

Garden School News

February 1, 2008

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Headmaster's Column

Several days ago I was listening to the BBC News sports report; this particular broadcast talked about the major Australia/India cricket match that had just ended. During the broadcast, the announcer paid tribute the great Australian cricket player, Gilchrist, who retired at the end of the match. The BBC talked about Gilchrist's accomplishments and mentioned that he was one of a number of players who engaged in the practice of 'walking.' 'Walking' is the practice of some players who, when they know that they are 'out,' but the umpire says they are 'safe,' politely say that they are in fact 'out' and walk off the field.

I was so completely taken with this practice. Imagine a professional athlete openly and honestly saying, "I'm sorry, but I was really out on that play." What an act of courage and of honor, especially since in most professional sports the coaches and players tend to engage either in active 'harassment' of the umpire and certainly passively acceptance of a call in their favor even when they know it is the wrong call.

What a lesson to be learned from these 'walkers' about responsibility and honor, about telling the truth, even when it is not in your immediate best interest, of placing the truth above self aggrandizement and self-interest. If there are 'heroes' in sports, then it is not just the player who wins the game, but the player who behaves honestly.... who is truly heroic.

Dates to Remember

Monday, Feb. 4th

College Night for Junior and Seniors and their families
William Poll Dining Room

Tuesday, Feb. 5th

Fourth & Fifth Grade trip to Lower East Side Tenement
Museum

Thursday Feb. 7th

Art Elective Class trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art

Thursday Feb. 14th

Student Council & PTA Valentine Sale
European Trip for Grades 9-12 departs

Friday, February 15th

European Trip for Grades 7-8 departs

Winter Break

Monday February 18th to Friday, February 22nd



Washington



Lincoln

Upper Division

Garden School has revived a course taught long ago to help further the student's understanding of our universe, Astronomy. Astronomy is the science of celestial objects (such as stars, planets, comets, and galaxies) and phenomena that originate outside the Earth's atmosphere (such as auroras and cosmic background radiation). The course will guide the students through a journey starting with the sun and following the planets to and out of our solar system. We will investigate each planet and its relationship to celestial objects. With the generous donation of a new computer from a parent, the students will be able to see current images of these planets and the ability to use

different internet telescopes to take pictures and analyze their mysteries. Once the journey through the solar system is finished, we will visit the rest of the universe and attempt to understand the final frontier.

The Astronomy course is a one-semester elective open to junior and seniors. Other science courses for upper classmen include Bioethics, Forensic, Environmental Science, Anatomy, Physics, and Advanced Placement Biology.



Lower Division Highlights

For many, the school day does not end at 2:40. Clubs, Foundation Courses, Music Conservatory and Afterschool Programs round out the day until 6PM. Some students in grades 4 through 6 have joined the Math Club.

Math Club 2007 has investigated mathematical themes in fun and exciting ways. The year began with the exploration of the Platonic Solids, namely the tetrahedron, cube, dodecahedron, octahedron and the icosahedrons. These solids are named after Plato; although, some credit Pythagoras with their discovery, while others credit Theaetetus, a contemporary of Plato. The students began their investigation by dissecting the word given to each figure and understanding its Greek origin. For example, the prefix icos comes from the Greek number system and means twenty; the root hedron means seat, and, thus, the name *icosahedron* emerges. The students built the solids with card stock and rubber bands. Some are still on display in room 4.

Next, the students explored number patterns and color patterns in Pascal's Triangle. They used color patterns to locate *Pascal's Petals*, triangular numbers and Fibonacci numbers. The theme of triangles was extended to fractals in *Sierpinski's Triangle*. The students enjoyed drawing the "Freaky Fractal", as it is called in a popular book published by DK Publishing, *Go Figure*. This book was suggested by a fourth grader, and

Lower Division Highlights Continued.....

many of the students are thrilled with the vivid colors, illustrations and mathematical concepts. Two copies of the book can be found in our school library!

Topics scheduled for investigation in the spring semester of the club include the mathematics in origami, shapes and tessellations. These topics will be discussed as we await our most venerated day of the year, PI Day (March 14 or 3.14). On this day we will explore Archimedes and the beloved ratio.



On Thursday, January 31, the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, and third grade classes attended the performance of Nai-Ni-Chen at the LaGuardia Community College Theater. The students enjoyed watching the modern dances which were inspired by Asian Art and Chinese calligraphy. The performance is a great addition to their study of Chinese language and culture.

During Chinese class, the Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes are learning the traditions of Chinese New Year by integrating hands on activities. Recently, they enjoyed tasting Chinese dumplings. The students are looking forward to their upcoming parade that will take place in the beginning February. In addition to the many words, phrases and songs learned, first, second, and third graders have been making lanterns and are learning to write Chinese calligraphy. Chinese artwork is displayed outside the students' classrooms.

Reminders.....

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Hawaiian Luau

Friday, March 7th

7:00 to 10:00 pm

Gymnasium

Tickets: \$10 per person

\$35 per family

Food/Dessert served.

***Variety of games and activities and
Hula Dancers***



Please check the

Lost and Found

***which will be set up
in the Lower Division Hallway
prior to Winter Break***

***Any items not retrieved will be
donated to the Salvation Army***