

Welcome to Garfield Park Academy!

We purchased the building that we have leased for the past 10 years and changed the name from Therapeutic Learning Center to Garfield Park Academy.

Many people have suggested that we send out a monthly newsletter because there are so many creative activities going on in our school that parents, school districts and others would be interested in learning about.

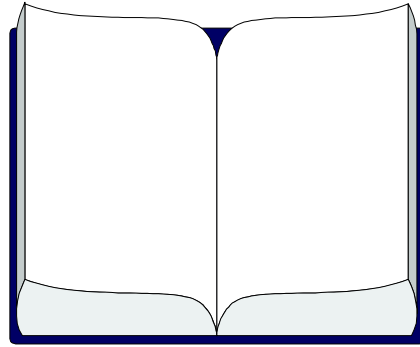
This newsletter is our first. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the activities mentioned.

We have made great plans for the next school year. We are extending our vocational program to include auto mechanics. Manicuring will be expanded to include barbering and hair styling as well as aesthetics. This will make a full service beauty salon and increase the ability of our students to get better jobs in this field after graduation. Horticulture is scheduled to expand into an outdoor greenhouse. We now have an indoor greenhouse.

Next year, we will be opening our vocational doors to the public. You will hear more about this in our forthcoming newsletters.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
Gladys Morse, Ed.D.
Executive Director/Superintendent



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

We're never too old
Too wacky, too wild
To pick up a book
And read with a child.

So we joined together
In our own special way
To make Dr. Seuss' Birthday
A very special day.

We sounded the horns
We gave a cheer
We smiled and said
Dr. Seuss Week is here!

Everyone got ready to read
and have some fun
There was something to do for
everyone!

On March 1st, schools across the Country celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday by participating in Read Across America. At G.P.A., we go the national program one better and always expand the celebration to a week. Each year, the Cat in the Hat visits the classrooms to read one of Dr. Seuss' many books and follow up with a book related project. This year's books included The Foot Book, Hop on Pop, McGelligot's Pool, The Cat in the Hat, The King's Stilts, and Yertle the Turtle. Students created BIG shoes, aquariums, turtles, hats, and more. Students in Mary Brenner's High School class built a Sneetch Machine. Classes were invited to her room to hear The Sneetches and go through the machine where they began as Plain-bellied Sneetches, became Star-bellied Sneetches and then Plain-bellied Sneetches again.



Reading is Fundamental

This year, we were happy to introduce Reading Is Fundamental at Garfield Park Academy. This federally funded program enables schools to purchase books to distribute to students free of charge. The purpose of RIF is to get students reading. Books cover a variety of areas: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, biographies, information books, and more.

Our students were very excited with this program. We have had three distributions at which students were allowed to select a book to take home and keep. At first, many couldn't believe they were getting books for free or that they could keep the books. By the third distribution, students who had attended our other book give-aways were telling new students all about the program. As soon as the notice went out, the students would ask "When do we come?" or "Is it our turn yet?" In addition, many students asked if they could make a request regarding the books we purchase for future distributions. Of course, we said, "yes!" It's exciting to see the students caring about reading.

Obviously, the program has been a huge success. We have recently been approved for next year's funding and for a matching grant from a private source. This will enable us to have a RIF program during our Extended School Year and at least 4 distributions next year.



Band-Aid NEWS

Tick Talk

Hurrah! It's finally spring and our children are able to play outdoors again. There are some special health considerations which come with being outdoors. Ticks have been known to cause diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. Remember to check yourself and your children carefully for ticks. Don't forget the pets.

If you should find a tick on yourself, child or pet, here are some recommended procedures for removing it:

1. Using gloves, take fine tweezers, firmly grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Do not grab the tick's body; you could squeeze the disease organism into the bite.
2. Remove the tick with a slow and steady pull. NEVER remove the tick by placing a hot match on it.
3. Apply an antiseptic to the bite and wash your hands and tweezers.
4. It is a good idea to save the tick in a small amount of alcohol in a plastic ziplock bag. Write the day of the bite and the location you think you may have picked up the tick on the plastic baggie. You may also circle the area on your body with a pen, to check if there is any swelling or noticeable rash over time.
5. If a rash or illness develops within two weeks of the bite, see a doctor and take along the tick and information.

