



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 95 Number: X

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, January 12, 2018



## *Thoughts for the Week*

By *Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster*



The announcement for our spring Gala has gone out, and we are all very excited about the incredible possibilities that this holds for our school. This Gala gives us an opportunity to recognize the incredible contributions of Mr. Hale, Mr. Ricatto and Mr. Pilates. All of three of these individual shave been instrumental in developing and popularizing out HAM Radio program, and even more importantly, each has added to the life of the school. This celebration of their accomplishments and contributions should be a very significant community event for our school.

As we planned the event, we were thrilled that we could do a Friday the thirteenth theme and structure our Gala as a masked ball. I have heard so many teachers and parents planning their dress for the night as the spirit of the event has been growing within the school community. What is emerging is a spirit of participation in the night.

Garden School needs the full participation of parents, teachers, alumni, trustees and friends to help us celebrate our honorees and to celebrate our wonderful school that is now in its 95<sup>th</sup> year! All members of our community have an obligation and the pleasure of supporting our growth and development at the Gala. Each year we call upon the community to support Garden School through participation in events that add to our growth.

Please save the date, Friday, April 13, as a night in which we will recognize achievements, dedication and vision. Our celebration belongs to all of us who share in the life of the school, whose children study and grow at Garden, whose teachers engage in the daily process of instruction and guidance, whose alumni have benefited from the Garden experience, whose administrators and trustees who work tirelessly for the school—all come together at the Gala for one purpose: to strengthen our school. I am looking forward to see you all their—with masks, of course!

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.  
Headmaster



**Remember!**

**Teacher and staff  
names by their  
articles are also  
email links!**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Thursday, Jan. 11 – Thursday, Jan. 18 : Midterm Exams for Upper Division**
- **Monday, Jan. 15 : School Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **Friday, Jan. 19 : Marking Period #2 Ends**
- **Thursday, Jan. 25 : Report Cards Distributed**
- **Friday, Jan. 26 : Return Report Cards**

**SAVE THE DATE: GARDEN SCHOOL GALA - FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH!!**

## ***The Importance of Showing Up***

By [Brad Battaglia](#), *Director of Upper Division and College Counseling*

Most all Garden students attend school each and every day. Not only do they “show up” but they give their best effort. They have prepared their assignments, thought of the work they were asked to complete and bring to class ideas fresh for discussion and debate. A morning walk through the halls can be a heady experience, as one hears excited voices bantering about the id, ego and superego, conjugating French verbs with ease, tackling a difficult proof at the board, or considering the role of taxation on the development of a burgeoning nation.

As educators, we love the work we do. Children, adolescents and young adults grow before our eyes, developing their interests along the way. Some are talented artists, others find a love of math - even as it challenges them! – and still more come to enjoy crafting essays analyzing characters, layered and complex. We aim to fuel their enthusiasm and find their avid participation in extra-curricular and after-school programs proof of their appetite to challenge themselves and to take learning, in all its forms, further. And, at Garden, we are thrilled to provide all of these academic and varied experiences.

However, we know as educators and parents that school as an institution is finite in nature. Eventually, we all graduate and move into the “real” world, whatever that means, and we are destined to grow up and make money and pay bills, buy cars and take trips and the like. So, what happens to our learning once we leave school? Does our education continue? Does listening to the radio each morning, or taking in a concert at Lincoln Center, count as learning? What about reading a thought-provoking book or taking a difficult hike over a weekend?

In truth, our true education never ends. We are given opportunities each day to better ourselves and understand the world in new ways. And, when we do this, our children notice it, too. They witness our reading, our use of language, our emotional intelligence when conversing with a friend in need, they see us either overcoming challenges or learning from our mistakes. And, when we’re lucky, they ask us questions . . . questions that show us they want to learn outside the classroom, that they wish to learn from us what it is to navigate the world as an adult and put into practice the things they are learning at Garden.

Each of you has made sacrifices to send your child to Garden because you believe in what we offer. And we, in turn, put our faith in you. We count on you to continue the learning conversation with your child as they develop. To encourage their interests, to cultivate their curiosity, and to let them know they can pursue things long after the class bell rings.

In other words, to show up.





