



## Thoughts for the Week

By [Richard Marotta](#), Ph.D., Headmaster



**Reflections — As I review the end of the first quarter, I can't help but feel that the past eight weeks have been packed with energy, enthusiasm and accomplishment.**

As a school, it is necessary to pause periodically for moments of reflection so that we can better understand what we have accomplished and what still needs to be done. An essential part of our identity as a school rests within this capacity for self-reflection and self-evaluation.

These past eight weeks have been very positive ones for our community. We welcomed new families at a reception in September and had the chance to talk with each new Garden family about the experience his or her child was having, and whether or not the experience matched their expectations. These were important conversations to have with our new families because they gave us the feedback that we needed to understand how we were affecting the educational and social experience of their children. What we experienced was an affirmation that our program, our teachers, and our environment provided what our families needed and expected. Our goal, of course, is to sustain and enhance their experience.



Ms. Ferreira (Physical Education Faculty) and Mr. Melara (World Languages Faculty) show off school spirit in the gym.

We have had a very positive experience with our PTA, which has always been a main source of strength and activity over the years. Each year the PTA assists the school in many ways, including fundraising, organizing special events, providing programs for the children, and delivering feedback to the Board of Trustees. This year the PTA got a late start but quickly overcame any time pressures and successfully orchestrated picture day, the Halloween Party, and now is planning the Thanksgiving Pie

sale, the Holiday Boutique, and the Holiday Gift Fund. A special thank you to Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Dahlia, Mrs. Marengo, Mrs. Zamora and Mrs. Bialokur for taking on the officer positions and generating energy and



enthusiasm among our families.

Our students and teachers have had a very strong beginning of the school year. We have had trips to the Central Park Zoo, the neighborhood firehouse, the [Mystic Seaport Museum](#) in Mystic, Connecticut, Camp Herrlich in Putnam County, the headquarters of the United Nations in midtown Manhattan, and next week the entire upper division (grades 7-12) will see the Broadway production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. These



school-sponsored excursions add an educational dimension to our students' role as lifelong learners and connect the classroom to the world, which has the added effect of grounding learning into the context of everyday life and experience. Education is about connection, and using our city, and the larger community, solidifies that connection for our students and our teachers.

We have had a striking achievement by our Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball Team. In addition to an unbeaten season, they won the Independent School Association League Championship Playoff Game against Léman on Friday, October 26. It was a truly exciting moment for our team, who last won this championship in 1999! For those of us who couldn't attend the game because of the Halloween Party, we cheated a bit and watched it live on FaceTime in the Library. This was one of the few times that I really appreciated the technology that allowed us to watch this very fine achievement by our team and our school. We will soon be hanging our new championship banner in the Gym.

Academically the year has been unfolding with some new additions to our program. We have added an ethics course, a writing center, and a health course to our upper division curriculum, which we believe will also enhance the educational offerings and experience for our students. Mr. Dervishi is teaching the Health course; Mr. Roselli is conducting the Ethics Seminar for grades seven through eleven, and Mr. Vallario has organized the student-run Writing Center. These three

enhancements to our curriculum respond to what we consider to be academic and societal needs. Health education in our very complex world is becoming more and more important as our knowledge, experience and choices become more intricate. Ethics responds to the glaring need for moral self reflection which our culture and our world desperately need based on daily outbreaks of violence and cruelty. Writing is the key to thinking and to expressing and exploring ideas in authentic ways and is important for all of us to practice as a means of exploration.

There are many more activities, events and practices occurring everyday at Garden School. I wanted to share some of the highlights with you so that you can have a better sense of what transpires on a daily basis in the educational environment we have created and sustain for your children. Learning never stops and knows no boundaries. That pursuit is our mission.



## DATES TO REMEMBER:



- Friday, November 2: Marking Period 1 Ends
- Wednesday, November 7: [Upper Division Trip \(To Kill a Mockingbird\)](#)
- Wednesday, November 7: Museum of Natural History Trip for Grades 2 - 4
- Thursday, November 8: Report Cards Distributed
- Friday, November 9, the Tenth Graders are taking a field trip to the Met
- Wednesday, November 14: [Parent/Teacher Conferences \(3 – 8 PM\)](#)
- Thursday, November 15: Thanksgiving Feast for entire school
- Thursday, Nov. 22 - Friday, Nov. 23: School Closed for Thanksgiving
- Friday, Nov. 30: Pep Rally & Senior Pasta Night

