



### **From The Director's Desk**

Garfield Park Academy's Fall beginnings were wonderful. We welcomed a new principal, Mr. Ron Amos, who was the former Director of Special Services for the Pennsauken School District. Mr. Amos comes to us with a wealth of experience being the principal of another private school, as well as principal of Pennsauken High School. Mr. Amos has already become an integral part of the Garfield Park Academy family.

Phone calls from our Culinary Arts graduates from June 2003 told us that our Culinary Arts program really trained them well. The college program that they are attending is pleased with the training that they received at Garfield Park Academy.

Students who are having severe difficulty with Mathematics, as part of their learning disability, and are in our remedial mathematics program are receiving innovative treatment. They are involved in a special mathematics reinforcement program involving music. We anticipate great success.

Some of our students who are interested in playing an electric guitar will be making these guitars in the Carpentry program. With a few music lessons, they will be able

to participate in the Garfield Park Talent show in June 2004.

Garfield Park Academy is hosting a Directors of Special Education meeting on November 25, 2003. Culinary Arts students will prepare a breakfast for the meeting utilizing all of their newly learned culinary skills. Centerpieces will be provided by the Horticulture classes.

Our PEP Program for parents is extremely effective this year and we have received our largest turnout at last month's meetings. Congratulations to our parents and social workers.

Dr. Gladys Morse  
Executive Director/Superintendent

### **Reading Takes You Places**



"Reading Is Fundamental and The Coca-Cola Company have come together to take the joy of reading to America's children and families..." Garfield Park Academy is a recipient of a Classroom Collection of approximately 100 hardback books aimed at students in kindergarten through grade 3. "Designed to bridge the gap between the homeroom and the living room", the collection includes resources to encourage interaction between children, teachers, and family members for the development of lifelong reading skills. Students may borrow these

books to take home and read with their families. Feel free to contact me at ext. 250 if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

In addition, we are continuing with our R.I.F. (Reading Is Fundamental) program. For the third year in a row, the students will be able to choose 3 books (1 at each distribution), free of charge, to keep for their own. Our first distribution was October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to ask your children about the book they chose.

Iris Franklin  
Reading Specialist

### **Activities Committee**

The Activities Committee has been busy planning this year's special events.

In October, we held our annual Halloween Decorating Contest. This year, the classrooms decorated their doors. The winners were: Elementary – Rm. 16, Junior High – Rm. 7, High School – Rms. 24 & 27. Everyone did a great job.



For December we are working on our annual Multi-Holiday activities. High School students will be helping out by presenting mini lessons on various holidays celebrated around the world, including Ramadan, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas.

We are looking forward to our Multi-cultural program in February and, of course, the Talent Show in June. Rest assured there will be more for you to read about in our next newsletter.

Till then, Happy Holidays from the Activities Committee.



### ***"Drawing is Like Your Spirit"***

"When you draw something, it comes to life. Drawing is like your spirit." This quotation by Timothy, an elementary school boy who participates in art therapy, exemplifies the essence of art therapy. Art therapy is a form of therapy that uses art as a means of self-expression and as a vehicle for psychotherapy. At Garfield Park Academy, art therapy is used for both treatment and assessment. The art therapy approach is individualized to meet the unique strengths and challenges of each student. For example, the art making and artwork may be emphasized in an art-studio-based approach, or the principles of psychotherapy may be employed. Through the art and the supportive therapeutic relationship, issues can be explored in a non-threatening atmosphere.

Sheri Roseman, art therapist, has been at Garfield Park Academy for almost ten years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art Therapy from the College of New Jersey and a Master of Arts from George Washington University. She is a registered art therapist with the National Art Therapy Association. Additionally, she is a New Jersey Certified Art Teacher.

## **ALL ABOUT THE FLU AND FLU VACCINE**

### **WHAT IS INFLUENZA?**

Influenza or the Flu is a viral infection of the nose, throat, bronchial tubes, and lungs that can make someone of any age ill. The flu usually occurs from about November to April.

### **WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?**

If you get the flu, you usually have high fever, chills, a cough and achiness in your back, arms and legs.

### **WHO SHOULD GET THE FLU SHOT?**

People 65 years or older  
 People with chronic, long term medical problems  
 People who live or work in a nursing home  
 People who work in institutions that provide community services  
 People who are around children a great deal  
 People who have demanding work and or family responsibilities and can not risk being sick or taking sick leave.