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SAVE THE DATE

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THE TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN GARDEN GALA  
MASQUERADE BALL

Will be held on

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH OF APRIL

6:30 PM - MIDNIGHT

Honoring

THE GARDEN SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JOHN HALE | FACULTY ADVISOR & STATION TRUSTEE

GERARD PILATE | PRESIDENT, HALL OF SCIENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MICHAEL RICATTO | VICE PRESIDENT, HALL OF SCIENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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*Early Bird Special*

8 am January 8 - Midnight January 20  
Only

TICKETS ARE **\$113** FOR **13** DAYS

Get this one time discount at [www.gardenschoool.org/gala](http://www.gardenschoool.org/gala)  
for a limited time before the price increases to \$130.



GARDEN GALA  
2018

100/\$100 Raffle

APPLE WATCH HERMÈS  
SERIES 3 GPS+CELLULAR

42mm

Stainless Steel Case

Indigo Swift Leather Single Tour

VALUED AT \$1,199

100 tickets  
- *for* -  
\$100 each

HERMÈS

BUY  
TICKETS  
NOW

[gardenschool.org/gala](http://gardenschool.org/gala)





## GARDEN GALA 2018

# WIN A POOL/PIZZA OR ICE CREAM PARTY FOR YOUR CLASS

Help support the 2018 Garden Gala on April 13 by contributing in any of the ways below.

One Upper Division and one Lower Division class with the highest percentage of participation in the below activities will win a Pool/Pizza Party.  
The Second Place class receives an Ice Cream Party.

Gather points for your class by:

### Class Points 10 points each

Pool together funds to purchase a class Journal Ad. Price ranges from \$60-\$1000.

Create a themed class basket for the Silent Auction. See back for ideas. Put it together yourself or the Gala Committee can for you. Or, pool together funds to purchase a high-value item for the auction.

Pool together \$125 to purchase a Teacher Ticket for the Gala.

### Individual Points 1 point each

Buy or solicit a Journal Ad of any size.

Purchase a ticket to the Gala. This includes Teacher Tickets.

Purchase a 100/\$100 Raffle ticket.

Donate an item to the Silent Auction.

Make a donation to the 2018 Gala of \$10 or more.



Visit [www.gardenschool.org/gala](http://www.gardenschool.org/gala) for information on these activities. Email us at [gala@gardenschool.org](mailto:gala@gardenschool.org) if you have any questions.

The winners will be announced the week after the Gala. In the event of a tie, the class that purchased/sold the most Journal Ads will win.



# GARDEN GALA

2018

## GIFT BASKET IDEAS

Teacher Basket  
Filled with Teacher Favorites

Toys

Sports

Jewelry

Mother's Day

Father's Day

Baby

Books  
Children or Adult

Make Up

Perfume or Cologne

College Student

Board Games

Shaving Tools

Men's / Women's

Neighborhood / Borough  
Taste of Jackson Heights, etc.

New York City  
Metro Cards / Subway Map / etc.

Education

Movies / TV Shows

Alumni

Senior "Welcome to College"

Food / Spirits / etc.

Chocolate

Champagne

Restaurant Gift Certificates

Coffee / Tea

Museum / Zoo Passes

Technology

Wedding Engagement

Sci-Fi

Spring Planting

Grocery



## GARDEN GALA 2018

### JOURNAL ADS

Honor a loved one or recognize a business in the 2018 Gala Journal.  
All ads are printed in color and are available in the following sizes:

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Congratulatory Message Line	\$20.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Third of a Page	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (gold)	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover (front)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (white)	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Cover (back)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (silver)	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover	\$1000.00

These ads sell quick! Make sure you order yours in time.  
Go to [www.gardenschool.org/gala](http://www.gardenschool.org/gala) to purchase.

### SILENT AUCTION

Have an item to donate to the 2018 Gala Silent Auction powered by Handbid?  
Make your donation at [www.gardenschool.org/gala](http://www.gardenschool.org/gala).

Past donations include technology, vacations, wine, event tickets, and more.

And be sure to download the Handbid app on your smartphone to register for “Garden School Gala 2018” to bid in the Silent Auction.



Garden School is a Non for Profit 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID #11-1631783. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. All monies raised benefit our students directly. Join us in celebrating our school and supporting its mission to educate our students to the highest of academic, social and personal standards.





