



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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"Academic Excellence Since 1923"

Friday, May 29, 2015



Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



As this school year rapidly draws to an end, I found myself reflecting on the various events, projects and activities that have taken place over the year. For students, parents and teachers, the year was filled with all of the energies and activities that compose an educational cycle that continuously renews itself. My sense is that as we evaluate our year, we need to think about the various ways in which we gauge and evaluate success.

For some, success is academic achievement that is measurable. These standards and markers of success fall within the traditional parameters of educational life. For others, it was taking the lead in a project or an activity and exploring a side of oneself that was new. Being a leader can be an acquired skill as well as an inherent skill. For students to explore that side of themselves provides an opportunity for growth. Still others found success on a social level, which suggests that the individual's growth changed and was enhanced. There are

moments of personal success as well that took place throughout the course of the year.

When I think about success, I am always astounded at the many versions of this amorphous idea there can be. Our culture more often than not defines success in monetary terms. In an acquisitive society, such as ours, success is frequently determined by the amount of financial success one has attained. Schools, however, look at other modalities with which to define success. For us, it can be academic, social and personal. We all recognize that.

My sense of what makes for success involves three elements: the ability to focus, the ability to problem solve and the ability to work collaboratively. In our new global, technological and team-structured world, I believe that these three elements, when combined in one individual, provide a recipe for success. While there is no guarantee, with these three factors in place, the potential for success is greatly enhanced. Let us think about cultivating these ingredients for success in the world of the twenty-first century.

Our mission statement states that we promote academic achievement, personal development and social involvement; this is the first part of the equation. Focus, problem solving and collaboration complete the equation by providing the means to achieve those markers of a genuinely successful person.



Dive Into...
GARDEN SCHOOL
SUMMER CAMP!



- Monday, June 1 – Friday, June 5 : Upper Division Final Exams
- Tuesday, June 2: Lower Division Talent Show
- Friday, June 5: Moving Up Ceremonies – Kindergarten (9AM) and Grade 6 (10:30AM)
- Friday, June 5: NOON Dismissal
- Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 26: Pre-Season Summer Program (1.5 – 13 year olds)
- Tuesday, June 9 : High School Graduation at 7PM
- Monday, June 29 – Friday, August 21: Summer Camp



The 10th grade Chinese Art students finished their Terracotta Warriors.



Thank you to Heather G. for the beautiful ceramic tile work above the art room door.

Garden Wins Queens High School Math Competition!

CONGRATULATIONS! Today, May 29th, Garden School took first place in the Queens College 14th Annual Mathematics Competition for High Schools!

Congratulations to Mr. Gherghi, Chair of the Mathematics Department and faculty adviser to the Euclidean Math Team, and our student math wizards, Shan Shan G., Yongya X. (Tina), Weihao L. (Teddy), Suiyang C. (May), Yilian Z. (Elaine) and Caoyu Y. (Elijah)





Senior Dinner 2015

By: Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling and Upper Division Coordinator)

On Tuesday night, Garden's faculty came together to celebrate this year's graduating class at the annual Senior Dinner.

A tradition like this one, where each senior receives a special gift from one of his or her teachers, is only possible at a school like ours. Certainly, Garden's small size is part of it; with 19 seniors this year there were enough teachers and administrators to go around. But it is the relationships that these seniors have developed with their teachers, whether they have been at Garden for 1 year or 15, that make the evening memorable and moving.

As the seniors read their cards aloud and showed off their gifts (some funny and some more serious) there were laughs and tears and inside jokes. There were memories from second grade and sixth and twelfth. The 3 Gardenites in the room helped lead a chorus of "Happy Birthday" to Ms Renner, their own First Grade teacher, who was celebrating with them in the gym.

Dr. Marotta welcomed the group and reminded the Class of 2015 that their relationship with Garden School will change after graduation on June 9. As alumni rather than students, they will join the ranks of those who are guardians of the school and its traditions. As Student Council president, Maya H. '15 shared her recollections of her class and the years they had shared at Garden and asked them to look toward the future while remembering that they had started together here.

Ode to the Class of 2015

By Lisa Sohmer, Director of College Counseling
and Upper Division Coordinator

Senior dinner tonight, you know what that means
Graduation's approaching, not much time in between
You went to the prom, you thought it was cool
Who knew getting your hair done meant two days off school?

