



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 92 Number: XVI

"Academic Excellence Since 1923"

Friday, January 23, 2015

Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



A few nights ago I attended the Guild dinner for Heads of independent schools in New York City. The dinner was held at the Century Club, which was founded in the 1800's to support art and artists. Throughout this rather lovely building, there were numerous paintings and texts, representing different periods and different styles of art. It was a fairly typical heads business meeting located within the walls of this rather remarkable building.

After a while, our conversation turned to our students and graduates and then to those of our alumni who had become writers. Each of us was able to point to certain graduates who had written books on subjects ranging from medicine, to history and fiction. I left the meeting thinking about how many of our own Garden graduates had successfully developed careers as writers.

As I looked around my office, I began to pick out the volumes on my bookshelf that in some mysterious and miraculous way had their origins at Garden School. Perhaps it was a classroom experience, a reading experience or a discussion with a teacher; somehow, our graduates felt the need to pursue some of these early ideas later in life and become writers.

In a work entitled, *The Wisdom of Life Through My Patients*, Thomas Waldinger, Garden '72, explored the lessons he had learned from some of his older patients, who had lived through some very tumultuous historical events and yet had lived long and fulfilled lives. Dr. Waldinger drew on these experiences and then through his own commentaries reflected on the lessons to be learned about how to live a life that is thoughtful, reflective and filled with wisdom.

Laura Hapke, Ph.D., Garden '63, looked at history and lives from both a fictional perspective as well as a cultural-historical one. In two of her books, *Labor's Text: The Worker in American Fiction* and *Daughters of the Great Depression*, Dr. Hapke examines the representation of historical struggle within the context of literature. She examines the presentation of labor, economic struggle and the struggle for human rights and dignity within the last two centuries of American fiction. Her findings and analysis offer a remarkable insight into how fiction and history begin to exchange identities.

Some of our other former students who taken an expository as well as fictional look at other moments in history. Phyllis Newbeck, '79, who was a lifer at Garden, wrote a most interesting study of interracial marriage in America; her book, *Virginia Hasn't Always Been for Lovers*, examines the legal and social history of interracial marriage bans in the US, and in particular, the case of Richard and Mildred Loving of Virginia. With her background as an attorney, Ms Newbeck probes into the details of the Loving case that led to the Supreme Court decision in 1967, declaring bans against interracial marriage to be unconstitutional.

Taking a fictional approach to history is another one of our former students, Lois Shapley Bassen, who, in *Summer of the Long Knives*, creates a fictional account of the assassination of Adolf Hitler in 1934. Ms Bassen's novel creates a vivid picture of the turmoil taking place in Germany in the 1930's and the impact of that volatility on the lives of her characters. Her account of the events leading to this fictional assassination of Hitler in 1934 presents a world in which foresight and hindsight converge into a dramatic and powerful resolution.



Our most recently published alumni writer is Matt Burgess, Garden '00, whose first book, *Dogfight*, received wonderful reviews from the New York Times Book Review, and which has just been followed by *Uncle Janice*, both published by Doubleday. Mr. Burgess has created a fictional world within the Jackson Heights community, in which his character struggles to survive within a vividly constructed underworld. His writing, in the words of the famous Irish writer Roddy Doyle, creates a 'brilliantly realized character! "

All of these writers studied literature at Garden School and have transformed their love of literature and writing into a continuation of that love. Congratulations to all of them!



Current core program parents, if you have not already done so, please click on the link and complete the 5-10 minute Garden School Parent Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P7GQWN2>

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Thursday, January 29 : Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, January 30 : Report Cards Returned
- College Night for the Class of 2016 6:00 PM
- Thursday, February 12 : International Trip Departs
- Monday, February 16 – Friday, February 20 : School Closed for February Break
- Monday, February 23 : School Resumes

Foundations After-school Classes Brochure is now available!

It's time to sign up for the next semester of Foundations. We are very excited to bring back some of our all-time favorites such as dance, tae kwon do and bowling. However this spring semester is offering new classes that are sure to keep everyone busy and happy after school. There is a knitting class, a Spanish language class as well as drama and engineering. Please check out our brochure! To insure your child gets a spot in the class he or she is looking forward to taking, please sign up as soon as possible!

<http://www.gardenschool.org/spring-2015-afterschool-classes-brochure-is-here/>



News From the Gala

The 2015 Garden School Gala will be held on March 27th at Terrace On The Park. Join us for cocktails, dinner, dancing and our Live and Silent Auction. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit our Science and Technology Programs.

We are proud to announce our 2015 Honorees.

Hope & Geroge Alexiou

In Memory of Melina Alexiou '96

Eileen Reyes

Dean N-K, Early Childhood Faculty
Beginning Thirty Years of Service to Garden School

Lisa Sohmer

Director of College Counseling and Upper Division Coordinator
Recognizing Her Outstanding Achievements in the Field of College Counseling

The Gala Committee has been working since the fall to make sure that this year's party will be the best ever. Our DJ will be back so dust off your dancing shoes! Invitations will be going out during the first week of February.