**Dispatch from our Parent Teacher Association — Parent**

**Representatives for each grade are as follows:**

**Nursery- Marcia Flores Hruska**

**Pre-K- Zafirah Alamger**

**Kindergarten- Liz Crum**

**Grade 1- Stacey Galitos**

**Grade 2- Blair Papagni**

**Grade 3- Lissette Molina-Gurevich**

**Grade 4- Christian Tirado**

**Grade 5- Ericka Rosero-Briones**

**Grade 6- Monica Khan-Liriano**

**Grade 7- Chrissy Ong-Reyes**

**Grade 8- Monita Pichardo & Robyn O'Sullivan**

**Grade 9- Donna Marx**

**Grade 10- Terry Buckley**

**Grade 11- Jenny Deras**

**Grade 12- Emily Ades, Rachel Gladstein, & Scott Wise**

**Congratulations to all of the class representatives! Thank you for helping the Garden Community, we look forward to a wonderful year with all of you!**



### Mr. John Hale — 2018 American Radio Relay League Award Recipient

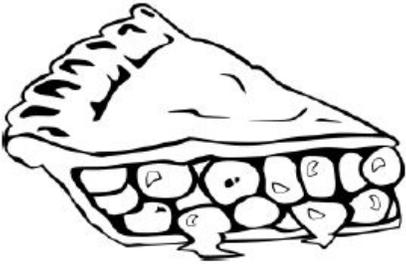
We are pleased to announce that one of our own, Mr. John Hale KD2LPM, is a recipient of the 2018 American Radio Relay League (Hudson Division) for his work incorporating radio into a STEM curriculum at Garden. Working with the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, where he serves as Secretary, he has constructed an all-band, all-mode station using donated equipment. Adding to the educational aspect, he and his students work with SKYWARN and the National Weather Service. They are also involved with the National Traffic System as active members, providing messaging service to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Thank you, Mr. Hale, for elevating the work of science for our students and families!

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Flance Dervishi and Michelle Ferreira, our Junior Varsity Volleyball Coaches, pose with our championship-winning Girls Volleyball team. Congratulations to our undefeated girls Junior Varsity volleyball team for their win against Léman at the Independent School Athletic League Volleyball championship. According to the girls and their coaches, there were three sets and even though Garden lost the second set, they were able to “bring it back” and focus as a team for the final win. Both teams played hard and it was a triumphant success for our school.





# Holiday Pies

***Celebrate Thanksgiving with a savory pie, so many to choose from can you decide? Order one or maybe three, the pies are yours for a small fee! Please support our school, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please return NO LATER than Wednesday, November 14th . Pies will be delivered on Tuesday, November 20th and will be sent home with students.***

***Student Name and Grade Level*** \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	Pie	Price	Total
	Apple	\$10.00	
	Apple-No sugar	\$10.00	
	Pumpkin	\$10.00	
	Sweet Potato	\$10.00	
	Apple Crumb	\$12.00	
	Pecan	\$12.00	
	Coconut	\$12.00	

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Checks accepted. Please make Checks Payable to: Garden PTA

Thank You!!!!

***Supporting the PTA ensures that we can continue to support our school, offer events, and introduce new and exciting activities.***

***Orders must be made by Wednesday, November 14th.***

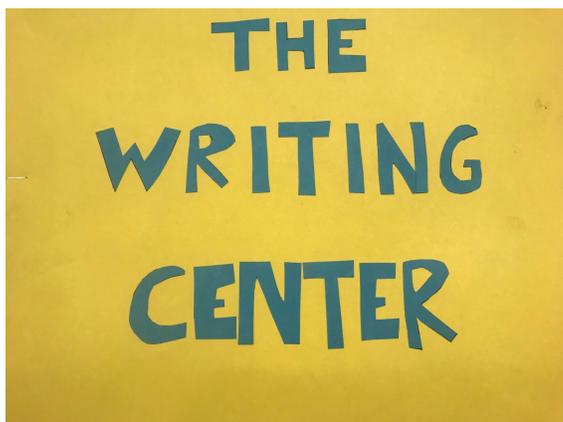
***Pies will be sent home with students on Tuesday, November 20th.***

***\*\*Please Note: If pies are ordered from people that do not attend Garden, please include their orders on YOUR form.***



## Garden School Writing Center

By: [Christopher Vallario](#) (English Faculty)



The Writing Center meets in room 23 on Tuesday afternoons. All students from the upper division are welcome to come by to work one-on-one with a writing consultant. We acknowledge and embrace students at ALL stages of the writing process, which means students can enter with or without a draft. Some students need help starting their papers, while others need help finalizing it. Our major goal is to provide students with the necessary skills and confidence to complete tasks that may have once frustrated them on their own. Our writing center is a place where all our students' identities and voices are heard. We also can help with personal statements as well as speeches.