Tips for Preventing Tick Bites

1. Walk in the middle of trails, away from tall grass and bushes.
2. Wear light colored, long sleeve shirts and pants if going for a walk in the woods.
3. Wear a hat.
4. Spray tick repellent on clothes and shoes.

5. Wear shoes and socks, no bare feet or sandals.

6.*Maintain pets with seasonal tick control.

7.*Check everyone, including animals, for ticks immediately after each outing. A complete head to toe examination with special emphasis on the hair, neck, arms, and legs.

8.*Keeping hair cut short in the spring-summer season is a good idea so ticks are easier to spot.

Room 19

A learning experience

We do a lot of different activities in our classroom. We have been reading short stories and will soon be starting Macbeth. This week we learned about water conservation for Earth Day and drew posters for the poster contest which represent ways to conserve water. Two of our posters won awards.

The learning experience is something fun. As a group, we really like vocational classes and gym. They're fun and you can learn at the same time, like about how to have good adult and peer relations.

Every student in room 19 has different perspectives on everything. One lesson was about violence and how to respect women. Everyone had his or her own theory and was allowed to say what they thought.

Another thing we are doing in our room is collecting soda can tabs for cancer. It's cool because we can help sick kids.

These things are all within the learning experience

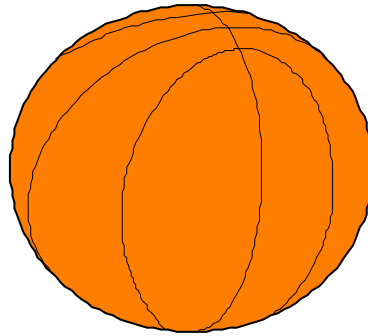
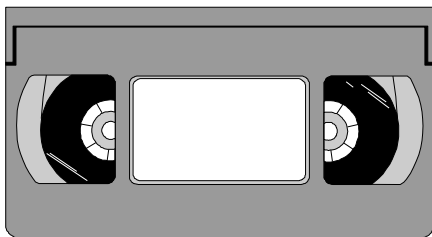
Room 6 News

Lights, Camera, Action

Room 6 is excited to share a special project they are working on in group counseling - making a movie! Students formed two groups and created all aspects of their movie in order to build skills in creative expression, teamwork, and cooperation. Students were asked to choose a topic that would be socially relevant to children their age or a topic that could teach something to younger students.

After brainstorming plot ideas and choosing a topic, they decided on a title. One group choose "Kids with Issues" which explored the issues of bullying and suicide.

The second group choose "Chill, Don't Steal," addressing the consequences of shoplifting. Students then chose roles for themselves based on their individual skill: writer, director, prop manager, etc. and began to create their scripts. Students then rehearsed with props and costumes and were ready to film! Once filming began, students could found in various parts of the school, enthusiastically acting out their parts. Filming was wrapped up and students had the opportunity to view their finished product, process the film making process, and share their masterpiece with other classrooms. Look for these students as future movie stars!



G. P. A. Sports Report

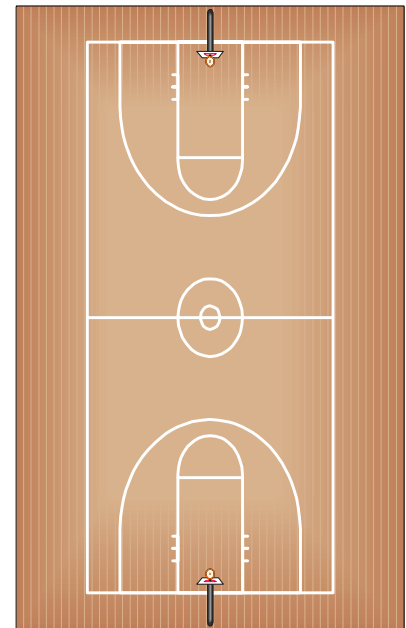
G. P. A. has come a long way with incorporating extracurricular activities for students. Last year, G. P. A. started out with only two sports - basketball and soccer. This year they added softball to allow students more opportunities to participate in sports. In order to play sports at G. P. A. you can be in any grade. However, you have to be on level 2 and be on privileges. You have to have good sportsmanship, control your anger, and you have to enjoy playing the sport.

