



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: XXVI

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, April 22, 2016



## Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



With our final marking period, we celebrate our fourth Garden School character value, independence. Independence as a character value is particularly appropriate for a school at this time of year. As educators and parents, we have the responsibility of giving students at each developmental stage the necessary skills to move forward and succeed in the next grade level, division or, for our soon-to-be graduates, the next college or university.

At Garden, we encourage independence by providing a sequential curriculum within a thoughtfully designed program that is guided by faculty with a pedagogical approach that provides the necessary support while also encouraging each student to assume age-appropriate responsibility for their own education. Kindergartners learn to manage their backpacks and to bring homework to and from home and school. Elementary students learn to complete larger projects that require time management and multiple steps to complete, middle and high school students learn to take responsibility to seek out the help they need from their teachers and/or advisors, and to balance their academic responsibilities with their participation in Garden's many clubs and activities.

As a twenty-first century school, Garden is also preparing our students to work together, collaborate and communicate with one another by sharing of their community spaces, completing shared projects together, and learning to rely on themselves and others through team sports, performances, and community service projects. In these ways, Garden students learn that they are not just capable of being independent, but also of the benefits, importance and often necessary nature of being INTERdependent. For example, today's celebration of Earth Day is an opportunity to remind ourselves and our students that we are all in this together, relying on each other to be responsible citizens and to do our part for our mutual benefit.



I will take this opportunity to make the connection between learning the benefits of interdependence, with knowing the responsibilities that we all share as members of an independent school community like Garden School. Every member has a part to play in volunteering and donating funds to support the school's ability to offer the best educational opportunity for our students. There are facilities upgrades and maintenance that ensure our ability to deliver an enriched program and our safety and future, field trips and special projects and activities that inform and broaden student learning beyond the classroom and community events that strengthen the very interdependent nature of our community approach to education at Garden School. I urge all of us to participate with time, talent and funds in the school's efforts to ensure a sustainable future for Garden School and our ability to offer the finest of college preparatory education's to our students.



Save the Date for this year's Walk-a-thon on May 12th!  
 Watch last year's video! <https://youtu.be/UuDXdKD2wVY>

**Summer Camp Registration Now Open!**

**Summer Registration**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Thursday, April 21 : Poetry Trip to St. John The Divine for Grades 9-12
- Monday, April 25 : College Fair for Juniors at UNIS
- Monday, April 25-Wednesday, April 27 : Williamsburg, VA Trip for Grades 5 & 6
- Friday, April 29 : Pretzel Sale for Key Club
- Monday, May 2 : Celebrate Universal Reply Date in your college gear!
- Tuesday, May 3-Tuesday, May, 10 : AP Exams
- Thursday, May 12 : Walk-A-Thon

**Garden School Pre-Season Summer Program**

for children 1.5 to 13 years of age

June 13-June 24

9 AM to 3 PM

With Mrs. Reyes

\$100 per day or \$400 per week

(check payable to Garden School with completed Application)

After School available until 6 PM

- 
- Sporting activities in the Gymnasium and on the Field
  - Arts and crafts in the Art Studio
  - Bring brown-bag lunch with name on bag
  - Nursery, Pre-K & K students must have change of clothes & a towel for nap
  - Drop-off & pick-up via 79th Street entrance (Front of School)
  - Limited Bus Service available @ \$125 per week

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 Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person & Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form and payment by Friday, May 27, 2016**



## ***Garden School Pre-K For All Program***

***By: Barbara Dorfman (PKFA Teacher - Room 2)***

As we continue our thematic unit on plants, our preschoolers are getting more and more excited about plants and planting. We have planted radishes, lima beans, zinnias and marigolds and they all have begun sprouting. Children have been taking turns watering the zinnia and marigold seeds they planted individually as well as the lima beans and radishes we planted in our water table.



This week, we are learning about germination, the process by which a plant grows from a seed, and children were invited to conduct their own germination experiments using damp cotton balls, zip lock bags, a bean seed and warm water. Our zip lock bags are hanging up and are receiving the direct sunlight they need. Children will be observing them closely each day for any changes.

