



Garden School Newsletter



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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“Cultivating Success in Every Child”

Friday, May 31, 2019

Thoughts for the Week

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



The most recent issue of *Independent School*, the quarterly journal published by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) raises some important questions about the often-used phrase “educating the whole child.” We know from so many studies and observations of school life, that for generations, education meant focusing entirely on academic areas and those other areas, socialization, ethical behavior, safety, were left to the families.

As the educational, social, and familial structures of our society have changed, so has the idea of education. For those of us in independent schools, it is now inconceivable to think of education as exclusively academic or test-based. The idea of testing emerged out of the politics of educations, in which public officials used the idea of test scores as the indicator of a school’s quality and success. We know that spending a large portion of the year in test preparation will raise scores a bit but will not guarantee that learning, authentic learning, has actually taken place.

In the Summer 2019 issue of *Independent School*, a more global vision of educating the whole child has emerged; here the emphasis is on health, well-being, equality, digital and economic literacy, engagement with the social world, engagement with the world within the school and many other areas that have emerged as significant to our world. A school’s role now becomes a microcosm of life and history. We are not single subject teachers; we are global educators in the sense that the boundary line between school and the world has dissolved, partially through technology but more through a seismic shift in culture. The idea of working with students on a more complete level and on a global perspective is inspiring. In our new culture, the school is the world.



Mrs. Little and her Mathletes compete in the annual Math Competition at Queens College. (From the left: Wilson W., Abba A., Arib M., Tsewang S., Patrick Z., and Albert W.). N.B. Anastasia P. is not pictured.



Aviva and Leah pose for a photo opportunity at the Senior Dinner. Kids were honored by faculty to commemorate their time spent at Garden. Thank you Mr. Battaglia for uplifting this year's graduating class.

Dates to Remember

- 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

Garden School

Summer Enrichment Program

Keep up with your child's learning this summer and use the Garden School's [Summer Enrichment Program](#). Over the past 11 years, we have worked with Ms. Massand and other teachers on creating this website that will give students resources to help keep their skills up during the summer.



Garden Academic Pages

“What Sense is It” by Mrs. Joanne Vogel – Nursery Teacher

Springtime is a wonderful time to use our senses to observe our world, both in and out of our classroom. Earlier in spring, we walked around the courtyard and looked at signs of spring popping out of the ground and blooming on the bushes. We could smell the fragrant blossoms and touch the different types of leaves.

While we haven't enjoyed many warm, sunny days outside, we could use our sense of hearing to hear the chirping birds, the pitter-patter of rain, and the low flying planes on gray days. While enjoying our daily snacks and lunch, we talk about the color and tastes and smells of our different foods. The other day we were just talking about pickles, and did a poll of who liked the taste of them. Just a very few did, but everyone sure loves ice cream!

The last sense we explored was touch and how we use our hands, feet, and face to help us learn what feels good to us through our skin. Our favorite touch was a hug from our family members. Enjoy the end of spring, and discuss with your child the use of senses as we near the summer season. Compare and contrast inside and outside uses of our senses. Play guessing games as you prepare foods at home or go on neighborhood walks. Use different vacation settings, such as the countryside, a pond, or the beach, to discuss senses. And when reading stories, poems, or books, ask what various senses would tell us about the world you are exploring.



On Thursday night, the school put on a play written and directed by students - “Music Saves”. Bravo, brava! (Abba, Leah, Dianna, Maya, Patrick, Aviva, Mr. Vallario, Mrs. Massand, Dylan, Ava, and Keane are in the back row. In the front row are Anastasia, Hanshi, Anna, Theodora, Rebecca, and Mr. Roselli). We can all thank Mrs. Massand and Mr. Vallario for their leadership in putting on this wonderful performance.

Lauren Yandow - Kindergarten Teacher

This week was a very exciting week for us in Kindergarten as well as in the world of science! Nature received some beautiful flying insects that grew right in our classroom: painted lady butterflies! Over the past few weeks, we have watched these butterflies begin their lives as tiny caterpillars and transform through the chrysalis stage into healthy butterflies. Students not only learned about the life cycle of a butterfly, but we have also been studying the different body parts of a butterfly and their scientific terms such as thorax, proboscis, antennae, and abdomen. With Pre-K, we said goodbye to our butterfly friends and released them at the entrance of the school where there are plenty of delicious flowers and plants for them to feed on. Saying goodbye was bittersweet, however understanding why these insects cannot be pets was part of this learning experience for the children. As a writing activity for graduation, some of the students wrote about how they will miss the butterflies in Kindergarten when they move onto first grade. I guess we enjoyed ourselves this year!



Mrs. Yandow and Mrs. Reyes's class release butterflies in the school front yard.

