



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 92 Number: XX

"Academic Excellence Since 1923"

Friday, February 27, 2015

## Thoughts for the week



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



In reviewing the responses to the Parent Survey, it struck me that several of the comments touched at the heart of our school as the difference between being an institution and a community. A number of responses pointed out this distinction, which, from my point of view, expresses precisely our identity, mission and uniqueness as an independent school. We are a community.

While this distinction may seem to be semantic, the opposite is actually true. An institution consists of a series of structures that have a life of their own and transcend the individual identity of its members. For the institution, its own survival and growth forms its mission. The institution's main purpose is to sustain itself for itself.

A community seems to me to be a rather different entity. A community takes its missions from its members, has the well being of its members as its purpose and sees itself as promoting the individual within the context of the community. Garden School is a community.

Of course, there are collective goals, both educational and social ones, which we value and implement effectively on a daily basis. Building the bonds in the Garden community also serves to make us more successful in realizing our mission. When we work together at the Parent Coffee Mornings to enhance our school, or when we gather socially, as we will for the Gala next month, our collective ability to support each child's education is improved.

Our mission is not to grow the institution but to strengthen it and so better serve the needs of our children and develop them into the global citizens of the present and the future. The growth we strive for is individual growth, which then helps to grow the community. The success of the individual contributes towards the success of the community. We are not serving the needs of a system but of our community.

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As a reminder, all the coffee mornings will be held from 8:15 - 9:15 AM in the Library. Here is the schedule of the remainder of the Board and Administration Coffee Mornings:

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



## DATES TO REMEMBER: **TONIGHT!**

- Friday, February 27th : Gala Season "kick off" Wine Tasting with alumni Michael Miranti, '10
- Saturday, February 28 : Garden School hosting Debate Tournament at 9AM
- Saturday, February 28 : Free CPR at Garden (10AM – 12PM)
- 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 27<sup>th</sup> at Terrace On The Park. They are also available on the Gala Page of our website [www.gardenschool.org/gala/](http://www.gardenschool.org/gala/), 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 TONIGHT, Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Library.** Come be our guest!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Gala on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Gala Committee

## ***International Night***

Next Friday, March 6, 2015 the International & Diversity Clubs will be hosting their annual International Night from 4-7pm in the gymnasium. This event, acknowledges and celebrates all the wonderful diversity which exists within our school and our community!

Students and their families will have a chance to relish the rich culinary offerings and see firsthand how many cultures come together every day at Garden! We hope to see you all there next week!





# ***TONIGHT!***

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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Terrace on the Park

Cocktails & Silent Auction

Dinner, Dancing & Live Auction





## ***Social Studies for Nursery***

***By: Joanne Vogel (Nursery Teacher)***

Calendars are a wonderful instructional tool for parents and teachers. Children explore numbers, time, sequencing, and patterns. Discussions of temperature and weather are possible. So too, children, begin to see the significance of highlighted people, historical events and customs.

Looking at the calendar for January and February, nursery children became exposed to important American leaders, the traditional celebrations of New Year's Day, Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day, and the international cultural celebrations of the Lunar New Year. These topics become alive through books, discussions, life experiences, Smart Board lessons, and arts and crafts activities.

Sharing the daily ritual of calendar activities with your child reinforces a child's sense of time and place as an individual and as an important participant in the world community.



## ***Social Studies for Pre-K and Kindergarten***

***By: Eileen Reyes (Pre-K Teacher) and Kristen Ahlfeld (Kindergarten Teacher)***

In social studies this week, Pre-K and K have been wrapping up the many themes of February that have included the history of Valentine's Day, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Harriet Tubman and Chinese New Year.

February 19<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of Chinese New Year-the Year of the sheep. Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year lasts for 15 days. The children have been learning about Chinese culture and making Chinese lanterns to celebrate. In cooking, the children made Chinese dragons out of fruit roll ups and Rice Krispy treats. Both classes also enjoyed constructing the Great Wall of China from classroom blocks. The students will commemorate the ending of Chinese New Year next week with a parade in school.

We read several informational books written by Marcia S. Gresko titled: *Abraham Lincoln*, *George Washington*, and *Harriet Tubman*. We also read *My First Chinese New Year* by Karen Katz and *The Day It Rained Hearts* by Felicia Bond.