In addition, children were introduced to composting and recycling and learned how they both help plants and planting. Thanks to paper, metal, glass and plastic donations from parents, children participated in a recycling sorting activity.

## ***Early Childhood Nursery - Science***

***By: Carmela Knopf (Nursery Teacher)***

Earth day was the science topic for the week in Nursery. We learned about recycling and how to keep our earth clean. Using the smart board, as a follow up lesson, we sorted plastic, paper and cans in their respective bins. After everything was cleaned-up, the children were surprised to see how many forest animals came to live in the newly cleaned space. We watched a short clip of Peppa Pig showing us how and why to recycle. We also colored earth day coloring pages and made hats to wear home and read [It's Earth Day!](#) by Mercer Mayer and [Our Earth](#) by Anne Rockwell.



## ***NOTE: Ms. Knopf is Marching for Babies!***

Every day, thousands of babies are born too soon, too small and often very sick, including my own, Cristina Rose. I'm walking in the Match for Babies in May because I want to do something about this. And I need your help. Please support my walk. Making a secure donation is easy: just [click here to donate](#). Thank you for helping me give all babies a healthy start!

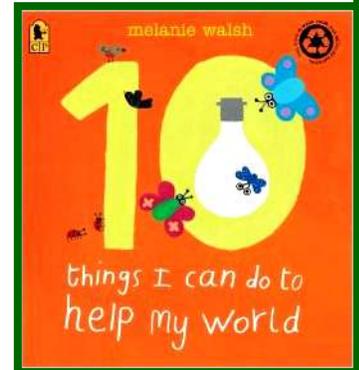




## Pre-Kindergarten - Science

**By: Eileen Reyes (PK Head Teacher, Dean of Early Childhood Program)**

It's our job to take care of the planet. Earth Day reminds us of this duty. The Pre-Kindergarten children have been learning that they too can take care of the earth because even little things can make a big difference. They can use both sides of a paper, turn off the faucet while brushing their teeth, recycle their trash, etc. New vocabulary words such as: reduce, reuse, recycle, and conserve were used while the children learned ways that they can contribute to helping the Earth. Caring for the earth inspired an area of study on plants. Seeds were planted and have already sprouted. The children have become experts on caring for plants making sure they have water and sunlight every day. We read *The Earth Book* by Todd Parr, *10 Things I Can Do To Help My World* by Melanie Walsh, *Caring for Earth* by Solomon Gordon, and *Plants and Seeds* by Cindy Barden.



## Kindergarten - Math

**By: Kristen Ahlfeld (Kindergarten Head Teacher)**

April 22 is Earth Day! In conjunction with our science lessons and this day, the kindergarteners have been learning about the 3 R's (reduce, reuse and recycling), conservation and endangered animals.

We have read several books about ecology and the students continue to make thoughtful real-life connections to the ecological concern and message shared by Dr. Seuss in the story of the "The Lorax". To celebrate Earth Day, the kindergarteners enjoyed beautifying our back garden and helping the earth on this special day by removing litter in our immediate surroundings. Students also expressed their concern about our planet by making posters to share their message about these topics.



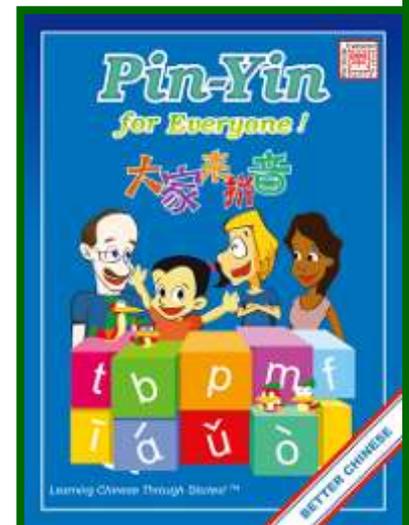
## Elementary

### First to Third Grade - World Language - Mandarin

**By: Kelly Jie (Mandarin Teacher)**

In this multiple day unit, students will gain the ability to pronounce the Chinese word by use Pinyin. Pinyin is the Romanization of the Chinese characters based on their pronunciation. In Mandarin Chinese, the phrase "Pin Yin" literally translates into "spell sound." In other words, spelling out Chinese phrases with letters from the English alphabet. Pinyin can help reinforce your memory on the pronunciation of certain phrases. It will also go a long way in helping students type out Chinese words and look up phrases they don't know.

