



Garfield Park Academy

P. O. Box 189, Glenolden Lane
Willingboro, New Jersey 08046
609-877-4111

Formerly Therapeutic Learning Center

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

November 1, 2002

From The Director's Desk!



Congratulations to Garfield Park Academy on its tenth anniversary.

We opened our doors to students and parents during the 1992 – 1993 school year. We had only one classroom of high school students, no vocational programs and two teachers / two aides. We have progressed in size and educational / vocational success since that time.

Ms. Rhonda Wright, Room # 27's classroom teacher was one of the first teachers in the school ten years ago. She is still with us and continues to display excellent teaching skills.

Congratulations to Ms. Rhonda Wright.

We have other staff members that have been with us for many years. The dedication of our teaching and clinical staff, as well as our classroom facilities and teaching assistants make the school the success that it enjoys. I want to thank all of our staff including our nurses, biofeedback technician, educational supervisor, curriculum coordinator, support staff, psychiatrists, clinical director, librarian, secretaries, and financial support staff for the wonderful job that was done over the past ten years.

We are a success because our students have returned to their districts to be placed on the honor roll, with some students entering college through our college scholarship program. Students who left us have entered the Navy and become SEALS (an arduous

Navy assignment). We are proud of each student who left us with a great deal of self-control and the willingness to pursue their education.

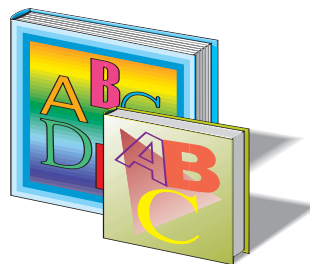
Help us celebrate our tenth anniversary by applauding the staff and students for a job well done.

Gladys Morse, Ed.D.

Executive Director / Superintendent



Reading Is Fundamental



For the second year in a row, we have received funding for **Reading Is Fundamental**. This federally funded program enables schools to purchase books and distribute them to students free of charge. Funding has been provided for at least three book giveaways this year.

Students were very excited about this program last year and are looking forward to this year's program. Our Extended School Year students were able to take advantage of this program in July when we distributed books leftover from last year.

The only change this year will be the addition of students to the book selection committee. Many students last year made suggestions and requests regarding books purchased. It is only natural to follow through and have them join the committee.

Remember,

Reading IS FUNdamental.

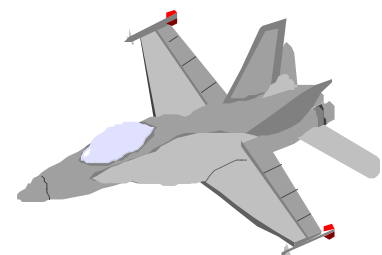


The Activities Committee is Busy as Usual

GPA's Activities Committee has been busy planning several events for this year. Every October we hold a contest related to Halloween. This year students are involved in creating scarecrows for our Create a Scarecrow Contest.

Classes have also selected their countries for our upcoming, third annual, multi-cultural program. Students will be studying their country's culture, language, climate, etc. and decorating their rooms to provide visitors with a visual representation of their country. Classrooms will be visited by other classes. Presentations will include information on the country, native foods and crafts. Our cultural exchange will take place in January.

Other activities this year will include: Dr. Seuss Literacy Week, Aviation/Aeronautics Week, and Our Annual Student & Staff Talent Show.





Talent Show

On June 7, 2002, Garfield Park Academy held its Annual Student & Staff Talent Show. A lot of planning and hard work went into the rehearsals and final program. Acts included singing, instrumentals, dancing, gymnastics, poetry reading, a juggling act and movie spoofs. The result was a phenomenal show that was enjoyed by everyone. All participants, performers and behind the scenes people received a participation trophy. There were many requests to have another show this coming June. Look for announcements this spring.

What's Growing On In Horticulture!



In September, we started cleaning up out front and planting new plants to beautify the school. We planted colorful, fall blooming mums.

