

Garden City Middle School

The Middle View



Principal's Message —

"Things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they be not altered for the better designedly."

—Francis Bacon

Dear Parents,

A few days ago I returned from the National Middle School Conference in Minneapolis where I gave a presentation on middle level philosophy, research and the implementation of school restructuring. Last month, I was privileged to present at the New York State Middle School Association Annual Conference. The presentations were very well received and it was an exciting experience sharing our program with other professionals from across the state, nation and even from other countries.

Without question, our school increasingly serves as a model for schools that seek to implement middle level philosophy with it's affective and academic benefits for children.

As Dr. Susan K. Nicklas, the Executive Director of the Secondary Council of Middle States Association, wrote in her tentative approval of our candidacy status, "...the Candidacy Visitor observed a sense of enthusiasm and excitement of what has been accomplished and what can be accomplished in the near future. It was remarkable to see the magnitude and impact of changes that have occurred in the last two years. There are many, many more programmatic and student activities choices for students."

Middle Level philosophy validates what we as parents intuitively know — that our children succeed best when we address their affective needs AND establish high academic expectations. Each element is critically important; neither may be successful without the other.

In Garden City Middle School we embrace this perspective. We mandate that EVERY child must receive a first class education without artificial fixed tracks or sub-par curriculum paths. We recognize the importance of nurturing the whole child whether through Friday Night Recreation, remediation tutoring, or establishing high curricular expectations. As principal, I pledge that this approach of embracing the total child is our only acceptable approach.

Please accept my very best wishes for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Peter Osroff

ATTENDANCE

The Middle School attendance number to Report absences and lateness's is now
478-3009 or 478-3088.

You can reach this number at any time -
the machine is always on.

Education Law permits excused absence or tardiness for the following reasons only: sickness or death in the family, impassable roads or weather, religious observance, school supervised trips, and required presence in court. Absence or tardiness for any other reason is considered unexcused. Parents are requested to advise the school of a child's absence or lateness by telephoning the school before **9:00 AM**. The school will telephone the homes of any unreported absentees after 9:00 AM. Education Law does not permit the school to make a distinction between legal and illegal absences for attendance policy purposes.

PTA-Principal's Forum:

December 2

7:30PM

Mr. Osroff will give a presentation exploring our school's restructuring accomplishments and direction for upcoming years. Following the presentation, parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and present viewpoints.

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RED RIBBON WEEK / SAY NO TO DRUGS

was held during the week of October 25th. Students in Home Base and classes discussed topics including: peer pressure, making good choices, communication and the harmful effects of using drugs. The faculty and staff participated in a Dress Down and Wear Red-Day on Wed.-Oct. 27th. Staff donated money to SADD in order to Dress Down

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Veteran's Day (Schools Closed) Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving Recess Nov. 25, 26
- General PTA Meeting –Nov. 30 7p.m
High School Library
- 6th Grade Rec Night– Nov. 19 7-9 p.m.
- 7th/8th Grade Rec Night– Dec. 3 7-9 p.m.

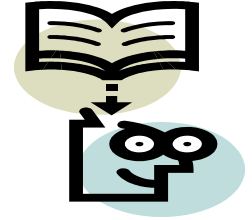
Online Databases Available at Home

The school library's high quality online databases provide students with 24 hour a day access to reference sources, primary source documents, magazines and newspapers.

Visit the middle school library Website at

<http://middleschool.gardencity/k12.ny.us/library>

To access the same databases used at school from home.



<u>Database</u>	<u>Username</u>	<u>Password</u>
Student Resource Center	gard39379	garden_rpa

NOVEL Databases Provided Free to the Public by the New York State Library

Gale Group Databases		empirelink
EBSCO Research Databases	gardencityms	gardencityms

JOY IS THE FEELING OF GRINNING INSIDE– Dr. Melba Colgrove

Michael Strandberg won the **Nassau County Mathletes Award** by placing 5th in Nassau County for all 7th graders! Multiple kudos Michael!

Sixth grader, **BOBBY WALLACE**, of cluster 6C placed **FIRST** in the 14 year old and under 5K Run benefiting the **North Shore University Hospital Annual Hagedorn Cleft Palate Center** . Go Bobby!

Students in **David Strauser's 7th grade French class** had a wonderful learning experience when they reviewed correct pronunciation of the French alphabet. The activity was enhanced by **Kathleen Gallic, Arielle Gogh, Kerry Hosford, Devon Schay, and Alexandra Sclapp**, who led this review by using sign language. Kudos to the student leaders!

