



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 92 Number: XIX

"Academic Excellence Since 1923"

Friday, February 13, 2015

Thoughts for the week



By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



Thank you for participating in last month's Garden School Parent Survey. The survey is a component of institutional self-assessment as we prepare for the NYS AIS accreditation process next year. Based in part on your feedback, we are able to focus our school development efforts to enhance our program, develop strengths within our community and support our sustainability for the future.

To that end, the Garden School board and administration have been working to design a plan that will inevitably involve all members of the school community. We would like to share those plans with you at a series of Board and Administration Coffee Mornings at the end of this month and early March. At these hour long meetings organized by grade level cluster, you will have a chance to ask questions, understand how plans may affect you and your child, and better appreciate our strategic development rationale as we move forward. We very much hope you will be able to attend one of these meetings so, to entice you further, before we begin the meetings, the students from each cluster will prepare a short presentation or performance.

There will be coffee and refreshments served at each event and the meeting agenda will likely include:

- A short student presentation/performance
- Feedback from Parent Survey
- 2015-2016 School/Program Development Plan
- Parents' Role in Garden School Advancement

All the coffee mornings will be held from 8:15 - 9:15 AM in the Library. Here is the schedule of the Board and Administration Coffee Mornings:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| • Tuesday, February 24 | Grades 1-3 |
| • Tuesday, March 3 | Grades 7-9 |
| • Thursday, March 5 | Grades 4-6 |
| • Friday, March 6 | Grades 10-12 |
| • Tuesday, March 10 | Grades N-K |

Please make every effort to attend these important meetings. Thank you and I look forward to sharing this information with you.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Monday, February 16 – Friday, February 20 : School Closed for February Break**
- **Monday, February 23 : School Resumes**
- **Thursday, February 26th : Model UN Bake Sale**
- **Friday, February 27th : Gala Season "kick off" Wine Tasting with alumni Michael Miranti, '10**
- **Tuesday, March 3: Theater Trip for Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10**
- **Friday, March 6: International Night**
- **Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13: Spirit Week for Upper Division**
- **Thursday, March 12 – Thursday, March 19: Rainbow Week for Lower Division**
- **Friday, March 20: School Closed for Faculty Workshop Day**



News from the Gala

The invitations are out for the 2015 Garden Gala being held on March 27th at Terrace On The Park. They are also available on the Gala Page of our website www.gala@gardenschool.org, along with the journal ad form and the auction donation form.

We will soon have an auction presence on our Gala Page. Alumni Angela Pan, '11 is in the process of setting up an online auction for some of our top items. We should be up and running by the time we are back from break.

Please plan to **join us for our Gala Kickoff Wine Tasting on Friday, February 27th at 7PM in the Library**. Come be our guest!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Gala on March 27th.

The Gala Committee

Garden School In The News...

Garden School's, Director of College Counseling, Lisa Sohmer, shares her wisdom regarding college essays in this recent Teen Life article. <https://www.teenlife.com/blogs/articles/making-sure-you-come-across-likeable-your-college-essays>



The Garden Gala Committee
cordially invites you to be our guest at an evening of
Wine Tasting

Friday February 27th
7 PM Garden School Library

Our sommelier Michael Miranti* '10 will lead a discussion and a tasting of select regional wines. Once again, we will be serving nibbles and desserts to be paired with the wines.

Please RSVP to gala@gardenschool.org

Come kick off the 2015 Garden Gala in style!
Gala Tickets and Journal Ads will be on sale
Our Gala Committee will be on hand to help you!



Garden School Gala

March 27th, 2015

Terrace on the Park

Cocktails & Silent Auction

Dinner, Dancing & Live Auction



Garden School • 33-16 79th Street • Jackson Heights, NY • 11372 • 718 335-6363



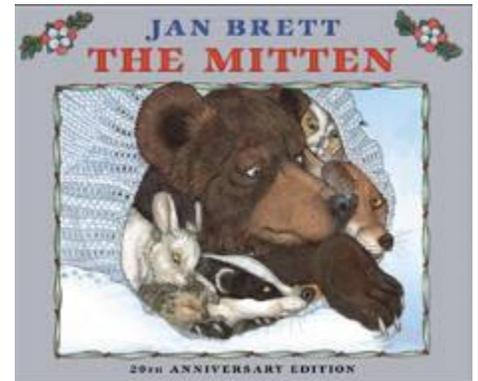
Science for Nursery

By: Joanne Vogel (Nursery Teacher)

Students often learn most effectively through observation, exploration, and extension.