October 22nd, we helped decorate for an important breakfast meeting. We used fresh, fall, colored carnations, pompoms, lilies, and dried flowers for an interesting combination. The centerpieces really brightened up the breakfast meeting.

The high school classes so far this year have made a few very interesting projects like fresh flower centerpieces, fresh flower corsages, fresh flower boutonnieres, and fresh flower budvases, not to mention the many plants that we have taken cuttings from and rooted.

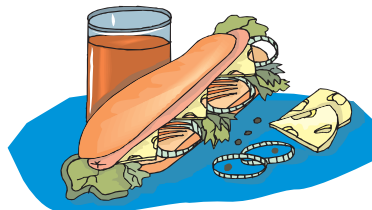
The prevocational classes so far this year have made grapevine wreaths with silk flowers, dried flower arrangements, pot pourri from recycled dried flowers, plant cuttings, and the ever-popular ribbon roses.

Cosmetology Looking Good!



Welcome to Garfield Park Academy's Cosmetology Department. What's new this year? Well, we have expanded our cosmetology department. We now offer all aspects of cosmetology, not just manicuring. We have expanded to include barbering, hairstyling and skin care. This year our teacher Ms. Ogden and her teaching assistant Ms. Jackson will introduce us to new tasks and theory. Our teacher is committed to helping us succeed academically and behaviorally. We look forward to a good learning experience and a fun year.

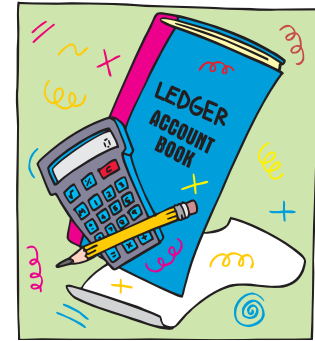
Retail Trades Park Café to Open Soon



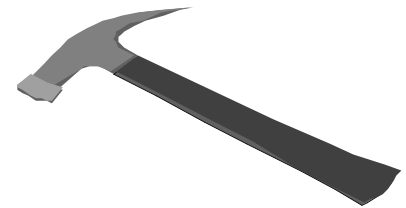
The Garfield Park Café is coming!!! The GPA School Store will become the Park Café in the near future. The retail trades students are working hard to create a new concept in the school

store, so keep an eye out for the new changes.

The retail trades class students have gotten off to a great start this year. The new students and the returning ones are working well together in the school store. This year the school store is working hard to improve its customer service. Each student has worked on greeting, putting the order together and thanking the customers for their business. The students also have worked on their financial record skills, such as inventory recording, cash handling and reporting. In the future, the students will be doing marketing surveys and advertising for The Park Café.

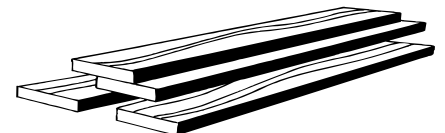


It's Hammer



Time!

Woodshop 2002 - 2003 so far has been business as usual. Each person has their own project and, under Mr. B's leadership, only gets more skilled as time progresses. As always, safety is a top priority. We plan on another accident free year. Currently being made: a chessboard, tables, and a coffin. Who knows what's next! This is the class to be in!

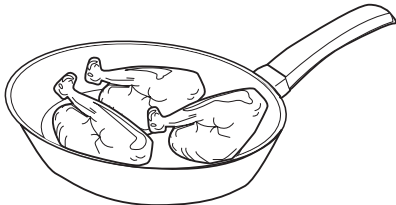


Culinary Arts What's Cooking



We would like to welcome our new Chef Larry Tisdale and assistant Billie Williams to GPA's culinary Department.

Currently, the students have been preparing many new and exciting dishes and learning the fundamental techniques of cooking, such as how to properly and safely hold cutting utensils. The students have prepared dishes such as omelets, poached eggs, swordfish with coriander and lime, chicken with mustard sauce, and diced potatoes with parsley and garlic. They have learned techniques such as Braising, Sautéing and Blanching.



