



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Thoughts for the week

September 12, 2014

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! What a wonderful week this has been for Garden School. Our opening of school went smoothly, from the orientation day on Friday to the first day of classes on Monday. All week long the energy and enthusiasm have been palpable. Each school year begins with this excitement, which is all about possibility, growth, development and progress. No matter how many opening days I have experienced, each one exudes the same level of intensity and regeneration.

This opening sees some wonderful developments at Garden. Our opening enrollment was higher than last year's opening number. Our front security gate is fully operational. The main hallway bathrooms have been completely renovated. The Pre-K and K rooms have been renovated. The First grade room has been changed and renovated. The new Early Childhood Center opened on Tuesday on the corner of 78th and Northern and is filled with four-year olds. Our school is vibrant, renewed and eagerly taking on the challenges of twenty-first century life.

As I think about this school year, I am filled with optimism, hope and the conviction that this will be a terrific year for members of the Garden community. I once again want to invite you to Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 16, beginning at 6:00pm in the Gym, for families of those children in Nursery through Twelfth Grade who are not in UPK; there will be an another curriculum event scheduled for our UPK families. Please come and learn about your child's program and about our goals for our educational vision.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Monday, September 15 : Return Pool Permission Slips (see attachment)**
- **Tuesday, September 16 : Curriculum Night @ 6PM (For all families EXCEPT UPK)**
- **Thursday, Sept. 25 – Friday, Sept, 26 : School Closed for Rosh Hashanah**
- **Monday, September 29 – Wednesday, October 1 : Frost Valley Trip for Grades 7 & 8**
- **Thursday, October 2 : Photo Day for Lower Division**
- **Friday, October 3 : Photo Day for Upper Division**
- **Tuesday, October 7 : Grade 9 Meeting at 6PM**
- **Monday, October 13 : School Closed for Columbus Day**
- **Wednesday, October 15 : PSATs for Grades 10 & 11**
- **Wednesday, October 15 – Friday, October 17 : Camp Herrlich Trip for Grades 5 & 6**



Nursery

By: Carmela Knopf (Nursery Teacher)

The nursery students have been busy making friends and learning their daily routine. We have been enjoying our Mandarin and Music classes. We read *S Is For School!* by P.J. Shaw and *Clifford Goes To School* by Norman Bridwell to start school. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting school year!

Pre-K and K

By: Eileen Reyes and Kristen Ahlfeld (Pre-K & Kindergarten Teachers)



The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes have been busy this week learning the classroom routine and their school schedule. Everyone is enthusiastic about making so many new friends at one time. Our newly renovated classroom is filled with lots of materials that help to inspire creativity and learning. The children are eagerly exploring their environment and making observations about the world around them. We have established classroom rules and the students have grasped their new jobs and roles with excitement.



The Pre-K class has been introduced to new skills such as: walking in a line, taking turns, sharing, and using words to express needs and wants. During the first few weeks we will be exploring colors. We have been coloring and painting every day with different colors to master color recognition. Some children have definite favorite colors, while others change their favorite colors daily.

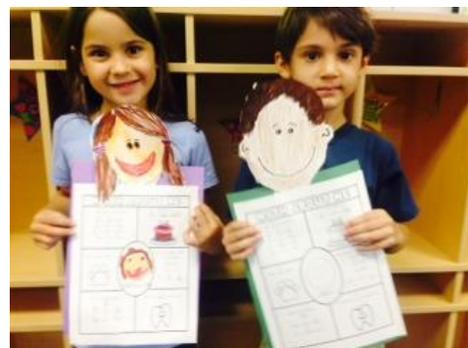
The Kindergarten program fosters independence as the children learn their new tasks. At circle time each morning, we find a new country on our world map and learn a new word in sign language. The children are also learning about the bones in their bodies. It has been a very successful first week at school.

Grade 1

By: Jacquelyn Renner (Grade 1 Teacher)

First Grade has been full of firsts this week. We are excited to have our own desks to keep all of the new books we will work with this year. We have attended classes in the Science Lab and the Art Room. Today we completed our first spelling challenge with many an and at family words practiced throughout the week.

This week we read *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg, a story about someone who is nervous about going to school on the first day with a surprise at the end. To help ease our first day jitters we drank jitter juice and wrote our first





opinion piece on whether we liked jitter juice. We are exploring different ways to describe ourselves through numbers. Our Math About Me displays tell about our ages, birth dates, favorite number, family members, and pets. Next week we are looking forward to writing riddles about ourselves and comparing numbers.