Soccer was coached by Coach Nick. They won most of the games this season. The kids that were able to play soccer were very enthusiastic about playing. Basketball was the favorite sport of the year. It is a fun sport and the team had an undefeated season. The practices were structured and the coaches made the students want to be there. It is a good idea that softball started this year. It gives students time to be outside, work together with their classmates, and improve their skills.



What's In A Name? What's With The Change?

For quite some time the Basketball team's mascot has been the "Bulldog". Sometimes things have to change. When the school's name, Therapeutic Learning Center, was changed to Garfield Park Academy, and the color of the exterior and interior of the building underwent a great transformation, we decided that if the school's name and colors were different, why not do it all the way. The basketball team's mascot is now the "Warriors". The colors were black and red, but were switched to navy blue and sky blue with white as an accent. The basketball team now sports great looking new uniforms made by the New York based company "The Rock". The team really loves the new uniforms and the mascot.



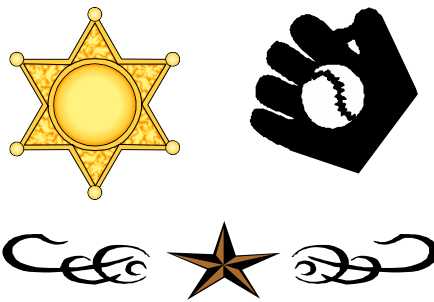
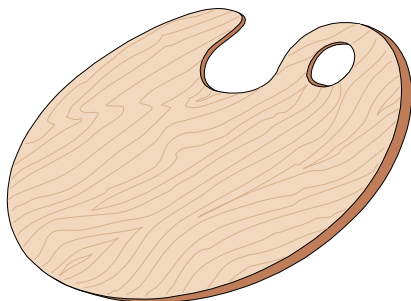
All the class is a stage in Room 27

Shakespeare's Macbeth

Joe Mooney is an actor, producer, director, and teacher. He studied at the Riverside Shakespeare Company in New York. He has had over 70 roles from Shakespeare to musicals. He has also done some TV and Soap Operas. He has starred in the lead role of Macbeth on two separate occasions. Joe presented a live interpretation of Shakespeare language to the class. The students interacted and reacted as Joe went from teacher to character.

Picture This – Art Therapy

The Art therapy students are having a Meet the Artist reception and Art Show, May 23, 2002. The Artist reception and Art Show will be at The Markeim Art Center, in Haddonfield, New Jersey, from 10:45 to 12:45. The Markeim Art Center is located on Walnut St. and Lincoln Ave. in Haddonfield. Students will be displaying their individual art projects. Stop by for a friendly visit, meet our talented artists and see their wonderful work.



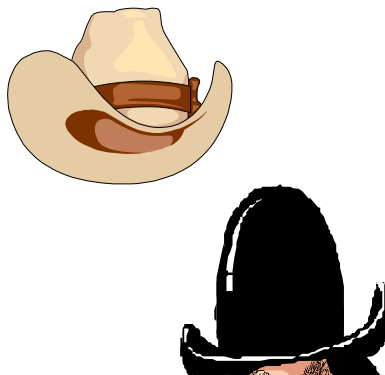
The Stars of Room 13

Miss McIntyre's class collected soda can tabs for The Ronald McDonald House. We collected over 2,000 tabs and won a pizza party! Intramural Softball has begun. We have had good games even though we have lost some. We play for fun and cheer for each other.

