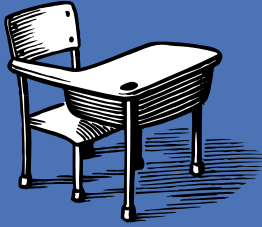


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Garden School News

CIVILITY • RESPECT • HONESTY • KINDNESS



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Headmaster's Column



Monday's Faculty Workshop Day was a very positive experience for faculty and administration. We used the day to explore two very important issues: technology and bullying.

The first part of the meeting focused on the use of technology in our school and just what are our technological needs. As we move closer to the Walkathon, the proceeds of which will be devoted to revising our technology resources, we wanted to solicit from teachers just what their needs and uses were in terms of classroom work. We discussed everything from revamping our techno-infrastructure to upgrading servers, machines, printers and classroom tools such as projectors, monitors, and Smart Boards. Since we have established a technology committee consisting of teachers, parents and administrators, we feel that we have the expertise in house to move forward with this project. We are also requesting a substantial grant from a foundation to help us with this work. Once the funds are secured, we intend to move quickly with this technology plan.

The other part of our exploration on workshop day involved three separate sessions with Dr. Debora Klener, our consulting psychologist. Dr. Klener ran three separate workshops for teachers in clusters PK-3, 4-6 and 7-8. The reason for separate groups was to examine the issue of bullying at various stages of child's social development. The sessions garnered an enthusiastic response from teachers, who have a genuine interest in addressing the subtleties of bullying that are emerging within our culture. Dr. Klener also made us aware of resources and programs that could be of great value as we address this issue.

All in all, this workshop day provided faculty and administration with perceptive insights into issues affecting schools in particular and society in general.

Upper Division Highlights Lower Division Updates

On Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Garden's Intro to Computer Programming class participated in the 2009 Information Systems Web Design Competition. The day began with a continental breakfast and a brief welcome to the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) campus. Participants were offered an extensive schedule of activities and workshops presented by faculty and college students. They were invited to join fellow budding computer scientists in exploring the research into online gaming and virtual worlds, the building of the next generation of social networks, and discovering digital treasures on the web. As expected, Moa Shon noted, she, Ayaka, and Eun Hae "wanted to go to the online gaming

Students in our early childhood program have been learning about the colors of the rainbow. Everyone wore a specific color on a designated day, beginning with rainbow day. It has been quite colorful to see each class uniformly dressed in a rainbow color. Pre-K and Kindergarten had a parade through the halls of the school on Tuesday to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. There were painted signs, instruments being played, festive leprechaun hats, and of course traditional Irish music in the background.

The Nursery class celebrated 'rainbow week' by reading color books and finding different colors throughout their classroom. Each child made his/her own rainbow collage to decorate the classroom. Student-made

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Lower Division Updates

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green shamrock headbands were worn for their classroom St. Patrick's Day parade. There was lots of marching and instrument playing going on.



The Pre-K students were busy connecting their rainbow fun into different subject areas. In Science class, the children explored rainbow colors with droppers, water, and food coloring. Many rainbows were created on coffee filters. In a combination Cooking/Art class, rainbows were created with colorful Fruit Loop cereal. A taste test was done to see which color was liked best. Red was the winner. The students showed this by making a giant graph of their color tasting during Math class.

The Kindergarten class had a fun lesson in the 'world of imagination'. The students took a pretend trip to Europe. They arrived at the airport, went through security and checked in with their passports. The students paid for their airfare by counting their money by 5's. The K passengers proceeded to the aircraft and took their seats. Copilot, Mrs. Stiga, made sure all seats were in their upright position and checked the tower for clearance. Ms. A and Mrs. Stiga taxied the runway and then hit the clear blue sky. The plane crossed the Atlantic Ocean and touched down in Glasgow, Scotland.

They had a quick view of Nessie, the lock ness monster, and proceeded to the nearest port to board the wooden boat to Ireland. The children weathered rain and choppy waters as they rowed across the high sea to Ireland. From there they marched as 'County Kindergarten' along with 'County Pre-K' in their annual St. Paddy's Day Parade.

In honor of Women's History Month first, second and third graders are working cooperatively to construct a quilt highlighting the achievements of women in science, suffragettes, and First Ladies. The completed quilt will be on display International Night.

First graders have focused their study on women in science. We have read books and viewed short films about Marie Curie, Sally Ride and Jane Goodall. Students were surprised to learn that not only was Marie Curie the first woman to win a Noble Prize, she was the first person to ever win two. Sally Ride was very exciting to study since we were able to view her pioneer space flight and the recent launch of the Discovery. Jane Goodall's 75th birthday is approaching, and the class sent her an electronic birthday card!



In continuing with their study of Women's History Month, second graders performed a play on Elizabeth Cady Stanton for the first and third graders at morning meeting. Second graders also presented their Women's History Month book reports. Presentations ranged from a painting of Anne Frank's "Tree of Hope" to a model of Queen Elizabeth's castle, to a student handing out cards of students' names in Braille for a presentation on Helen Keller. Second graders are also working on decorating their portion of the Women's History Month quilt by learning about women's suffrage and abolitionism by studying figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Sojourner Truth.