## ***Physical Education for Grades 1 to 3***

***By: Amy Ledden (Physical Education Teacher)***

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades enjoyed their February break and were eager to start our new unit in Physical Education class. This week, we began our golf unit with grades 1 through 4. We began with an introduction of the sport, the different techniques, and what we would be covering over the next two weeks, followed by a demonstration. During the demonstration, we explained and showed the differences between the two types of golf clubs they would be using; the putter and the driver. A putter is a club used to make relatively short and low-speed strokes with the intention of rolling the ball into the hole from a short distance away. It is differentiated from the other clubs by a clubhead with a very flat, low-profile, low-loft striking face. The driver is the club with the largest clubhead designed to hit the ball the farthest.

The students started off getting comfortable holding each gold club and figuring out which techniques worked best, and then starting practicing aiming and hitting the golf ball with their partners. The students are learning new information about the sport every class and are enjoying practicing their new skills. They are wonderfully supportive of one another and are looking forward to next week's lessons!

## ***Art for Grades 4 to 6***

***By: Tiina Prio (Art Teacher)***

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade artists have been working on Black History Month's artist, William Henry Johnson. He had mainly self-portraits which conveyed much information about his personality, fashion of the time and painting style. The lower division artists are drawing a background in which to place their 'selfie'. The fun part of this project is to paint their self-portrait on acetate which is placed in front of the background.

Learning about the art element 'value', is one of the keys to an attractive project. Without a contrast of value, pictures tend to be dull. Matt Fussell, of *The Virtual Instructor* says, "As long as there are dark values in harmony with light values, your artwork will most likely be aesthetically pleasing. A full range of value means that there are ample amounts of light values-called tints, and dark values called shades." I sometimes ask my students to squint as they look at a project to see if they have included a full range of values. If not, they can either make shades or tints of colors they have used and create a full range of value on their art.



In 2012, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in Johnson's honor, recognizing him as one of the nation's foremost African-American artists and a major figure in 20th-century American art.



## Music for Grades 4 to 6

**By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade students listened to their own small group, storm compositions based around the sounds heard in a storm. The compositions were performed on classroom instruments. They also viewed the visuals they created mapping out their compositions to show the sequence of storm events along with the recordings. Previously, the class also learned about Ludwig Van Beethoven through a slideshow presentation with examples of some of his work. We listened to a movement from his 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony, pastoral symphony, in which Beethoven tried to represent the sounds of a storm. The class guessed at what orchestral instruments Beethoven might have used to create various storm events, and held up placards when they thought they heard a specific sound/instrument.

4<sup>th</sup> grade will be tackling another group composition project in which they create music for a short movie scene. They are learning about Bernard Herrmann and the innovative techniques he used for scoring films to prepare them for their own forays into accompanying visuals with music. We watched a portion of a film he scored, the 1950s Science Fiction movie, 'The Day the Earth Stood Still.' Herrmann's novel instrumentation, such as his use of electronic instruments like the Theremin or an army of harps, was so iconic that we have forever associated particular instruments with given genres and situations.

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are currently experiencing just how great Jazz is as an art form. Tracing it back to its origins, we've had the opportunity to listen to James P. Johnson's wonderful stride piano style with incredibly busy left hand, Ella Fitzgerald wordless vocalizations and forceful singing, Duke Ellington's clever compositional style to take advantage of the talents within his orchestra, and Louis Armstrong's commanding voice and trumpet which altered the course of both Jazz and Popular music. An appreciation for New York City's history has also been at the core of the early part of the unit, as the above artists spent the majority of their musical careers in New York, and the city figured prominently in nearly every Jazz players' career. The students have recently been immersed in the be-bop revolution of the 1940s, learning about a style that sprang from the imagination of the peerless saxophonist Charlie Parker that changed the course of the music completely. The unit will end with visual presentations by the students profiling other Jazz greats.



6<sup>th</sup> grade students are winding down their Beatles unit. We've traced the Beatles' evolution through their music, and how they helped alter the definition of Pop music during their brief history. We've also been examining the cultural impact that the band had. After concluding the unit, students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will begin their theatrical unit. Students will have opportunities to improvise scenes within given scenarios, and they will be working on delivering dialogue with emotion, playing off one another, and giving dramatic performances. Creating a character replete with mannerisms that students can demonstrate visually will be another key initiative.





