

# Garden School News

October 3, 2008

Volume 8 Issue 2

## Headmaster's Column

This morning we had a guest speaker for the eleventh and twelfth grades, who gathered in the library to hear Mamadou Thior, a Senegalese journalist speak about the 'role of the press' in Africa.

We were fortunate to have Mr. Thior here because of his friendship with Mr. Gomis, a member of our Foreign Language Department, who arranged for the program.

Mr. Thior spoke about the press in Africa and in the US, and, as he did so, he mentioned the importance of the press as a respected and vital element in the democratic process. As I was listening to him, I made a note of the use of the word respect, a word we often use to characterize our expectations for positive human relations.

The word respect itself has a long history, deriving from the Latin word, *respicere*, which fuses the Latin *re specere*, meaning to look back, to look again—but in all cases, to look, to see.

Isn't that what respect is—seeing another human being in the fullness of his or her humanity? When we respect another person, we 'see' that person as human, sharing all characteristics with us. When we show our disrespect, we fragment the other person into an aspect—a face, a nose, an article of clothing etc. When we see another as a fragment of a whole, then we show our disrespect; when we see the person as completely human, then we recognize and respect that other person. Disrespect,

then, is a form of dehumanizing another into a part of a whole. Let's all commit to respect, to seeing as complete human beings and nothing less.

When Mr. Thior spoke of reporting about events throughout the world, he talked about creating a complete picture of another culture, not just a fragment. All of this is connected to the belief that when we look at another person, country or culture in a complete manner, then we can see the humanity and the dignity of the whole. On a daily basis, if we all see the other as a whole human being, then respect will permeate each aspect of our lives.



Indian Point hosts Garden's Sophomores and Seniors

## Upper Division

On Thursday, October 2nd, Garden School sophomores and seniors traveled to Buchanan, NY and received an exclusive tour of the massive Indian Point Energy Center. The nuclear power facility, which generates roughly 25% of NYC's electricity, extended first-rate hospitality to our chemistry and physics students. After a truths-and-misconceptions presentation and video showing a 500mph plane crumpling like paper against a reactor wall during a safety test, the plant's education coordinator (a 30 years veteran), took the group on a walking tour through the inner workings of the site, hard hats and all. Hours later with mementos in hand, the students returned to Jackson Heights, having gained a much better sense of how this controversial energy source impacts all of our lives

## Lower Division Highlights

The voices of the nursery children singing the "Fall Song" could be heard this past week as they began their fall theme. They have been observing the changing colors of the leaves falling from the trees outside. While inside, each child made an apple which was hung on the classroom apple tree. They continue to have fun with new shapes. Square, triangle, and star are the new ones they are now able to recognize.

Pre-K has been working on an apple theme. They read about Johnny Appleseed and how he went about planning apple trees. The children enjoyed delicious applesauce that was made during cooking class. For science, they dissected apples to see the kind of seeds Johnny Appleseed planted. After tasting red, yellow, and green apples, the pre-k students chose their favorites and made a graph for this week's math lesson. Red apples were the chosen favorite.

The Kindergarten students have been learning about the American folktale, Johnny Appleseed. They have enjoyed comparing different versions and illustrations through a variety of authors. The students have been celebrating the birthday of Johnny Appleseed in their cooking lessons. They have explored new culinary skills while making apple pancakes, applesauce, and apple trees.

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## Lower Division Highlights Cont...

They are eager to continue learning about their theme, the "world around them" and are looking forward to learning about fire safety.

First, second and third grade students are reading stories that encourage the use of imagination. First grade has read *Eek! There's a Mouse in the House*, by Wong Herbert Yee, and wrote creative ways to catch a mouse in their own house. They have also completed a week long study on Franklin the Turtle (series of books by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark). Activities included identifying problems and solutions, discussing fears, and comparing and contrasting books and movies. Second grade has read Arthur Dorros' *Abuela*. After reading, the class created collages modeled after the illustrations. The students were pictured flying with a family member over a location that is special to their family. Then each student gave a presentation of their work. They have begun a discussion of legends with the Steven Kellogg's book *The Mysterious Tadpole*. Third grade is enjoying *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgrun. They are half way through the book and have written about many of Pippi's silly adventures.

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum offers students a chance to explore our planet in different ways. The fourth grade has been discussing our solar system and begins its study of biology. Students in grade five are ensconced in the life cycles of frogs and their anatomies. Sixth grade students are learning about various life styles, too!...the life of stars!! They are exploring stars and examining the different myths behind constellations. Studying the stars will come in handy when fifth and sixth graders visit Camp Herrlich (at the end of October) to

## There's Still Time...

..... to enter our Sixth Annual Tuition Raffle. The drawing is Monday, October 6, 2008. Seventy percent (70%) of the value of the gross receipts will go to the winner as a tuition award. The more families that enter, the higher the potential for the award.

To download an entry form from our website, go to the Parents link on the Navigation Bar and then to "Forms". We will announce the winner on Tuesday morning..... **Good Luck !!!!**



## Student Council Mock Presidential Debates

The Student Council is sponsoring a Presidential Debate for Grades 6-12 on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> during second period and Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> during sixth period. Students will take opposite sides of the debate and get a chance to answer questions from a moderator about their candidate's point of view.

The entire student body will have the opportunity to vote for their candidate of choice by checking off on a ballot issued by Student Council. Faculty, too, will be able to exercise their right to vote! Tabulations of this "election" will follow shortly.

## Dates to Remember

- *Mon. 10/6 Drawing for Tuition Raffle*
- *Mon. 10/6 Foundations Courses and Music/Band Program Begin*
- *Wed. 10/8 International Club Bake Sale*
- *Thurs. 10/9 School Closed*
- *Mon., 10/13 School Closed—Columbus Day*
- *Wed. 10/15 PSAT for Grades 10 & 11*
- *Thurs. 10/16—Lower Division Photo Day*
- *Thurs. 10/16 Trustees Meeting*
- *Fri. 10/17 Upper Division Photo Day*

## Sports at Garden!

For up to date information on Fall sports and team schedules visit our website; go to the "Our School" link on the Navigations Bar, and then click on "Sports" and then the team you are interested in.

Cheer on our Girls Varsity Volleyball team., Varsity Boys Soccer and our newly formed co-ed Middle School Soccer Team

*Garden School Dining Room Menu  
for the Week Beginning October 6, 2008*

**Monday**

Roasted Vegetable Meatloaf with Balsamic Glaze  
Home-made Mashed Potatoes  
Spring Mixed Green Salad  
Dessert: Jell-O with Whipped Cream

**Tuesday**

Choice of Cheese or Vegetable Ravioli  
topped with a delicate Tomato Sauce.  
Tossed House Salad  
Dessert: Fresh Fruit

**Wednesday**

Home-made Cheese Pizza  
Broccoli sautéed in Garlic & Olive Oil  
Dessert: Banana Split Cake

**Thursday**

School Closed

**Friday**

Marinated Chicken Drumsticks  
served on a bed of Saffron Rice w/ baby peas  
Tomato and mozzarella salad  
Dessert: Vanilla & Chocolate Pudding

**AVAILABLE DAILY:**

*Soup and Choice of sandwich on whole wheat bread  
A variety of drinks and snacks*