GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Richard Marotta, *Ph. D., Headmaster*

Volume 94 Number: I **"Cultivating Success in Every Child"** **Friday, September 16, 2016**

Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster

Dear Garden Families,

Welcome to the new school year. Throughout the summer, we have been busy with the preparation for our opening day of school. Now that we have completed our first full week, we can all feel that those preparations have made for a very successful opening. We continue to maintain the level of enrollment that we achieved last year, and the excitement that we feel about this year can be felt throughout the building.

We have returned to school with some very positive advances in program and facilities. The renovation of the Library, spearheaded by the PTA and supported by the Trustees, has transformed the Library into a modern and fabulous space. With the technological additions to the Library, we have supported the work being done by the Technology Committee. In addition to the renovation in the library, there has been the installation of a computer work station that can accommodate eight users. To further support our technological development, we have purchased 40 new computers that have been installed throughout the school. We have also made some changes to the cafeteria by installing an electronic billing system and two more sophisticated refrigerators.

Throughout the summer, we have continued with our preparation for the NYSAIS accreditation visit, which will take place from October 23 until October 26. For almost two years now, our committees and subcommittees have been busy preparing the self-study which is now finished and in the last stages of edits.

In the area of academic growth, we have added an additional science and math teacher to enhance our pedagogical approach and maintain small classes in these two critical areas. We have also added an Upper Division Debate Club, and we now feature three forums for our students to engage in this important activity: the middle school debate team, the upper division debate team and the model United Nations team. We have continued our work with the engineering course in the Upper Division and have added a HAM Radio component both to the engineering course and now with the establishment of a HAM Radio Club.

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year of learning and teaching. Please join in support as we fulfill the mission of the school; the most direct ways of doing this is to contribute to the upcoming Annual Fund and to support the PTA in its efforts to support and sustain the school's mission. Once again, I am proud of the progress we have made in modernizing the facility, in enhancing the curriculum and in expanding the teaching staff. Our sustained level of enrollment, our positive growth in the staff, and the improvements made to the facility all signal that Garden School continues its tradition of dynamic and student centered education.

Welcome back,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Thursday, September 22:** Curriculum Night for Nursery to Grade 12 Parents
- **Monday, September 26:** Photo Day for Lower Division
- **Tuesday, September 27:** Photo Day for Upper Division
- **Monday/Tuesday, October 3, 4:** School Closed for Rosh Hashanah
- **Monday, October 10:** School Closed for Columbus Day
- **Wednesday, October 12:** School closed for Yom Kippur
- **Thursday, October 13:** PTA Meeting, 8:30 AM in the Library
- **Wednesday, October 19 :** PSATs for Grades 10 & 11

College Visits Next Week:

Monday	**19-Sep**	**11:40am**	**The New School**
Tuesday	**20-Sep**	**10am**	**Fairfield University**
		11:00am	**Albany College of Pharm**
Wednesday	**21-Sep**	**2:00pm**	**Guilford College**
		9:20am	**Iona College**
Thursday	**22-Sep**	**2:00pm**	**Bard College**

COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR GRIFFINS TEAMS!!!

Garden School I.S.A.L Varsity Soccer 2016 Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mon	9/19	LREI	Randall's Island 45	4:00
Tue	9/20	BRP	Leif Ericson	4:00
Thur	9/22	BFS	Randall's Island 90	4:00

All Griffin Athletic Schedules and Information can be found on our website under "Our School" tab:

http://www.gardenschool.org/ourschool/sports/

Garden School Girls Varsity Volleyball 2016 Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mon	9/19	Dwight	Away	4:00
Thur	9/22	BRP	Home	4:15
Fri	9/23	York Prep	AWAY	3:45

Garden School I.S.A.L Middle School Soccer 2016 Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mon	9/19	Dwight	Randall's Island 62	4:00
Tue	9/20	BFS	Randall's Island 32	4:00

