



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: XII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, December 2, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

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



Each year at this time, our school engages in a celebration of spirit and community. All grades gather in the gym for our annual Pep Rally, which celebrates Garden's basketball teams. There are shooting contests, an appearance by the Griffin, mock games, and an enormous amount of enthusiasm, screaming and great fun. Following the Pep Rally are double-header basketball games and then Pasta Night.

Throughout the day, you can feel the excitement rise as energy begins to build for the Rally, the games and the Pasta Night. What I love about this day is that the entire student and faculty community participates as one and shares in the spirit that is Garden School.

Events and celebrations, such as today's, reflects the heart of our school as a community that works, learns, plays and celebrates together. It also allows for all of our students to interact with other, cheer each other on and bond in ways that only members of a strong and tight-knit community can. The enthusiasm during the Pep Rally is phenomenal. Three and four-year-olds cheer on the older students as they go through the ritual of playing mock-games. To see a four year-old cheer for a seventeen year-old by name affirms the spirit and the unity of our community.

The most successful rituals end in a communal meal, which is why Pasta Night always occurs on this day. As a fund-raiser for the Senior class' prom, it is always successful. As a community event, touching all of us as learners, sharers in the same mission and lovers of our school, it is amazing. To see parents, children, relatives, grandparents, teachers, trustees, administrators, alumni and more all together eating, laughing and talking shapes an emblem of our school.

Today we are all together, sharing in the vision that is Garden School. For ninety-four years, families have supported and partaken in our community; they has nurtured it, sustained it and celebrated it. Today is a day to reaffirm our belief and commitment to Garden School. And yes, mangia!

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster



DATES TO REMEMBER:

TONIGHT

- **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



Thursday, January 26th, Garden School Annual Meeting, All Parents Invited

Parents! Please check the Lost and Found rack in the main hallway ASAP! Remaining clothing will be donated over the Winter Break



Come Support your Griffin Teams!

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

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
MON	12/5	BWL	92 YMCA	4:30
TUE	12/6	STEINER	HOME	3:45
FRI	12/9	BFS	Home	3:30

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

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Tue	12/6	Steiner	HOME	5:15
Fri	12/9	BFS	HOME	4:00

Garden School I.S.A.L Middle School Girls Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri	12/2	Steiner	HOME	3:30

Garden School I.S.A.L Middle School Boys Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri	12/2	Steiner	HOME	4:45
Wed	12/7	BWL	HOME	4:00

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

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Thur	12/8	BRP	Home	4:15





GARDEN SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND GIVING TUESDAY APPEAL



Garden School

Cultivating Success in Every Child



2016 Annual Fund #GIVING TUESDAY 2016

Tuesday, November 29th

Last year's Giving Tuesday was a great success.
Thank you for including Garden in your #Giving Tuesday!

Make a donation!

[Donate Now](#)

Pre-K 2003



Graduation 2016



Cesar Carvajal, 2016 Class President

"Garden isn't just a school to me - it's my second home."

Cesar Carvajal, Garden Class President of 2016

Garden School changes lives.

Please participate to the best of your ability.
No gift is too big or too small.

[DONATE NOW](#)



All family and friends are invited to

The 2016 Winter Show!

Hey, can you dig it?

Garden School Gymnasium

Friday, December 16, 2016 at 10:00AM

Featuring
Lower Division Students



Far out man.



College Night for Juniors

by Lisa Sohmer, Director of College Counseling

Every autumn, the junior class comes together to start the college process by attending College Night for Juniors. On November 21, the Class of 2018 did just that.

At the start of the meeting, there was a chance for everyone to be formally introduced to Brad Battaglia who will step into the role of Upper Division Head and Director of College Counseling in July 2017.

Then, over the course of two hours, I walked the students and parents in attendance through the process of preparing to apply to college and filing applications. I underscored the importance of the junior year, the need to balance academics, preparation for standardized testing and extra-curricular activities and the value of the high school experience overall.

I was very pleased to be able to welcome the juniors to the college process and to have Brad there with me to start them on their journey. I look forward to seeing the class again in February for their next college meeting, where they will hear from a panel of senior college admissions professionals.

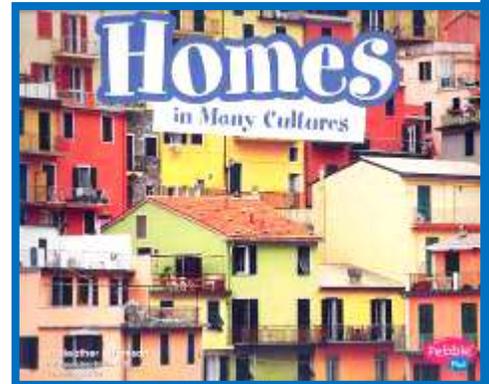
As the juniors begin the college process, the seniors are filing their applications, with many seniors having already submitted early decision or early action applications. The rest of the applications will be submitted before the first of the year.