Grade 2

By: Stephanie Parker (Grade 2 Teacher)



The Second Graders were excited to be back to school to see their friends and to make new ones! We began a Friendship theme that spans the content areas and will continue throughout the school year. We began by brainstorming words and ideas about friendship by using a web. We then generated a list of different kinds of friends including neighbors, school friends and pet friends. We created a list of class rules that will promote kindness and respect.

In Reading class, we read *David's New Friends*, about a boy making friends on the first day of school. In Language Arts, we composed questions to help us interview a friend and worked on sentence structure as we recorded their answers. We also learned new vocabulary words such as "compromise" and "generosity" and displayed them on a bulletin board labeled "The keys to being a good friend." In Mathematics, we played cooperative addition games with a partner. We are excited to carry our theme of Friendship every day throughout the year!

Grade 3

By: Nilla Ingravallo (Grade 3 Teacher)

Meet the Star Students!

The third graders had an exciting first week back to school! They shared summer memories, organized their new folders and notebooks, began learning topics in each subject area, and discussed the star qualities of kindness, honesty, respect, effort, and cooperation that will be reinforced throughout the school year.

The third graders began their work with the writing process while introducing themselves to their reading and writing teachers, Ms. Ingravallo and Mrs. Vogel. After a discussion on the steps of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) and the format of a newspaper, the students completed articles about themselves for the *Star Student News*. They wrote about a recent memorable event in their life, their favorite book, and a wonderful travel spot! Once the students finished drafting their articles, they participated in a writing conference with their teachers to revise and edit their work. During these steps, they learned new editing symbols. The third graders then published their finished articles. Throughout the year, the third graders will continue to work with the writing process when producing written pieces.

Grade 4

By: Lara Leggio and Tiina Prio (Grade 4 Homeroom Teachers)

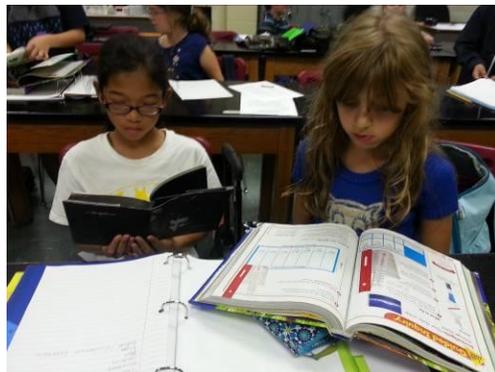
The fourth grade got off to a great start this year. There were so many new procedures for the students to learn and so much information to take in. Everyone had a great week though and we are looking forward to next week and settling in



to a routine. We are sure that the transition to fourth grade will be a smooth and successful one. Progress has already been made in their daily routines, activities and interactions.

We are encouraging the 4th graders to be kind and respectful throughout the day to other students. Throughout the year we will be recognizing and acknowledging responsible behaviors.

Early Morning, which begins at 7:45, is located in the Art Room and afterschool is in Room 29. Please advise Ms. Leggio or Mrs. Prio of any changes to your child's pick-up routine. We are looking forward to an exciting school year filled with educational and social activities.



Grade 5

By: Amy Ledden and Sarah Smith (Grade 5 Homeroom Teachers)

Welcome to 5th Grade! Garden School has made many wonderful additions to the school, from a new front gate and new bathrooms to several new students. The 5th graders are off to a magnificent start to the school year, adjusting to their new classes and routine.

We are encouraging 5th graders to be organized with their binders, lockers and materials throughout the day and at home. The students will be receiving their planners and will be expected to write down all assignments to work on responsibility. They will also be receiving their USB flash drives, which will hold several assignments for various classes.

Please advise Ms. Ledden and/or Ms. Smith, the 5th Grade homeroom teachers, if there will be any changes regarding pick-up for your child. If your child arrives at school before homeroom, they should go to Early Morning, which begins at 7:45 and is located in the Art Room. If your child is staying at school passed 3:00, they should go to afterschool in Room 29. We are looking forward to an extraordinary school year filled with excitement and learning!