## Math for Grade 8

**By: Lara Leggio (Math Teacher)**

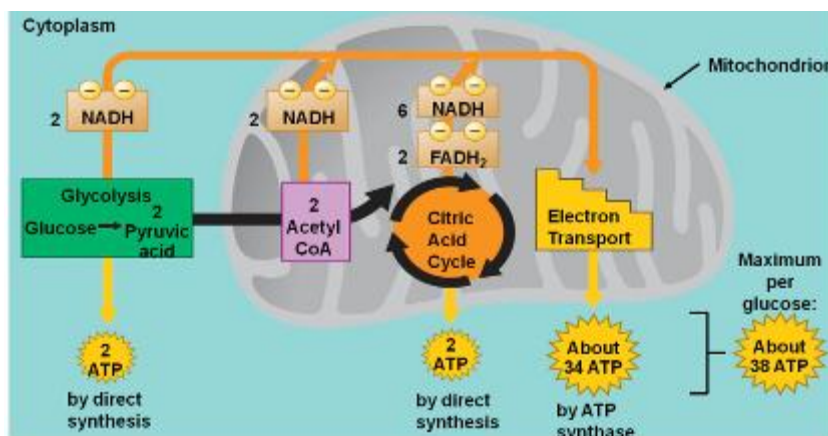
The 8R math class recently began studying a very real world unit, ratios and proportions. This topic was introduced by discussing unit prices. With this, we explored how to determine the “better buy”. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders learned that to determine the better buy of items, we don’t just look at the price of the item. It is actually the unit prices of items that we should be comparing. The unit price is the price per one unit, which is typically displayed on a shelf sticker at a super market. We also discussed rates, which are ratios comparing different units. We are already very familiar with rates from our daily life, such as miles per hour. During the end of this week, we have been working with proportions and solving work problems which demonstrate proportional relationships. Next week we will further our discussion on proportionality by learning about scale drawings and similar figures.

## Science for Grade 9

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

The 9th grade Biology class just completed their investigation of Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration.

During this investigation, they learned about the Calvin Cycle, Glycolysis, Krebs Cycle, and the Electron Transport Chain and how these systems all interrelate and the importance of water and oxygen to the systems. As part of their study, the students conducted an experiment to see what color light would affect the starch production in plants, the answer of which would give the students the ability to infer the photosynthesis rates with the different colors.



Currently, they are researching Mitosis and Meiosis and how these type of cellular reproduction evolved.

## Science for Grade 10

**By: Marlene Dapice (Science Department Chair)**

Students are learning about the mole, the amount of a substance that contains  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  representative particles of that substance. This is an extremely important concept that must be mastered by chemistry students. Using dimensional analysis, students have been converting moles to grams, moles to representative particles (ions, atoms, formula units, and molecules), and moles to volume (of a gas at STP). This knowledge will be extended such that students will be determining both empirical and molecular formulas for compounds as well as performing stoichiometric calculations (the calculation of quantities in chemical reactions).



## ***English for Grades 11 and 12***

***By: Jim Pigman (English Department Chair)***

A student came into class the other day to make an announcement. The class quieted and the student, who was normally reticent and unassuming, spoke clearly and forcefully about the upcoming International Night. He made his points in an orderly fashion, come for this, volunteer to help with this, bring an ethnically significant dish, etc. This was a big deal because Garden offers opportunities for students to make announcements, to address classes, to stand in front of a group and gain confidence in public speaking. This student was also an officer in one of the sponsoring clubs and is required to lead meetings and act as liaison with the administration, the faculty, and sometimes the PTA. It reminded me of a student from the '90's who ran for vice –president of Key Club and won. "I wanted to be an officer to help the goals of the club, and secondly because I have been terrified of speaking in front of a group and I know that I must overcome that if I want to be successful."

As the Model United Nations gets ready for its second event, the Middle School Daniel Webster Society is in hard training for the biggest meet of the year: The Garden Invitational with more than two hundred participants from all over New York City. Twenty some students will compete for Garden, in teams. "Yes, it is a competition and there are ribbons and trophies, but much more importantly is the opportunity for students to stand up for an idea, defend it logically and cogently, and to see the value of rhetoric. They are amazing," commented Mentor Richard Kruzcek. Key Club elections were held Wednesday. Candidates were allowed five minutes to present their ideas and to sway voters.

Of course, reading and writing are essential components of the English curriculum. We also must demand of our students that they speak forcefully and clearly and that they learn how to express their views and then defend them or improve them in discussion. English classes are designed as seminars where everyone should speak every class. We don't let kids hide in the back row while a few students dominate discussion. It is one of the essential aspects of a Garden education that our graduates are ready to speak, ready to carry their ideas forward, and not be afraid of all those opportunities that a good speaker can seize.