Pre-K For All Language Arts

By: Jessica Rodriguez (PKFA Teacher)

During our month of December students will be learning about "Where We Live". In this unit, children are able to develop a concept and awareness of the diversity of living environments. Students will be able to understand that there are many types of homes. Students will know that homes are a safe place to live and that we live there with our families. They will also learn that animals live in different homes. Some animals live with people while others live outdoors.

Throughout the unit, students will develop an understanding of where we live and will learn various vocabulary words such as neighborhood, city, address, neighbors, streets, roads, home, house, apartment, roof, windows, doors, floors plan, blueprints, construction, tools etc.



Nursery - Science

By: Carmela Knopf (Nursery Teacher)

Last week, the nursery had a special visit from Marcela's grandfather, Dr. Durst.

He came to our class to talk to us about dental health. He brought in a large set of teeth and a large toothbrush. Each child took a turn brushing the teeth. He told us how important brushing our teeth is! At the end of his presentation, he gave each child a toothbrush to take home.

As a follow-up lesson this week, we made toothbrushes in our cooking class. We used celery, cream cheese and cheese sticks. Thank you for coming in to visit us, Dr. Durst!





Pre-Kindergarten - Science

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

The Pre-K students have been learning about how the year is organized. During morning meeting each day, we discuss the schedule of the day, the days of the week, and the months of the year.

The seasons have been of interest due to the change in weather. The school year began in the summer season. The children came to school each day wearing shorts and tank tops. When the fall season began, their clothes began to change to long pants, long sleeves, and jackets. With a new season approaching again, the children will once again notice the change in the clothes that they wear. Their jackets will become coats and they will be wearing hats and mittens as well. All these changes cause much excitement for our young learners. Each season brings new surprises and discoveries.

One way to explore seasons is in our classroom science center. Our science center has activities to teach about the four seasons. These activities name the seasons, the weather that is typical, and other distinguishing characteristics of each season. We read *Caps, Hats, Socks, and Mittens: A Book About the Four Seasons* by Louise Borden and *Four Seasons Make a Year* by Anne Rockwell.



Kindergarten - Science

By: Lauren Yandow (Kindergarten Teacher)

This week in Kindergarten, students have been studying the weather we have been experiencing during this time of year, in the season of fall. Students have already been exposed to the season of fall and what we typically see in fall in terms of weather and what changes because of the weather (leaves changing color and falling), clothing, activities, animals, and foods through outdoor exploration and recent holidays. We determined that the weather in fall is slowly but surely becoming colder and windier. Some words we used to describe the weather include frosty, windy, brisk, rainy, and chilly.

Through a collage activity, students discussed what they wear because of the change in weather, what we might eat or drink to stay warm, and some popular activities people enjoy in fall such as sitting by a fire or going apple picking! Students worked in pairs to find real life pictures of things that remind them of fall, anything from a sweater or hat, to a warm cup of tea! We look forward to continuing this topic and incorporating more discussion about our personal experiences and family traditions during this time of year.





Grades 1-3 World Languages - Mandarin

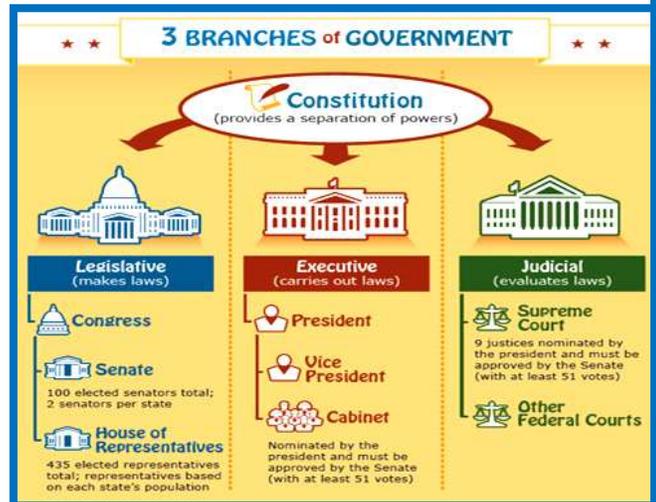
By: Kelly Jie (Mandarin Teacher)

In this multi-day unit, students will learn the names of various places in their neighborhoods and learn to recognize the Chinese characters for those words. Students will learn to describe the location of a place or a person. In the end, student created a poster of their dream neighborhood with their homes at the center, labeling the places with the written Chinese words; and share descriptions of the students' neighborhood map in Chinese with the visual aid of the poster using the three sentence patterns and the new and recycled vocabulary.