### **ABOUT THE FLU SHOT**

The vaccine begins to provide protection approximately one to two weeks after the shot is given. An injection of flu vaccine CAN NOT give you the flu because the vaccine is made from killed viruses.



### **WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?**

Flu shots are given by injection into a muscle of the upper arm. This may cause soreness for a day or two at the injection site and occasionally cause a fever or achiness for one or two days. Apply ice to the affected area for comfort and treat the symptoms as you would for headache and fever.

## **Neurofeedback**

A new program called SMART DRIVER started this year in neurofeedback. It is designed to help children with ADHD, visual processing disorders or learning disabilities. It helps train students in visual attention and tracking, hand-eye coordination, concentration, patience, rule following and helps self-esteem. We presently have 11 students participating.



### **Music Therapy at Garfield Park Academy**

The 2003-04 school year marks the beginning of the Music Therapy program at Garfield Park Academy. Music Therapy is an allied health profession in which music related strategies are used by a qualified music therapist to address non-musical needs of children and adults with disabilities or illnesses. Music therapists use their training as musicians, clinicians and researchers in a focused and concentrated manner for teaching, changing and influencing physical, emotional, cognitive, and social responses.

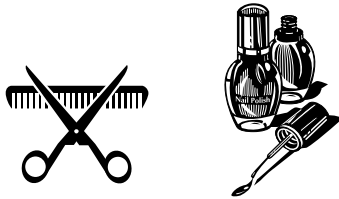
Nationwide, thousands of credentialed music therapists are currently employed by educational institutions. Music therapy is recognized as a related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and can be an integral component in helping a child with special needs reach his or her individualized goals.

Music Therapy at GPA benefits students by assisting:

- To enhance emotional expression and adjustment
- To increase positive peer Interaction and social skills

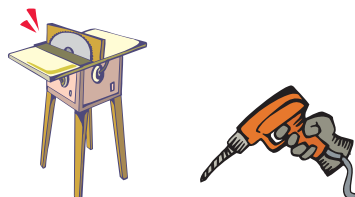
- To increase self-esteem (improve self-image and body awareness)
- To increase attending behaviors
- To increase communication skills
- To increase active participation skills
- To stimulate creativity and imagination
- To enhance enjoyment
- To increase level of cognitive functioning and academic skills
- To reduce maladaptive behaviors
- To deal with issues of depression and anxiety due to loss or trauma

To learn more about music therapy visit: [www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org)



**Cosmetology**

Well, it's another school year and so far things are moving along well. There are a few new faces in cosmetology since last year, as well as many returning students. Also, this year the pre-vocational students have the opportunity to experience this class as well as other vocational classes for a short while. This opportunity will help guide the students in making the appropriate choice as to what vocational class they want to take in high school. Throughout the year we look forward to accomplishing a lot of new and interesting things.



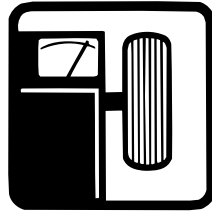
**Carpentry**

This year I have a variety of students and they are all unique. The pupils are very devoted to their work and they work very hard. I feel

like I'm getting to know a lot of great people.

The projects they make are awesome - bookcases, guitars, tables, birdhouses, and toolboxes. There are so many gifts that these students have. I am looking forward to working with them throughout the year.

Written by Victoria S. for Mr. S.



**Automotive Technology**

Automotive Technology is now in its second year. Great plans and improvements are on the horizon.

Our second year students are now learning to use the drum and rotor lather. They are learning how to use various measuring devices and how to evaluate the finished product. They are also balancing wheels and tires. Their next task in dissecting drum brakes.

The first year students are getting the basics, which are the building blocks to the second year.

This year we have prevocational students, both male and female. These young students are excellent. They are very inquisitive and attentive.



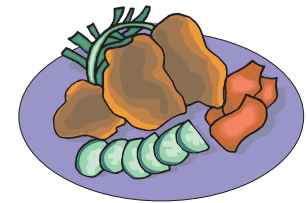
**The Park Café  
Retail Trades**

The beginning of the school year has been exciting at The Park Café. The students have been very focused in all areas of the class.

