

Garden School News

March 7, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 9

Headmaster's Column

Several years ago at the Heads of School meeting at the Mohonk Mountain House, we spent three days discussing the concept of *sustainability*. The discussion ranged from environmental to economic and finally to school sustainability. As you can imagine, the discussions were quite lively and detailed, but also forced school heads to think about what it really means for a school, an independent school, to function for as many years as most of us have.

School founders have usually had a specific mission in mind when they established independent schools; yet most founders never fully imagined what those schools would be like fifty, eighty or a hundred years later. Of course, each generation caring for a school has to make adjustments based on the school's mission, population, philosophy and finances.

Sustainability for an independent school involves the ability to adjust its practices, not necessarily its mission, to the wider changes taking place in the world around it and in which it exists. The most obvious change involves technology. However other changes, such as after school programs, came about as a result of the changing needs of the school population.

Each school looks at its mission and its context, and then decides what are those necessary qualities and resources needed to sustain its mission in the face of those contexts. Sustainability supports our mission every day.

Upper Division Sports

The 2007-8 Garden School Basketball Season was a very exciting, challenging, and extremely rewarding experience.

The Boys Varsity Basketball Team had a very exciting and productive season with hard fought and well deserved victories over such opponents as The Birch Wathen Lenox School, The Calhoun School, and Brooklyn Friends School. They once again qualified for the ISAL Basketball Playoffs, losing a very tough game vs Browning. Thanks to the very hard work and supportive guidance of Mr. Mun Chung, the team has a lot to look forward to in the future. Led by Seniors: Sid Menon, Vinny Cook and Curtis Frederick and Sophomores: Matthew Riccio & George Anthony

The Girls Middle School Team had an unbelievable season!!! In only their third season of play, they finished in 2nd Place overall in the GISAL Middle School Basketball League with a fantastic record of 10 wins and only 1 loss and a 13-3 season record overall!!! They had some very impressive victories over such opponents as Columbia Prep, The Dalton School, Trevor Day School, and UNIS. Excellently coached by Ms. Leslie Kohen in her 1st year at Garden School, the Girls Middle School Team have a very bright future ahead of them. Led by 8th Graders: Summer Calenberg & Victoria Vogel and 7th Grader: Haley Nieweg

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Dates to Remember

Student Enrollment
Contracts For 2008/9
Due March 14th

Trip to Cloisters—Grade 6
March 19

In School Workshops by
Freedom Institute
for Grades 6-12
March 17, 18 & 19

Spring Break
March 20th through 28th

Yearbook Bake Sale
March 17

New Date
Faculty Workshop Day
Monday, April 14

Book Talk

What our Faculty is Reading..

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

In a brutally honest portrayal of friendship and loyalty strained to snapping in the conflicting tug of racial and political tensions, Khaled Hosseini has crafted a masterpiece in *Kite Runner*, the best seller that captured western hearts.

The story is narrated by Amir, a young Afghani Pashtun who betrays his devoted friend, Hassan,

his family's Shiite Hazara servant. Inseparable as children, the boys are driven apart by Amir's cowardice and deceit. Guilt follows Amir for nearly thirty years, even as he emigrates to the US with his overbearing father and marries a woman who also wrestles with her past sins. In an act of redemption, Amir travels back to his native Afghanistan and rescues Hassan's son from a cruel master, finally rising

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Lower Division Highlights

Among some of the most famous children's books are those by Dr. Seuss. His classic books are known for text that rhymes and colorful creature characters. The text allows for predictable sentence completion and easy recall by students.

Dr. Seuss was born on March 2nd and this year, his birthday was celebrated in schools around the country on Monday, March 3rd. Our Early Childhood classes joined in with readings of his more famous books such as *Cat in the Hat*, *One Fish Two Fish*, and *The Lorax*. The dining room staff added to the festivities by serving Breakfast for Lunch and the very creative, green eggs and ham to commemorate the book of the same title, first published in 1960.

Many students wore red and white in recognition of the cartoon colors used in his books, and art projects focused on Seuss hats and cat masks, worn throughout the day.



Blue & White Night

Among the many ways that our parents support the mission of the Garden School is through fundraising activities that bring our community together.

The Blue and White Night, held in our gymnasium on February 1, was a great success as a fundraiser (\$14,000!) but was also an important night for the community. Led by parents Deirdre McKenna and Ana Valenza, the evening consisted of food and wine tasting, raffles and a silent auction.

What is most important about the night is that parents worked together to put on an event for the benefit of our school. We need more and more parents to participate in such events, either as donors, organizers or workers. The more parents support these events, the greater the impact on our finances and our community spirit.

Our Hawaiian Luau

From Hula dancers to volcanoes, Hawaii came to Garden School on Friday night March 7th. In preparation throughout the year, students have been studying all aspects of our 50th state including its geography, culture, language and customs.

Students and families gathered in the gymnasium to enjoy a night filled with foods like roasted pig, Hawaiian pizza, mashed sweet potatoes, tropical fruits and nuts. There were arts and craft activities for children, Hula Dancers from Polynesian Dance Productions performing native dances, a demonstration of juggling skill by Ms. Ahlfeld and "Jake" the talking Macaw supplying commentary on all.

Ms. Carmela Augello and her planning committee would like to thank all the families for their generous support and donations.



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Our Boys Middle School Team was extremely competitive in the Independent School Athletic League winning a total of 9 games over such opponents as Lycee Francais, The Churchill School, The Calhoun School, Trevor Day School and The Rudolph Steiner School this season. They finished in 4th place in the League and qualified for the League Playoffs losing a hotly contested match vs. LREI. They were wonderfully coached by Mr. Richard Kruzcek in his second year guiding the team.

Led by 8th Graders: Ian Amann-Rao, Sachin Malhotra and Jonathan Cortez and 7th Graders: Nicolas Northcutt and Marco Antonio Rima

The Girls Varsity Basketball Team had the most challenging season, playing their hearts out and giving their very best effort in every game. Winning a total of 7 games all season, with nice victories over opponents such as Calhoun School, Brooklyn Friends, The Rudolph Steiner School and UNIS this very young and exciting team will be back next season even better and stronger than ever!!

Led by Juniors: Daniela Triana & Tatiana Ambarsom and Seniors Annick Pilorge, Maha Abdel-Al, Romina Kostich and Diana Dabah



Book Talk Cont..

to the level of sacrifice that his former servant had once displayed on his behalf.

The Taliban opposition in late 1970's Afghanistan provides a devastating backdrop as the story unfolds, a story that is poignant in any language and any era but especially relevant in our own times. As in most serious modern narratives, there is frequently an unhappy ending; however, even in the face of cruelty and prejudice, Hosseini offers hope. The noble and self-sacrificing Hassan dies defending the house of the self-absorbed Amir, but through Hassan's death Amir overcomes the complacency of his privileged status and becomes devoted to the emotional healing of Hassan's son. A small mission, perhaps, but one that strikes a chord of empathy in the reader and offers hope that we do not have to be shaped by our shameful pasts.

By Nancy Massand
English Teacher & Dean,
Grades 7&8