Butterflies!



Exploring the Environment by [Mrs. Eileen Reyes](#) (Early Childhood Development)

Since Earth Day, there have been lessons on how each person is responsible for protecting our planet. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle were topics of discussion as the students practiced cleaning trash out of a stream on the Smartboard and recycling within the classroom. This important unit of study led to the identification of living things that inhabit our planet. Plants and animals are important parts of our planet Earth. Beans, onions, carrots, and radishes were planted in our science center in clear view containers. The roots of each plant were clearly seen along with the stems, and leaves for the students to explore the life cycle of a plant. The life cycle of a caterpillar was observed when live caterpillars came to live in our classroom in a tiny jar. Daily observations of these caterpillars were made as they ate and grew bigger. The children continued their observations as the caterpillars changed into their chrysalids and then eventually transformed into butterflies. Discussions on the similarities and differences of plants and animals have been ongoing. Each child took a bean plant home to care for over the summer. Much excitement was had when our butterflies were finally released in the flower garden in front of the school. *Earth Day Every Day* by Lisa Bullard, *One Bean* by Anne Rockwell, *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle, and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle are some of the books read to support our science units of study.



Fifth Grade Social Studies Report by [Ms. Renner](#)

The Fifth Grade began the week investigating how growth affects different groups. Building the transcontinental railroad had effects on several groups of people, such as immigrant workers, cattle farmers, cowboys, homesteaders, and Native Americans. The students identified both the positive and negative impacts of the growth of the country. They then moved onto the costs and benefits of growth. The students were challenged to analyze the way inventions during the late 1800s and early 1900s changed the way people lived. The week ended learning about Henry Ford and the assembly line. Next week the class will take part in an assembly line simulation activity.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Sports Report by [Mr. Dervishi](#) (P.E. Teacher)

7th and 8th Graders have participated in various sports and learned many skills throughout the year such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, badminton, wiffle ball and many more. Our PE class begins with a warm up games or exercise. The goal is to learn and move with strategy keeping their heart rate up as much as possible. We are now finishing up wiffle ball this Friday will be the championship game which we will crown a champion. It's been very competitive and we are looking forwards to the finals.

In the first few weeks of our unit, we focused on fundamental skills, Students have done a great job incorporating new skills leading up to the games, we have introduced 2 teams for wiffle ball this arrangement encourages students to all play at the same time. 7th and 8th grade have shown enthusiasm and displayed a good sense of sportsmanship, communication, teamwork in our wiffle ball unit.



Sixth Grade Social Studies Report by [Ms. Renner](#)

The Sixth Grade has entered a long awaited topic, Europe during the Middle Ages. In this unit students learned about feudalism in medieval Europe and and spread of Christianity, explored trade and towns in the Middle Ages and the breakdown of society, and studied religious leaders, conflict and the crusades. To learn more about feudalism, the students used the Manor Game to create their own manors. This fun activity incorporated creativity and listening skills. They were only allowed to construct the manor, church, village, forest and jousting ring when the corresponding was read. Each manor gave itself a name and drew roads to demonstrate their understanding of trade and interconnectedness. Also this week, the class read and analyzed the cause and effect of five of the Articles of the Magna Carta. They understood that the lords and bishops wanted consent for fair taxes, freedom for the Church, and trial by jury. Next week the class will learn if they would survive the Black Death.

A Well-Rounded Year by [Mrs. Sarah Blakeley](#) (Math Teacher)

We've had a well rounded year in geometry. (Get it?) Students have transitioned from non-dimensional shapes to three dimensional figures. We've explored the properties of points, lines, rays, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, spheres, pyramids, cones, and cylinders. They've learned to support their mathematical claims using detailed proofs. We also started the basics of trigonometry to help create a firm foundation for next year.

The Fourth Grade has traveled through all five of the regions of the United States. After learning about the importance of trade for the western region, the students were interested in continuing a study of the nation's economy. How does the economy meet our needs and wants? Needs, wants, producers, consumers, and free enterprise system help the class answer this question. The class watched Chocolate with Nuts, a Spongebob episode, to gain a better understanding of entrepreneurship. The students identified what was wrong with Spongebob's methods, he lied, and what could be done to improve sales, offer varieties, buy a billboard, and make a commercial. Next week the class will learn how the increase in technology has lead to an increase in global trade.



**Fourth Grade
Social Studies
Report by [Mrs.
Renner](#)**

Senior Prom 2019



Seniors had a chance to pose in a group picture for their Prom night, Thank you Mr. Grusky for organizing this special event and thank you to the teachers and administration who chaperoned the night's events at the St. Regis Hotel. Congratulations Class of 2019!

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](#)