Curriculum Night this coming Thursday, September 22, beginning at 6:00 pm in the Gymnasium

September 16, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Once again, welcome back to school! The opening of our **ninety-fourth** school year has proceeded smoothly and with great energy. As stated in my August Letter, **Curriculum Night will be held this coming Thursday, September 22, beginning at 6:00 pm in the Gymnasium.**

All parents are encouraged to attend Curriculum Night. At Garden, we pride ourselves on building effective partnerships between home and school in order to support each child's learning. Therefore, Curriculum Night is one of the most significant educational planning events of the year as you will meet the teachers and learn about curriculum, communication procedures, grading guidelines, and behavioral and academic expectations. While it is not a time for one to one parent conferences about individual children, it will allow you to learn more about how to support your child's educational experience and the teachers throughout the year, and prepare you for more successful parent teacher conferences in November. As always at Garden School, in addition to these more formal meetings, parents may simply call us to arrange meetings with teachers and administrators.

Your child will bring home a copy of his or her schedule for you to follow that will clarify the Curriculum Night schedule below. We will also have students here to direct you to the right classrooms.

Schedule:

6:00pm	Gymnasium, General Meeting
6:30	Homeroom
6:40	Period 1
6:50	Period 2
7:00	Period 3
7:10	Period 4
7:20	Period 5
7:30	Period 6
7:40	Period 7
7:50	End

Once again, we are all looking forward to seeing you at **Curriculum Night**, one of our most important Garden community meetings.

Sincerely,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster

Upper Division Academic Advisors 2016-'17

Grade 12	Marlene Dapice, Advisor	mschultz@gardenschool.org
Grade 11	Sarah O'Sullivan, Advisor	ssmith@gardenschool.org
Grade 10	Amira Booth-Soifer, Advisor	asoifer@gardenschool.org
Grade 9	Cherie Wangenstein, Advisor	cwangenstein@gardenschool.org
Grades 7 and 8	Nancy Massand, Dean	nmassand@gardenschool.org

Upper Division Clubs and Sports with Adviser/Coach Contacts

Club or Activity	Faculty Representative	Contact Email
Art Club	Tiina Prio	tprio@gardenschool.org
Diversity Club	Agustin Melara	amelara@gardenschool.org
Fitness Club	Flance Dervishi	fdervishi@gardenschool.org
	Cherie Wangenstein	cwangenstein@gardenschool.org
International Club	Agustín Melara	amelara@gardenschool.org
	Greig Roselli	groselli@gardenschool.org
Japan Club	Tom Heineman	theineman@gardenschool.org
	Sarah Blakeley	sblakeley@gardenschool.org
Pythagorean Club (Math)	Lucien Gherghi	lgherghi@gardenschool.org
Honor Society	Agustín Melara	amelara@gardenschool.org
Key Club	Jim Pigman	jpigman@gardenschool.org
Radio Ham Club (UD only)	John Hale	jhale@gardenschool.org
Lego Robotics	Marlene Dapice	mschultz@gardenschool.org
Literary Magazine	Richard Marotta	rmarotta@gardenschool.org
Middle School Debate	Richard Kruczek	rkruczek@gardenschool.org
	Phil D'Anna	pdanna@gardenschool.org
High School Debate	Amira Booth-Soifer	asoifer@gardenschool.org
Model United Nations	Sarah Smith-O'Sullivan	ssmith@gardenschool.org
Student Council	Sonia Ambarsom	sambarsom@gardenschool.org
Yearbook	Richard Marotta	rmarotta@gardenschool.org
Tech Crew	Richard Marotta	rmarotta@gardenschool.org
Middle School Soccer	Richard Kruczek	rkruczek@gardenschool.org
	Flance Dervishi	fdervishi@gardenschool.org
Varsity Soccer	Gabriel Gomis	ggomis@gardenschool.org
Varsity Volleyball	Flance Dervishi	fdervishi@gardenschool.org
	Cherie Wangenstein	cwangenstein@gardenschool.org

Garden School "Community" Site Improves Communication

By Jim Gaines, Director of Upper Division Admissions and Outreach

Many Garden parents use the Garden School website to access everyday information such as dining room menus, athletic schedules, Thinkwave and Teacher Pages, for example. The trouble is, it can take a while to load and *it can take so many clicks to find what you want*! We have created a simple solution, **the Garden Community Site**! Click on the link to check it out and save it to your phone.