The children in the Nursery have been observing the habits of the squirrels as they scamper about on the fence outside the classroom. They noticed that during the fall the squirrels were carrying nuts. This led to classroom discussions of different animals and what happens during the various seasons.

The Mitten, a Ukrainian folktale, provided information about various animals and wintertime. The concept of animals hibernating was explored and contrasted with those animals needing food during the cold season. Students brainstormed "what they could do to help animals during the long winter season." It was agreed that bountiful birdfeeders would be helpful. Indeed, this is an important step for children's growth in social awareness, in recognizing individual identities, and in seeing the interconnectedness in nature.



The next classroom activity might be a craft project or science activity creating birdfeeders. Parents can also extend the lesson with children by observing birds in their yards, in the park, or on family outings. And don't forget to look for squirrels, too!

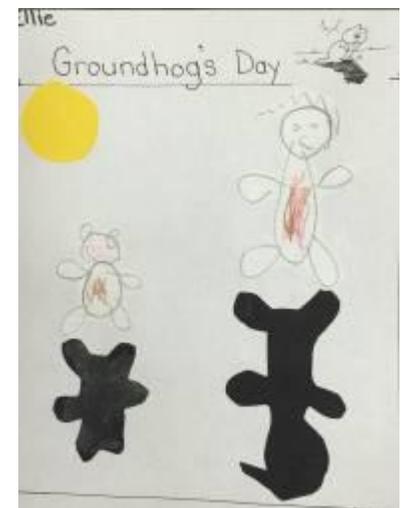
Science for Pre-K

By: Eileen Reyes (Pre-K Teacher)

The Pre-K has been enjoying lessons on hibernation for the past couple of weeks in science class.

The groundhog is one of the animals that hibernate in winter. They hibernate from October to March or April. The groundhog burrows were of particular interest to the students. They learned that they use their burrows for sleeping, rearing young and hibernating. Groundhog burrows are very large and usually have two to five entrances which help them to escape from predators. The burrows are located in wooded or brushy areas and are dug below the frost line which keeps the temperature above freezing during the winter months.

Groundhog Day was observed on February 2nd. The legend of the groundhog inspired us to explore shadows. It was fun to see their shadows with the light of the Smartboard. The students also got creative at the art center, making shadows for many other things. Books read: *Animals Under Ground* by Allan Fowler and *Gregory's Shadow* by Don Freeman and *Hibernation Station* by Michelle Meadows.





Science for Kindergarten

By: Kristen Ahlfeld (Kindergarten Teacher)

In science this week, the class has been learning about food chains. All living things must have energy to survive. In an ecosystem plants and animals rely on each other to live. The students created a marine food chain that demonstrates the relationship between different organisms. The food chain also illustrates the transfer of energy from one species to another. The class has been learning new vocabulary words such as *producer* and *consumer*. The students enjoyed playing an interactive food chain game on the smart board to reinforce the lesson.



Mandarin for Grades 1 to 3

By: Kelly Yang (Mandarin Teacher)

Xin nian hao! Happy New Year to our Garden families!

In this unit, the first through third grade students have gained the ability to use age-appropriate expressions to identify and exchange information about the Chinese zodiac animals. Initially, students interpret and react to pictures, stories, illustrations and audio clips. Then, students interact with their teacher and classmates by asking and sharing about their Chinese zodiac animal signs, and identify pictures about the zodiac animals. To make this lesson fun and easy to learn, I brought several sets of cute zodiac animals, we played many different games with them, such as “Which animal is missing?” “Guess who I am?” “Mix-up and Rearrange.”



We also did a craft project for the Year of Goat. It was a lot of fun. Students were interested to find out how to say “What is your Chinese zodiac sign?” and “My sign is ____.” “I was born in the year of the ____”. How were the twelve animals chosen? It is a question I think most children are eager to know the answer to. Why isn’t a cat in the zodiac? The famous Chinese Zodiac story from the unit answers these questions.