Our student writing consultants include: Dylan T. (12), Matthew V. (12), Patrick Z. (12), Leah G. (12), and Aviva A. (12).



### "Bully the Bully: Artists Against Hate" - A Play Writing Competition Open to the Upper Division

The contest description is as follows: Write a seven to ten page play based on a situation where you, yourself was bullied, and/or based/inspired by true events. The English Department will select five finalists, and then we will choose the winner. The selected writer will be chosen for revision where you will work with writing consultants in the writing center. We are currently locking down a performance date for February at The Secret Theater in Long Island City where the play will be produced. We will have open auditions here at Garden School to play the winner's characters. We look forward to reading all your stories!



**Special Eleventh Grade English Dispatch:** Ziqiao Y. (12th Grade) reads *To Kill A Mockingbird* in Ms. Soifer's English class. Students are finishing up the novel in preparation for next week's field trip to the Schubert Theater in Manhattan to see the premiere production of the play adaptation on Broadway! Ms. Soifer loves teaching novels from the American South and her class is so excited for next week foray onto Broadway to see the adaptation of this famed classic by Harper Lee.



# Garden School Amateur Radio Club

## Annual Scholarship

### 2018-2019



The Garden School Amateur Radio Club is proud to offer an annual one-time \$500 non-renewable scholarship. The purpose of the scholarship is to help provide financial assistance to a radio operator in the senior year of high school, to encourage future work in the STEM fields and to recognize work with Emergency Communications.

#### Eligibility:

- Must be an FCC Licensed Amateur Radio Operator of Technician Class or Higher.
- Enrolled in the 12th Grade and expected to graduate at the end of the academic year.

#### Requirements:

- Show the ability to pass Emergency Communications over Amateur Radio.
  - Must relay a properly formatted Radiogram **to and from** the
    - Garden School ARC - K2GSG
    - 3316 79th Street
    - Jackson Heights, NY 11372
    - [k2gsg@gardenschool.org](mailto:k2gsg@gardenschool.org)
  - Once we receive your message we will relay a Radiogram back to you with a number. Please submit that radiogram with your application.
- Volunteer 5+ hours in STEM Activities and 5+ hours with Amateur Radio Activities.
  - Please submit verification of your hours.
- Write a 500-word essay on the role of Amateur Radio in Emergency Communication.
- Resume Review
  - Please submit your resume with the following
    - School Courses
    - Overall GPA
    - Activities in STEM and Amateur Radio



#### Application:

- Please contact [k2gsg@gardenschool.org](mailto:k2gsg@gardenschool.org) to request an application or to clarify any questions you might have.

#### Deadlines:

- Applications - March 1st, 2019
- Review completed by March 31st, 2019
- Award Decided by May 1st, 2019





## **Garden Academic Pages:**

***Read about what teachers and students are doing in their classrooms together.***

### ***Pre-K for All - Using Realia in the Classroom to Explore the Five Senses***

**By: [Lauren Murray](#) (PKFA Faculty)**

This week the students finished up exploring the unit “The Five Senses”, which will lead into our next unit of “Nutrition”. By investigating each sense, they were able to have a deeper understanding of how each sense is not only used but how they connect to one another. Because of this, the students will have a good foundation of knowledge for when begin studying nutrition.

The class also did a culminating activity of exploring a pumpkin. They were able to use each sense, though mainly focusing on their sense of touch and sight. The students made predictions prior to the activity of what would be found once the pumpkin was opened. During the experiment, the students shared their thoughts on what they saw and how the pumpkin felt. The students were able to display a deeper understanding of scientific thinking which is aligned with the NYS Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core.

### ***Nursery - Ready for Autumn and Pumpkin Season - Language Arts***

**By: [Carmella Augello-Knopf](#) (Nursery Faculty)**

We started our unit of study by reading *It's Pumpkin Time!* by Zoe Hall. We did different projects to reinforce our lessons on the life cycle of a pumpkin. The projects included carving and dissecting our class pumpkin and then making our own model pumpkins using yarn as the pulp and real seeds. Another project was sorting the sequence of each stage of the life cycle. Finally, we made chocolate pretzel pumpkins in our cooking class.