Five students were nominated for the **2004-2005 National Art Awards**: **Elise Griffith, Andrew Leone, Brian Alluto, Ali Ranieri**, and **Mary Kate Collins**. Congratulations!

GCMS Student Council reminds us that: **November** will bring the annual **Thanksgiving Food Drive** for Meals on Wheels and in **December** students will be **collecting toys** and gifts for St. Christopher of Otterlie, home for disabled children.

Students in the **Rumbelow, Olsen, Trousdell** cluster, in cooperation with the **Marine** Leathernecks, hosted a collection of personal items for the veterans hospital. Thank you to the students and our veterans!

FYI-

- Any student who is absent from school or is sent home from school during the day is **not** permitted to attend any after school activities, including sports.
- When picking up your child before the end of an **ATHLETIC** activity , please meet your child at the **Cherry Valley Avenue exit**.
- **AS DARKNESS FALLS EARLIER, PLEASE BE AWARE OF OUR CHILDREN .**



PROJECT PERFECTION

As part of the students' outside reading activities, some **6th Grade ELA classes** presented Character Biography Book Reports. Students chose celebrities from their social studies and science texts. Oral biographical reports were given as each student displayed their handmade celebrity masks.

Mrs. Lee and **Mr. Hakes's Science** classes have teamed up for experimentation and microscope investigation. Each class presented **Edible Cells** as a culminating activity to a unit on plant and animal cells.

Some **7th grade Social Studies classes** have visited Long Island History by spending a day at **Old Bethpage Village Restoration**.

“Pearl Harbor” Word Search



Aichi
Akagi
Argonne
Arizona
Battleship
California
Carrier
Cassin
Downes
Fuchida
Hickam Field

Marshall
Monaghan
Nakajima
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Roosevelt
Tennessee
West Virginia
Wheeler Field
Helena

Kaga
Maryland
Mitsubishi
Nevada
Oahu
Shaw
Shokaku
Ward
Zuikaku
Helm

Educational Websites for the Whole Family

These days, kids and computers go together like peanut butter and jelly, so what better way to supplement your children's schooling than to use the medium they find most comfortable? Multitudes of free Websites exist where kids of all ages can learn painlessly through play. These are some of the best:

- * **National Geographic.** For over 30 years, this magazine has made it easy to learn about the world through engaging topics and photography. That same level of quality is also available on the Internet at www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/index.html (upper elementary school and up) and www.nationalgeographic.com (upper middle school to adult). The focus is social studies, but there are science activities too.
- * **Animal Planet.** Kids who love animals can pick up all kinds of interesting facts on Animal Planet's "A to Zoo" page. www.animal.discovery.com/guides/atoz/atoz.html (upper middle school and up).
- * **Discovery Channel.** At Discovery Kids, www.kids.discovery.com, upper elementary and middle school kids can learn about dinosaurs, space, history, technology, and the Earth.
- * **Scholastic.** This Website has a "kid zone" with links to the most popular Scholastic book series, such as *The Magic School Bus*, *Animorphs*, and *I Spy*, as well as book reviews and an entire "Play Scholastic!" section with educational games. www.scholastic.com/kids/home_flash.asp (elementary and middle school).
- * **Funbrain.** This site has arcade-style games in all subject areas, for all grade levels. It's not as flashy as some, but its comprehensive content makes up for its lack of style. www.funbrain.com.
- * **Kidsreads.** Getting kids interested in reading is a piece of cake when they log into this site at www.kidsreads.com. It's full of information on the latest books, series, and authors.

Parents' Biggest Worries

A recent survey of 1,500 U.S. parents found that childhood obesity was their biggest concern, outside of their children's safety. That finding is not surprising, considering that 30 percent of American households have children or teenagers who are overweight.

Concern	Percentage
Safety away from home	87%
Obesity/weight control	80%
Violence	79%
Drugs and alcohol	78%
Bullying at school	70%
Tooth decay	70%
Negative influences on Internet	70%
Junk food	68%
Sexual promiscuity	67%
Watching too much TV	63%
Excessive video game use	57%

The parents in the study with overweight children did not believe weight problems begin at home, but rather are due to food manufacturers, schools, and fast-food restaurants.

Source: NFO WorldGroup Inc.