This week, we are learning the traditions to celebrate Chinese New Year, such as people wear red clothes for Chinese New Year, light firecrackers and place door god on the door etc.

This unit is good topic to introduce Chinese culture and the kids enjoyed it very much.



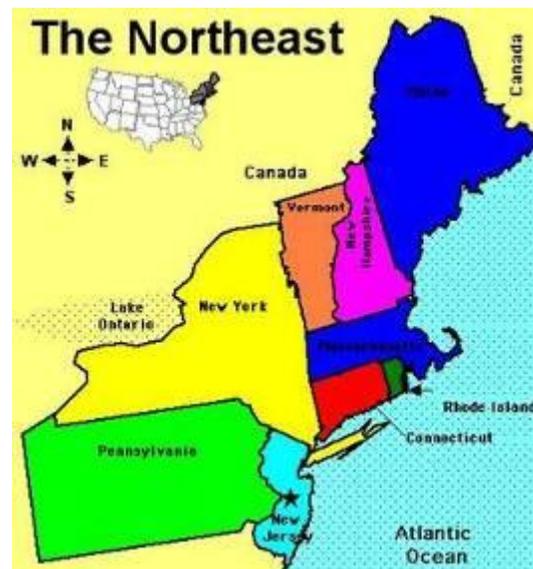
Social Studies for Grade 4

Philip D'Anna (Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher)

This past month has taken the fourth grade on a trip to the Northeast region. After completing a unit about the southeast region, our class has focused our studies on the Midatlantic and New England states. We've begun to learn about these 11 states by first investigating the physical geographic features; vast mountains, coastal plains, and even particular seasons make the northeast region a desirable tourist destination.

Most recently, the class has been using a variety of reference materials – textbooks, atlases, and the internet – to research and learn the states' individual capitals, abbreviations, and locations. More importantly, though, the students are searching through these resources to learn about the states specifically; this may include facts about each state's history, economy, geography, and more! Using this collection of sources will help the students to design their very own representation of each state's flag.

Once completed, the students' experience in public speaking helps them to present these projects with style and eloquence.



Social Studies for Grade 5

By: Sarah O'Sullivan (Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher)

Who is more significant to the founding of our nation, Thomas Jefferson or George Washington? This is just one example of the lively debates that developed in fifth grade social studies class. Students analyzed the various leaders of the Revolution period and completed a top ten list of the "Leaders of the American Revolution". Many noted the role of Abigail Adams and Thomas Paine. Others focused on the rebellious Sons of Liberty.

As we continued our analysis of this period we looked at how the American War for Independence was in fact an international war. Students learned about the importance of international support from countries like France and Spain. All students were excited to see how the soldiers carried on despite the hardships of the war.

Next we look at the creation of our American government.



Trip for Grades 5 and 6

By: Gabriel Gomis (Foreign Language Teacher)

Offering their study of French and Spanish context, the 5th and 6th graders took a field trip on February 10 to the Museo del Barrio to explore the Hispanic culture and enjoy some French cuisine.

During their Museo visit, students heard about the "Biblioburro", a moving library that travels on a donkey carrying books to underserved and underprivileged kids in remote villages in Colombia. In listening to the story, students also made the connection about the significance of community service and, above all, the importance of literacy in this interconnected world. At the end of the story, educators at the museum helped students create their own stories highlighted by comics.

We ended the trip at the Jubilé, a French restaurant in Midtown

Manhattan where they each ordered their food in French and enjoyed some fine dining.



Social Studies for Grade 6

By: Philip D'Anna (Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher)

Our study of ancient China is the conclusion of our study of river civilizations.

The sixth grade has come to understand how civilizations like Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China could be so heavily influenced by the rivers that flowed through their lands, and ultimately giving and sometimes taking the gift of life.

Our new focus shifts to civilizations and peoples from seafaring empires, like Greece, and Rome. As we study these new units, the class will learn about different historical events, innovative changes and long-lasting effects. It will be important, however, that the class not simply understand that these events happened, but instead understand *why* these events took place and had the effects they did. By understanding the causes and effects of history, each student will deepen their understanding of the forces of historical change.