The idea is simple, place an icon on your desktop or phone with a link to a page that has all the links for which you are looking. A screenshot is to the right. The site is elegant and functional and will save you time. You can also scan the QR code above to access the Garden Community Site.

Load the Community/Garden School icon to your phone's homepage now and quickly access all the info you need regularly! (PS If you have an idea of what other buttons should be on there, let me know! jgaines@gardenschool.org)

Garden Enrollment Referral Program

The beginning of the school year can be a rough time for some families and perhaps you have friends in other schools who are looking for a better option. Did you know that Garden will give you a discount on your tuition for finding a family who enrolls at Garden?

Garden has a Referral Program in place to incentivize current families to refer new families who enroll at Garden. For every NEW full-time Garden student who enrolls and pays their tuition due in full and indicates that you are the referring family, the referring family will receive $1,000 tuition credit. For each *additional* new student that enrolls, the referring family will receive a $1,500 tuition credit once the new family has paid tuition in full.

Although it is not necessary for us to have the card below, it allows us to keep track of your participation in a new family's enrollment. You can also choose to send an email with the information on the card directly to Jim Gaines, Director of Outreach, at jgaines@gardenschool.org. With your permission, we will follow up with the prospective family.

Garden School Enrollment Referral Card for Prospective Families

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

The following family might be interested in receiving information about Garden School for their children.

Referred Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____
Address Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Child's Name: _____
Grade Next September: _____ Current School (if known): _____
Notes/Comments: _____

Please return this form to front desk, or the Outreach office or simply contact the **Garden School Outreach Office directly** at (718) 335-6363 x28 jgaines@gardenschool.org www.gardenschool.org

Parent Teacher Association

By: Diane Sarro, PTA President

Welcome back Garden Families! Your PTA Officers for this year are:
Diane Sarro, President
Maria D'Amore, Vice President
Evelyn Frey, Treasurer
Gail Montemayor, Secretary
Sarah Atwood, Corresponding Secretary

Thank you all for our work on behalf of securing an excellent education for our children and supporting the values of Garden School!

All parents and teachers are invited to participate in PTA events. Members in good standing (those who have paid their dues) may vote. Dues of $50 may be paid directly to the Garden School PTA or added to your tuition bill.
Our PTA 2016117 meeting dates are: Tuesday, October 13th, Tuesday, January 24th, Tuesday, April 25th, PTA 2017-'18 Elections May 24th. All meetings are at 8:30 AM in the Library.

For 2016-20i7, we need help with these events: Spring Book Fair, Chair/Co-Chairs, Holiday Gift Boutique Decorators, Wrappers, Personal Shoppers, Movie Night Chair/Co-Chairs and the Walkathon Chair/Co-Chairs.

We are very grateful to our Class Representatives this year! Thank you for your help!

- 12th Grade Bruce Campbell & Christine Chudnovsky
- 11th Grade Mary Petruso
- 10th Grade Emily Ades & Rachel Gladstein
- 9th No class rep (*please volunteer*!)
- 8th Yelena Shalamov & Nat Warren
- 7th Monita Pichardo & Hazel Roseboro
- 6th Grade Scott Kahn
- 5th Lynda Welburn & Nicole Sharpe
- 4th Blair Papagni
- 3rd Dawn Dalia
- 2nd Nicole Adams
- 1st Grade Clara Solomon
- Kindergarten Paola Quezada De Castro
- PK3/4 Phil Syers
- Nursery Shama Saqi & Amanda Croushore

Contact us with questions and to volunteer your time, vision and talent. Email: **pta@gardenschool.org**

We thank you for your past and continued support. We welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me at anytime. We look forward to a spectacular year.