You're shared every minute, you've shared all the years
You've shared all the usual laughter and tears
You're creative and smart – in fact you're sublime
But did anyone notice you cannot tell time?

You've instagrammed, texted, snapchatted and phoned
No conversation was ever postponed
You're all so connected – you're practically one
And high school? Well, it's practically done.

Some have been here forever and a few just arrived
But whenever you got here you learned, grew and thrived.
So what happens next? Where to find you next fall?
You're starting a journey, graduates all.

Will **Teddy** take his Porsche Cayenne
To his West Coast Promised Land?
Whatever he drives, we know he'll be fine
And closer to China at UC Irvine

Stephanie's been here for a while
She brought her grit, she brought her smile
She settled at Garden and made it her place
She'll do the same, this autumn at Pace.

CUNY loves our Garden grads
They'll get three this year -- not too bad

Heather captured her classmates' eyes
Which grace the hall now, no surprise
She makes art by every means
And will continue to do so next year at Queens.

We can count on **Deshawn** when we're in the lurch
He'll stay local, near home and church
Will he be a prince? An earl or a duke?
No he'll be the king in the fall at Baruch.



Astronomer **Skyler** likes planets and stars
Unlike the galaxy Queens College's not far
As a college freshman he must understand
It's okay now to stop raising his hand

Nabeel's time at Garden felt too short
But he made his mark with friends and sports
Too cool for school but still he fit in
And will do the same at LIU Brooklyn

Nardello favors hearth and home
He's never been one who wants to roam
Getting to campus won't be too hard
CW Post's in his backyard

She's been here since kindergarten
But now **Julia** is leaving Garden
Other colleges' hopes she'll flatten
When she and her clothes enroll at Manhattan.

Yiyi taught her friends to play pool
Yiyi was absent as a rule
When she leaves she won't really be gone
But right down the parkway in a dorm at St. John's

Jared's been here from the start
Arrived for nursery and won our hearts
Plans on medicine and has done well
So he's off to Iona in New Rochelle

Elijah thinks high school is very nice
He likes it so much that he did it twice
He plans to enjoy college too
First at Seton Hall and then at Purdue

Quiet **Claire** with an eye for art
Knew she liked Florida from the start
What's up next for this college-bound lassie?
City College of Tallahassee

Maya's an explorer but who could tell
She planned to be a Southern Belle?
She feasted on grits and maybe some venison
But gave up the South and decided on Denison

It's Hofstra for **Taha** -- a future MD
Who's known for a while what he wanted to be
Perhaps a scalpel he will wield
When he's done shopping at Roosevelt Field

May has already traveled the world
Asia, Europe, the US -- what a girl
She's not afraid to take a risk so
She's off to University of San Francisco

Dylan's surely got it made
Heading to Florida where he'll need those shades
Dylan's sure to get new knowledge
In Sarasota at New College

Hey University of Illinois
You've hit the jackpot that's no ploy
Two Garden Grads will land at O'Hare
We've love having them here, you'll love having them there

Elaine was the last to join the class
Hui's gentility's unsurpassed
Although Chicago's far from home
They'll be there together, not alone

Yuting is missing
And Yuting is missed
Not sure where he's going
But he stays on the list.

I wrote the poem, but I speak for us all
Who've watched you grow up, some since you were small
Your teachers, your coaches, your mentors and friends
Applaud you tonight as you come to the end
But it's not the end, is it? I've reason to guess
You'll come back to visit with tales of success.

This poem is long, but it had to be so
Nineteen grads and the places you'll go
You know that we'll miss you, there's just one thing to do
Class of Two Thousand Fifteen – congratulations to you!



The Phoenix Rises is Now Online!

"The Phoenix Rises" is an annual student produced and published literary and arts journal that features chosen fine language and art works from Garden students throughout the year.

We are very proud of this year's edition and staff who worked hard and took great care in their work. In addition, we are delighted to offer The Phoenix Rises as an online "e-zine" and as a downloadable file.

Congratulations to all!

