



Garden School Newsletter



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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“Cultivating Success in Every Child”

Friday, May 17, 2019

Thoughts for the Week

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



Yesterday’s Walk-a-thon was a great success. Even though we didn’t have use of the field, which will be completed this Fall, we were able to reimagine the Walk-a-thon in such a way that gave it all of the characteristics of a genuine community event.

With the help of teachers, parents, students and the fabulous leadership of the PTA, especially Nicole Adams, yesterday’s Walk-a-thon created an authentic sense of the strength and the commitment of our community. Although some of the younger children missed the ‘bouncy house’, we did put together an event that captured the spirit of our school community.

It was wonderful to see older students accompanying the younger students, in some cases having to hold their hands at intersections and crosswalks. I was impressed by parents who assisted our police escort to ensure the safety of our children. Our teachers adapted quickly to the new format and supported and enriched the experience for all of the children. For the first time we had a whole school lunch, the ‘Walk-a-thon

banquet,’ as I liked to call it. All of the children, from Nursery to Twelfth Grade sat at tables in the gymnasium and ate lunch together. It was really a very special moment for our school community. To have almost three hundred students, teachers, and parents eating lunch together clearly celebrated our identity as the Garden Family. These events touch the heart of a school and its community, demonstrating that our school has an inner strength that manifests itself at these celebrations of our identity and of our mission. This inner strength emerges from ninety-six years of cultivation of the idea that our school is a family that can come together at any moment and celebrate its unity. Sometimes during the daily movement from class to class, from quiz to project, from activity to more quieter moments, we can’t lose the larger perspective of who we are. However, when more than 250 children and adults, all wearing Garden “Tee” shirts walk through the streets of Jackson Heights in a visual affirmation of our identity and mission, then the inner strength of our community shines through.



The entire school joined together in the gymnasium for lunch.

GARDEN SCHOOL



JACKSON HEIGHTS



Garden School Walk-a-Thon 2019



Elias G. in First Grade was the Garden School Headmaster for a day



Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, May 21: Career Day
- Thursday, May 23: Senior Prom
- Monday, May 27: Memorial Day (No School)
- Tuesday, May 28th & Thursday, May 30th: SAT Testing for Fourth through Sixth Grades
- Tuesday, May 28: Senior Dinner
- Thursday, May 30: Upper Division Play: "Save the Music" in the gym
- Friday, May 31: UD Awards Ceremony and BBQ
- Upper Division Exams: June 4-6
- Friday, June 7: Last day of the Second Semester (Fourth Quarter)
 - LD Stepping Up Ceremony in the Gym
 - Pre-K-for-All Sports Day
- Tuesday, June 11: UD Graduation Ceremony in the Gym

In New York City, 621 subway incidents involved a person who is on the tracks or struck by a train.



STEP AWAY FROM THE TRAIN

Sophia M. in Sixth Grade wants kids and adults alike to be careful on subway and train platforms.

Renew your child's contract for next year and make a tuition deposit. You can use this link on the Garden School website to pay your deposit online.

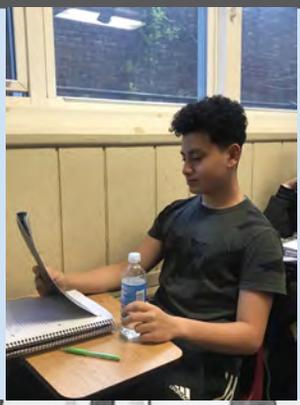


Seniors Yara and Leah build a replica of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.



Garden Academic Pages

Mr. Hale talks about H-Bridge Motors and Transistors for His Bio-Mechanical Engineering Class



The Biomedical Engineering class has started to work on their final exam project. For this project they will need to build an H-Bridge motor using an electrical breadboard, transistors, resistors, and button switches. This style of electrical set-up allows for a motor to run in the forward and backward directions. This is to help mimic how motors in IV's and other medical equipment work. They will need to build this first using a 3D design program called TinkerCAD and then they will need to build this physically. We look forward to seeing their progress.



Garden School students wrote a play. It is called "Save the Music". We're set to stage it for the first time in the gym on Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 PM.