On the smart board, we watched videos on how pumpkins grow and took turns explaining what we saw. We had fun listening and dancing to different Halloween songs. Some of us explored with orange finger paint and the pictures were cut into pumpkins which are hanging on our wall. We all loved having the ‘Jack-O-Lantern’ lighting up our classroom!



The nursery pumpkins have been very busy!  
We've been learning about pumpkins.



## Pre-Kindergarten - English

By: [Eileen Reyes](#) (Pre-Kindergarten Faculty)



Lily (Pre-K) is ready to read "It's Pumpkin Time!"

The importance of reading to young children cannot be emphasized enough. We make reading a priority in Pre-K. After all, reading with children gives them the skills needed for when they start to read themselves. The Pre-K class has been visiting the school library every Friday since the first week of school. Not only are books borrowed, but important library skills are taught and practiced. Having respect for books and how to care for them is being practiced daily. The students are learning to follow words across the page from left to right and to properly turn the pages. These are two pre-reading skills that will benefit and help them to become better readers later. Reading books exposes the reader to new vocabulary. When a child is read to consistently, there will be an increase in concentration which can carry over to other activities. Providing a range of books about different topics helps develop a child's imagination, creativity, and empathy. Reading is also the perfect activity to create a bond between a parent and their child. Pumpkins have been the unit of study the past couple of weeks.

*Pumpkin Pumpkin* by Jeanne Titherington, *It's Pumpkin Time* by Zoe Hall, *The Big, Big Pumpkin* by Joan M. Lexau, and *The Littlest Pumpkin* by R. A. Herman are some of the books we have read.



Penelope shows Mrs. Yandow words that start with "K"



## **Kindergarten - How many words do you know that start with the letter "K"**

**By:** [Lauren Yandow](#) (Kindergarten Faculty)



You have one job! Adrian is ready to take care of the class aquarium

This week in Kindergarten was all about letter "K"! Students learned about words that begin with "K," such as kangaroo and keyboard, and also words that end with "K," such as desk and milk. Students practiced writing the shape of the letter and used words with "K" to complete a sentence that included some of our sight words. Students used their sight word notebooks as well as the ABC notebooks to practice identifying and writing different words with letter "K".

This week we also used an abundance of great literature to support our pumpkin unit. Students have been learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin and we read "Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin Pie" by Jill Esbaum, "Apples and Pumpkins" by Anne Rockwell, and "A Pumpkin Grows" by Linda Bullock to help us understand how a pumpkin grows through real life pictures and sequencing words. We look forward to learning about the holiday coming up, Thanksgiving, and learning different family traditions and what it means to feel thankful next week!

## **First Grade - So happy together / How is the weather? - Science**

**By:** [Michelle Bruzzese](#) (Science Faculty)

First grade science took on the first marking period by storm! Throughout the first marking period the students spent time learning about topics such as Habitats, Environments, Animal Classification and Adaptations. Taking what we learned about inherited traits and behaviors they got up and got moving by completing group activities focusing on these two topics and our own personal traits! To wrap up our Life Science Unit, the first grade was able to go to Central Park Zoo yesterday to observe some animals in their habitats! After a discussion about all of the amazing habitats the students saw yesterday they were eager to begin our next unit- Weather!

With weather comes a handful of Storms! Before we get soaking wet with all of the different weather conditions, we began our unit with the four seasons! Comparing our clothing choices and how the different seasons affect our environments are just some of the topics we will be focusing on through this unit.



## Special Anatomy Report: STEAM-Inspired Skeletons for Halloween in First Grade

As Halloween has come and gone, our young scientists took a break on their Science curriculum to participate in a S.T.E.A.M. project about skeletons! With previous conversations about the bones of the body and some diagrams of skeletons our scientists constructed their own skeletons using cotton swabs! Getting sticky and fluffy, our scientists had a blast creating their own skeleton.



Eli presents his skeleton to Mrs. Bruzesse.

## Second Grade - Estimation Exploration - Math

By: [Paula James](#) (Second Grade Lead Teacher)



Zoe, Julian, and Cristo are estimating experts

Do you remember when you learned to estimate numbers and round to the nearest tens place? You most likely learned this skill in elementary school by practicing estimation skills with everyday objects in the world around you. This week, grades one, two, and three worked together to estimate the weight and the number of seeds contained in a pumpkin. We also estimated the number of ice cubes in a container. Sharing our ideas, the kids discussed possible outcomes before determining any estimates, and the children clearly understood that it was not possible to have extraordinary amounts of objects. For example, there could not be 500 cubes in a

one-gallon container nor can one pumpkin contain a billion quarter inch seeds! When it was time to compare estimates to actual numbers, our estimate experts were delighted when they found out how close they were to the precise number count.