Grade 6

By: Lou Albano and Philip D'Anna (Grade 6 Homeroom Teachers)

Welcome to an exciting new school year! As your child's homeroom teachers we will be spending each morning and afternoon with the class. We are excited about the changes that Garden School has made to its physical appearance as well as its student body. As a class the sixth grade is looking forward to another year of sophisticated coursework, educational field trips, and added responsibilities as the eldest in the Lower Division.





It is great to see how quickly the students have acclimated to their new responsibilities and roles as sixth graders. In the upcoming week(s) the students will be receiving both their planners and their USB flash drives. These two tools will help manage assignments and class work.

There will be many opportunities for the students to engage with one another both academically and in after-school activities. We encourage them to become involved in the Garden School community as much as possible by joining available clubs such as Lego Robotics, intramural sports, and/or the debate team. We look forward to working with the sixth grade in what promises to be an exciting year full of energy, laughter, and learning.

Grades 7 and 8

By: Nancy Massand and Tom Heineman (Grades 7 and 8 Homeroom Teachers)

The middle school is active in every way since Day 1! Academic classes are in full swing, with students meaningfully engaged in discussion and hands on activities. They check their Thinkwave accounts daily to keep current on homework and class news. Parents, did you know you can log onto our Thinkwave page for accurate homework assignments and announcements? You can even download forms and class handouts! We will distribute your log-in codes on Curriculum Night, September 16, and offer a tutorial on using the system. It is a priority event! Learning how to use Thinkwave effectively will help your child to maximize the middle school experience, and it is surprisingly easy to learn. Take advantage of it!

Looking ahead, we have an awesome trip to Frost Valley planned for September 29-October 1, and our first middle school soccer game is scheduled for the first week in October!

Grade 9

By: James Pigman (Grade 9 Advisor)

One of the ninth graders came to school and asked me for the community service record sheet. She had amassed nearly a hundred hours of service over the summer. She wanted to record it. I advised her that one of the seniors received a Congressional Service Award for over four hundred hours of service with the Special Olympics, Blood drives, winter clothing drives, and Key Club committees. What a good start this ninth grader is off to in finding the things that she is passionate about and willing to work for.

Key Club begins the year with two groups engaged on September 20, Saturday. A group of fifteen will go to LaGuardia Airport to help our parent organization, the LaGuardia Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club is putting on Kids' Day where hundreds of kids are given the chance to see commercial airliners, helicopters, rescue groups and equipment, drum and bugle corps, free hot dogs and ice cream. The students help direct people and serve food. Sometimes they wear cartoon character costumes and entertain the young people. Vice President Eldin K. is organizing that group. This group will meet at school at 10:30 AM.

President Skyler S. will lead a group that will go to the North Channel Bridge near the Rockaways. They will work with environmental groups and clean a stretch of the beach below the bridge. Gloves, shovels, rakes, and tach bags are supplied. That group will meet at the subway, 74th St., at 9 AM.

Both groups will finish around 2 PM. It is best to get an early start on community service and here are two ready-made projects that 9 through 12th graders can easily participate in.



Grade 10

By: Richard Kruczek (Grade 10 Advisor)

The tenth grade is off to a flier, as we are reviewing the period of the Dark Ages in preparation for our study of the Renaissance. Renaissance, translated as "rebirth," was precisely that: the rebirth of humanity. Whether in art, literature or political thought, new ideas both flourished and were put to use to the great benefit of society - not just the society of the "Quattrocento" in Northern Italy, but all that followed, ours included. The students are eager, inquisitive and appear to be taking a true shine to this genre. Long may it last.

Grade 11

By: Marcia Elkind (Grade 11 Advisor)

The junior class is settling in to the rigors of this academic year. They will be handing in their first papers in English class on Monday, discussing and analyzing their summer reading.

As the year rolls along they will begin to establish the record in academics, athletics, community service, and activities. As the Academic Advisor to the juniors, I try to impress upon each student the necessity of becoming a complete person. Each student is more than the letter grade they receive in a course. They are more than captain of the basketball team or chairperson of the dance committee. They are complex individuals and they must learn to look inward at their strengths and weaknesses in order to grow and become responsible, happy, caring adults. Success in college and in life grows out of the successes and failures we learn from early in our lives. So, it is important to get to school on time, be prepared with assignments, participate in class. These are the skills that will serve a person well in the work place and in life. It is my job to help them see their abilities and face their challenges. We make a team, we three: student, parents, advisors. Let's set the bar high and strive to do our best.