One of our goals for the program is to give the students skills that will help them in their future, whether they choose a culinary profession or in their daily lives. One of the major tools used to acquire these skills will be the student's own cookbook which will be created from the accumulation of classwork and any outside resources they choose.

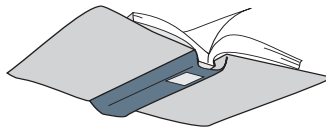
The first major events for the students were a breakfast held on October 22, 2002 which served over 50 people followed by the school wide Open House Night on Wednesday, October 23, 2002 which was an hors d'oeuvre service.

We look forward to seeing all of you and hope you had a safe and happy Halloween.

Room 2 Exciting News

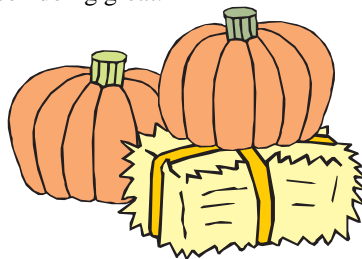


Room 2 has some exciting news to report. We have three new students that joined us from room 7 and one of our students moved to another classroom. We have set many goals for ourselves this year. We would like to go outside more, watch movies in class, and go on a field trip.



Room 6 The Reading Room!

Welcome to Room 6! The past few months we have been working and reading books and they have been great! We are reading The Acorn People about handicapped children at a summer camp. We are also reading Freaky Friday about a girl who changes places with her mother. We have three students on Level 3. They are Sylvon, Emilio, and Latoya because they have been doing great.



Our class went on a trip to Robson's Farm for pumpkin picking on October 22. We will also be visiting a haunted house. This classroom is the best. We are doing an excellent job this year. I

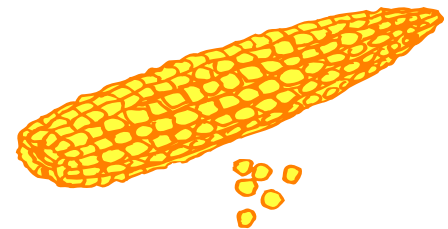
hope our classroom keeps on doing their best. Have a great Year!

Room 7 Learning A Lot



Welcome to Room 7. The past few months we have been studying about maps. They have been great. We have been learning about animals. We have one person on the way to level 4. His name is Devin. He's doing very well. He gets his work done. This year for Halloween we are going to Johnson's Farm for pumpkin picking on October 30. We hope our classroom has a great year.

Room 13



A POPular Class!

Miss McIntyre's class wants to welcome our new classmates Michael and Marcus. They both are very nice. One is from Oregon, which is a state we are studying about in our Reading book. We also want to welcome Nurse Floss, who is Miss McIntyre's mom.

In science class we are growing Lima Bean plants. We have learned that there are three parts to a plant. They are roots, stems and leaves. We will be going to Conte farms to see how pumpkins grow, see a farm, and pick pumpkins.

We had two popcorn parties since school began. We earn handfuls of popcorn to fill a jar. Once the jar is full,

we have a popcorn party. The way we earn popcorn is by listening, following directions, staying quiet, staying in our seats, and doing our work.



In our class everyday we have someone called Student of the Day. To be Student of the Day, you need to have the highest points in class. The Student of the Day gets a certificate, a right choice ticket, and a homework pass. The student also gets to be line leader, pass out snacks and papers, and lead the pledge of Allegiance. So far the Students of the Day have been: Angel, Jeanienne, Anthony, and Joshua.

Lastly, we want to say Happy Birthday to Marcus and Yadira. Their birthdays are in October.

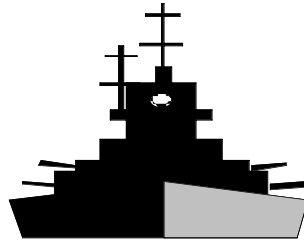
What's Bugging Room 15



It has been a busy month for Room 15. We have had several changes since last year. For starters we have a new teacher, Miss Heather, this year and several new students in our class. We also had to say goodbye to some of our friends from last year because they have moved to another class.