## ***Second Grade - Paleontology studies include dinosaurs!***

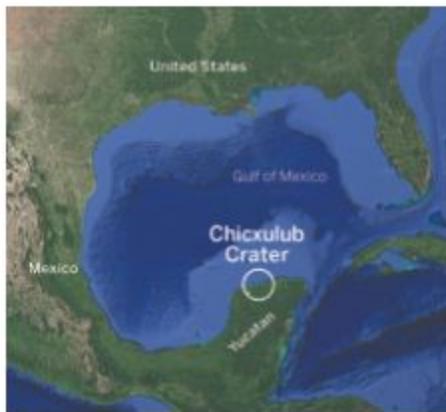
By: [Marlene Dapice](#) (Science Faculty)



Students are gearing up for their visit to the American Museum of Natural History next week. They will be visiting the Dinosaur Hall and looking at the fossilized remains of the dinosaurs. Second graders learned about different dinosaurs and made fossil molds that they were able to take home. In addition, each student was required to complete a reading passage about dinosaurs, fossils, or paleontology, and answer questions based upon their reading.

## ***Third Grade - Exploring Past Cataclysmic Changes to our Earth***

By: [Marlene Dapice](#) (Science Faculty)



Third graders learned about animals of the past. They examined real fossil specimens and were required to draw and describe each one that they looked at. Students also explored the question “What happened to the dinosaurs?” As a part of the lesson, each student was assigned one of the following topics to research and write down five different facts about: asteroids, climate change, or the Chicxulub crater. We can’t wait to visit the museum!

The Chicxulub Crater is the impact site of the asteroid that most likely caused the extinction of 99 percent of all animals



## ***The United Nations at Garden, the very example of Hands-on Global Learning***

**By: [Gabriel Gomis](#) (World Languages Faculty)**



The past few weeks have been dedicated to expanding our global awareness. It all started with the yearly International Night when family, friends, teachers, and students gathered in the gym to enjoy foods and music from all over the world as Garden prides itself of being one the most diverse school in New York. We followed up the festivities with a global knowledge quiz to test students understanding of the United Nations, and the world. The first five “most cultivated students” will be celebrated next week during assembly.

Besides we had the great honor to receive Mr. Abdul Kadir Jailani, the Consul General of Indonesia in New York. He and his delegation expressed their gratitude for the gesture of our students towards the victims of the Earthquake in Palu, Indonesia. Following a great lesson of diplomacy from Abdul Kadir Jailani, we hosted two speakers from the United

Nations. First of all, Ms. Aiello gave a lecture on Women Issues, Equality, and Gender Parity. Then, Ms. Gross talked about the basic understanding of the United Nations before the lower division. On Wednesday, the students visited the United Nations. They toured the General Assembly. They ended their day at Paname, a French restaurant in Midtown Manhattan. The UN week officially ended on Thursday when students wore clothes from different countries.

## ***Seventh Grade - No Taxation Without Representation! - American History***

**By: [Sarah O'Sullivan](#) (History Faculty)**

“No Taxation without representation!” is the phrase of the week for the Seventh grade American history class. These eager scholars are learning the events leading up to the American War for Independence. We have been discussing how one event leads to another as per the consequences of both the actions of the British and American colonists. Students analyzed political cartoons and realized the impact that propaganda can have on a nation. Lastly, all students created their own political cartoons representing the various acts and injustices that were committed against the Americans and illustrate how important a representative assembly is for a democratic society.



## ***Eighth Grade - The Success of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission - Area Studies***

**By:** [Sarah O'Sullivan](#) (History Faculty)

Students often ask me if I get bored of teaching the same topics each year. I reply no because there is always new interpretations of the subject matter. And quite frankly how can one be bored of teaching social studies during this turbulent era. Both of these points are evident with the eighth grade class at Garden for the 2018-2019 school year. We have a hard time completing our lesson when the students contribute such insightful comments and questions.

This was evident as we completed a unit on South Africa and discussed the success of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We questioned whether the United States should have one in regards to our history and those innocent people who were lost to racism, segregation, and Reservation policies. Students looked at the impact Bryan Stevenson has had on bringing justice for those who can't fight from either prisons or the grave. We will be looking at how countries like Rwanda took an awful period like their genocide which reflected the inequalities and resentment and hatred that existed in a nation and in fact rebuilt a nation based on healing. This nation used a African justice system called the Gacaca to attempt to heal and wounds of a nation. In addition, they will learn how small non-government organizations can work with the government and rebuild a nation.