Mr. Dervishi talks about golf and how to land a bean bag into a hula hoop.

On the Move by Mrs. Joanne Vogel,
Nursery Teacher

Physical education is a large, and important, piece of the Nursery day! Mrs. Lilly has our 'super simple' songs playing as children are welcomed each morning. They sing along and imitate the movements. During Music we follow Mr. Heineman's directions and move to the beat, dancing the Salsa! Next, in Mandarin we repeat and act out animal moves with Ms Yang.

Throughout the day we take "Brain Breaks" by getting up and moving to many songs, stretching our bodies to clear our minds. By following simple directional movements, we strengthen fine and gross motor skills, as well as sequencing patterns. We walked around the small field for the Garden School Walkathon, and then we went to the Playground to enjoy climbing, running, jumping, and sliding with our classmates. We are looking forward to more sunny spring mornings where we can go outside and move. And still, parents and caretakers often remark at how much energy _----->

Pre-K and Kindergarten started the week with learning the proper way on how to hold a golf club, and the difference strokes of on how to hit a Golf ball the correct way. We did a seven minute warm-up with a fun game about how to properly throw the bean bag into a hula hoop. On Tuesday we have Tumbling Tuesday. The kids learned how to do a round off into hula hoops. We will continue tumbling until end of school year. Wednesday was our favorite day of the week; we have a dance off with the students for our Wacky Wednesday and play freeze dance. On Thursday we had the Walk-a-thon for the majority of the day then for the last twenty minutes of class we danced by looking at dance moves from (Just Dance). On Friday we played popcorn. We made a huge colorful fabric bubble where we go inside and tell fun stories inside the massive bubble. It's been a really fun week and we're looking forward to next week's unit.

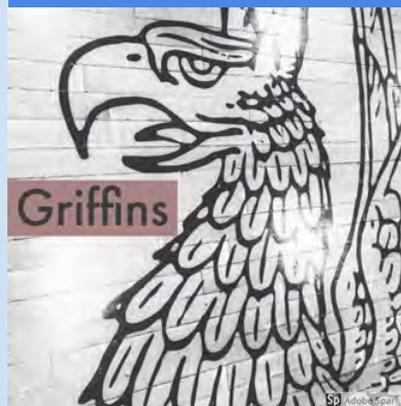
the children have at the end of the day. So, extend these activities to the walks home or playing in the park or backyard. Take "giant steps," elephant steps, and turtle steps, "dance to the beat" whenever you can, and keep moving! Bodies and minds will appreciate the physical activity.

English 7 is finishing C.S. Lewis' *Out of the Silent Planet*, a young adult fantasy about alien life on the planet Malacandra and what happens when they are invaded by an evil genius from Earth. Sparked by the ideas in Lewis' Utopian vision, the students are writing their own five-chapter stories set in other worlds populated by fantastic creatures. Using knowledge gained in life science classes about the systems of the body, we created plausible aliens in habitats that could support them. Aquatic worlds turned out to be very popular! Students are writing in pairs or going solo and have finished two chapters. Their stories are hair-raising, swashbuckling adventures all, complete with beauty, gore, peace and war. A great way to end an eventful year!

English 8 is finishing *October Sky* by Homer Hickam, Jr. Set in the late 1950's through early 60's, the memoir chronicles the high school years of a poor Appalachian coal-miner's son who followed his dream to become a NASA engineer. It resonates with many of the readers because we all have dreams, some of them seemingly unattainable. Hickam was not particularly outstanding in any way as a high school kid; he was not the especially bright, athletic, good-looking or any other adjective. What he had was a dream. And guts. When his own father said he'd never make it, he set about to prove his father wrong and succeeded. In the process he discovered that Dad was not the enemy, and in fact had fought his own way to the top with similar drawbacks. In the end he concludes (reluctantly but with a bit of pride) that he's just like his dad after all.