I wish the class of 2016 luck, but this year is not about luck. It's about dedication, exploration and creativity. Dream big and work hard.

Grade 12

By: Marlene Dapice (Grade 12 Advisor)

Welcome Back! You made it to the senior class of 6/2015. This will be a busy year with college meetings, essays and prom! Keep your focus. Stay on task. If you have any problems or questions come and see me in Room 31.

Don't forget to hand in your lunch permission slips and other forms to me. Let's make this the best senior year ever!



Alumni Update

By: Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling)

Members of the Class of 2014 are already making their mark on campuses in New York and across the country!



**Fan at University of
Southern California**



Will at Butler University (IN)

Senior Class

By: Lisa Sohmer (Director of College Counseling)

The Class of 2015 is fully engaged in the college application process. Our college visits at Garden began this morning when a representative from Wagner College (NY) met with interested seniors in the College Office. Many more colleges and universities will hold meetings to meet our seniors in the coming weeks.

And of course, seniors took advantage of the summer for researching and visiting schools.



Julia at Fordham University (NY)



Maya at Belmont University (TN)



Communications

By: Jim Gaines (Director of Marketing)

Greetings Garden School parents,

As the new Garden School Director of Marketing, I thank the many of you who have introduced yourselves and made me feel so welcome. I am delighted to join Garden School at such an exciting time in its 92 year history and to help in getting the word out about what a great school and community this is.

GARDEN SCHOOL
JACKSON HEIGHTS, NEW YORK

QUALITY
CARING
AFFORDABLE

NURSERY TO GRADE 12
OPEN HOUSE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 9:00 AM
33-16 79TH STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372
www.gardenschool.org • (718) 335-6363

- Small class sizes (7:1 ratio)
- Caring and professional faculty
- Strong academics that maximize potential
- Art, music, PE, computer, world languages
- Individual attention, hands-on learning
- Parent partnerships, community participation
- AP honors classes, athletics program
- Intensive college counseling
- Character and leadership education
- Clubs, activities, community service
- Hot lunch and private bus transport
- Financial aid for qualifying families

And, I need your help! Please help spread the word about Garden School. Speak to your colleagues at work about scheduling a tour at their convenience. Maybe you will meet a family at the park and encourage them to check us out online. Maybe you are a member of "[Jackson Heights Life](#)" and will blog about the great things happening at Garden School. However you choose to send a positive message, we are grateful. As the school grows, all of us benefit.

More immediately, please follow this link and visit our [Garden School Facebook page](#) and "like" us and then share our posts with your friends. We are posting information, news, photos and much more and this is a great way to stay in touch with the daily life of Garden School. Please do this now!

I look forward to meeting some more parents at the Curriculum Night this coming Tuesday, September 16th at 6:00 PM. Please come find me and say hello.

Garden School Families,

[Long Island City Concerts](#) hosts its first [Kids and Family Day](#), with family and children's friendly entertainment provided by LIC locals [Andy Jobe and Neeley Bridges](#). This Sunday, 14 September from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at [Gantry Plaza State Park](#)

Garden School is helping to sponsor this event and providing volunteers to help watch over the children ensuring a safe, fun, and educational event. Come and say hello!

Schedule of Events

3:00 p.m. – Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Soccer by [PLAY Greenpoint](#); Music Lessons by [Sage Music](#).

4:00 p.m. – Family Friendly entertainment by Andy Jobe and Neeley Bridges

5:00 p.m. – Performances by Sage Music students and faculty: Taro Morino, Marlon Oliveira, Aleksandra Kocheva, Stefanie Izzo.

We hope to see you there!



September 12, 2014

Dear Parents:

Garden School is among the few independent schools that has an outdoor pool as part of its facilities. Since the weather is still warm, our students in grades one through twelve may have the opportunity to swim during the school day for the next several weeks.

To be prepared for swim, students should have a bathing suit and towel at school each day. Mr. Dervishi and Ms Ledden of our Physical Education staff are certified lifeguards, and they will supervise the students at the pool, weather permitting.

If you would like your child to participate in the swim program, please download the permission slip below, sign it, and then return it to the homeroom teacher.

Sincerely,

William Vogel

Lower Division Head

I give permission for my child, _____ in grade _____
to participate in the swim program at Garden School.

Parent's Signature

Date