 1-3 Science

By: Michelle Sclafani (Science Teacher)

First, Second, and Third grade focused on social involvement and interaction with their peers this week. The first grade started to learn about the different land forms and discuss the types of animals that would be found in these land forms. As we completed our lessons, many wonderful discussions were held about the different types of environments in which these land forms are present. The class was able to relate what they already knew with what they learned!

At the same time, second and third grade had a chance to discover the meaning of inherited traits and characteristics with a group activity. They then related these concepts to how animals also have inherit traits and instincts.

Next week, we will review our Life Science section at all grade levels as we prepare for our first field trip about which we are very excited! There is no better way to end off the marking period than to see everything we learned in real life!



Grade 4-6 World Languages French

By: Gabriel Gomis (French Teacher)

French 4 are introduced to conjugation. We started with common _er verbs. After completing the lesson on subject pronouns, they will be able to conjugate the _er verbs in the present tense. We introduced also the class environment. They learned the vocabulary and the expressions they might use while in class. Conjugating verbs are a common practice in French class in particular. In the previous week, students learned the body parts , and sang "*Alouette*". We played "*Simon Says*" *en Français*.

French 5 learned how to tell time in French. They played the clock game to strengthen their understanding. They are rehearsing "*A la Claire Fontaine*", a traditional French song very popular in Quebec.

French 6 learned the numbers from 0 to 100, the time, and the body parts. They took a test on these lessons this past week. They are learning : "*Pirouette, Cacahuète*", a French nursery song. They are also learning vocabulary about the classroom environment to help identify class objects in French.

Grade 7 Social Studies

By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies Teacher)

As we approach Election Day, the seventh grade has been busy researching topics such as gun control, healthcare, education, and the role of the United States on the global stage. They watched excerpts from the last presidential debate and discussed the sources would be best to utilize for their paper. Many students realize the significance of being an informed voter. Students will be presenting their research as we approach Election Day.

Grade 8 Social Studies

By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies Teacher)

As a supplement to the Area Studies curriculum, the eighth grade visited the United Nations. All students were given an informative tour of the site including a visit to the General Assembly as well as the Security Council. Students learned about the role of the United Nations in regards to the issues of the world. They saw the "School in the Box" which provides desperately needed educational supplies for children in refugees camps. In addition, they were able to see a land mine exhibit where students were able to see and understand how debilitating these inexpensive but deadly objects are. Lastly, students were amazed by the numerous pieces of artwork found throughout the United Nations. They learned the symbolism that each piece represented as they reflected the continuous work of the United Nations in their efforts to keep peace and help humanity around the world.



Field trips such as this are a crucial part of the students' educational experience. It allows them to see how geopolitics works and the arena from which it occurs. Students were intrigued by the political dynamics of the Security Council and the role of the five permanent members. Lastly, we analyzed the striking figure of a twisted gun and which symbolizes the United Nations efforts to maintain peace around the world. **(UN Trip article and more photos on page 10)**



Grade 9 English Writing

By: Jim Pigman (English Teacher, English Department, Chair)

If I go out in this rain, will I melt like a man of wax? Is Babra Streisand as red as the ketchup that complements these fries so well? Would Lyndon Baines Johnson have been welcomed at this diner? A day out in Manhattan can raise questions like these---. Thus began one of the essays written about the ninth grade visit to the Whitney Museum in Manhattan on October 27th. As with the other grades from 10 through 12, each student wrote a reaction essay to the experience, the docent lead visit to the special Portraits exhibit, highlighted from now through January. The new Whitney building, open for less than a year now, was for some a highlight and the architecture is impressive. Since it rained on the day we were there, we were not able to partake of the spectacular terraces on the 5th and 7th floors. One can enjoy the view north, sitting sun-soaked in a chair, panning from the Empire State Building to the new 432 Park Avenue building, and its dizzying height.

For some, lunch of lobster roll or Korean barbecue or many other cuisines, gave time to reflect and socialize. Then, despite the light rain, the hike of the Highline Park from 14th to 34th St. and the Hudson Yard station became the perfect combination of exertion, socializing, nature's beauty, and Manhattan's Westside to end the day. The best essays will be announced on Monday, November 7, at the school assembly.



Grade 10 Fine Art - Chinese Art

By: Tiina Prio (Art Teacher, Fine Arts Department, Chair)

The Tenth Grade Artists have begun their Terracotta Warrior Ceramic project. They have read about the warriors, watched a documentary about them, taken a quiz about the warriors and now they are ready to create a warrior.

The first phase of the warrior will consist of making cuts in clay, which is shaped like a flat shoebox rectangle, to allow for the formation of arms, legs and a head. They will begin to form these by the subtraction technique of ceramics. **Subtraction** is a form of method in which an artist takes away from any material that is used to create a piece of art. Subtraction can also be known as carving. The artist will take away or subtract the material that is not needed in order create a form. Trying not to add any clay parts to a figure makes it strong and parts tend not to break away. The artists will try to make a warrior similar to the real warriors by adding faces, armor and fancy hair styles. This project has an in-between wait period of two weeks for clay to dry and be kiln fired before it can be painted and fired yet again. Many students love this class for the reason that they have a 'little' friend to take home and place on their shelf. Some students have been known to even take their warrior to college with them.

Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education

By: Flance Dervishi (Chair, Athletics Department)

In PE Class, we have started our Volleyball Unit. Before we get into our regular season games, the students learn the rules of Volleyball and the proper ways of hitting the ball over the net. The first thing we worked on is rotation. Positions are numbered one through six, starting with the server in the back right corner, going in a counter-clockwise direction we rotate on every possession. We worked on the proper way of bumping and setting the ball and did a week of drills.

Basketball season has begun for our Griffin teams so we will start our basketball unit in PE class next week. The basketball team schedules can be found on our [Athletics Page](#) on the Garden School website. Please try to come and cheer on one or more of our **Garden Griffin basketball games** both home and away games. Crowd support can be meaningful to a team's success. We hope to see you there!



Garden Trip to United Nations & Fine French Dining

By: Gabriel Gomis (French Teacher)

The Eighth Grade and ELA students toured the United Nations last Tuesday to broaden their understanding of diplomacy and international relations.

Students delved deep down into the structures of the UN, the members, non-members, the right of veto, the UN budget, the votes... They interacted with the tour guide on topics ranging from the history of the UN and its objectives and goals, to the role of the General Secretary, and the different branches within the organization. As we sat in the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, we discussed diplomacy, pondered over the dark sides of our common history (World Wars, Genocides...), took memorable photographs in and around this International Territory.

Afterwards, we took the opportunity to enjoy a fine lunch at *Paname, C'est Paris*. Students enjoyed traditional French cuisine from Le Chef Bernard. They ordered their food in French and tasted traditional dishes like *escargots* and *boeuf bourguignon*. We ended the UN week "*en beauté*"...