The textbook we are using is called "Pinyin for Everyone", which has 30 lessons teaching the pronunciation and usage of 21 initial consonants and 24 simple/compound vowels used in Chinese. Lesson text, songs, rhymes and listening exercises accompanied by a beautifully recorded audio CD makes mastering Chinese tones and pronunciation fun and easy.





## ***Fourth Grade - Social Studies***

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

The fourth graders continue to demonstrate their interest in social studies. Each day they continue to ask questions about the content we are studying, and they love to be quizzed and challenged to recall learned facts. Lately, we have been reviewing past units of study. Again, the challenge of recalling information they learned months ago engages and excites the class. Review games like "Around the World" pit the students in head-to-head competition in order to respond to questions as quickly as possible. The goal of these games is to reinforce state-specific knowledge in a fun and friendly way.



Now, our focus has turned to the small region of the Southwest. We have been reading various nonfiction texts to learn about different national parks and geographic features of the region. While we complete a lot of projects as a class to learn new material, reading nonfiction texts is essential to students' exposure to various text styles. It teaches students how to "read-to-learn". This is different from language arts reading, which usually takes on a "read-to-enjoy" type of engagement.

Though the region may be small, the concepts we study are not. Understanding these themes and key ideas and then explaining them in writing will be a big focus of the fourth quarter. I look forward to seeing the ways that each student displays their learning!

## ***Fifth Grade - Social Studies***

***By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies Teacher)***

The primary system has been a topic of constant conversation in the fifth grade. These eager observers have been listening and watching to see who will win the primaries for the Republican and Democratic Parties. This was done in conjunction with our unit on the Constitution. Students learned about the three branches of government as well as principles of the Constitution such as federalism and checks and balances. We discussed how amazing these founding fathers were for working and compromising on issues so as to ratify this critical document.

All learned about the Bill of Rights. They were all challenged to imagine a world where you can only have three amendments from the Bill of Rights. Students read and analyzed each amendment. After some time they formulated five paragraph essays explaining why they chose keys amendments. After much thought and discussion, students began to really appreciate the significance of these precious rights.

## ***Sixth Grade - Social Studies***

***By: Sarah Smith (Social Studies Teacher)***

Exciting things are happening in the sixth grade social studies class. We finished a fascinating unit on Africa. Students collaborated and produced Power Point presentations on African civilizations. They explored topics such Ancient Mali, Great Zimbabwe, and the magnificent stone churches of Ancient Ethiopia. Many were impressed with the great leaders of these empires such as Mansa Musa and Sunjiata.





The sixth graders then switched from Africa to Asia. They analyzed the achievements of great rulers like Osman and Suleiman of the Ottoman Empire. Students were amazed at the accomplishments of the Moghuls and the great architectural accomplishments. In conjunction with their Language Arts unit on poetry, students created poems and songs on the numerous civilizations of Asia. One could hear songs about Kublai Khan, Ming Dynasty, Angkor Wat and the Taj Mahal. It was a busy week

## ***Middle School***

### ***Grade 7 and 8 - Physical Education***

***By: Flance Dervishi (P.E. Teacher, Director of Athletics)***

The seventh and eighth graders have started their Pillow Polo unit in Physical Education. Pillow Polo consists of two teams of six competing to gain possession of a gator ball and trying to score a goal, very similar to hockey but a lot safer. The team on offense will try to keep the ball within their team and try to pass the defenders and shoot it past the goalie for a score. The team on defense is trying to stop the attacking team from scoring and gain position of the "ball". The students are getting the hang of a very fun sport and are gaining confidence every time they compete. The kids are having a blast with this unit and we can't wait to see the competition in the next few weeks.