Susan B. Anthony

For Women's History Month, the third grade has been learning about some of our country's first ladies. We first read about and discussed Lady Bird Johnson. She was the wife of Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th president. Lady Bird was an environmentalist. She worked hard to protect our country's natural beauty. Next we learned about Rosalyn Carter, the wife of the 39th president, Jimmy Carter. Rosalyn Carter traveled to many countries as a goodwill ambassador. We are continuing our study of First Ladies with Eleanor Roosevelt and Michelle Obama.

The fourth grade studied the much acclaimed poet, Maya Angelou. They read about her life and some of her works, and will soon have the opportunity to hear one of her stories in her own voice through a CD recording. Students highlighted women authors who specialize in children's literature. They had to discover why these women devoted their lives to writing.



Maya Angelou

Fifth graders took a more political route in studying women's history. They researched various First Ladies, their lives and contributions to our nation. For example, students discovered that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt played a significant role in creating organizations such as UNICEF. Perhaps this class will be able to view the First Lady Exhibit when they, and the sixth grade, travel to Washington, D.C. next month.

Sixth graders studied Maya Angelou as well. In conjunction with various poetic selections, the sixth



“Women of the World”

“Women in Politics”

On March 19, Claudia DeMonte, artist and curator, came to Garden School to talk about her project, *Women of the World, A Global Collection of Art*. This project, as Ms. DeMonte mentioned, did not begin as it ended. It was a concept that grew into what it is today.

It all began with the idea to pose the question, “What image represents “woman”?-- to women artists in 174 countries; to invite each of them to create a work of art that expresses her view of the essential quality of woman; and to assemble their work in a historically unique exhibition.

Many 'countries' responded to her call. The first country to submit a piece was England and the artwork was a bullet proof vest for a baby. This piece poses the question, “How can a mother protect her child against weapons technology?” The vest symbolizes a mother’s anguished attempt to shield her baby from harm.



Some works of art had to be created in secret and smuggled out since women were not allowed to create art in those countries. Some artworks were cries for help while others were introspective expressions of self. Every piece was an “affirmation of the survival of the will, of commonality that subsumes difference, of courage under fire, and of grace in adversity.”

After the assembly, many people commented on how this project moved them. Everyone felt that the project was a concept that a global school with citizens of the world, such as Garden School, could embrace. The halls were buzzing with excitement as teachers and students alike talked about how they were inspired to create something similar. Many wanted to see the book to find their own country's artistic statement. This project, and Claudia DeMonte, touched each of us and increased our understanding of the world.

Ms. DeMonte’s nephew, Alessandro, is in the Kindergarten, and has shown a real interest and talent for art. We are very thankful that Ms. DeMonte came to speak, and we hope to see her again very soon. Her book, *Women of the World, A Global Collection of Art*, is printed by Pomegranate Communications, Inc. in San Francisco, and a copy of this book is in Garden School's library.

Introduced by Mary McKenna, Grade 11, Councilwoman Jessica Lappin visited Garden School on Tuesday, March 24, to continue our celebration of Women’s History Month. Ms Lappin is a member of the City Council of New York and represents a district in Manhattan. She was invited by Mr. Ciaran Staunton , a Garden parent, who has been instrumental in providing speakers throughout the year in accordance with year’s “Citizenship Theme”.



The theme for her address to the fourth through twelfth grades was “Women in Politics.” Ms Lappin described how her own interest in politics developed as she was a student and how she eventually became a political intern; this experience prompted her to run for office and she was elected to the City Council.

Throughout her talk, Ms Lappin made reference to the different standards that our society has established for men and women in politics; she was also fairly optimistic about the opportunities available for women in the political areas, particularly since Senator Clinton established herself as a very viable candidate for the Presidency.

Following her talk in the auditorium, Ms Lappin met with the first, second and third grades, where she discussed politics and then read from a story about Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Ms Lappin’s talk about women in politics and Ms DeMonte’s presentation (see adjacent article) on women in art, along with classroom projects, gave us a very insightful understanding of Women’s History Month.

Seventh Graders, Stephen Thompson and David Vascones will perform in the

*2009 Honor Band Concert
Saturday, April 4th at 1pm
St. John’s Prep— Astoria, NY*

Both students are studying with the Paul Effman Music Service (part of our Garden School Foundations Program.



Faculty Development

Museum of Natural History

Miss Renner and Miss Smith attended the NY-SAIS Experienced Teacher Institute in Rensselaerville, New York. This three day workshop gave teachers the opportunity to reflect on various aspects of education. Change was the theme for the workshop. This is an important concept that educators need to assess as they reach certain points in their careers. Education is an area where change is evident, but can also be a challenge. How does one change and adapt to things like an increase of technology, a changing population in a school and school development?