## GARDEN GALA 2018

— YOU'RE INVITED —

*To the*

2018 GALA

# KICKOFF

## WINE TASTING EVENT



GARDEN SCHOOL LIBRARY  
FRIDAY MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> 2018 • 7:00 PM

Kick off the 2018 Gala in style! We will have a tasting of select regional wines paired with some nibbles and desserts. Spend a great night with the Garden Community, fellow parents, alumni, faculty and friends of Garden School. Gala tickets, Journal Ads and Raffle Tickets will be on sale and the Gala Committee will be on hand to assist you. Be our guest! We hope to see you there! RSVP at [gardenschool.org/gala](http://gardenschool.org/gala).

## FOLLOW & LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For all updates regarding the 2018 Garden Gala.



@gardenschoolgala



@gardengala



@gardenschoolgala





The 2018 Garden Gala  
Masquerade Ball

*will be held on*  
Friday, the 13th of April

*from*  
6:30 pm to Midnight

*at*  
Terrace on the Park.

We will be honoring the amazing Garden School Amateur Radio Club which received news coverage recently for connecting New Yorkers to their families in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. We will also be honoring Mr. John Hale, who is the Faculty Advisor and Station Trustee of the club, as well as Mr. Gerard Pilate, the President of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club and Mr. Michael Ricatto, the Vice President of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, both of whom are the club's founders and mentors.

Join us at this year's Garden Gala for a night of dancing, food, auction,  
and reconnecting with past and current families.

## LIMITED TIME DISCOUNT!

Between 8 am, tomorrow January 8 and Midnight on January 20

**Tickets are just \$113 for 13 days!**

Get this one time, Early Bird discount before the price increases to **\$130** on January 21.  
To alums who have graduated within the last 10 years: remember your tickets are only \$90!

[BUY TICKETS](#)

The Gala Season has officially begun! Buy your discounted Gala tickets now before the price increases. Look for emails from the Gala Committee with further information.

Welcome back to school!  
Dr. Richard Marotta  
Headmaster

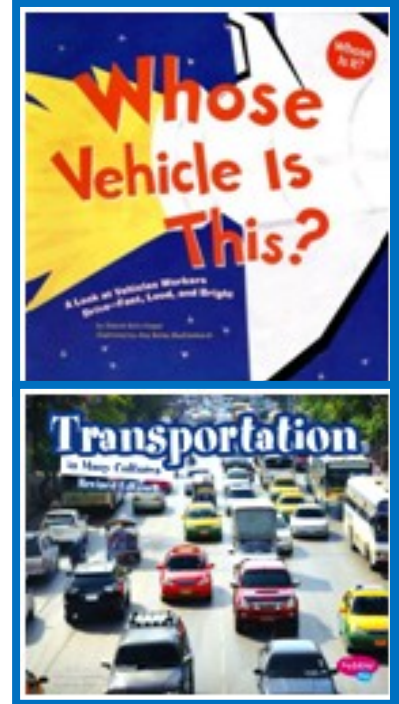


## ***Pre-K For All - Science***

By: [Christine Vitiello](#) (*Pre-K for All Faculty*)

This week in PKFA the students continue exploring how people move from place to place. This includes how we use vehicles and other methods of transportation that do not require vehicles, such as walking, elevators, and escalators. We examine trains, buses, cars, airplanes, and specialty vehicles such as dump trucks and tug boats. Focusing on how we use different types of transportation to get to school" we ask "What kinds of transportation do I use and why?"

As the students continue their exploration, we will begin discussing and observing vehicle operators, such as bus drivers, conductors, taxi drivers, pilots, police officers and other community helpers. This UPFA unit of study provides the opportunity to extend learning, allowing parents to take walking trips with their children in order to observe modes of transportation in action, as well as, inviting community helpers into the classroom. Additionally, this topic and subtopics will allow plenty of opportunities for student to develop literacy and vocabulary skills as they engage in discussions, books and retell, and act out stories they have read about transportation.



## ***Nursery, Pre-K, Kindergarten Fine Arts - Music***

By: [Tom Heineman](#) (*Music Teacher, Fine Arts Department, Chair*)

Congratulations to the entire lower division for the terrific performance they produced at the Winter Show! Early Childhood students had at least one song each that reflected the show's 1960s theme. Nursery's was the Addams Family Theme with new words that included the names of every student in the class; each student then waved to the audience when their name was uttered.