Editor In Chief
Marian Chudnovsky

Co Editor
Matthew Helsing

Staff
Hanna Vilbaum
Kyle Campbell
Tasmi Sheikh
Jasmine Petrov
Idris Emerick
Caitlin Walker
Kay Boycs
Dennis Aronov
Lea Maric Mcdina



Link to Online View: <https://issuu.com/thephoenixrises-gardenschool>

Download: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByFO39Dny6fxVC1Xa1F5ZThWWEE/view?usp=sharing>

Upper Division Awards Assembly

After the inauguration of our new Student Council President and Vice-President, awards for Garden's many clubs and activities were handed out. Officers and participants in Sports, Arts, Debate, Lego Robotics, Diversity, Yearbook, Literary and Service activities were recognized. There are many ways to learn, grow and succeed at Garden School. Congratulations to everyone!





Garden School Summer Education Program

By: John Hale (Summer Education Program Coordinator)

The Garden School Summer Education Program site is now online and accessible from the Garden School website under the "Programs" tab (and the link below). It is designed to help students remain focused on learning and keep skills sharp and over the summer. There is a page for every grade from Grade 1 to 12. Please take a look and familiarize yourself with the resources.



Students have worked hard all year and summer vacation provides an opportunity for a well-deserved break. How much of a break is a question that parents must face every year and your child's teacher(s) can be helpful with their perspective.

Other than the required summer reading which can be found at the top of each grade's page, and unless your child's teacher has recommended otherwise, there is no expectation of what work and how much will be completed. However, although not required, keeping your child's skills focused on maintaining academic and critical and creative thinking skills will help to prepare them for next year. The SEP was created to provide parents and students with learning resources should the decision be made that some additional work is a good idea. The resources have been designed to be used with flexibility. So, review the material and use it to craft a learning plan that is individualized for your child.

A couple of guiding thoughts:

- Studies have shown that certain academic subjects are easier for students to forget than others. Math skills suffer most because fewer opportunities for numerical calculations exist outside the classroom. Although the loss is not as severe as in math a decline in reading skills has also been demonstrated. Summer studies, therefore, should place particular emphasis on math and reading in addition to other subjects.
- To help students reap the benefit of summer instruction, it should not consume all of their free time and so become a burdensome task. Just as every student is unique, their academic needs are also different. Parents and students can decide how much learning is enough in order to keep skills sharp and retain knowledge learned.
- For younger students in particular, simply reading with your child as often as possible, especially aloud and discussing story elements or favorite words can be enough. Others are ready to write about the story or write one of their own. Similarly with math, number games, counting aloud and timed flashcards with prizes or incentives if helpful can also be sufficient to support skill retention.
- Quality is as important as quantity when it comes to summer learning. Many summer learning activities such as workbook pages can be accomplished in an hour or less. Matching the material to a student's ability and interest level is as important as the amount of time spent studying.
- Supervision is critical to a summer learning plan. While it may not be necessary to stand over your children while they do their work, check periodically on their progress and checking for attention to detail will demonstrate the value you place on their efforts.

To help meet the needs stated above we have created a website (<https://sites.google.com/site/gardensep/>) of resources that should help give you and your child focus during the summer. We hope that you enjoy your summer and please feel free to contact us at jhale@gardenschool.org if you have any questions or concerns.



Early Childhood

By: Carmela Knopf (Physical Education Teacher)

The Early Childhood department had a visit from The Nature Company.

We had a fun-filled animal workshop right into our classroom. We met Chili the chinchilla, Chomper the lizard, Phoenix the king snake and Doris the dove. They also put on a puppet show starring a space frog and some reptiles. The students were asked to take notice of the different sounds that each animal made. They learned that animals make sounds to communicate just like us.

We all had a fun time learning facts about the animals and getting a chance to pet them, too.



Music for Grades 1 to 3

By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)

At the Lower Division Spring Show last week, students in 1st and 2nd grade did an excellent job collaborating on three different challenging songs from the musical, Into the Woods. They sang a version of the titular song about journeying into the unknown as told from Little Red Riding Hood's perspective. Students also sang two duets, one of which, 'It Takes Two,' has the principal characters of the Baker and the Baker's Wife realizing that they need to work together in order to accomplish their goals.