Julia Silber, alumni parent '14, is our Journal Chair and has begun selling Journal Ads. We are also accepting Live and Silent Auction donations. Both forms and an information letter are available on the Gala Page of the Garden website, Gardenschool.org/gala

Consider joining the Gala Committee. The committee is representative of the Garden Community, made up of parents, alumni and alumni parents. We meet on Friday mornings at 8:30am in the Library as well as in the evening. Our next evening meeting is scheduled for January 30th at 7pm in the library.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the invitations for mailing next Saturday, January 31st at 10AM. Please join us for coffee and a light breakfast. Meet some fellow parents, alumni and alumni parents.

Please contact us at gala@gardenschool.org with any questions you may have or to get involved.

We look forward to celebrating Garden School and the Garden School Community on March 27th. Hope to see you there.

Jean Kinn

Gala Committee Chair

**The Garden School Gala will take place on Friday March 27, 2015 at Terrace on the Park!
Gala info, Journal Ad and auction donation forms: <http://www.gardenschool.org/gala/>**



Mandarin for Early Childhood

By: Kelly Yang (Mandarin Teacher)

In this multiple-day unit, we are continuing our lesson about animals in Chinese. First we reviewed common pets and animals, such as dog, cat, rabbit, and fish etc. The children expressed the like and dislike regarding these animals. Initially, the children interpret and react to the pictures, illustrations, and songs.

Beginning this year, we are starting to learn about Chinese Zodiac animals. In Kindergarten, kids have learned the story of the Zodiac. Through the story, the children gain the ability to identify pictures about the zodiac animals, and have deeper understanding of how the Chinese zodiac has been made. At the end of this unit, students will interact with their teacher and classmates by asking and telling about their Chinese zodiac animal signs, also will be able to express their likes and dislikes upon these animals.

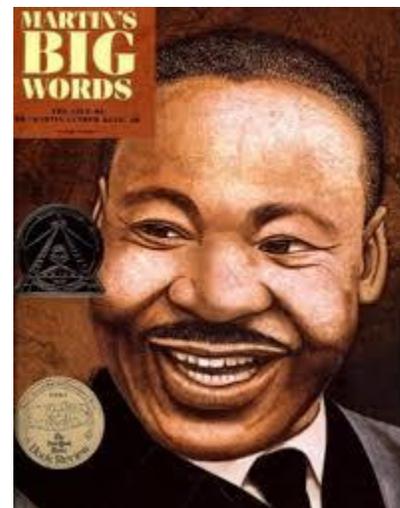


Social Studies for Grade 1

By: Jacquelyn Renner (Grade 1 Teacher)

Prove it! That was an often heard phrase in First Grade during activities surrounding Martin Luther King Day.

While learning about Martin Luther King, Jr, students practiced supporting their answers to comprehension questions with evidence from the text. Students were able to use their prior knowledge on the subject to give answers and expand on concepts. They were then asked to show where the answer was in the passage. Everyone took out their highlighters to mark the information in the text. We also read and listened to a recording of *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport including a short clip of "I Have a Dream". This biography utilized quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr which captured the students' attention. After listening, words and phrases such as "love is the key", "freedom", and "justice" were pulled and explained what they meant to each student. Students felt the words meant that they can work together with their friends to accomplish tasks, share, be fair, and get along.



We are also beginning our economics unit this week. We begin with defining and classifying needs and wants. After much thought it was agreed upon that although cookies are food, one of our needs, we could survive without them. We created a cool house foldable to place our needs inside and our wants outside of. We will also learn about goods and services which will lead us to our much anticipated community helper project. During this project students will research community helpers; their duties, tools, and workplaces culminating in a PowerPoint presentation.



Social Studies for Grade 2

By: Stephanie Parker (Grade 2 Teacher)

In a connection between reading and social studies, the second grade students have been studying biographies and timelines.

During reading class, the second graders read *African-American Inventors* by Jim Haskins. They were fascinated with Benjamin Banneker's wooden clocks and almanacs and George Washington Carver's three hundred products made from peanuts. The students read biographies on these inventors and organized the important events on timelines.

Over winter break, the second graders chose biographies to read independently. They read about historical figures, musicians, athletes, scientists and artists. They designed posters with photos and a timeline with at least five important events. They presented their projects to the class by reading their timelines aloud. They also took questions and compliments from their classmates.

The second graders also read *Martin's Big Words*, by Doreen Rappaport, a biography of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They studied a PowerPoint presentation timeline and watched clips of the "I have a dream..." speech. Multidisciplinary connections, connecting reading and social studies for example, allow for authentic learning. The students are encouraged to make meaningful connections across subject areas. This unit also allowed for the students to work on their public speaking and listening skills.