Pre-K students interpreted Fred Rogers' 1967 song 'Won't You Be My Neighbor,' a tune with which, without pigeonholing anyone, those of us above a certain age are familiar. It was, of course, the opening theme to his long running show, Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. On first listening, Pre-K students were enthusiastically calling out 'Daniel Tiger!' I had no idea that Mr. Rogers' show had been reimaged in animated form with a new character, Daniel Tiger, who sings a portion of the song and puts his sweater away in the closet in the opening sequence. During this week, Pre-K students came up with their own ideas about what it means to be a good neighbor. Being a good friend was one of the ideas; putting away your sweater was another.



One of the 1960s numbers that Kindergarteners performed was a dance that combined aspects of The Swim and The Twist, both dance crazes of the era. The Swim included free-style, back stroke, and breast stroke moves, along with abstract 'U'-shaped motions. The key to the dance was feeling and bouncing with every beat, and the Kindergarteners did well at demonstrating this. Chuck Berry's '60s song 'Club Nitty Gritty' seemed like a great song for the dance, as the tempo and groove were right and it's a song that captures the era.



## **Grades 1- Math**

**By:** [Kristen Ahlfeld](#) (First Grade Teacher)

The first graders are broadening their cognitive reasoning and arithmetic skills through exploration, learning games and activities. We have been working on solving equations and word problems with missing addends. The students are determining the unknown value in an addition or subtraction equation when two out of three numbers in an equation are given. We watched a story on the smart board entitled "The Mystery of The Missing Addend" which connected our new concept to practice. The story reinforces the concepts of solving an unknown value and finding the relationship between three whole numbers. As detectives, their jobs are to solve the mysteries successfully. The first grade detectives are also developing strategies for comprehending and devising an appropriate solution for mixed addition and subtraction word problems by finding clue words.

## **Grades 2 and 3 - Math**

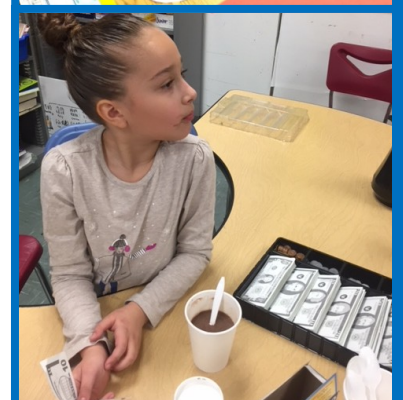
**By:** [Paula Sirard-James](#) (Second Grade Teacher, Grades 1-3, Dean)

[Rachel Vidal](#) (Third Grade Teacher)

It's been cold and snowy outside, and we've been warming up in math class! The second and third grade students have been working on addition and subtraction with regrouping and estimating. Each classroom set up a shop where students were able to purchase food or building items to complete a task. It was an exciting opportunity to practice these important math skills!

The second graders visited their classroom shop called the "Snowman Construction Company". Students are given five or ten dollars, and their task is to calculate the cost of building a snowman or snow creature for their community park. Each building component has a price, and it requires planning to ensure that all necessary items are purchased. Students take turns running the shop and assisting customers while they purchase their goods. The children have to use their addition skills to calculate how much they should pay for their goods, and how much change they should receive when their purchase is completed. We had a great time turning our room into a winter wonderland full of snowmen and other snow creatures!

The third grade classroom was transformed into the, "Hot Cocoa Café". The students were given \$10 to purchase any combination of cocoa mix, whipped cream, marshmallows, extra chocolate syrup, and peppermint sticks. They used their decision-making skills to "buy" what they could afford for their hot cocoa. First, they used their knowledge of rounding to estimate what they might be able to buy. If they didn't have enough money for their purchase, they had to decide what could be left out or exchanged for something cheaper. Next, they calculated the total cost of their cocoa creation. Using their subtraction skills, they then determined their change. Students took turns being the cashier and returned the change to the customers. This real-world experience of decision-making and estimating was both fun and delicious!