Students in both 2nd and 3rd grade greatly enjoyed singing a song which demonstrates Little Red's growth and newly gained maturity, 'I Know Things Now.' 3rd Grade was responsible for the closing number of the Prologue as well as one of the show Finales, 'Children Will Listen.' This song is a reprise with new words of two previous selections including 'No One is Alone,' 1st and 2nd Grade's rhythmically demanding duet. Students really welcomed the challenge of the material, and we discussed the fact that there are many tasks that we will encounter in life that we will not be able to accomplish immediately. The time and effort that we devote to our endeavors in order to be able to perform them is part of what makes them worthwhile.





Math for Grade 4

By: Lara Leggio (Math Teacher)

The fourth grade had a great school year in math class. We started our school year reviewing addition and subtraction skills, later expanding to multiplication and division. We ended the school year with a geometry unit, which incorporated these basic skills. We discussed different types of polygons even a dodecagon, a polygon with 12 sides! With this, we explored area and perimeter of basic figures and learned how to solve for the perimeter of L shaped polygons, with missing side lengths. These L shapes are challenging, however we were able to utilize how strong critical thinking skills to work through them. I am very proud of the success of the fourth grade mathematicians! Thank you for all of your hard work and support from home!

Math for Grade 5

By: Sonia Ambarsom (Math Teacher)

The fifth-graders are considering the final and one of the most important topics in the foundation of all mathematics. This, of course is the set of numbers, especially operations with integers. This set is presented as The company shouldn't of positive and negative integers, which contains several properties of whole numbers and their opposites. This is a new idea of representing numbers with direction or better known as directed numbers. They are also introduced to the notion of nonpositive infinity to nonnegative infinity. Lastly, the concept of zero and its history are introduced. These concepts are under appreciated and taken for granted. This, in totality, is one of the many new lessons for life.

Math for Grade 6

By: Lara Leggio (Math Teacher)

The sixth grade finished the year strong with a geometry unit, expanding our knowledge and skill base to learn Pythagorean's Theorem. Many people are able to recite the Pythagorean Theorem, $a^2+b^2=c^2$. However, not many people know where the theorem comes from, but my 6th grade class does! As a class we went through a basic proof of the Pythagorean Theorem and then watched a movie by Disney called "Donald Duck in Mathemagic Land". In this video, Donald Duck takes us through the history of Pythagoras and his secret society called the Pythagorean Brotherhood as well as other mathematics that Pythagoras was a factor in. Many of us were surprised to find that Pythagoras was a key person involved in first creating musical scales.

I want to thank everyone for a successful school year, especially the support systems at home!

Below is a link to the video we watched: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJgkaU08VvY>



English for Grades 7 and 8

By: Nancy Massand (English Teacher)

English 7 worked right up until Wednesday finishing up their last novel of the semester, *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis. The book is a wonderfully rich fantasy about an Englishman who journeyed to another planet and encountered a utopian world where three different intelligent species lived in harmony, no one dominating the other. They didn't even have a word for the earthly concept of "bad."

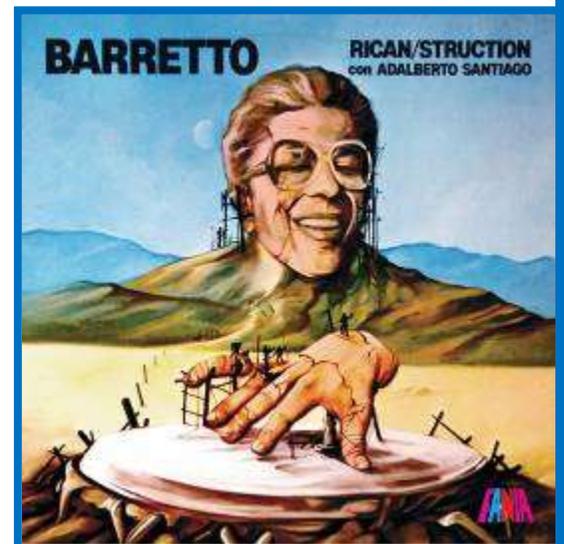
We examined the concepts of evolution, religion, government, family structures, science, myth, and history from an otherworldly perspective that freed us to "think out of the box," unconstrained by the preconceived mindsets we've already established, even at age twelve. The question that kept emerging as we read together was, "Why can't we all get along?" Students came up with many thoughtful answers to that question: greed, self-pride, and cultural biases among them. In their final essays, many of the students concluded that the book had changed the way they think about humankind and their role in it. Now that's the power of story! Equipped with words, we have the power to influence and change. The pen indeed is mightier than the sword.

