



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 95 Number: XVIII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, March 16 2018

## Thoughts for the Week



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



As always, our school year seems to move by so quickly that one season merges into the next. We are completing the third quarter next Friday and will be entering the final quarter on the day we return from Spring Break. So many interesting and worthwhile educational events have filled our year and we know that our last quarter will also be challenging and rewarding for our students, faculty and families.

Today, we embark on the second of our Faculty Development days, we have created an agenda that should be stimulating as well as productive in terms of faculty growth and educational innovation. Administrators and faculty together will discuss and explore topics, ideas and curriculum development throughout the day. The goal is always to enlighten and engage each other to develop, innovate, and refine the art of teaching and learning.

Today we will engage in five different workshops, each dealing with and examining areas of pedagogy that have an impact on our students as well as our society: racism, collaborative teaching, classroom management, facilities renewal, and motivation.

Each topic will be "workshopped" three times by a different group during the day. This will allow each teacher and administrator to attend three of the sessions, and then report back to the full staff. These areas all have importance to our society, school and culture and have been, and continue to be, areas that NYS AIS schools examine on a regular basis in order to stimulate growth and enlightenment.

The workshop on racism will examine the nature of racism, the presence of it in our society and how schools can act as a positive force to counter the effects of racism and bigotry. Collaborative teaching is a topic that more and more schools address as a way to integrate curriculum strands and take advantage of a faculty's collective wisdom. All schools address classroom management and how a class should function in the most effective and enjoyable manner. Motivating students to engage in learning in active and positive ways is always significant to the art of teaching as teachers must reach all students and stimulate an active engagement with subject matter, and with the process of learning. Finally, more and more thought is being given to the physical aspects of the learning environment, the classroom and beyond, and exploring what would be the ideal physical learning and teaching space.

All of these workshops will be stimulating and helpful to our faculty and administrators, with the goal of developing concrete action plans for our school. Workshops stimulate ideas, which then stimulate and affect program and practice. Today's Faculty Development Day will be productive and stimulating.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.  
Headmaster



**Reenrollment Contracts for 2018-2019 were due to be signed and returned with the deposit by Monday, February 26th. If you have not returned your contract, we will assume you are not returning next year and will fill your space with another student. If this is in error, please inform the school immediately.**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Monday to Wednesday, March 12 to 21: **Garden School Spirit Week! Wear a different color each day!**
  - **Mon: Blue Tues: Purple Wed: RAINBOW!**
- Friday, March 23: Marking Period #3 Ends
- Monday, March 26 - Monday, April 2: School Closed for Spring Break
- Tuesday, April 3: Classes Resume
- Thursday, April 5: Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, April 6: Report Cards Returned
- **Friday, April 13: GALA <<< Click link for more information and tickets!**

### **Update on School Field Construction**

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

Dear members of the Garden community,

As you, I'm sure, have noticed, work has begun on the 78<sup>th</sup> play street. We have had a briefing with the Department of Parks, which I would like to share with you.

The renovation project will take approximately eighteen months and will be undertaken in three stages.

\*Stage One involves replacing the large open field in Travis Park with a grass surface and redoing the play street from the end of our garages to 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Part of that renovation will involve building an outdoor stage for productions. The stage will be available to Garden as well as to the community. This should be complete by February 2019.

\*Stage Two is the renovation of our former field. This will begin in February 2019 and will take approximately six months to complete. The field will be renovated into an athletic field with a new surface, trees, game lines etc.

\*Stage Three, which will begin in June 2019, involves renovating the play street from four garages all the way to Northern Boulevard. This should also take about six months to complete.

Garden will retain the use of the field during stage one and stage three. Obviously during stage two, when the field is being renovated, we will not have use. However, during that time, we will be able to use any and all of the other newly renovated facilities. As I learn more information, I will pass it on to you.





GARDEN GALA  
2018  
*Masquerade Ball*

*Honoring*

**THE GARDEN SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

&

MR. JOHN HALE

*Faculty Advisor & Station Trustee  
Garden School Amateur Radio Club*

MR. GERARD PILATE

*President, Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club  
Founder & Mentor, Garden School Amateur Radio Club*

MR. MICHAEL RICATTO

*Vice President, Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club  
Founder & Mentor, Garden School Amateur Radio Club*

*Join Us*

**TERRACE ON THE PARK**

*Flushing Meadows Park  
New York*

**FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH OF APRIL**

*6:30 pm - Midnight*

Cocktails & Open Bar • Hors d'oeuvres & Stations • Silent Auction  
Scholarship Pledge • Dancing & DJ

**BUY TICKETS NOW**

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



**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

**APPLE WATCH | HERMÈS**  
SERIES 3

**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

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

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.