## Grades 4 - Language Arts

By: [Phil D'Anna](#) (Language Arts Teacher, Grades 4-6, Dean)

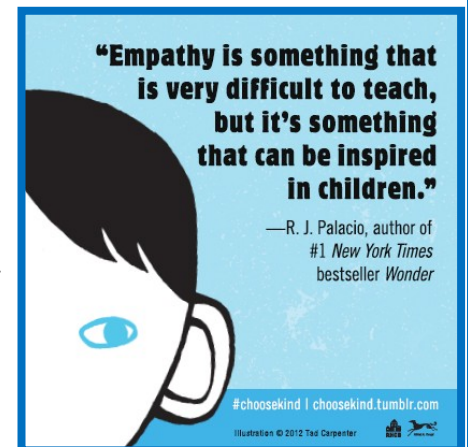
Over the winter break, the fourth grade completed various projects to conclude our reading of Andrew Clements's Room One. It was a novel that the students engaged with closely and enjoyed reading. The work they produced reflected many different styles of learning, using various styles of assessment geared to help students who are not formal "test takers". Depicting different scenes from the story, illustrating the characters, or writing a letter to the author are all ways that students interact with the information. The summaries that the students produced demonstrate that they are continuing to develop their writing – some students are working to expand their vocabulary or sentence structure, some are trying new methods of using topic sentences, and others are continuing to build their discipline with capitalization and punctuation.

In the upcoming weeks, the students will have the opportunity, again, to grow their writing skills as we begin a creative writing unit. In this unit, the students will read various short stories, and recognize the essential elements of each one: characters, setting, problem, solution, as well as a clear beginning, middle, and end. This unit will help not only develop an understanding of story elements and the writing process, but it will also encourage creativity and imaginative thinking supported through writing. Each student will explore their favorite genre of storytelling and scaffold their ideas until they've created a wonderfully constructed piece.

## Grades 5 - Language Arts

By: [Phil D'Anna](#) (Language Arts Teacher, Grades 4-6, Dean)

"When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind." – RJ Palacio, author of *Wonder*. This quote embodies one of the major themes of the class's current novel, Wonder. The story tells of a physically deformed boy, August Pullman, and his first year in a real school. Having been homeschooled his whole life, this new fifth grader must adapt to the realities of life in a school with hundreds of kids. More importantly, the school must acclimate to this new strange-looking child. The story is told through various perspectives – that of Auggie, his friends Jack and Summer, his sister, Via, and others. Though each person tells the same story with their own little twist, they all learn the same lesson: kindness matters.



The fifth grade has been studying this novel for the last few weeks. Most recently, we have read from Auggie's point of view, his sister's, and his friend Summer's. The concept of perspective is interesting for fifth graders to understand because it highlights the fact that two (or more) people can experience the same event so differently. We have had many conversations in class about empathy and what it means to put oneself in another's situation. As we continue to read the different perspectives, it is my hope that the students will be able to notice the glaring similarities and differences between each character's experiences. I hope that, by reading this book, the students will be more introspective about their own character, and learn exactly what RJ Palacio is trying to communicate: choose kind.





## **Grades 6 - Language Arts**

**By:** [Phil D'Anna](#) (*Language Arts Teacher, Grades 4-6, Dean*)

The sixth graders have taken on a tremendous amount of responsibility within the last six weeks. As we concluded our mystery genre and reading of The Name of the Game was Murder, the class was tasked with three possible extra credit assignments, a unit exam to study for, a separate novel to read, and a report to write — in language arts alone.

Admittedly, that is a lot of work! Facing this amount of work, though, has facilitated meaningful discussions about time management, goal setting, and work ethic. As a whole, the class has risen to the challenges before them and they continue to be diligent students.

More recently, we've begun a poetry unit. Initially the students explained that poetry is about rhyming, it's a way to express emotion, but it's also confusing and makes you think. After watching a short video about a 12-year old girl, the students were awed by her wisdom, expression, and word choice. Immediately their position about poetry changed to, *I want to be able to do that, or that's deep! or where does she come up with those words and ideas?* Over the next several weeks, the sixth grade will be exploring poetry, learning the different writing styles, and investigating poets' messages to readers. In their studies the sixth graders will learn not just about how poets convey emotions through writing, but how they can express themselves in writing as well.

## **Grades 7 - Science**

**By:** [Lou Albano](#) (*Science Teacher*)

The seventh grade class has been studying the intricacies of the Cardiovascular System. Our discussion began with an in depth overview of the heart and the significant parts within this marvelous muscular structure. We continued our discussions by comparing arteries, veins, and capillaries. The significance of their structures and functions were established. We looked at blood pressure and the instrument used to measure it, a sphygmomanometer. The students investigated the components of blood, specifically plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.



The human blood types and Rh factor became part of our classroom discussion. Students were amazed that there is no "best" or "worst" blood type, but rather "most common" and "least common" type. Included in our investigation was the Lymphatic System. We concluded our discussion of the Cardiovascular System with cardiovascular health. Common maladies such as heart attacks, hypertension, and atherosclerosis and how to prevent them were also discussed. Students became more aware of the complexity of the Cardiovascular System, and the importance of keeping it healthy.



