



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 96 Number: I

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, September 14, 2018



## Thoughts for the Week

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



A very heart-felt welcome back to all of our families and our children! The opening days of school are always filled with hope and joy for all of the activities and learning that have started once again and form the best part of our day. As we begin our 96<sup>th</sup> year, I am thrilled by the presence of returning families and by all of those new families who have joined our community.

Each year, the first few days of school establish the tone that will inform the rest of the year. This year, our opening was smooth, joyful and filled with expectation. Our theme of "Respect" for the year, has gotten off to a good start, with our purposeful Upper Division orientation meetings, the institution of a new Garden Upper Division tradition of rededicating ourselves to the Garden Mission,

introducing a new ethics course and with our daily morning meetings which are designed to draw our awareness to our community, and our belonging and responsibilities to it.

Next week, we have our Curriculum Night, which gives our families the experience of living one day in the life of their child as they follow their children's schedules on a typical day. Families meet the faculty and hear about the year ahead and how each family can support their child's success and the class as a whole.

Curriculum Night also gives you a chance to learn about the Garden School curriculum, i.e. our course of study, directly from the faculty. This includes the opportunity to ask questions, to experience the classroom learning environments, and meet or get reacquainted with other parents.

In the spirit of Curriculum Night, my next series of articles for this Newsletter will focus on Garden School's curriculum. The intent behind these articles is to provide families will an in-depth explanation and exploration of our curriculum, its goals and its substance. Each article will examine one curriculum area and provide information, examples and day-to-day experiences.

Until then, enjoy the opening days of school and please, please come to Curriculum Night, on Thursday, September 20, at 6:00pm in the Gym.



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Wednesday, September 19: School Closed for Yom Kippur
- Thursday, September 20: Curriculum Night @ 6 PM in the Gym
- Saturday/Sunday, September 23, 24: Garden School at Makers Faire at New York Hall of Science
- Monday, September 24: Photo Day for Lower Division
- Tuesday, September 25: Photo Day for Upper Division
- Wednesday, October 3 – Friday, October 5: Camp Herrlich for Grades 5 & 6
- Monday, October 8: School Closed for Columbus Day

## ***Enrollment and Communications - Did You Know...?***

By [Jim Gaines](#), Director of Outreach and Upper Division Admissions

## ***Garden Referral Program - Strengthen our Community, and Save Money!***

The upcoming Open House is a great opportunity for current Garden families to take advantage of Garden's Referral Program and to refer new families to attend the Open House and consider enrolling at Garden. Remember, **for every NEW full-time Garden student that enrolls** and the family pays the tuition due in full and that indicates 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 the tuition in full. Using a referral card, available in the school office, 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](mailto:jgaines@gardenschool.org). With your permission, we will follow up with the prospective family.

## ***Garden "Community" Site Improves Communication***

Garden parents use the Garden School website to access everyday information. The trouble is, it *costs Garden School every time you use Google to find us and it can take a while to load and it is so many clicks to find what you want!*

We have a simple solution, [the Garden Community Site](#)! On this site, you have your teacher pages, faculty and admin contacts, calendar, dining room menus, sports game schedules, and much more right at your fingertips!

Click on or visit the link **ON YOUR PHONE** to check it out and save the link icon to your phone homepage. Visit <http://www.gardenschool.org/community/> and quickly access all the info you need! Save time and money!

## Garden School

Cultivating Success in Every Child

[Afterschool / Camp](#) ▾ [Garden Life](#) ▾ [Admissions](#) ▾ [Parents](#) ▾

News

Teacher Pages

Thinkwave

Contact

Calendar

Athletics

Programs

PTA

Menus

Forms

Payments

Store

Alerts



## Garden School Music Conservatory

We have spaces available in Garden School's Music Conservatory!

The Music Conservatory is an ideal way for your child to discover an instrument of choice that suits his or her own unique talents. Professional musicians provide individual instruction for students in Garden School's upper and lower divisions.

### Instrument Choices:

- Private Piano, Guitar and Voice instruction for K and up—30-minute lessons, 25 weeks at \$550.
- Other private instruction for grades 3 and up—45-minute lessons, 25 weeks at \$625.

Each lesson involves music technique, sheet music reading, and learning and practicing songs. At-home practice is necessary.

Please note that it is the responsibility of each student to attend his or her scheduled lesson. Missed lessons cannot be made up.