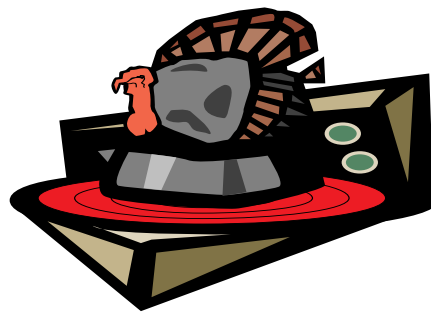
In the first month of school we had a great time. We started the year off studying insects. It is the perfect time of year to study them because there are tons of them outside for us to find and

look at. We started off our insect unit by collecting a variety of insects to watch. We ended up keeping about thirty grasshoppers that we found. We have set up a habitat for them in the classroom and we are hoping that they will lay eggs in the sand and by next spring we will have a whole new group of grasshoppers. As well as catching grasshoppers, we were able to catch butterflies, katydids, crickets, and spiders.



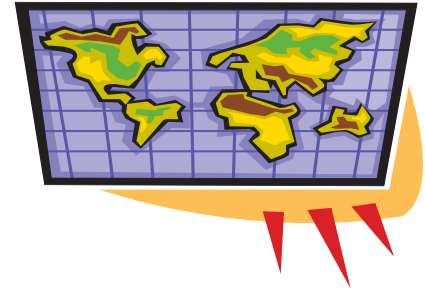
We are also learning about our state, New Jersey. We have been talking about the different towns and cities that we live in, and comparing them to see how they are the same and how they are different. We are learning many new things that we never knew before. Mr. Tres had the chance to go see the Battleship USS New Jersey and was able to tell us all about it when he got back.

Room 16 A Feast of Knowledge About Native Americans



There was a whole lot of learning going on in our classroom during ESY (Extended School Program). We experienced an educational, fun filled and exciting thematic unit on Native Americans.

We learned that Native Americans lived in North America thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans. Scientists believe that Native Americans came from Asia to Alaska during the Ice Age. They were here even before Columbus arrived.



They lived in tribes everywhere: in deserts, on mountains, in valleys, in woodlands, and even in swamps. Native Americans lived in many types of shelters. Some lived in teepees, long houses, pueblo villages, and wigwams. Our class made longhouses just like the ones they lived in. They lived off the land and were first to conserve our natural resources. They understood the importance of saving our trees and our land. If it were not for them, we may not have the millions of trees and land that we have today. We even experienced building and playing in a real teepee. We used a king-size sheet which we decorated using Sequoah's alphabet and other Native American pictograph writing. The sheet was held together with six poles, each about 6' tall and wrapped at the top with twine.

Native Americans did different types of work. Some farmed, some hunted, some fished, and some were traders. To experience trading, we made our own wampum necklaces using colored macaroni noodles to illustrate the different denominations of money that we used to buy items from our classroom store.

They ate animals and vegetables that were found on the land. One of these animals was the buffalo. We experienced eating a small piece of Pemmican. Also, this animal was used for many purposes; the hide was used to make clothing, the roof for the teepee, rugs, coats etc. We made buffalo hide using brown paper bags that had been placed in water and

thoroughly wet. Once the bags were dried, we decorated them with Native American pictograph writing, which spelled out messages.

Native Americans first communicated by using smoke signals. They would build a fire and would fan the flames to send signals to other tribes. A Cherokee, named Sequoah, developed the first written alphabet for his tribe that became known as Sequoah's Alphabet. The Cherokee tribe continues to use this alphabet today.