Music for Grades 7 and 8

By: Tom Heineman (Music Teacher)

7th & 8th Graders recently finished a unit concerning the music of Latin America. They examined some of the aspects of the music that connect it to West Africa: the brief, repetitive patterns played by instruments, the way in which these patterns are interwoven and combined to create a substantive whole, the collective vocals followed by a soloist's musical reply, the unique drums and percussion instruments that help give the music its character. Nearly all of the instruments have typical patterns they play depending on the musical style and/or dance.

The class had an opportunity to hear several amazing musicians and bandleaders including New-York born and raised Conga player, Ray Barretto. Barretto had been performing and leading bands for decades come the late 1970s, already achieving legendary status. While sitting in his parked car, another driver slammed into his automobile. He suffered multiple injuries, including ones to his hand and arm that disabled him from playing. After a recovery that spanned nearly two years, Barretto released a comeback album entitled Rican/Struction. On the cover, a group of miniature people are seen reconstructing Barretto's right hand atop a conga head, evoking the Lilliputians from Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. 7th and 8th Graders listened to the track 'Tumbao Africano;' Tumbao refers to a ubiquitous repeated pattern played by the bass in Latin music, and Africano reflects the song's use of Yoruban Bata drums from West Africa.





Foreign Language for Grades 9 and 10

By: Agustin Melara (Foreign Language Department Chair)

This short week has been intense for ninth and tenth graders as they prepare for Final Exams. We have revisited tenses such as the preterit, the imperfect, the imperfect progressive, the present, the future, the conditional, the present perfect, and the pluperfect, while paying special attention to complex grammatical structures such as the subjunctive, past participles, reflexive verbs, adverbs, the position of adjectives in a sentence, commands, and the difference between *Por* and *Para*. They will be tested on all of these concepts (and more) in order to assess their level of language acquisition since the start of the school year. Best of luck to all!

Science for Grades 11 and 12

By: Marlene Dapice (Science Department Chair)

The AP exam is over. The final exam has been taken. What's left to do? Congratulate yourselves on a job well done.

You arrived to class in September; each with a unique set of skills, and learned over the course of the year how to work with each other in such a way that everyone had a chance to shine. Communication amongst members of your class was absolutely essential to your success, especially when it came to performing the laboratory exercises. My hope is that you will take what you've learned and expand upon it.

My heartfelt congratulations to you all. I wish you all the best for the future. You will be missed.

Senior Dinner



Dive Into...

SUMMER CAMP!

We Make Summer Easy & Fun!



Fine Arts / Academics / Sports / Technology



Garden School Summer

JUNE 29-AUGUST 21 • Nursery-13 Years Old

Half/Full Days • 7:30am-6pm Available

Choose As Many Days or Weeks As Needed

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



Register Before We Fill Up!

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

(718) 335-6363 • gardenschool.org



Summer Camp Registration

Student Name: _____ Gender: _____ DOB: _____

Grade in Sept. 2014: _____ School: _____ T-Sh1rt Size: _____

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle your week of interest @ \$575 per week:

Week 1 June 29 (4 days)

Week 5 July 27

Week 2 July 6

Week 6 August 3

Week 3 July 13

Week 7 August 10

Week 4 July 20

Week 8 August 17

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

Fine Arts

Academics

Sports

Technology

Second Child - Deduct 10%

Less Discount

\$ _____

Total # of weeks: _____ x \$575 = \$ _____ +

Add transportation option (circle below) x \$125 per week \$ _____

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

Mother's Name & Business No: _____ () _____

Contact person if Parents unavailable Name & Telephone No: _____

Father's Name & Business No _____ () _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$575 secures a place for your child. The balance of the total summer fee must be paid in full by May 29th, 2015. Payment can be made by cash, check, Mastercard, Visa or American Express.

Parent Signature: _____

How did you hear about our Program? _____