In Physical Science the 8th graders, actually build rockets with younger students in our yearly tradition and taught them lessons on space exploration. As we finish the novel in English 8 we will present talks, power points or skits to our peers on themes in *October Sky* and why the relationships in the story are universal. As our middle school years draw to a close, we will end with this closure as we prepare for high school and the challenges to come

Notes
from the
Seventh
and Eighth
Grade
Dean,
Mrs.
Nancy
Massand

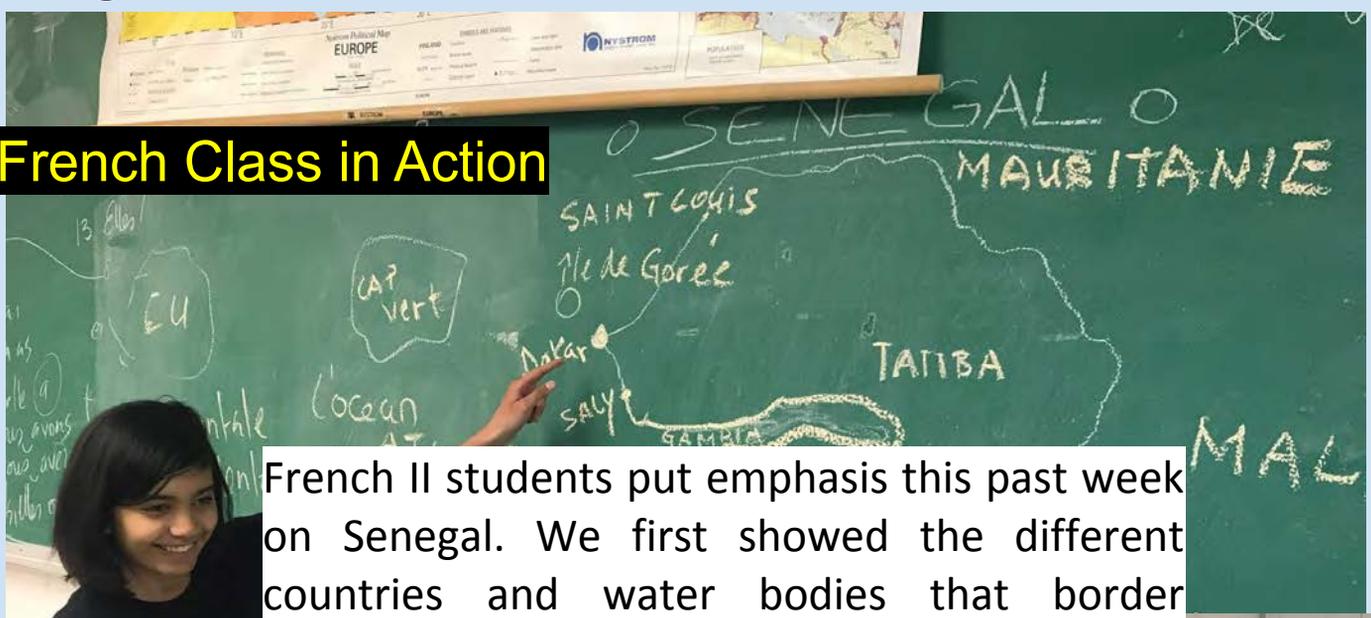


We are learning about the cultural and physical geography of certain places scattered around Spain, Mexico, and the history of the Spaniards, and the Aztecs. There are a lot of fascinating facts on the history of both Spain and Mexico. One student in our class, Ron Z., wrote “We are learning a lot of things about Mexico. For example its location, its cities, and its historical sites.” Heea reports that “we learned about how significant the locations are and the history of them. We also learned about their culture and what they do. One thing I learned about is that Mexico City is the second most populated city in the world and how Spain’s summer playground is Malaga.”

Notes
from the
World
Languages
Dean,
Mr.
Melara

Spanish

French Class in Action



French II students put emphasis this past week on Senegal. We first showed the different countries and water bodies that border Senegal. Then, we talked about the population, economy, and historical ties with France. We stressed upon the different touristic sites including the pink lake and the island of Gorée which served as a slave transit center from the 15th to the 19th . Besides, we delved down into the different ethnic groups in Senegal.





First Graders Leo, Buiar, and Leti display their best Monet work.