Pre-K For All Program

By: Laura Gilbert (PKFA Teacher)

This week the Pre-k For All program is continuing with our theme of the month, "What is Pre-k?" The students are transitioning into the school year and are learning about the rules and routines of their classroom. They are learning how to express themselves through their feelings and identify what feeling they are expressing at a specific moment.

The students have been excited to meet their new classmates and eager to learn their names. The students have been encouraged to interact and play with their new classmates. On the first day of school many teachers hear "What's your name again?" This week, I heard many of my students call for other classmates by their name. It has been a fantastic first week of school!

Nursery Homeroom

By: Carmela Augello-Knopf (Nursery Teacher)

The nursery children are enjoying making new friends and adjusting to their daily routine. Ms. Yang has begun to introduce them to Mandarin greetings, colors and numbers. They also are enjoying singing familiar songs with Mr. Heineman in music class. Exploring the playground environment by going up the steps and down the slides is definitely one of their favorite parts of the day! We read S is for School by P.J. Shaw to reinforce how many fun things there are to do.

Pre-Kindergarten Homeroom

By: Eileen Reyes (Pre-K Teacher, Dean of Grades Nursery to Kindergarten)

Labels and signs have been popping up all over the Pre-K classroom the past few days. This helps to create a literacy-rich environment that emphasizes the importance of speaking, reading, and writing.

Much reflection and thought regarding classroom design has been done to help facilitate instruction and enable students to actively learn as they explore. Labeling each center and shelf helps keep learning materials organized. Most signs and labels not only have printed words but also pictures to help our early learners correctly identify word meanings. Place cards are used to help the children know where to sit for lunch. They also will see their name printed on their cubbies and mailboxes.

Parents can help their child learn to write and draw to communicate meaning by labeling things inside their bedroom, their toys, and personal items.

Kindergarten Homeroom

By: Lauren Yandow (Kindergarten Teacher)

Welcome to Kindergarten! Although I have taught for two years in Garden School's Pre-K For All program, I am thrilled to be joining the Garden School core program faculty this year as the new Kindergarten teacher. I am eager to support the philosophy, academic program and educational diversity of this school. I am also pleased to have John Vogel as my class assistant and to be working alongside an experienced and passionate educator, Mrs. Reyes, whom I look forward to collaborating with each day as we share our educational space.

During the first week of Kindergarten, students have become acclimated to the daily routines, rules, our learning centers throughout the classroom, and their new fellow classmates. We enjoyed learning new things about one another through our "All About Me" projects, and in the various name and family activities in our centers. An important part of our morning routine is our Morning Meeting. Each student participates in Morning Meeting as we take our attendance, and complete our morning message, calendar, and schedule for the day. Soon, students will be assigned different jobs in order to facilitate independence and allow each student to be involved in the classroom community in a unique way.

Students were exposed to their first phonics and math lessons this week as we waste no time diving into the academic curriculum! As we develop phonological awareness, students will study one letter each week, as well as learn different math topics that will expand upon each other as the year progresses. This week, our focus was on the letter S and "shapes"! Students engaged in various writing practices and even used different materials to create the letter S and practice its sound. In the math center, we used manipulatives such as pattern blocks to combine shapes to make new shapes and discussed more complex shapes like hexagon, octagon, and trapezoid! Students were also introduced to one of their writing journals which they will use to work independently to develop their fine motor skills. The Kindergarten class looks forward to many more weeks in this warm and productive learning environment!