### ***Grade 7 English Project***

***By: Nancy Massand (English Teacher, Middle School Dean)***

The seventh grade English class culminated our study of *Spoon River Anthology* with a foray into original poetry writing. In the spirit of Spoon River, we created pairs of tombstones with epitaphs depicting the lives, loves, scandals and deaths of our fictional characters in modern day New York. The result is a veritable graveyard of juicy stories worthy of front page news in the tabloids, similar to Edgar Lee Masters' controversial unveiling of life behind closed doors in America's heartland in his era. And in the crafting of these poems, we learned about free verse, alliteration, assonance, consonance, figurative language, irony...everything you always wanted to know about poetry but were afraid to ask.



Students also memorized and recited selections from *Spoon River Anthology*, and the five best performers were privileged to join the 9th-12th graders to represent the 7th grade in the Annual Garden School Poetry Contest, held this year at the iconic St. John's Cathedral in Manhattan. Angelina, Victoria and Scott walked away with 2nd, 3rd and 5th prizes respectively. Not too shabby!



## **Middle School Adventure Park Trip - April 19th**

On Tuesday, April 19, the 7th and 8th graders traveled to Adventure Park in Wheatley Heights, Long Island, to navigate a state-of-the-art challenge course through the trees.

Starting on a common platform, students chose from five courses based on ability. Even the easiest courses were 30 feet off the ground, and some of our more intrepid climbers were a good 60 feet in the air! The courses involved zip lines, Tarzan swings, rope climbs, swinging planks and other awesome challenges. Some did one course; a few did four, and the majority completed two or three.

We had an amazing time and are looking forward to making this trip an annual tradition!



## **High School**

### **Grade 9 - Math**

**By: Lucien Gherghi (Math Teacher, Math Department, Chair)**

In 9th grade Geometry honors, we are studying trigonometric ratios in a right triangle.

Besides applying trigonometric ratios to find lengths of sides in a triangle, we do many applications in problems called "indirect measurements". Also with the information about 30°-60°-90° and 45°-45°-90° triangles we studied before, students get the correct values for these ratios of 30°, 45°, 90°.

$\frac{3}{h} = \frac{6}{24}$  ← small triangle    ← large triangle    *Write a proportion.*

$6 \times h = 3 \times 24$     *Find the cross products.*

$6h = 72$

$\frac{6h}{6} = \frac{72}{6}$     *Solve the equation.*

$h = 12$

*So, the tree is 12 ft tall.*

### **Grade 10 - Math**

**By: Natalie Sangiovanni (Math Teacher)**

The 10th graders just finished the unit about circles, angles, and arcs. They learned about tangent and secant lines and how to find the measure of arcs and angles when given certain information.

We just began a unit on finding the area of polygons, such as squares, rectangles, parallelogram, rhombus and trapezoids. The students learned and practiced how to find the area of these polygons by dividing them into sections. We will now discuss how to find the area of certain figures, by first using trigonometric functions to find a missing side so then the area can be calculated.

$A_{\Delta} = \frac{1}{2} b \times h$

$= \frac{1}{2} 6 \times 2$

$= 3$



## **Grade 11 and 12 Fine Arts**

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

The Art Elective class is working on various projects as their interests have them headed in many directions. Tina and Tingting have finished working on the Garden School's Front Door/Cupola Tile project. They worked on this project for two months drawing, planning, cutting and gluing tiles to a wood base. It is a wonderful senior project salute to Garden as its entrance is the front door to a superior education.

Zachery, Charlie and William are creating a sculpture out of soapstone by using rasps and chisels. Of course safety goggles are required when working with this material. The students are amazed at the solidity of soapstone although it is considered the 'softest' stone available for carving.

Valentina is tackling the backdrop for the Sixth Grade Spring Fling Show as her senior project. This year the show will be "Peter Pan". Valentina is working every day planning, drawing and painting a 10 foot by 15 foot tarp which will be a silhouette of Peter Pan, Tinkerbell and the skyline of London, where the show takes place.