Mr. Zelles Talks Art and Impressionism with First, Second, and Third Grades

First, Second and Third Graders are currently learning about the Impressionist movement, and the artist who helped popularize it. For their project students learned about Claude Monet's life, and how he was a key figure in changing the way people perceived art. The focus of the project was Monet's, *Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies*; here students first drew the bridge and water lilies using oil pastels. Students were instructed to use different shades of green, and were taught how to blend and layer the colors. To paint the water, students used a variety of different watercolors, and were instructed to paint quickly using short brushstrokes. Overall, this was a very successful project, and acts as a great segway to our Van Gogh unit, which will start next week.

Mrs. Blakely's Sixth Graders are embarking on their statistics project, (aka, the **right to be nosy using math).**

Students will be polling their chosen grades to find out what is 'normal'. They will present their findings to their fellow sixth graders. Some topics under investigation are: pets, YouTube preferences, favorite sports, past school experiences, and books. Students will use their knowledge of the various types of averages (mean, median, mode) and variability measures (range, IQR, MAD) to make claims about general trends at Garden School.

Notes from the Music Stand by Mr. Heineman, Chair of the Music Department

At the Lower Division Spring Show last week, students in First and Second grade did an excellent job collaborating on three different challenging songs from the musical, **Into the Woods Jr.** They sang a version of the titular song about journeying into the unknown as told from Little Red Riding Hood's perspective. Students also sang two duets, one of which, 'It Takes Two,' has the principal characters of the Baker and the Baker's Wife realizing that they need to work together in order to accomplish their goals.

Third Grade was responsible for the closing number of the Prologue as well as one of the show Finales, 'Children Will Listen.' This song is a reprise with new words of two previous selections including 'No One is Alone,' First and Second Grade's rhythmically demanding duet. Students really welcomed the challenge of the material, and we discussed the fact that there are many tasks that we will encounter in life that we will not be able to accomplish immediately. The time and effort that we devote to our endeavors in order to be able to perform them is part of what makes them worthwhile.

Congratulations on a Wonderful Spring Fling Performance

Congratulations to the lower division for the wonderful performance they gave last week of the musical **Into the Woods Jr.** 6th grade did a superb job in memorizing their lines and delivering them with authority, and giving strong, dramatic performances. The Stephen Sondheim songs that students performed were very tricky and demanding, but the students embraced the challenge and worked very hard to make the songs work. The show opener, performed by a group of 6th grade students and the entire 5th grade class, consisted of four independent vocal parts that eventually overlap. Students had to be extremely accurate when counting their entrances and confident when singing opposing lines, but they really focused and sang their parts with conviction.

The production also consisted of several elaborate sets and props including a rising beanstalk, runaway hen (chicken on wheels), life-size trees, and Rapunzel's tower designed by Mr. James and Mrs. James. The sounds included the growing beanstalk (which consisted of multiple recordings of paper being crumpled coupled with the sound of an earthquake), a mix of crowd noise and Tchaikovsky's 'Waltz of the Flowers' to create the ballroom ambience, harp glissandos united with the sound of a moistened glass being played to suggest the singing harp, and a recording from a polo match for the distant rumblings of horse hooves. Mr. Zelles' terrific backdrop and set pieces along with the aforementioned scenery and sounds all aided in creating these illusions. Great work by all, and thank you to everyone involved! Take pride in a job well done!

Pre-Season Summer Program at Garden School for children currently enrolled in Nursery through 8th Grades



June 10-June 14, 2019
June 17-June 21, 2019

8 AM to 3 PM
In Room 35

After School available until 6 PM

- Drop-off & pick-up via 79th Street entrance (Front of School)
- Please be prompt for pick-up
- Children should wear sneakers & play clothes
- Sprinklers/Pool may be used. Please send appropriate swim clothes and a towel
- Bring brown-bag lunch with name on bag
- Nursery, Pre-K & K students must have change of clothes & towel for nap
- Sporting activities in Gymnasium and Field
- Various arts and crafts projects in Art Studio
- \$100 per child per day or \$400 (discounted price) for the week (check payable to Garden School with completed Application)
- Limited Bus Service available @ \$135 per week

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Dates Attending _____

Emergency Contact Person & Phone Number

Parent's Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Return completed form and payment by Wednesday, May 15, 2019

[Use this link for a printable form](#)