Another really, really, fun part of the lesson was creating and choreographing our very own rain dance. Instruments (bead rattles, drums, etc.) were made by all our students. The dance was choreographed to the tune of a real Native American instrumental tune. We even made vests, headaddresses, capes, masks and clay pots. We got all dressed up in face paint, capes and vests to perform our rain dance at the feast.

The ending activity to all this was the feast. The Native Americans (our class) and the Pilgrims (classroom 17) sat down to a feast of turkey, chicken, vegetables, greens, cornbread, stuffing, and apple pie. Boy, the food was good. Our teachers and other staff made it just right for us.

Everyone who attended our feast said that they had a really good time. We sure did!



Room 20

We Welcome the Changes!

Our classroom has been filled with new and exciting changes within the last few weeks. The students in Room 20 said goodbye to Mr. Ron, and welcomed Ms. Jan as their teacher for the school year.

We decorated our classroom with pumpkins for Halloween. Starting in

November, we will begin celebrating birthdays with snacks and drinks.

Our students and staff welcome the changes in Room 20 with lots of joy and enthusiasm. We are prepared!

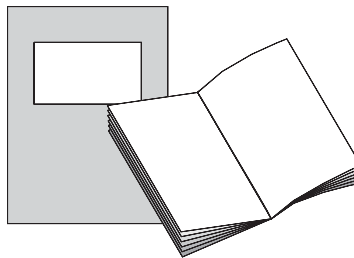


Room 19

Is studying the 19th Century – Of Course

The students in Room 19 are learning about American History. They have a lot of interest in early 19th century events. In English / Language Arts the students are reading poems. They will be writing poems in the next few weeks.

Room 24



Learning about the Past and the Present

In room 24, Mrs. Reagan's class, we have focused on Biology, Anatomy, History I, and History II. In both sciences, there have been experiments demonstrating the construction of cells, and how calcium in bones and eggs can be affected by acids. The students have enjoyed the experiments.

Social Studies has been concentrating on the colonial period and the reconstruction of the South after the

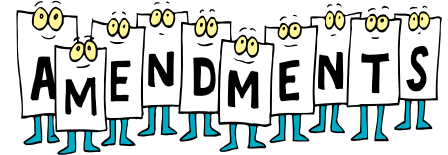
Civil War. The students feel very strongly that slavery was wrong.

In English we have been reading The Phantom of the Opera. The students are having difficulty with the imagery of the story, but seem interested in it. The students seem to prefer to read short stories that have some moral lesson.

We would like to go the Camden Aquarium in the spring. The students are thinking of another field trip they might be interested in.

Also, on Fridays we have been writing about our thoughts of what has been happening today based on what we read in the Burlington County Times.

The students have adjusted to the smaller group-counseling format. It seems to work better than in previous years.



Room 25

Looks at the 8th Amendment

The United States History I students in Room 25 have been looking at the Bill of Rights. We also talked about the Supreme Court of the United States. We discussed a Supreme Court case about the Eighth Amendment rights of a prisoner in Alabama. The prisoner had to spend many hours in the hot sun as punishment for arguing with a prison guard. The Eighth Amendment says that cruel and unusual punishment cannot be inflicted.

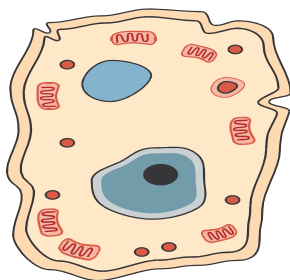
We will be discussing up-coming Supreme Court decisions and how they affect us.



Room 26 News Alert!

We have been keeping busy. For English we were divided into 2 groups and made games using abbreviations of states, state birds and flowers. One group designed a Bingo game and the other group designed a trivia game. We are excited about playing these games we created ourselves.

In Science we have been busy also. Biology II just completed making a skeleton called Mr. Bones. It was challenging, but fun. We are starting the digestive system next.