Now, and through the remainder of the year, our exams in social studies will feature a written component. The material we are covering lends itself to more than multiple choice and fill-in-blank responses. While those styles of questioning to hold weight, the written style allows students to fully demonstrate their learning. *How* and *why* are questions that multiple-choice cannot completely explain. The written exploration of a topic helps students become inquiry-based learners, critical thinkers, and life-long writers.



Physical Education for Grades 7 and 8

By: Flance Dervishi (Athletic Director)

We are in our final week for our Badminton unit with our 7th and 8th grade. It has been a very competitive month; everyone has been working well with their teammates and getting better along the way. Everyone's serve, forehand, backhand and their badminton IQ has improved this past month. There are 18 teams in the class and everyone has been preparing for playoffs which have started. Everyone makes the playoffs and will have a chance to compete for the championship. Looking forward to seeing who will play well together. It's going to be loud and very competitive in the Gymnasium. Good Luck to everyone.



Math for Grade 10

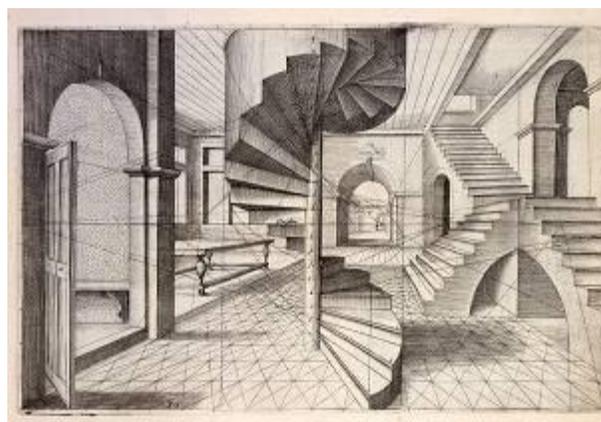
By: Lara Leggio (Math Teacher)

The 10th grade has been working hard learning about graphing equations. We have already discussed systems with first degree equations and have now expanded our skills to graphing systems of second degree equations and inequalities. With this, we have been graphing solutions for ellipses, circles, parabolas, hyperbolas, and lines. The graphs have been of both equations and inequalities with these different types of graphs. When we come back from break, we will be entering our units based on trigonometry.

Art for Grades 11 and 12

By: Tiina Prio (Art Teacher)

The Elective Art Class is beginning their study of perspective. They are using two point perspective and are required to draw buildings with windows, doors and extensions. Furthermore, when they have understood the way in which perspective works, they can draw parking lots, roads, cars and holes into the ground.



Op-Art.Co.UK states that, "The first known picture to make use of linear perspective was created by the Florentine architect Fillipo Brunelleschi (1377-1446). Painted in 1415, it depicted the Baptistery in Florence from the front gate of the unfinished cathedral. The linear perspective system projected the illusion of depth onto a two dimensional plane by use of 'vanishing points' to which all lines converged, at eye level, on the horizon. Soon after Brunelleschi's painting, the concept caught on and many Italian artists started to use linear perspective in their paintings."



The art students have a choice of which media they would like to use in this project. All the media the art room has to offer is available for them to use. I am happy with the results of this project because when I introduced the project, the students were amazed at the architecture they could draw and how it looked like a 3D drawing.

GARDEN SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Get your Garden School 2014/15 Yearbook order in! Also, did you know that you can have your very own dedication pages? Your pages will be printed in every yearbook! Students can also design pages and share the costs with the friends, teammates etc.!

To order click http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productDetail/1054215/Garden-School/Yearbook/2014082404164079370/CATALOG_SHOP/YB_BOOKS/All-Color-Yearbook/2014082404164082370/

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

Garden School Grade 10 Acting Workshop Video: <http://youtu.be/oIzE-W7-UmU>

Tae Kwon Do Club Belt Promotion Test: <http://youtu.be/kEoOPE9Ioro>

Congratulations to all the student members of Ms. Parker's Garden Tae Kwon Do Afterschool Foundation Club who were passed their belt promotions test yesterday!





MORE News From the Gala

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD'S CLASS WIN

A POOL/PIZZA PARTY OR ICE CREAM PARTY???

Please support the **2015 Garden Gala on March 27th** by contributing in any of the ways listed below and you could win a pool/pizza or ice cream party for your class!