Recently, we had a visit from Officer Hawkins who is a police officer from The Willingboro Police Department. He is also Mr. Tony's brother-in-law. He taught us that it is important to be respectful and that our behavior affects our lives. He let us hold his handcuffs and badge. Thanks, Officer Hawkins!

We had Hat Day on April 19th. We were allowed to wear hats in school all day long. We could wear all different kinds of hats: wave caps, baseball caps, and bottle caps.

Finally, we want to welcome our new classmate, Chris. We also want to wish a Happy Birthday to Justin, Mrs. Gary, and Mr. Tony.



What's the business at the school store?

The school store and business classes have been very busy lately. The school store has introduced some new items and has brought back some old favorites. The school was abuzz with the introduction of chicken sandwich Wednesday and the famous fixin-bar. Also, the pizza bagel has been brought back due to popular demand. The business students have also noticed a decline in soda sales and an increase in juice sales. Way to think healthy G. P. A. students and staff!

In the business class students are practicing their job interview skills and reading through the want ads in search of the summer jobs. Good Luck! Also, the students have reorganized the stock rooms to make it more efficient and quicker to do our inventories.

The pre-vocational classes have been working on their advertising skills and creating new and exciting ads for the school store.



WHAT'S GROWING ON IN HORTICULTURE!

The Second Annual Horticultural Skill Olympics.

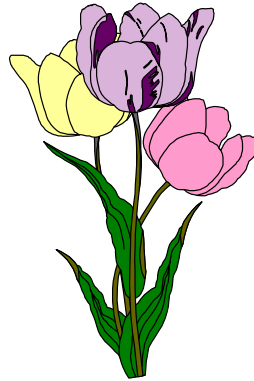
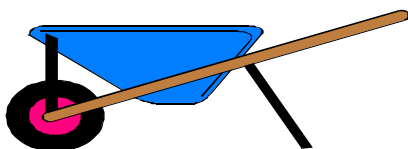
The Winter Olympics came to Horticulture. The students competed in many different horticultural skills competitions. There were two levels of competition, novice for first year Horticulture students and expert for returning Horticultural students. The competition was hard, but the students rose to the challenge. Students were awarded medals at the closing ceremony, where a pizza party was held for all the participants.

Cooperative Teaching Project with Cosmetology

Students from Cosmetology were introduced on how to design a fresh flower arrangement. Students from Horticulture switched roles and became teachers to the Cosmetology students for the day. They designed a fresh flower arrangement in a porcelain box for Spring. The Cosmetology students thanked all the Horticulture students by giving them a professional manicure. A great time was had by all of the students.

Building a Landscape

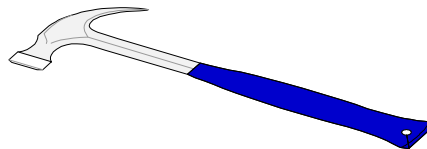
The Carpentry class and the Horticulture students are combining their talents to and make our school a prettier place. This project started last fall when the Horticulture students planted spring blooming hardy bulbs. Carpentry built a raised bed to hold the soil and plants. This spring everyone reaped the rewards, the daffodils and tulips bloomed nicely. The Horticulture students added pansies and English Daisies to raised beds made from recycled plastic that Carpentry built.



IT'S HAMMER TIME!

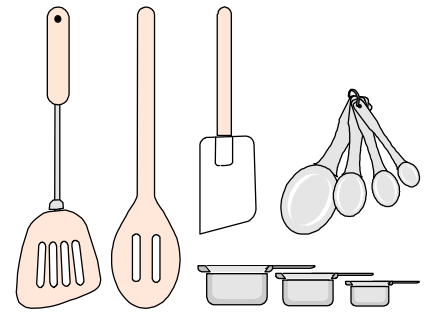
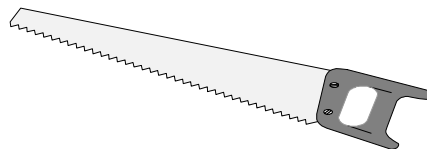
Carpentry field trip

G. P. A. Carpentry students went on a field trip to the Union Apprenticeship Training Facility on Friday May 3 rd. Union apprentices competed in the annual apprenticeship competition. Our students had the opportunity to tour the facility and talk with union apprentices. Business agents were be available to talk with students about career opportunities, training, and the union philosophy.