The conference focused on global changes and their impact on schools. An episode of Public Television's *Frontline* was viewed. This episode focused on the internet and networking tools, such as *Facebook*, associated with it. A lively discussion of pertinent issues followed: how a school keeps up with technology, the value placed on technology, how a school can monitor the proper use of the internet, how to prevent cyber-bullying, and programs like *Youtube*.

In contrast, we viewed a French movie about a one room school house containing students from ages five to twelve. This particular film illustrated the value of student-teacher relationships. It showed how a school with a broad range of grades could remain close knit, while at the same time learning was flourishing.

Finally the last aspect of this three day conference focused on diversity. As teachers at Garden School this is a topic which encompasses our daily life. Thus we had a lot to offer in the lively discussion. This was a valuable experience for two experienced teachers to reflect and assess their role in the school community.

Editors Notes:

NYSAIS defines "experienced teacher" as an educator with at least seven years in the field of education. Ms. Renner has been at Garden School since September 2001 beginning as a Librarian and then moving to first grade in 2003. She has also worked several summers in our camp program heading the Junior Division. In addition to her first grade responsibilities, she is currently the dean of grades 1,2,3.

Ms. Smith first began in our Lower Division as a Language Arts/Social Studies teacher in 1999. With a degree in History, Ms. Smith currently teaches in the Upper Division, grades 7,8, and 11. She has moderated the school yearbook and is an integral part of the International Travel Program.

Families interested in providing financial support for the Teacher Development Program are encouraged to contact the Headmaster.

The third grade went to The American Museum of Natural History on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. They visited the Hall of Eastern Woodlands Indians, The Hall of Plains Indians, and Northwest Indians. Students enjoyed seeing various examples of housing, clothing, food, and tools used by some of the Native American groups they've been learning about. The beadwork, ceremonial masks, jewelry and other artwork were all quite impressive.

The class particularly enjoyed the hands-on segment of the visit during which they were allowed to see things really close up and actually to touch many objects. It was exciting examining handmade deerskin moccasins and various animal skins. Some of the children were even able to try their hand at grinding corn with a mortar and pestle. It was hard work, and it took a long time to do. They quickly learned that it is not as easy as it looks, and it gave them a new appreciation for how hard life was for the Native Americans, as well as the Pilgrims in the Jamestown Settlement. After our museum visit the class enjoyed a picnic lunch and recess in the Diana Ross playground in Central Park before returning to school.



*We will be cleaning out the
"Lost and Found"
over Spring Break*



*Please check with Ms. Petruso as well as
on the coat rack located at the 78th
Street entrance to our building for any
missing items by Friday, April 3rd*

Upper Division Highlights

Cont. from Page 1

workshop room, but there were a lot of people *because* the online gaming is the most attractive subject for people of our age.” Michael Miranti was especially excited to learn about the remote use of tools for articulation via unmanned robotic arms to be used in non-invasive surgeries of the future. The ultimate goal is to potentially transfer recorded motions into digital movement from a doctor in one location to a patient in another part of the world.



Another workshop explained the leveraging of mobile technologies for crisis management in local communities using information systems which are at the heart of our internet-based economy. This technology would serve as support for organizational processes, information flows and decision making for a local population. Professor Avery stated, “Imagine a barrage of incoming texts as an ever increasing stack of papers. The focus is then to analyze, design, and evaluate quality control collaboration for information and communication systems, especially in

times of crisis.”

The students learned about the role of an information system in business and the range of career opportunities in this field, which provide the basis for jobs in business. These jobs involve analyzing business problems, designing business systems and interacting with those who develop them.

As the workshop sessions were ending, students were able to meet and talk with NJIT students as well as other participating high school students from the tri-state area. Computers were set up near the main conference room in order to view other contest submissions. Contestants were also invited to join a new social networking site set up by NJIT students exclusively for math and science minded students at www.sciencenotebook.org.

Ayaka Hanyuda commented, “In conclusion every second of this trip was fun. Even the ride to the place and back!! Thank you for allowing us to go to the competition!!!”

*We Came!
We Designed!
We Conquered!*

Garden School Dates to Remember

- Thurs. April 2—Report Cards Distributed
- Fri. April 3—Report Cards Returned
- Mon. April 6 through Mon. April 13—Spring Break SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tues. April 14—School Resumes
- Wed. April 15—PTA Meeting
- Wed. April 15—Grade 3 to Museum of the American Indian
- Thurs. April 17—Trustees Meeting
- Tues. April 21—Thurs. April 23—PTA Book Fair
- Tues. April 21—Coffee Series with Trustees
- Tues. April 21—Talent Show
- Thurs. to Sun. April 23- 26—Jackson Repertory Theatre—7:30 pm
- Fri. April 24—Student Council Sponsored Game Night
- Sat. April 25—Open House—Summer Program 2-4pm
(Demo classes by TADA, Firstshot Basketball & Super Soccer Stars)
- Mon. April 27—College Fair at UNIS
- Mon.—Wed. April 27-29—Grade 5 & 6 to Washington DC