## HANDBID

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

### 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

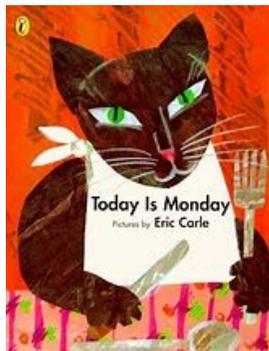
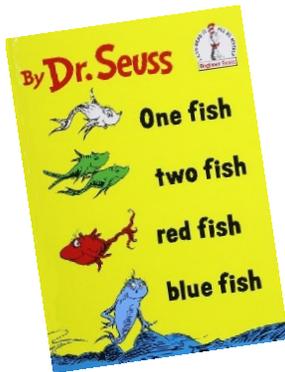


## Pre-K For All - Math

By: **Jessica Marino** (PKFA Teacher)

For the month of March, Pre-K For All unit of study is "Books". The children are being introduced to several different authors such as Dr. Seuss, Eric Carle, Leo Lionni, Mo Willems, and Mercer Mayer. We are choosing several of these authors to conduct an author study. Through this author study, the children are learning about the author, illustrator, characters, setting of a story, and even how books are made.

The children are doing several activities that tie into the "Books" unit. One of these activities is for the children to become an author and create their own books. They are learning that they too can be an author and that their stories are important. The children are being encouraged to express their thoughts and ideas through classroom discussions.



## Nursery Language Arts

By: **Carmela Augello-Knopf**, (Nursery Teacher)

Jan Brett has been the author the nursery children have been focusing on. We read The Mitten and The Hat. We listened to the stories and watched them on the smart board. As follow up activities, we worked on the animal sequence of each book and made projects to take home and retell the stories. We also read The Mitten by Alvin Tresselt and The Old Man's Mitten by Yevonne Pollock to see the differences among the versions.

We celebrated Pi day on Wednesday by making a rainbow in a 3-1-4 sequence paper chain. We hung it on our door for all to see! We've been having a fun time wearing the colors of the rainbow. It will continue next week with blue, purple and ending Wednesday with rainbow day. Each day we have been adding a color to our projects that will be sent home on rainbow day.





## Pre-K Language Arts

By: **Eileen Reyes** (Pre-K Teacher, Early Childhood, Dean)

Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1904. He published his first children's book, *And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, in 1937, after 27 publishers rejected it.

He was a winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1884, an Academy Award, three Emmy Awards, and three Caldecott Honors. He wrote and illustrated 44 books. Although he died on September 24, 1991, Dr. Seuss lives on, inspiring generations of children of all ages to explore the joys of reading.



In honor of his birthday, the Pre-K students have been doing an author study on Dr. Seuss during the month of March. Much fun is had as the children learn about words that rhyme and they love pointing out the many made-up words that are incorporated into his books. These nonsensical jumble of letters in many Dr. Seuss books are often funny and they actually help children read because it heightens their awareness of the sounds that letters make. Follow up activities to many of the books read, will be done in different centers throughout this month.

## Kindergarten - Language Arts

By: **Lauren Yandow** (Kindergarten Teacher)

This week in Kindergarten, students were introduced to new sight words as well as a new letter of the week: Xx. As the lower school celebrates Color Week by wearing a different color each day, students were also given the first four colors of the spectrum as their sight words for the week: red, orange, yellow, and green. We have incorporated these words in our writing and during center time throughout the week. Students created their own sight word rainbows to practice writing these words, and we worked with Pre-K to create a giant rainbow using leftover pieces of construction paper

In order to learn the sound of letter X, students learned words such as mix, ax, six, t-rex, wax, etc. We also learned about the -ox word family. Students practiced building words such as fox, box, pox, and sox using letter stamps and creating their own sentences using these words along with their sight words. We look forward to learning other words in the rainbow spectrum including blue, purple, brown, and black next week!





## **Grade 1 - 3 Science**

**By: Michelle Sclafani (Math and Science Teacher)**

First, Second, and Third Grade Science were full of energy and force this marking period! With Forms of Energy being our topic, all three grades had different opportunities to participate in different hands on activities.

First Grade focused on three forms of Energy- Light, Sound, and Heat. Connecting science with real life examples and how they can make an example of each of these with their own bodies we then went on a scavenger hunt around the classroom

looking for an example of them as well. With our focus on energy as the ability to do work, our first grade scientists wrapped up the unit with energy in toys. This hands-on experiment allowed the students to observe how an object with more energy, can move a further distance than an object with less energy.

Second and Third grade had a brief recap of the three forms of energy and then built on their prior knowledge and had their fourth S.T.E.M Challenge!

The S.T.E.M Challenge was focused on Potential and Kinetic Energy and required the students to build a catapult that will launch a marshmallow. As most S.T.E.M Challenges, this challenge allowed the students to brainstorm and work in groups to construct and build a catapult out of popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and a spoon. Once built they were then able to test it out by launching marshmallows all over their classrooms!

This challenge wrapped up our unit with Energy by illustrating how things around us all contain energy in forms such as Kinetic and Potential! With further talks, our scientists were able to connect Potential Energy to objects such as a roller coaster on top of a hill, a rock on a cliff, and a swing not moving. Connections of Kinetic Energy, were any objects in motion. For example, if we dropped that rock of the cliff, or if the roller coaster went down the hill.