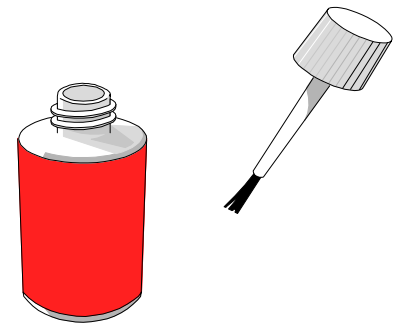
Shop news

Students in Mr. B's carpentry class have undertaken some very ambitious projects this year. An entertainment center, a toy chest, a shaker style bench, and a corner cabinet, just to mention a few. Returning students have taken on many difficult projects this year. The quality of each student's work has been steadily improving.



What's Cooking

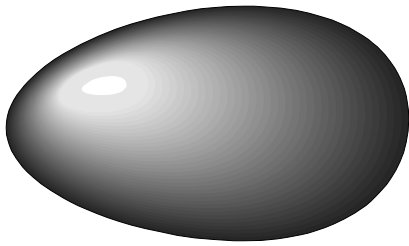
The Culinary students have been busy. They successfully catered a breakfast meeting for The Burlington County Director's Board. Special Thanks to: Moniqu*, Jose, E. J., Mike, John and Shannon for all their planning, prep and production work, and staffing the buffet. Thank you to all the culinary students who worked on this special day.



Looking Good - Cosmetology

We would like to welcome our new Cosmetology teacher Ms. Wells. Cosmetology is very interesting because it teaches us about nail care, hair care, and skin care.

We also learn about waxing, doing manicures, and pedicures. Theory can be hard, but we have to know this to pass the New Jersey state boards. We love hands on practical work the most, especially manicuring. We think cosmetology is fun and educational.



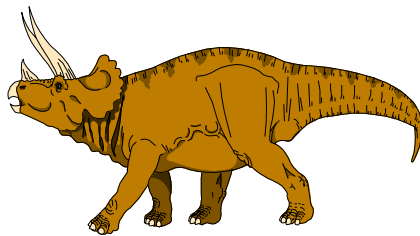
Mr. Egg Drop Room 16

To culminate our Science lesson on the Brain, we completed a "fun" activity to demonstrate the fragility of our Brain. First, we studied the brain and its many functions. We learned that our brain has a very important job. It must keep our bodies working day and night. Our brain has three parts: The cerebrum is the largest part of our brain. It controls our body movement, such as running, walking, jumping, throwing a ball, holding a fork and other actions. It controls our five senses: hearing, smelling, tasting, seeing, and touching. The cerebrum also controls our thinking and speaking. The cerebellum makes our muscles work together the way they should. It also helps us keep our balance. The brain stem is the smallest part of our brain. The brain stem's job is extremely important. It controls breathing and the beating of our heart.

The activity is called Mr. Egg Drop. We were allowed to carefully go to the top of a ladder that had been placed outside our classroom door. Once atop the ladder we dropped an egg into a box on the ground. We watched the egg drop with excitement. However, there was a very important lesson learned. We learned about the fragility of our brain and that we have responsibility to protect it. We must wear a helmet when riding our bike or when going roller skating. Be careful when walking down steps, always walk slowly and don't run, because, if you trip, you could possibly get a serious brain injury. Brain injuries may cause you to become paralyzed and unable to walk or use your arms. Remember, its not safe to jump off your bed. When diving from a

diving board, you should never dive in shallow water. Always follow the rules of safety when on the playground equipment. Also, remember not to run around the classroom and be very careful when crossing the street. Be aware of the cars around you and look both ways before crossing.