Grade 4 Social Studies

By: Jackie Renner (Social Studies Teacher)

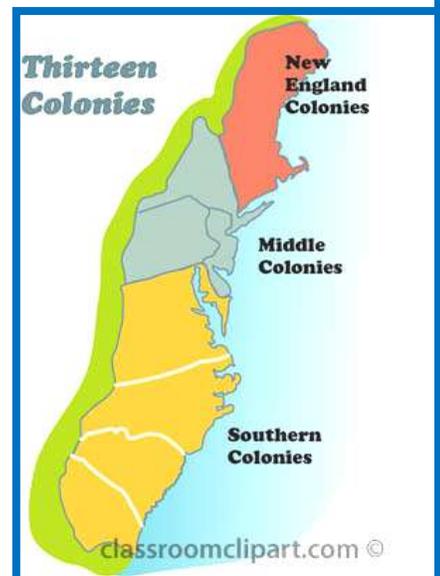
Fourth grade has spent the week discovering how the government works. Through class readings and charts, the students completed a graphic organizer to demonstrate understanding of the functions and responsibilities of the three branches of government. The students enjoyed explaining the basic idea of checks and balances. Each group of three assumed one branch of the government. One student made a new rule for school. Another student approved or rejected the rule. The third student judged if the rule was fair. New rules included changing the number of school days, healthier lunches, and prohibiting water bottle flipping. This activity led to a discussion about why there are 3 branches of government instead of 2. Next week will feature the rights and responsibilities of citizens.



Grade 5 Social Studies

By: Jackie Renner (Social Studies Teacher)

Fifth grade has finished exploring the New World and has settled into the colonies. The student compared the physical geography and locations of the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. The class completed a chart that answered the questions: how did colonists earn a living, how did they feed and clothe their families, and what did they do to improve their lives? Then each student pretended he or she was a wealthy merchant who made his or her wealth through the triangular trade. They wrote facts about their colonies and described their imports and exports. This was complimented by drawing a map of the trade route. Next week we will take closer look at life in the southern colonies.



Grade 6 Social Studies

By: Jackie Renner (Social Studies Teacher)

The sixth grade completed their study of the Ancient Near East this week. Over the past several weeks they have explored the Fertile Crescent, Ancient Egypt, and the Jewish People. Through class readings, the students identified key events in the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah and sequenced them with a timeline activity. They have



discussed how the Diaspora occurred and where Jews have lived. Students had the opportunity to analyze two primary sources, an excerpt from the Book of the Dead and two Psalms of David. They drew conclusions about the authors' views and compared the two documents. The class then formed a panel discussion for a "Historian Talk Show". The "experts" explained the importance, meaning, and the ancient beliefs about their document. Next week, we will move into the civilizations of early India.



Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education

By: Cherie Wangenstein (Physical Education Teacher)

Seventh and Eighth graders have had a change of pace. They had a great run with volleyball now they are playing hard as ever with our new basketball unit. First we started with specific shooting and dribbling skills. With their remarkable athletic ability, they were able to start tournament play. First they play a tag game, collect into their assigned teams then play for best of five games. Once all teams are seeded, Seventh and Eighth graders will battle it out for tournament champion. This exciting basketball unit will run full force until winter break!!

Grade 9 Math - Geometry

By: Sonia Ambarsom (Mathematics Teacher)

The ninth graders have completed their study of congruent triangles and the various theorems that prove important correspondences between the angles and sides. Prior to this, they were studying points, line segments, parallel lines, and rays that were considered to be coplanar.

Currently, all this information is now being applied to quadrilaterals, trapezoids, parallelograms, rectangles and rhombi. Each is a unique polygon with its own special properties. They have already studied many situations involving these polygons and the relationships that exist among them.

Finally, once you start searching and looking at the world around you: buildings, computers, patterns on fabric, even trapezoidal gems, you will be amazed that there are infinite quadrilaterals in our real life!

Grade 10 Math

By: Sarah Blakeley (Mathematics Teacher)

This week in math we revisited congruent triangles, this time paying close attention to implied rather than explicitly stated information. For example, if it looks like two triangles are sharing a side then when you redraw those two triangles as two non-attached triangles, the side that both triangles used to share has the same measurement.

This is another step along our journey to being able to mentally visualize, flip, and rotate shapes while keeping track of their congruent parts. Today, we learned about the role midpoints play in triangle congruency.



Grade 11 and 12 Fine Arts Elective

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

The elective class artists are busy preparing the back drop for the Lower Division's Winter Show. All of the artists are giving a helping hand as the Lower Division students watch the progress each time they walk into class. Drawing a full size backdrop from a small picture is difficult as comparison skills are utilized. Using acrylic paints, being neat and mixing colors to match the layout is the skill set for this project.

The elective class students are also working on their monochromatic self-portraits. Taking a *selfie* that is acceptable to each student is hard enough but then to paint it is quite challenging. The artists also need to realize the monochromatic value scale and which value goes where to create a face. These will be exhibited in the upper division hallway for all to enjoy.

Uni (17) is also working on two senior projects. She drew Garden School's holiday card which features a silhouette of Garden highlighted by a setting sun as a snowman regards the view. And furthermore, she is working a 'special' surprise for the senior class which will celebrate each student in the class. I can't wait for this project to be seen by all.





Scenes from Comedy Night 2016