In the event of a teacher's absence, parents and students will be notified and an experienced substitute will fill in for the lesson. Any class that cannot be scheduled in this way will be added to the end of the lesson period.

All Conservatory students are invited to perform in the Annual Spring Music Recital at the end of the school year!

Please contact [Ms. Kim](#) for more information





# Join us at the World Maker Faire

September 22nd and 23th at the New York Hall of Science

The Garden School Amateur Radio Club is a proud participant in the New York World Maker Faire, the Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth—a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker Movement.

Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, Maker Faire is a venue for these “makers” to show hobbies, experiments, projects. Glimpse the future and get inspired!

This year we work with the Hall of Science ARC who will be doing a presentation on “WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, AMATEUR RADIO IS READY.” Their project will display communications with a GO Box, a fully contained and portable amateur radio station. It will use amateur radio frequencies to transmit and receive digital communications.

The Garden School ARC and we will be working with them on their project “Soldering Morse Code Keys and LED Candles and Tape Measure Yagi’s.” We will work with their students and the public to show them how to solder and make electronics.

**WORLD**  
**Maker Faire**  
**NEW YORK**

Get Your  
**TICKETS**  
Today!

**SEPT 22+23**  
NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE





## Pre-K For All - Math

By: **Laura** (PKFA Teacher)

Welcome to Room 34!! The first week of school comes with some adjustment to the school environment. For some students, it is their first time in a school setting. The students have been learning about centers, rules of the classroom, and how to walk in a line. Our first-class project was to create their own person. Each child was able to pick what color person they wanted. They were able to pick their own outfit and hair color. The students then were able to decorate their outfits.

## Nursery Language Arts

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

Welcome to Nursery! Our program covers important skills which include: socialization, sharing, independence, friendship and routine. Each morning during Circle Time we go over the schedule of the day. Children like knowing what they are doing for that specific day. The children have been settling in and enjoying their Mandarin, music, library and outside time. As the year begins, we will start to focus on our colors and shapes. Children are encouraged to reinforce these topics at home. We're all looking forward to a great school year!



## Pre-K Language Arts

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

We are off to a new year of exciting learning experiences here in the Pre-K classroom! As anticipated, the students are beginning this new year with a series of mixed emotions. School is new to some while others are experienced with a full day of school in the past.

The first unit of study, *Learning About Self*, should help each child become confident with separating from family and to become an independent learner.

*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn was one of the first books read. This book tells the story of a young raccoon who is anxious about his first day of school until his mother gives him a special kiss on his hand which fills his heart with love whenever they are apart. This story provides a comforting start to a new school year as children adjust to leaving home and beginning new routines. A follow-up creation to this inspiring story is displayed in the classroom to remind the children of the love from their family that follows them throughout their school day. *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds is another inspiring book that helps children become aware of their artist abilities. After reading this book, the students created an original drawing from just a dot on their page which is also on display in the classroom. Many more books will be read each day to help each student become an active learner who approaches each task with confidence.





## **Kindergarten - Language Arts**

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

The first week of Kindergarten has been a great success! The students have been working hard to learn our class rules and routines, and were introduced to new reading books, workbooks, and toys! Our lessons and class discussions have been focused on different All About Me topics including our names, families, and interests! Students have been working on recognizing their first and last names as well as writing, using Play-doh, and finger painting them to strengthen our fine motor skills! We even counted the number of letters in our names using letter stamps using the story *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. We couldn't believe how long some of our names are!

This week we also began learning about our first letter: Aa! Students learned the short sound of Aa as well as some words that begin with short Aa, such as alligator and astronaut, and have short Aa in the middle, such as cat and fan. We look forward to learning more about short Aa next week when we learn about the -at word family! The Kindergarten students will also be introduced to their first set of sight words and assigned classroom jobs next week. There is so much to learn in Kindergarten!



## **Grade 1 Science**

**By: Michelle Bruzzese, Math and Science Teacher**

First grade science started the school year off full of excitement! After learning the importance to following the rules during science class especially during experiments, our first graders were able to get kick started with our first unit: Life Sciences! Our first week wrapped up by discovering the parts of the plant as well as the plants life cycle. Throughout this unit we will be learning about habitats, animals, living and nonliving things.