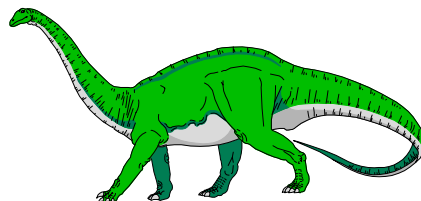
Remember we have only ONE brain, ALWAYS PROTECT IT, it is very fragile.



Dino-mite! Room 2

When we went to the Natural Museum of Science in Philadelphia, we really liked it. There was a big dinosaur when we walked in. There was an auditorium where we watched a dinosaur film. There was also a thing where you run and a dinosaur runs with you.

The staff was really nice and helpful. They told us about the dinosaur. They helped us go where we were going. We learned that owls can see a lot better than us in the dark. We learned a whole lot of other stuff too. We really liked it there.



Hard Working Room 24

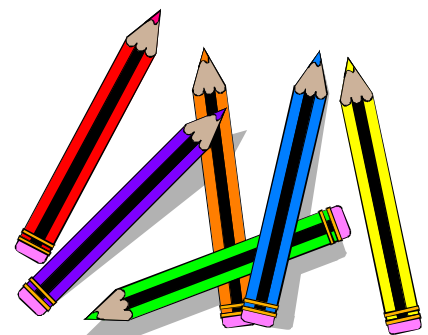
The students of room 24 have been working on many things in the last few weeks. We have not only been striving to improve our behaviors, but work hard on our academics. The students have been concentrating on their peer relations skills as well as avoiding arguing with staff. Accepting NO is tough, but there has been steady improvement. We have 3 students on level 4 and 2 students on level 2. The level 4 students are looking forward to going on the field trip to the falls in May.

Our Social worker has been helping the students with the process of finding a job. We have had many lively discussions on interviewing.

Academically, the students are revising their essays on The War on Terrorism. They should be done in the next week. The students have generated numerous opinions, which are quite interesting.

Last week, the students completed posters for the poster contest on water conservation, for Earth Day. The students had fun doing this activity and showed much creativity.

With only two months of school left, the students are thinking about their summer plans. Some will be going to school, some will be looking for part-time and full-time jobs, and some will be involved in community programs. Hopefully, all will have a good time and come back in September well rested.



Plenty from Room 20

Room 20 is working on a lot of different things. Right now we are working on trying to get everyone together and do a better job with our staff helping us. We are really working on getting along as a group. Some of the things that we are learning about are friendship, stress management, getting along with others, and good sportsmanship.

In English, we have read the book *Of Mice and Men*, and discussed the main characters George and Lenny. We were able to see how hard life used to be from reading this book. We also read *Stories Without Endings* and practiced our creative writing skills by writing our own endings.

One of our main goals right now is to have everyone in class reach level 2, so we can go on a class trip. Some of the trips we have been planning include a trip to the aquarium, the zoo, or a nature hike. We would enjoy going to the zoo to see all the animals we have been learning about in Science.

In our class, we also talk about what's going on in the world. During History class we read and discuss the newspaper, and look for interesting articles. One of the news articles that stands out to us is about The Queen of England's mother, who just died. She was very respected and she was 101 years old.

All and all our class is not just learning about work, we are learning about each other. That's what makes room 20 and our staff the best.



Greetings from Room 26

Greetings everyone! Room 26 has been busy. For Black History Month, each student wrote a report on a famous African-American and designed a diorama about them.

In the coming weeks we will be busy with new and exciting lessons and projects.

Our World Cultures group will be studying about the Middle-East. Mrs. Brenner will have this group looking for Current Event articles and discussing them.

Our U. S. History I group will be studying the civil war. The students in this group will research and write a report on an important Civil War figure. No word on whether there will be a diorama for these reports.