One upper school and one lower school class with the highest percentage of Gala participation **will win a pool and pizza party during the school day!**

Second place will also be rewarded with an ice cream party.

Why a percentage? A class with 10 students has the same odds as a class with 36 students.

How can you help your class win?

Points are awarded like this:

CLASS POINTS = WORTH 10 PTS EACH

- 1- **Purchase a class journal** ad together. Journal ads range in price from \$60-\$1,000. YOU decide how BIG you want your class ad to be!
- 2- Create/put together a **themed basket** as a class to be featured in the silent auction. Be creative and have fun! (See next page for basket ideas.) Or....pool together funds as a class for an item of higher value, like an iPad mini for the silent auction.
- 3- Your class can **purchase a single \$125 ticket to the Gala for your teacher** or any Garden teacher. Your class can send a teacher out for a night of fun!



INDIVIDUAL POINTS = WORTH 1 PT EACH

- 1- **Buy/Solicit a journal ad.** Any size
- 2- **Purchase a ticket to the Gala.** Each ticket is worth one point. This includes purchasing a ticket for a teacher as an individual.
- 3- **Donate an item** to the Live or Silent Auction.
- 4- **Make a donation** to the Gala of \$10 or more.



The winners will be announced the week after the Gala. In the event of a tie, the class that sold/purchased the most journal ads will be the final winner.

Class journal ads and individual journal ads will count equally in the tie breaker.

All donations must meet deadline requirements. Please go to the Garden Gala website for more information on deadlines for the different types of donations, <http://www.gardenschool.org/gala> or email us at gala@gardenschool.org.



***** GALA GIFT BASKET IDEAS *****

- Teacher Basket (filled with teacher favorites)

- Alumni Basket

- Toys

- Senior / College

- Sports



- Food / Alcohol

- Jewelry

- Craft Beer

- Mother's Day

- Chef

- Father's Day

- Asian Food

- Baby

- Sushi

- Books (children or adult)



- Chocolate

- Make Up

- Champagne

- Perfume / Cologne

- Restaurant Gift Certificates

- College

- Vineyard

- Board Games & Snacks

- Trader Joe's

- Tennis

- Coffee / Tea

- Shaving Tools



- Museums

- Men's / Women's

- Zoo Passes

- Neighborhood (Queens / Brooklyn)

- Hall of Science

- NYC – metrocards/subway map



- SciFi

- Math Matters

- Tech (iPad mini)

- Lego gift certificates

- DVD Collection

- Shabby Chic



- Bridal Magazine

- Frozen

- Spring Planting



Garden Gala - Journal Ads Order Form

The 2015 Garden School Gala will be held on March 27th at Terrace on the Park. We will be honoring: Hope and George Alexiou, Alumni Parents; Eileen Reyes, Dean of N-K and PK Faculty celebrating the beginning of Thirty years of service to Garden School and Lisa Sohmer, Director of College Counseling and Upper Division Coordinator.

Journal Ads and Message pages will be printed in color and are available in the following sizes:

- Young Alum 2004-2014 Ad \$35
- Third of a Page \$60.00 Full Page (gold) \$500.00
- Half Page \$125.00 Inside Cover Front \$750.00
- Full Page (white) \$250.00 Inside Cover Back \$750.00
- Full Page (silver) \$300.00 Back Cover \$1000.00
- Class Page: Grade: _____ \$ _____

Email Art Work to gala@gardenschool.org Copy Attached Copy to Follow Repeat Last Year's Ad

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Previous Name - Class Year: _____

Credit/Debit Card Type: Amex Visa Master Card Cash Check

Name on card: _____

Number: _____ Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____

I have enclosed my employer's Matching Gift Form.

Please return this form by March 10th, along with payment and any enclosures to the address below. For more information or questions, please go to the Gala page at gardenschool.org/gala, email us at gala@gardenschool.org or call us at 718 335-6363. Garden School is a Not for Profit 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID #111631783. Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.

Each gift to the project – through journal ads, tickets purchased, contributions to the auction or through an employer's matching gift program – is important.

We hope that families, students, alumni and friends will all be partners in the success of the 2015 Garden School Gala.

33-16 79th Street, Jackson Heights 11372 • 718 335-6363 • gala@gardenschool.org