First grade this year along with the units, we will be including S.T.E.A.M. projects into our lessons. At least once a month, our young scientists will have the opportunity to get hands on with a project relating to the unit at hand. S.T.E.A.M. which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math allows the students to get creative and use some critical thinking skills to build or construct an awesome project.

All in all, the first grade and I are very excited to get this school year rocking and rolling!

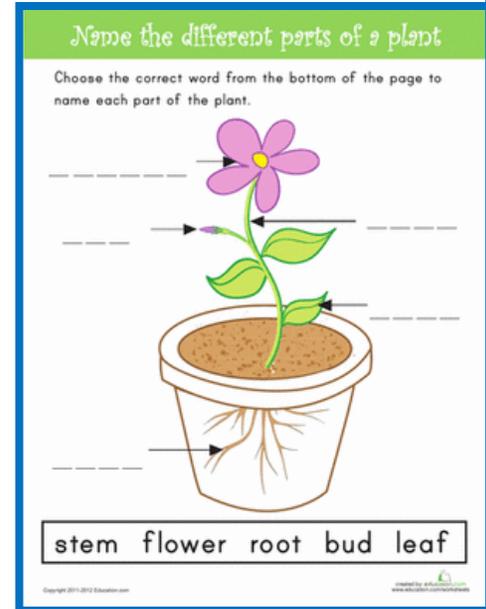


## Grade 2 - 3 Science

By: **Marlene Dapice** (Math and Science Teacher)

The year is off to a great start in Second Grade! The importance of good observational skills for scientists was discussed, followed by an activity to determine how well students could recall objects observed. In our next laboratory activity, students will be examining the parts of a flowering plant. They will dissect the plant, identify its parts, and place them in the correct positions on construction paper. Next to each part there will be a description of its function or role in the survival of the plant.

The year in Third Grade began with a discussion of what makes a good scientist. Responses were elicited from students and discussed. Among the ideas that were examined, the need to be a good observer and make use of our five senses seemed important. As such, students took part in an activity to determine how well they visualized and then recalled objects presented to them. In our next laboratory activity, students will be germinating seeds and observing different types of plants as they grow.



## Grades 4 - World Languages French

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

Students learned the French alphabet, the nasal sounds, and the vowel combinations. They are practicing reading in French. We also introduced them to the greetings and courtesy words in French. They sang “Frère Jacques” and played French games that help them strengthen the vocabulary they acquired in class. Try these at home with your child!

## Grades 5 - World Languages French

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

French 5 had their first French class yesterday. We reviewed and practiced greetings. They showed great excitement and ambition towards the new year.

## Grades 6 - World Languages French

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

French 6 are divided into two groups mainly “les nouveaux”, the new students and “les anciens” the ones that are already exposed to the language. While “les nouveaux” learned the alphabet, nasal, sound, and vowel combination, “les anciens” reviewed the French definite and indefinite articles.



## **Grades 7 - Social Studies**

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

A new school year always means a new beginning. A new analysis of information brought on by new students with individual views of the United States and current events. Seventh graders arrived with a mix of this excitement, joy and a little anxiety as they reunited with old friends and embarked on a new journey in the upper division.

This is true of these you scholars who have learned about the regions of the United States and the amazing geography of this rich nation. In addition, we analyzed the differences between the ice age and the current condition of global warming and how the ice age led to the creation of the Bering Land Bridge. This was critical as we connected the Land bridge to the migration of the early people and the eventual creation of civilizations in Mesoamerica and indigenous groups of North America.

## **Grades 8 - Social Studies**

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

A new year means new interpretations and fresh ideas! This is absolutely evident in the eighth grade history class. We began the year with discussions of The Diary of Anne Frank and this dark and intense period of history. Students learned how the Nazis rose to power through analysis of primary sources, timelines and background readings. Many students were amazed and shocked to see how a government could rate people based on their religious, ethnic or political background. In addition, students learned the differences between racism, discrimination, antisemitism and prejudice. This conversation concluded with the dangers of having a leader who used a scapegoat.

The final assessment is a multimedia project and a selection of writing prompts that students can select. This will allow students to do further research into the Work War 2 period or a contemporary event in which innocent people are being persecuted. Some students were choosing to research a holocaust survivor and do a mock interview via the internet. These assignments allow for each individual student to reach their full potential in our diverse learning environment.

Next week we will begin our unit on Africa with a review of the great novel Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. This will continue to illustrate a theme of the course which is diversity and toleration.