All in all, first, second, and third grade showed some real motion this marking period and are eager to jump into the last marking period focusing on our Solar System!

## **Grades 4 - World Languages French**

**By: Gabriel Gomis (World Languages Teacher, French)**

Le "Bâtonnet" has been implemented to create an environment where students speak French only. Since we organized oral sessions these past two weeks, we encouraged to speak French in class. You are allowed to speak French once you enter the classroom. Receiving the "Bâtonnet" may eliminate you for one round of the game we organize. We covered topics they learned such as weather, numbers, adjectives, verbs.... Furthermore we also learned the negative sentences.

## **Grades 5 - World Languages French**

**By: Gabriel Gomis (World Languages Teacher, French)**

Students are learning to tell the time in French. They have been playing the clock game to enhance their comprehension about the time in French. They took a test to evaluate their understanding. They also viewed " Le petit prince", the story of a Little Prince traveling from one planet to the other from an asteroid. Through his journey back to Earth, the author exposes and pokes fun at the social life of the adult world.





## **Grades 6 - World Languages French**

**By: Gabriel Gomis (World Languages Teacher, French)**

We focused on two main topics this week. First we reviewed "l'arbre généalogique", the family tree. Then, we learned the possessive adjectives. They described orally in French their relatives or friends using the adjectives, the possessive, adjectives, and the family tree.

## **Grades 7 - Social Studies**

**By: Sarah O'Sullivan (Social Studies Teacher)**

The seventh grade has recently explored the creation of an American identity during the eighteenth century. They discussed how religion and the transcendentalist movement affected society.

Students looked at influential figures such as Henry David Thoreau and his essay Civil Disobedience. Many students then had the unique opportunity to participate in an act of civil disobedience. After many discussions of the United States government and the role of its citizens, students participated in a walk out on Wednesday in commemoration of the students who died in the Parkland shooting in Florida. They were able to continue these discussions and realize that students have a role in our society and the efforts that are required to make changes in our society. Many realized how vital this in fact is for a democracy to thrive.



## **Grades 8 - Social Studies**

**By: Sarah O'Sullivan (Social Studies Teacher)**

Grade eight students have just concluded a unit on India. Students learned about the rich and diverse population of this incredible subcontinent. Religion is an integral part of the diversity. Consequently, we looked at the origin, founders, traditions and customs associated with numerous religions. Students were fascinated with these religions and many class discussions evolved from this.

In addition, Students learned about the ancient history of India through lessons on the Indus River Civilization, Maurya empire, Gupta empire and the Moghul empires. We looked at the successes and innovations that each period brought to society.

Lastly, students analyzed the role of the British empire and the impact of one man on a nation. Students watched the movie Gandhi and realized how difficult and in fact how impactful national movements of civil disobedience can have on a nation.



## **Grade 10 - Impressionism**

**By: Christopher Zelles (Fine Arts Teacher)**

The 10<sup>th</sup> grade Impressionist class has just completed their first project and the results were outstanding. For the project students researched an impressionist artist and chose a painting that they wanted to work with. Students had the option to either try their best to replicate the painting or put their own personal spin/style on the artist's work. For example, a student could do an impressionist painting in a cubism style.

For the second project students are combining two very different art styles; impressionism and surrealism. The task is for the students to take a famous impressionist painting and put their own surrealist twist on it. For those not familiar with surrealism this means the students will alter the scale of different objects in the painting, make it a dream like state, reversal of natural law, double images, and juxtaposition (placing objects together that normally would have nothing to do with each other). The students seem to be very enthusiastic with the new project and the rough drafts have been amazing. Here are some images from the first project.



## **Grades 11 and 12 - Physical Education**

**By: Flance Dervishi (Chair, Athletics Department)**

The Juniors and Seniors have started their *Pillo Polo*<sup>®</sup> unit in Physical Education. Pillo Polo is very similar to hockey but with soft sticks and consists of two teams competing to gain possession of a ball and trying to score a goal. There are 6 players on each team including the goalie, although the goalie does not have a Pillo Polo stick. The offensive team will try to keep the ball and try to pass the defenders and shoot it past the goalie for a score. The defensive team is trying to stop the attacking team from scoring and gain position of the ball so they can go on offense and try to score. The students are extremely competitive and love the unit. We first started with explain the game to the new students then worked on what stick does works for dribbling, shooting etc. There is one student from each team who is allowed to kick the ball into the goal. Looking forward to the playoffs for Pillo Polo next week.

Our next unit which we will start after we come back from break will be wiffle ball.



**Congratulations to Garden alum, Jamie Williams, class of 1994, on your Oscar for your work on the animated film COCO! (Above, in red, holding the little guy...)**

After Garden, Jamie studied computer science at NYU and was part of the team that did the set design for this wonderful film. Jamie is married with two children and lives in California.

We are all very proud of you, Jamie! Go Garden Griffins!