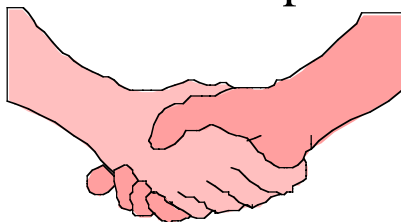
Biology I just finished reading about Protist, fungi and Monerans. We are busy making clay models of Protist, fungi and Monerans. When the clay dries we will be able to paint them!

In environmental science we are learning about ecosystems and habitats. We are designing a habitat for a specific animal using different materials, such as clay, paper, paint, etc.



In the coming weeks we will start or project for multi-cultural month. Our room is doing Denmark. We hope to build a Viking ship and make the Danish flag.

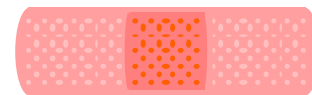
Room 27 Studying the Meaning of Friendship



The class of room 27 has been studying the meaning of friendship for the past two weeks. Everything from a booklet of short stories to the movie The Bride of Frankenstein. Over the course of week one the class read different stories that explained friendship in different ways. Each story has its own meaning of friendship. Each one explained how friendship is meant between different people and how one can perceive it. The students had to express their perception of what friendship means to them. During week two, the students watched The Bride of Frankenstein and learned how it related to friendship. It was how a lonely person had only one person in his life that was a friend, an old man who was blind. When he lost this friend in a fire, once again the monster was alone. He went back to the crazy scientist that created him. He decided that he wanted a friend. That's where the bride comes in. The scientist created a bride through devious deeds to get all the requirements to make this woman friend for the monster. Once created and brought to life, the bride went by looks and was horrified of her husband to be. She judged a book by its cover. In the very end, before the monster went insane and killed everyone, you could see a tear coming down her face once she realized, Friend::Good, Alone::Bad.



Band Aid News



Now that school is back in session, we are at the peak of head lice season. Millions of school children contract head lice each year. Children play in close contact with each other and transmission is easy from one child to another. Lice can be easily and effectively treated; so there is no cause for alarm.

There are many myths and misconceptions associated with head lice.

Myth # 1 – Only dirty children get head lice. *In truth, head lice are parasites. They need to feed on blood to live. Clean hair and scalp are their favorite homes. They do not need to go through oils and dirt to feed.

Myth # 2 – Lice can jump from one person to the other. ** Lice do not jump. Lice are small grayish tan wingless insects. They are transmitted by personal contact. Exchanging hats, clothing, brushes, helmets, pillows and even backs of seats in a movie theater may be ways a child gets lice.

Myth # 3 – Lice are easily seen. ** If you see an insect, chances are it is a flea. The way to detect lice is to look for nits (lice eggs) firmly attached to the hair shafts, close to the scalp. They are small white specks usually found at the nape of the neck and behind the ears.



SOME WAYS TO PREVENT LICE ARE:

1. Check your child's hair once a week. Look carefully at the nape of the neck and behind the ears.
2. Tell your child not to share hats, combs or brushes.

3. Have your child take his own pillow to a sleepover.
4. Allow space between coats in a closet. Wash coats and hats frequently.

** If your child should get lice, consult a pharmacist for treatment. The school nurses, Nurse Flo and Nurse Floss are available to answer any questions you may have about head lice.

Neurofeedback



EEG Biofeedback, also known as Neurofeedback, is a painless, non-invasive treatment approach that enables a person to alter his / her brain waves. It allows an individual to gain information about their brain activity and use that certain information to produce changes.

It can improve:

- school and work performances
- social relationships
- self – esteem
- motor skills
- cognitive performance

It can decrease:

- Irritability
- Oppositional behavior

The EEG biofeedback equipment is connected to the student with three sensors. A single sensor is placed on the scalp and two others are placed on the earlobes using conductive paste or gel. This enables the technician to see brain wave activity on a computer monitor screen. After placement of the sensors the brain waves are monitored by means of an amplifier and a computer based instrument that processes the signal and provides the proper feedback. This is displayed to the student by means of a video game or other video display along with audio signals.