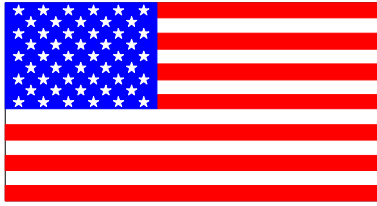
Our U. S. History II group will continue to study World War II and it's aftermath. Right now this group is learning about the Holocaust and what it means for today. This group will also study into the Cold War Era. This group will write a report on how they would feel if they had to go to a concentration camp.



Room 12 Pre-vocational electives

The Pre-vocational electives in G. P.A. are Horticulture, Carpentry, Culinary, Cosmetology and Business. The students here at Garfield Park Academy are very fortunate to have all of these great opportunities to learn about this year. It gives us a chance to find out which trade we might be interested in doing when we graduate school. We all get a chance to experience each of these electives sometime throughout the year. One of the favorite electives is Horticulture. In Horticulture we are able to use our hands and work with plants. It is also fun to work with nature.





By Line Room 28 News

Several in-class reporters interviewed their fellow students in Room 28. The main question they asked each student was "What did you remember about the school year 2001 - 2002?" The students felt that two things they remembered the most were the events of 9/11/01 and their class project for The Ronald McDonald House. The main thing students said about 9/11 was that they would remember that day for the rest of their lives. They also said this was the worst terrorist attack on United States soil. One student said, "My friend's father was in the building at the time of the attack. Fortunately he survived the attack."

In order to show our patriotism, our class created models of the World Trade Centers. We also created models of what we felt should be built in their place. We decided to build two "New World Centers." We also created an American Flag that was 5 feet by 7 feet. These items were placed on display in Garfield Park Academy's trophy case in the foyer of our school.

Another project the class remembers is our Ronald McDonald House soda-tab saving contest. Room 28 organized a contest for the other classes at G. P. A. Each class was to save as many soda-tabs as they could for a two-week period. The class that saved the most tabs would win a "Pizza Party". Our class was very pleased with the results. Over 10,000 tabs were collected. Our class will be taking a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Camden, New Jersey to donate the tabs to them. The tabs will be recycled for their pure aluminum and the Ronald McDonald House will use the proceeds to help sick people and their families in need. We are very proud of our efforts.

Poems and Thoughts by Room 8

I am funny and friendly.
I wonder why people act stupid and
why they act so crazy.
I understand myself and God
understands me.
I say doing your work is an A+.
I dream that people I'm cool with will
have 5 cars, a gold house, bars of gold
and silver (and 5,000,000)
I try my hardest to pass schoolwork.
I hope I pass college and get the best
job ever.
I am crazy.
By Jesse*

We are a beautiful rainbow.
We are beautiful Irish hillsides.
We are colorful and lively African
violets.
We are warm and beautiful Puerto
Rican breezes.
We are wonderful like the sunset in
Israel.
We are strong, beautiful, warm, and
wonderful just like you!
Love, you.
Love you, for us.

We hope these thoughts find you in
the best of health. We wish you
wonderful thoughts.



Multicultural Program

For the second year in a row, Garfield Park Academy held a multicultural program. This year eight classrooms participated. Students and teachers selected a country, other than the United States, studied that country's culture, language, climate, etc. and turned their classrooms into that country.

Next came our cultural exchanges. Students were given "passports", needed to gain entrance into the various countries, which were stamped (stickers of the countries' flags) when they crossed the border. The host class did a presentation about their country, followed by the visitors getting a chance to sample native foods and make a project to take with them.

Countries visited this year were: Australia, Japan, Mexico, Jamaica, China, Germany, Greece, and Thailand. Crafts included Japanese Lanterns (Japan), Loy Krathong Boats (Thailand), and God's Eyes (Mexico). Everyone's favorite part, of course, was the food. Students and staff were treated to Spatzle (Germany), Paella & Chorizza (Spain), Beef Patties (Jamaica), Tzatziki sauce with vegetables (Greece), Ramen noodles (Japan), Chestnut chicken and Dried beef (Thailand), Hundreds & Thousands sandwiches, Delicious Dampers, & Anzac Biscuits (Australia) and more.