## ***Grades 8 - Science***

**By:** [John Hale](#) (*Science Teacher*)

The 8th-grade Physical Science class was hard at work this week reviewing for their Mid-term Exams. Throughout the semester, the students have learned about chemistry and the properties of matter. They conducted experiments to figure out if an acid or a base would clean money better. They made posters describing the properties of matter. They started work on building rockets and working with their English class they read the book *October Sky*. They have fine-tuned their measurement skills by measuring the mass, diameter, and density of money, and compared that to the national standard and then calculated the percent error in their measurements.

Coming up this semester, they will continue their work with rockets, learn about motion and electricity. They will build airplanes, learn Morse code, build a radio direction finder and much more. In the end, it will be an amazing year for these young scientists.

## ***Grades 9 - Ancient and Medieval History***

**By:** [Richard Kruczek](#) (*History Teacher*)

The class is about to take their first set of High School midterms. While this might seem like a cause for panic, two things should prevent that from occurring: firstly, they reviewed for the first three days of this week. They have been sharp and are asking great questions, as always. Secondly, they are an immensely talented group. As the exams have grown more difficult, they have continued to display a depth of writing and a capacity for critical thought far beyond their years. They will be just fine! We shall resume classes with a study of the era of Alexander the Great, a brief yet extraordinarily influential one.

## ***Grades 10 - Modern European History***

**By:** [Richard Kruczek](#) (*History Teacher*)

The students are about to take the midterm next week. They have worked really hard, and all the students have improved nicely! Their attention to duty and detail have made them a joy to teach, and I eagerly await reading what they will produce. We will resume with a study of the French Revolution.

## ***Grades 10 - Ancient and Medieval History***

**By:** [Richard Grusky](#) (*History Teacher*)

The AP section of the tenth grade European History has completed the curriculum for the first semester. A review of the ninth grade was completed at the beginning of the year. This was followed up with an in-depth study of Europe from the Renaissance through to Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna. The second semester will deal with the period of the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries.



## **Grades 11 and 12 - World Languages - Spanish IV/AP**

**By:** [Agustín Melara](#) (Chair, World Languages Department)

With Midterm exams now upon us, students in Spanish IV / AP performed a thorough review of the first semester. This means that we revisited regular and irregular verbs in the present, preterit, and imperfect tenses as well as the differences between the verbs *Ser* and *Estar*. In addition to the grammar, we reexamined the major themes in Carlos Fuentes' novella *Aura* and reevaluated the major accomplishments of the three most influential pre-Columbian civilizations: the Aztecs, the Maya, and the Incas. The two-hour Midterm exam will be given on Thursday, January 18 at 12 pm. Buena suerte!

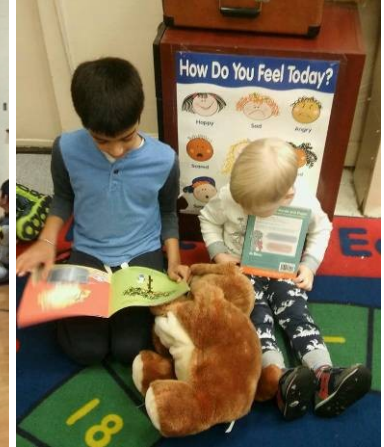
## **Grades 11 and 12 - World Languages - French Literature AP**

**By:** [Richard Marotta](#) (Chair, World Languages Department)

This fall semester was a very productive one for the AP French class. We read Gide's *La symphonie pastorale*, Camus' *L'étranger* and Daoud's *Meursault contre-enquête*. We are in the process of reading Maupassant's *Pierre et Jean*. Following this, we will read Moliere's *Tartuffe*, and then begin a unit on French contemporary literature with a reading of Beigbeder's *L'amour dure trois ans* and Nothomb's *Stupeur et tremblements*.

For each reading, we discuss the intellectual and literary movement that forms the context for our study. For example, with Maupassant, we looked at the realist and naturalist movements and their influence on Maupassant, while at the same time discussing Flaubert's direct influence on Maupassant.

## **Lower Division Pajama Day 2017**







## *Our Groovy '60's Winter Show!*

*December 22nd, 2017*