In the initial stages of learning, the sessions should be regular and

frequent, usually 2 – 3 times per week. After learning begins to consolidate, the sessions can be reduced.

The goal of the student is to reinforce certain frequency bands like SMR while others such as theta and high beta are inhibited. Gradually, the brain should respond to the cues that are being given and a “learning” of the new brain waves takes place.

High School P. E. Gets Presidential



In accordance to the State guidelines and Core Curriculum, the Physical Education Department has incorporated the Presidential Challenge. Testing and Fitness Programs which will be conducted during P. E. class with all students in grades 6 – 12.

There are five tests, which are conducted in Middle School and High School throughout the United States. We already have established school records for the Middle School and High School in Chin – ups, the Shuttle Run, and S i t - u p s .



For the next few weeks we will be testing the one mile run, jog, and walk. We ask only that each student finish the mile as best they can.

Weekly lists of the top finishers will be posted in the gym.

Unveiling Our Newest Class, Art Class



In an effort to introduce Donald Stephens (the new art educator) to our learning community, several students participated in an interview.

The interview went as follows:

Question # 1. How did you learn to draw?

“I started by drawing Snoopy from the TV show, The Peanuts, at age 4 yrs. From that point on,. everything was about art. Also, I tried to touch everything possible – from graffiti to cartooning.”

Question # 2. What is your favorite thing to do?

“Charcoal is my favorite medium to work with and my subject matter is my life and life in general.”

Question # 3. What is the hardest thing for you to draw?

“It wasn’t easy at first. Everything was difficult at first. Then over time, my skills of observation advanced and there was nothing that I couldn’t draw. ...for everything in life became simple after I understood the basics.”

Question # 4. Did you use drawing as a way to calm down?

“Yes! I would not be in front of you today if this question was not true – and to sustain life.”

Question # 5. What college did you attend?

“I went to two colleges: Burlington County College and Tyler School of Art, Temple University. First, I received an A. A.S. in Graphic Technology. Then, later, I went on to get my B.F.A. in Fine Arts and Art Making.”



Question # 6. How did your schooling help you in your career?

"In many ways...aided me in various ways of observing and taking down information. ...how to research and how to be open to opportunity."

Question # 7. How long have you been an art teacher?

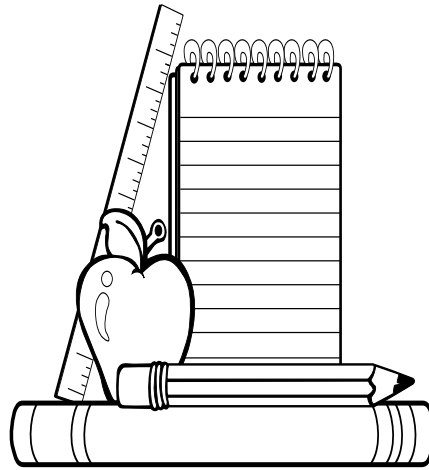
"I have worked in the arts since 1989. I have been an art teacher since 1999 and this is my first situation in a school system."



Question # 8. Have you ever done something you have regretted?

"No, when it comes to art, but in life, we all wish we could have done better, so I keep striving so I won't regret anything anymore."

Many thanks to Pudge, Jose, and Sara for their thoughtful questions that allowed us to get a glimpse at the life and making of an art educator!



Parent Education Program (PEP) Schedule

- Nov. 20 Self esteem
 - Dec. 11 Stress and Your Child
 - Jan. 22 Dealing with Anger
 - Feb. 26 Review School Behavior Program
 - Mar. 26 Tips on Disciplining Your Child
 - Apr. 16 Connecting with Community Resources
 - May 21 Making Plans for Summer
 - June 4 Parent Appreciation Night
- Programs start at 9:30 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. babysitting, transportation provided for PEP Program.



Box 189, Glenolden lane
Willingboro, N. J. 08046
609-877-4111