Social Studies for Grade 3

By: Nilla Ingravallo (Grade 3 Teacher)

During the winter vacation, the third graders explored their family culture. In their last social studies unit, the students learned that culture is the way of life of a group of people. They studied how culture includes a group's food, language, music, holidays, and so much more. To further their understanding of this concept, the students completed a project called *Bagful of Culture*. Working with their parents and family members, the third graders learned about where their families are from and they collected materials that represent those cultures. They placed these items in a decorated brown paper bag, and they wrote a summary about what they learned. The bags included objects, such as maps, flags, recipes, photographs, clothes, statues, instruments, and language, from these countries.





Last week, the third graders brought in their projects to share with their classmates. The students were taught how to deliver their work to a group. We discussed proper presentation skills and the role of the speaker as well as the audience. They learned how to prepare for public speaking by identifying what information is important to provide an audience with and how to clearly present their work. To reinforce this, the students viewed a video on *BrainPOP Jr.* entitled "Listening and Speaking," which provided exemplary examples of speakers and audiences. The third graders then practiced their presentations before showing their classmates. Their note cards and summary served as a guide for their Bagful of Culture presentation.



After preparation, they presented their projects to the class. The third graders enjoyed sharing with their peers artifacts and information about their cultures and heritages. Through these presentations, the students learned about the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Romania, Hong Kong, Thailand, Italy, the United States, Senegal, Ecuador, Antigua and Barbuda, the Philippines, England, Peru, Greece, Cuba, Hungary, Haiti, Mexico, Germany, and Poland. During these presentations, they were able to identify similarities and differences between their cultures.

This project was a good foundation for future in-depth learning of cultures and communities in the United States and other countries.

Physical Education for Grades 4 to 6

By: Flance Dervishi (Athletic Director)

We have started a new unit called Newcomb in our 4th grade Physical Education class. Newcomb is a simplified version of volleyball and we use it to teach Volleyball fundamentals with our younger classes. The main difference between Newcomb and Volleyball is that the ball can be caught before passing to a team-mate or over the net. Each throw or serve is a throw instead of a hit over the net. The kids love the game as everyone has the chance to catch the ball and work as a team to get the ball over the net.



We have started a new Badminton unit in our 5th and 6th grade classes. In preparation for the tennis unit, Badminton is the perfect unit to work on the fundamentals of tennis. Badminton can be played 1 vs. 1 or 2 vs. 2 players at a time on the court. Players score points by striking a birdie with their Racquet so that it passes over the net and lands in their opponents' half of the court. The birdie is a feathered ball that stays in the air for quite some time so the player have time to work on their Forehand, backhand, over head and placing the birdie on open areas to score points. Each side may only strike the birdie once before it passes over the net, a rally ends once the birdie has hit the floor, or if a fault has been called by the teachers. After a week of explaining the game and working on different ways of hitting the birdie, we have finally partnered everyone and have started our regular season tournament. The regular season games are up to 7 points to give everyone a chance to play 2 or 3 games every class. We will start our playoffs in a week and crown a champion before our February break.





Art for Grades 7 and 8

By: Tiina Prio (Art Teacher)

The 7th and 8th grade art students began to work on a Chuck Close project. Mr. Close overcame many obstacles in his life, but he did not let that get in the way of his love of art. The students are using many shades and tints of one color to achieve a blended feel to their pictures. One set of colors are used for the subject and another for the background. It is a project that requires lots of concentration because the boxes overlap from subject to background and similar colors cannot touch each other except for a corner. Concentration is a necessary skill that students need to have in order to overcome any obstacles they may face not only in art but also in life.



English for Grade 9

By: James Pigman (English Teacher)

Sometimes the universe moves to align disparate forces. What a happy conjuncture when English 9 had time to watch the 1961 production of *Westside Story*.

This quintessential American work has choreography by Jerome Robbins, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, all based on Romeo and Juliet and Shakespeare's story. The students were enthralled at the musical approach to the story. Singing cops, dancing gang members, playgrounds as stages, amidst all of the angst of teenagers in love. Theater can speak to us when we allow it to. The ninth graders by and large have now this great American work, the music of Bernstein, the dancing, Manhattan's Westside and the wonderful story of everyman in love as part of their background and approach to life.

English for Grade 10

By: Marcia Elkind (English Teacher)

Friday, January 23, 2015. Is it the last day of the 1st semester or the first day of the 2nd semester? Hmmm. Let's call the Friday after midterm exams a "free day" for teachers to explore small lessons that are unique, related to curriculum but a bit "outside the box".