Grade 1, 2 and 3 Homerooms

By: ***Paula Sirard-James (Dean of Grades 1-3, Grade 2 Teacher)***
Kristen Ahlfeld (First Grade Teacher)
Julia Schatten (Third Grade Teacher)

The first, second, and third grade students began the school year enthusiastically by making new friends, meeting new teachers, and demonstrating small acts of kindness. It didn't take long before students began to share their knowledge of the school, share supplies, and help others find their way to the correct room.

As classes began, the first graders proudly sat at their new desks learning new routines and preparing to travel to different classes in science, art, and computer. The second graders have been making friends with new first, second, and third grade students, setting up class rules, and focusing on their responsibility to be kind and respectful to one another through reading, writing and presentation activities. The third graders have been working together to make a strong, kind, and caring community as well. The class discussed what rules were important to them, created locker decorations, shared information about themselves, and wrote about their feelings towards the first day of school. These activities have helped the students get to know each other and have brought them closer together. We will continue to work together to build a strong, considerate and trustworthy first, second, and third grade community.

A special thanks to our class representatives: Mrs. D'Amore and Clara Solomon (Bella & Nadia, first grade), Nicole Adams (Tori, second grade), and Dawn Dalia (Steven, third grade). Your support will make a tremendous difference to our students and families, and we look forward to an exciting school year working together.

Grade 4, 5 and 6 World Languages

By: Gabriel Gomis (French Teacher)

French 4 has been introduced to the alphabet, the phonetics, the greetings, and courtesy words. Students have been practicing through dialogue and games. They also started to learn the numbers from zero to twenty. They are very energetic and eager to learn French.

French 5 reviewed the greetings, likes and dislikes, and numbers. Students mainly reviewed through dialogues. We will continue through oral practices to strengthen the knowledge acquired in the previous year.

French 6 reviewed the numbers from 0 to 100. The new students have been exposed to the alphabet, the phonetics, and numbers. The students who have been previously exposed to French are practicing the likes and dislikes.

Grade 7 Social Studies

By: Sarah O'Sullivan (Social Studies Teacher)

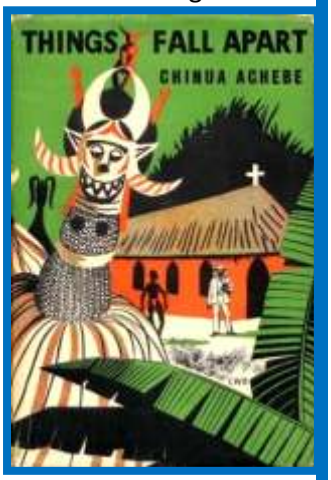
The beauty of education is that each new school year brings a fresh start and a euphoric feeling of optimism. Students (and teachers) come to school with new supplies, pencils freshly sharpened and brains eager to be filled with both information and new memories and life experiences.

The seventh graders arrived with a mixture of excitement and a twinge of anxiety as they entered the upper division. Their fears melted away as upper division students and teachers welcomed these young scholars to the next stage do their Garden experience.

Grade 8 Social Studies

By: Sarah O'Sullivan (Social Studies Teacher)

A new year of promises and opportunities and, of course, knowledge!



The course, Area Studies, focuses on the world and it's incredible civilizations, distinct cultures of ethnic groups and the issues entangled with imperialism. We begin this journey by examining a memoir and a novel which discuss worlds that turn upside down when tolerance and social responsibility are forgotten.

Over the summer vacation, students read both the *Diary of Anne Franke* as well as Chinua Achebe's masterpiece *Things Fall Apart*. Both of these works of literature lead to class discussions about how different religions and cultures are not odd or weird, but in fact rich with history and amazing with customs, traditions and wisdom. These are very important ideals that we celebrate at Garden School where diversity is one of our proudest characteristics. In a school where we strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for each individual student, tolerance and social responsibility are critical ideals.

Grade 9 English - Writing

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

Garden is confident that when our graduates move on into college they will be well-versed in writing skills. Ninth graders, of course, write in most of their courses. In addition, they write three times a week during an additional class that meets alternating with physical education.