Charles is completing his portfolio by creating 12 projects in differing media. He has used watercolor, tempera and charcoal/pencils so far. He is working feverishly to complete them all by the deadline.

Kaila is enjoying her Two-Point Perspective project as it shows a city with buildings surrounded by wide sidewalks, intersecting roads and signs advertising food. She was surprised by the fact that this method was discovered by artists in the early Renaissance.



## **Poetry Trip to St. John The Divine for Grades 9-12**

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

Shakespeare was born about April 23, 1564, and so what better way to celebrate than with poetry. Thus, 75 students and teachers made their way to the 7 train, then the 1 uptown and found themselves in the largest side room of St. John the Divine, the fourth biggest church in the world. The setting was spectacular, the acoustics incredible and the place was matched by the 35 students who recited poetry.



April, national poetry month, smiled as the Gardenites enunciated, emoted, gesticulated and drew from memory the poetry of Yeats, Whitman, Poe, Edgar Lee Masters, and Frost. When the last syllable finished reverberating through the thirty foot high vaulted chamber, the dust settled and the crowd went crazy as the crown was passed:

1. Dennis A 2017, 2. Angelina C 2021, 3. Victoria L2021, 4. Dylan T 2019
5. TIE Scott E 2021, Jasmine P 2018, Tasmi S 2017

Honorable Mention---Mirabella Chau 2018 Leanne Chin 2018, Lea Marie M. 2018 Marion Chudnovsky 2017

Lunch at Five Guys, kick back in the sun on the steps in front of the Columbia University Library, and then a quick tour of the Columbia campus lead by Mallika Wallia, Garden 2013, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Barnard in a few weeks.

We did all sing "Happy Birthday Dear Will," but in the words of Tina X, "What a wonderful day of school, poetry, camaraderie, and Gothic architecture."



# CATCH A WAVE

at  
**Garden School Summer Camp**  
We Make Summer Easy & Fun!



**F**ine Arts **A**cademics **S**ports **T**echnology



## Garden School Summer

June 27th - August 19th • Nursery - 13 Years Old

Half/Full Days • 7:30 am-6 pm Available

Choose As Many Days or Weeks As Needed

- ✓ Swimming Pool + Lessons
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Lunch & Snack Included
- ✓ Flexible Scheduling
- ✓ Drop-In Available
- ✓ Door to Door Transport



### Register Before We Fill Up!

33-16 79th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372

(718) 335-6363 • [gardenschool.org](http://gardenschool.org)

More information and download Summer Camp 2016 brochure here:

<http://www.gardenschool.org/programs/summer/>



# Garden School Summer Camp Registration

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in Sept. 2016: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1's Name & Business No: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person if Parents unavailable Name & Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2's Name & Business No \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your week of interest @ \$600 per week:

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Week 1 June 27         | Week 5 July 25   |
| Week 2 July 4 (4 days) | Week 6 August 1  |
| Week 3 July 11         | Week 7 August 8  |
| Week 4 July 18         | Week 8 August 15 |

- Choose your program: RATE**
- Nursery (Ages 1.5 to 3) # of Days \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM Full \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Junior (Ages 3-4) # of Days \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM Full \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Intermediate (Ages 5-6) # of Days \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM Full \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - FAST Specialty (Ages 7 to 13)

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE CHOOSE AND CIRCLE YOUR SPECIALTY BELOW**

<b>Fine Arts</b>	<b>Academics</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>Technology</b>
Second Child - Deduct 10%	Less Discount	\$ _____	

Total # of weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$600 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ +

Add transportation option (circle one/two way below) x \$125 per week \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Round Trip Bus / One way Bus-AM or PM TOTAL FEE: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

A non-refundable deposit of \$600 secures a place for your child. The balance of the total summer fee must be paid in full by May 27th, 2016. Payment can be made by cash, check, MasterCard, Visa or American Express.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about our Program? \_\_\_\_\_

Scan/send to: [campdirector@gardenschool.org](mailto:campdirector@gardenschool.org) Fax to: (718) 565-1169 Apply online: [www.gardenschool.org/summer](http://www.gardenschool.org/summer)