As the tenth grade finished reading Shakespeare's *MACBETH* just before the exam, we thought it would be fun to wrap up the semester with an acting workshop focused on the play. Two actors, Mikey and Laura from Classic Stage Company organized a one hour exploration of the play through voice and movement. The students "warmed up" their voices with a series of silly, nonsensical sounds and added actions, both large and small. Lots of laughter.





We then divided into groups of four and learned to do "tableaux" based on the play. Each group "struck a pose" representing the action of a particular scene, from the witches greeting Macbeth and Banquo, to Lady Macbeth trying to rub imagined blood off her hand, to Macbeth yelling at an empty chair, to the witches concocting a magical brew. They went on to add the words of the play to the scene, encouraged to paraphrase, use props, and tactics to achieve a desired objective. At the end, all the smiling faces gave a big, "Boorah-ha!" Sometimes it's nice to get up from our desks and "do" literature!



The second semester will commence on Monday. We will pick up our vocabulary lessons, do a unit of poetry appreciation and writing, read lots of good books, like ANTHEM, by Ayn Rand and SONG OF SOLOMON by Toni Morrison. I wonder.....can you act out a poem?

Math for Grades 11 and 12

By: Lara Leggio (Math Teacher)

The pre-calculus class has been working hard as we reached midterm week. We recently reviewed concepts that we previously learned as we prepared for the midterm. When we did this, we realized how much we truly have learned thus far. We also found that we can apply our skills with the graphing calculator to the algebra concepts learned before we were introduced to a graphing calculator. In the next weeks, we will be exploring graphs of functions, such as quadratics and polynomials, both algebraically and graphically.

GARDEN SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Get your Garden School 2014/15 Yearbook order in! Also, did you know that you can have your very own dedication pages? Your pages will be printed in every yearbook! Students can also design pages and share the costs with the friends, teammates etc.!

To order click http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productDetail/1054215/Garden-School/Yearbook/2014082404164079370/CATALOG_SHOP/YB_BOOKS/All-Color-Yearbook/2014082404164082370/

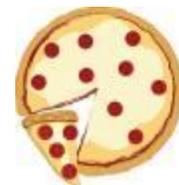
by the January 26th deadline.

Follow Garden School on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gardenschoolnyc>

Garden School Robotics Team Video, January 2015

Click this link below and enjoy this short video that was filmed during last Wednesday's session.

http://youtu.be/oX3vYY_1Pt0



DREAMING OF WARM WEATHER YET??

We are!

The Garden School Gala is just around the corner and you know what that means??

POOL & PIZZA PARTY COMPETITION!!

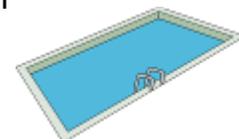
This year's competition will have a first place AND second place winner for the lower and upper school with a tie breaker for those close calls...

First place prize is a pool/pizza party for your class.

Second place prize is a class ice cream party.



You will learn more about how to earn points for your class later but don't wait until then to earn points!



GET STARTED NOW and earn **EXTRA POINTS** for your class!

From now until February break (2/13/15), you can earn 5 points (usually one point each) for every personal journal ad you buy or sell for the Garden School Gala Journal

or

your class can earn 25 points (usually 10 points) for a class journal ad purchased.

To get more information, purchase an ad now, or get the necessary forms for soliciting ads, please go to www.gardenschool.org/gala or email us at gala@gardenschool.org

****Already purchased an ad?***

Don't worry! We will honor your support of Garden School with the same deal!



Journal Ad Order Form

The 2015 Garden School Gala will be held on March 27th at Terrace on the Park. Please join us as we celebrate the Garden School Community. We will also be recognizing the 2015 Griffin Circle.

Journal Ads and Message pages will be printed in color and are available in all of the following sizes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Young Alum 2004-2014 Ad	\$35.00	\$31.50		
<input type="checkbox"/> Third of a Page	\$60.00	\$54.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (gold)	\$500.00 \$450.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$125.00	\$112.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover Front	\$750.00 \$675.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (white)	\$250.00	\$225.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover Back	\$750.00 \$675.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (silver)	\$300.00	\$270.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover	\$1000.00 \$900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Class Page:	Grade: _____	\$ _____		

Email Art Work to gala@gardenschool.org

Copy Attached Copy to Follow Repeat Last Year's Ad

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Previous Name - Class Year: _____

Credit/Debit Card Type: Amex Visa Master Card Cash Check

Name on card: _____

Number: _____ Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____

I have enclosed my employer's Matching Gift Form.

Please return this form by March 10th, along with payment and any enclosures to the address below.

For more information or questions, please go to the Gala page at gardenschool.org/gala, email us at gala@gardenschool.org or call us at 718 335-6363. Garden School is a Not for Profit 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID #111631783. Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.

Each gift to the project – through journal ads, tickets purchased, contributions to the auction or through an employer's matching gift program – is important.

We hope that families, students, alumni and friends will all be partners in the success of the 2015 Garden School Gala.