## ***Eighth Grade - Thinking About the Good Life - Ethics***

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

I think of Ethics in the broadest sense of the word - in the manner, perhaps, the Ancient Greeks conceived of this concept (they called it *êthos*) - everything concerning the good - everything concerning the good life. So in this way, asking essential questions about our friendships, our relationship with our parents, and issues concerning good and evil are relevant. I like how eighth grader Sierra P. put it: "The world isn't perfect, Mr. Roselli," she said. "Everything has its opposites. Up and down, black and white, and in this case good and bad. Without these opposites, the world isn't itself". I agree with Sierra! In

our world, there is a lot to be miserable about - but perhaps, in the middle of all of these contradictions, I'd rather have curious uncertainty than smug resignation. In order to be human - I am learning from the kids - is to have a space where folks can share ideas - and I do not mean the hog pen of ideas where everything is flippity floppity - but in a civic manner - in a way, where folks, especially the young, can tone their arguments, and come to terms with ideas that are fluttering at the surface, struggling to be set free. I know it sounds highfalutin. But stretching toward this GOOD is my goal for the Ethics course this year.





## **Twelfth Grade - Improve your Bump! - Physical Education**

By: [Flance Dervishi](#) (Physical Education Instructor)

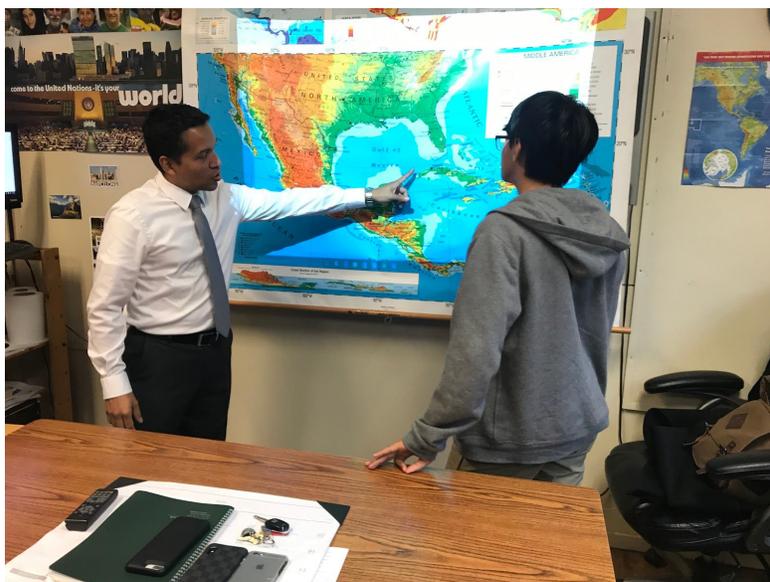


Do you know the rules of the game? In Volleyball that is. I want the kids to learn how to bump, set spike, and serve and the proper ways of hitting the ball over the net. The first thing we worked on is rotation. Positions are numbered, one through six, starting with the server in the back-right corner, going in a counter-clockwise direction we rotate on every possession. Now that we are on the first week of volleyball we play a very fast game of King of the court. Two teams start playing against each other whoever wins five points will stay on the court until another teams eliminates them. Volleyball is a very fun sport but extremely hard; I feel that the

kids have improved this week and are having a great time with Volleyball. I am looking forward to a very fun Volleyball unit.

## **World Languages Report:**

Mr. Melara includes geography in his teaching of World Languages. In a recent Spanish 9 class, students learned the importance of geography as it relates to culture and language.





## Garden's Halloween in Jackson Heights:



Dela and her family do *Stranger Things*!



Lukka (6th Grade) is an invisible man for Halloween



The Battaglia Family makes it to the end of the Halloween Parade on 37th Avenue



YEARBOOK CLUB  
OF GARDEN SCHOOL

DYLAN TSE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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# Limited Time Sale!

\$65 FOR A SHORT TIME (regular price \$85)

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please choose your yearbook:

- Yearbook \$65.00 (limited time cost)
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- Yearbook Signature Package \$79.00
  - Yearbook
  - Personalization
  - Color Autograph Section
  - 8 Multi-colored Markers

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YEARBOOK CLUB

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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(not necessary if a business ad)

All Dedication related text and or images should be sent to [keyclubsoda@gmail.com](mailto:keyclubsoda@gmail.com)  
The deadline is February 1, 2019