## **Grade 9 – High School Writing Seminar**

**By:** [Christopher Vallario](#) (English Teacher)

Ninth graders are off to a great start and learning the academic structure and components that are needed to write formal essays. Through the introduction of terms like discourse and code switching, students are developing a strong critical reading lens, so that they can in fact write critically and confidently. Currently,



students are drafting their second revision of one of their chosen summer reading books. We are closely examining and applying how to write a literary/textual analysis. In addition, on Tuesdays after school, students are encouraged to come to room 23 for one-on-one writing sessions.

## **Grade 10 - Italian Renaissance Art**

**By:** [Christopher Zelles](#) (Fine Arts Teacher)

The school year is in full swing and I could not be happier to be teaching the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Impressionism class. This class will mainly focus on the history of Impressionism, but students will also learn what was lead up to the Impressionist movement and what came after. Students will be given a variety of projects in which they will learn how to paint in an impressionist style and painting an array of different things, such as landscapes and portraits.

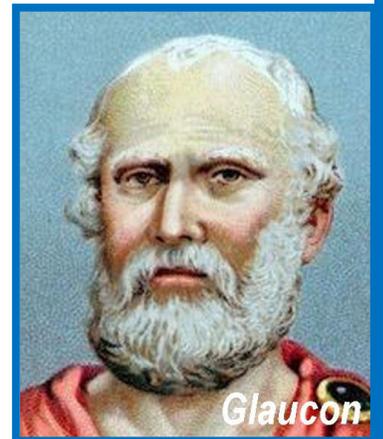
For their first project students will learn the basics of how to draw a self-portrait, and the techniques impressionists painters used when creating their own portraits. Many students last year did fantastic work for this project and I am sure we will see similar results.

## **Tenth Grade Ethics and Philosophy**

**By:** [Greig Roselli](#) (Ethics and Philosophy and ELA Instructor)

**Why be good? It doesn't really pay. Or does it? Glaucon, an upstart, young intellectual from Ancient Athens, makes us reconsider this question.**

I'm proposing one question to all of our upper school students in Ethics - Am I a good person only when I know others are watching? We are using [Plato's story](#) in his book *The Republic* - written over one thousand years ago! - to explore issues surrounding justice, fairness, and the benefits of being good (or bad!). In the story, one of Socrates's upstart students, Glaucon, raises an important problem. Even when I am a good person, I notice people around me cheating and stealing and they seem to get away with it! And guess, what! They profit in their injustice, while, me, Glaucon says, I'm a good person and what benefit do I get out of it? Why should I be good if bad people do bad stuff and get away with it?



Fast forward to today and Glaucon's words are still relevant. One tenth grade student, let's call her, Anna, said "People who have power never have enough power and are greedy for more." Another student mentioned surveillance, and how we live in a society where more and more people's behaviors are recorded by in-store cameras, police wearing body cameras, and the ubiquitous presence of cell phones that can pretty much record everything. I thought that was a really on-point connection between the text and the world we live in today.



For future class sessions, we will explore a ton of issues - specifically those that pertain to how we interact with others, what to do if we suspect a friend is abusing substances, and delving into the nature of love and friendship in a way that is engaging but also tapping into ideas that have been transmitted to us by writers, thinkers, artists, philosophers from both East and West, and contributions from the field of science, psychology, and technology.

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

**By:** [Flance Dervishi](#) (Chair, Athletics Department)

We start the year with a reintroduction to the rules of the class and how students can earn an "A" in PE class. Once everyone understands what is required, we introduce our first unit which is soccer.

We have a Middle School and Varsity soccer team at Garden, so teaching soccer and playing it in PE class allows students to practice their skills and develop teamwork with each other. The first week we went over drills on how to pass the ball using the inside left and right foot, dribble, stop and shoot the ball. We also played Four Corners using the drills we practiced in class 2 on 2 and 3 on 3.

Next week, we each student will be assigned a team and begin the soccer tournament. The soccer tournament will be 6 vs 6 and be "speed soccer" where just one goal against means the team has to come off and another team jumps on the floor ready to play. Looking forward to next week's games!



Calvin Huang, Class of 2018

Click here for Garden Fall Sports Schedules:

- [Varsity Boys Soccer](#)
- [Varsity Girls Volleyball](#)
- [Middle School Soccer](#)