Topics are selected to get the students back in the writing and thinking mood after the summer months away from composition and concentration on writing. "Be positive in your life and live for the hope of the future" was one of the

broad categories that they wrote about on Thursday. Agree or disagree and then give your opinion and evidence in an essay. And quickly, silently, the ninth graders put pens to paper and had the experience, the practice of one more essay, one more chance to work on the essential skill of writing and expressing themselves clearly.

Grade 10 Art

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

The 10th grade Asian Art Class has begun the year with exploring the Asian Art available for all to see at the Metropolitan Museum through the magic of the SMARTboard. Watching the documentary, they were able to enjoy five millennia of treasures brought back from China.

Using carving tools on a piece of soft rubber, they have begun to create a 'signature stamp' which will be their 'signature' for all projects completed in the class. Some of the students are using their 'Chinese' symbol name, some are using an Egyptian Hieroglyphic and others a symbol which they identify with. This is an opportunity for them to connect to their inner being or 'elan vital'. Everyone has an inner being which is your complete consciousness, and the students are using this opportunity to let this emerge.

Next week, class members will be introduced to the art of making their own ink and learning how to create Chinese symbols. Five symbols will need to be created and memorized before any images are created.

Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education

By: Flance Dervishi (PE Teacher, Athlectics Department, Chair)

Welcome back everyone! It's going to be an exciting new school year. In PE class, we have started Soccer as our first unit with 11th and 12th grade. It is a very popular and competitive unit.

This week, we worked on different ways of passing and trapping the ball. Before we get into our drills, we warm up our bodies with a few jogs/sprints around the gym while controlling our breathing by taking air through our nose and out our mouth. Our first drill is practicing passing using the inside of their foot to their teammates while jogging in place. We worked on speed passing and through ball passing which was a challenge for the kids. Trapping the ball and controlling the ball also went really well.

The students are ready to start playing games next week. For the first week, we will put them into teams and see how well they work with their teammates and implement any changes that need to be made. The following week, we will start our soccer tournament at which point we will crown a champion.

Garden English Language Academy

By: Greig Roselli (ELA Instructor)

In Garden's unique English Language Academy, first year international students are immersed in a comprehensive English program. On the first day of school, Ms. Yang and Mr. Roselli greeted our nine new international students in Room 21. Students chose their seats, registered for their Math classes, exchanged emails, and shared stories about their hometowns in China, Turkey and Korea, respectively.

In the first week of school, our goal has been to make students feel comfortable and to begin talking and writing about their personal histories. Angela and Leo, Seventh graders who are twins, hail from NingBo China. Angela, smiling, spoke to the class about how NingBo has a modern train station compared to New York City's historic one-hundred year old subway system. Leo, shy to speak in front of his peers, opened up when he wrote in his notebook

that he wants to visit the Statue of Liberty. Ömer, a Tenth Grader from Izmir, a Turkish coastal city on the Aegean Sea, expressed his passion for learning English and his enthusiasm for playing on Garden's soccer team. Go Griffins! In the classroom, students are already improving their English writing skills.

Using marble composition notebooks, students have been working diligently to create a series of one hundred word stories about their first experience visiting New York City. As good readers, the kids have set goals for themselves for the year, choosing books that are not too hard nor too easy so they can incrementally grow in their reading comprehension. In a recent English class for English Language Learners, Mr. Roselli guided a discussion about a famous Zen parable. The moral of the story is that heaven is a kind of peace that is created when a teacher and student understand each other. It's a worthwhile goal.

Welcome to Our New Garden Faculty Members!

Amira Booth-Soifer
English Teacher

Cherie Wangenstein
Physical Education

Greig Roselli
ELA Instructor

Beverly Chang
Math and Science

Julia Schatten
Third Grade

Lauren Yandow
Kindergarten

Sarah Blakeley
Math Teacher