Juniors and seniors: speak as clearly and as often as you can in class, run for office or a committee chair, make announcements to practice speaking, volunteer to present things to the PTA or other groups, and do whatever must be done to gain confidence---speech is essential to success in life.

## ***College Night***

***By: Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling and UD Coordinator)***

Every day brings more college news for the senior class but that doesn't mean the juniors aren't busy with college preparations, too.

The Class of 2016 had its second college night this week, complete with a panel of admissions professionals who walked them through the process from College Fair to Freshman Orientation. Our guests this year were Richard







P. Alvarez, Director of University Admissions at CUNY; Patricia Peek, Ph.D., Director of Admissions at Fordham University; and Jessica Kowalewski Dietrich, Regional Director of Admissions at Ithaca College.

Now the juniors are working on their counseling questionnaires and essay drafts to prepare for their individual conferences and the College Fair at UNIS on April 27.

## College Visits

**By: Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling and UD Coordinator)**

February break is a great time to relax, but it's also a perfect opportunity for campus visits. Just ask Maya '15 who visited University of Alabama, Samford University, University of Kentucky, University of Evansville (IN) last week!

Even our Director of College Counseling and UD Coordinator Lisa Sohmer stopped by Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.



## February 2015 England Trip!

**By: Sarah Smith (Trip Chaperone)**

Seven adventurous Gardenites and two enthusiastic teachers embarked on a jolly trip to Merry Old England on February 11, 2015. Mrs. Prio and Mrs. Smith-O'Sullivan created an action packed itinerary that both entertained and enlightened these students. They traveled through history as they learned about the significance of ancient people at Stonehenge. A trip to the Roman Baths in Bath illustrated the impact the Roman Empire had on Celtic tribes. After a busy day, an elegant tea took the chill out of their bones.

To understand the impact of World War II, we toured The Imperial War Museum and the Churchill War Rooms. One student was impressed with the underground bunkers created by the British government. They were amazed at how such an incredible war was coordinated from basement bunkers without any of the modern tools of technology that are used today. Printed maps and basic rotary phones helped Churchill, FDR and Stalin develop strategies that would lead to the defeat of the Axis powers.





By the end of this journey we had mastered every transportation system. Each student knew the Tube as well as the double decker bus map. They had seen the heart of the city of London from the boat on the Thames to the heights of the London Eye. Each had examined the great works of art in both the British Museum and the National Galleries. Lastly, we learned about popular culture at the Harry Potter studios and a tour of Wembley Stadium where their soccer heroes roamed.



## 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/](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 Taekwondo Belt Promotion Video:** <http://youtu.be/kEoOPE9loro>



## 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:

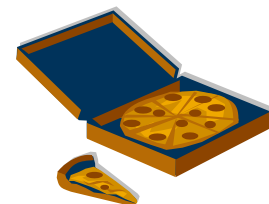
#### CLASS POINTS = WORTH 10 PTS EACH

- 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](mailto:gala@gardenschool.org).





## Garden Gala March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The 2015 Garden School Gala will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Terrace on the Park. We will be honoring the following: Hope and George Alexiou, alumni parents, in memory of Melina Alexiou '96; 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:

- |   |              |   |           |
|---|--------------|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Alum 2004-2014 Ad  | \$35         | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (gold)   | \$500.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third of a Page  | \$60.00      | <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover Front | \$750.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page  | \$125.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover Back  | \$750.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (white)  | \$250.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover         | \$1000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (silver)   | \$300.00     |   |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Page:  | Grade: _____ | \$ _____                                    |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email Art Work to <a href="mailto:gala@gardenschool.org">gala@gardenschool.org</a>                   |              |   |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copy Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Copy to Follow <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat Last Year's Ad |              |   |           |

All sponsors and other contributors will also be listed on one of our Generous Contributions Pages, in one of the following categories:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Diamond                         | \$10,000   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Diamond                        | \$5,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sapphire                             | \$2,500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum                             | \$1,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver                               | \$500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Melina Alexiou \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Joan Zinner \$ _____ |

Sponsorship \$1,000 each: ☐ Coat Room, Cocktail (Griffin), Flowers, Music, Printing Fees, Photography

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](http://gardenschool.org/gala), email us at [gala@gardenschool.org](mailto: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.





## \*\*\*\*\* 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