After a teaching unit on salesmanship, the students wanted to make Customer Service the top priority in the Café. They have used the steps of a sale on all customers.

The students are preparing market surveys about what new items should be added to the menu and which ones might be phased out.

With the holiday season around the corner, the Retail Trades classes are preparing to decorate the Café in a festive atmosphere.



**Culinary Arts**

This is my Senior year of High School. I love to cook so much that GPA's culinary class is what motivates me to wake up in the morning and come to school. This class is probably the most organized and respected in this school because of our Chef and how he doesn't play games with his students. He gets straight to the bottom line and gets the task done. This is my favorite class because you can learn something new and then eat it. This class is excellent. I've learned more in the past marking period than I have in a whole year of my last school's culinary class. Being here made me think more about my future and what I should do and cooking is it. After High School, I plan to sign up for a professional culinary school and see how far this can take me in life.

Phil G.



### **Horticulture**

Green things are growing in the Horticulture room this year, from our mascot "Ben", a 12' Ficus tree to the beautiful cactus gardens some of our students have done. It's a jungle out there! Well, not quite, but we're working on it.

Our students are getting their hands into propagating plants for spring, as well as getting pruners ready for Christmas decorations.

The 1<sup>st</sup> marking period has been interesting and fun and we're looking forward to a productive and exciting 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

### **Greetings from Room 2**

We would like to introduce everyone to Room 2. Our students this year are Jeremy, Kevin, Naim, Michael, Marjorie, Armani, Yadira, Jeaniene, Amanda, Jacnell, Stacey, Byron and Myeisha. Our teacher this year is Ms. Rachel and our social worker is Ms. Jennifer. This year Mr. Joe and Mr. Ricardo are our facilitators. Ms. Millie and Ms. Elsie are aides in our room that work with our students. We are all learning a lot from each other because of our different backgrounds and experiences that we can share with one another. We are very excited to be working together.

We have been studying maps in Social Studies. We have made maps of Garfield Park Academy and we are all quite proud of them. They are on display near our classroom in the Junior High hallway. We enjoyed preparing for Back to School Night in October, showing our parents, grandparents and siblings where we learn and enjoyed having them meet our classroom's staff.

We are having fun and learning

a lot in our electives and are excited to have already experienced two rotations of the six vocational programs that are offered to us: including Automotive, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary, Horticulture and Retail.

We were all very excited about our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harvest Party on Halloween. We made caramel apples at our party, as well as decorating pumpkins and gourds.

### **What's Going On In Room 6**

We have a lot going on in Room 6 these days. When you are on privilege four out of five days, you will be eligible to have Dunkin Donuts or McDonald's for breakfast. The reason we do this is to have more kids behave than usual. Another reason we do this is so the kids have something to work for.

On October 29th, we went on our third annual pumpkin and apple picking trip at Robson's Farm. In order to go, you had to be on level and on privilege. We worked very hard to earn our privileges so we could go on this trip.

We are very proud of one of our classmate, Mitchell, for earning his way back to district. Mitchell has accomplished a lot in this school over the past four years. He has been doing his homework, maintaining self control, and being polite. We just want to wish him the best of luck back in district. We will miss him!

### **Room 7**

The first day of school we went over the rules. Then we signed behavior contracts saying that we would follow those rules.

Now we all get regular lunches, and we really enjoy that.

For the Halloween door-decorating contest we decorated the door like a haunted pumpkin patch in front of a haunted house. We won the door-decorating contest and earned the pizza party.

We planned a Halloween party to have on Halloween in class.

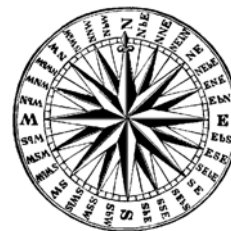
During the party, we bobbed for apples, drank some soda, ate some candy, and played Pin The Wing on The Bat. We are also going to put fake spider webs around the room and on the door.

In group counseling we learned how to meditate to relax our bodies and minds. During Gym, our students enjoyed playing hockey.

In class we read about the Titanic, and we watched a documentary on the Titanic. We learned how it was built and why it sank.

In science we read about mitosis, meiosis, and cells. We watched Osmosis Jones to learn more about how cells work in our body.

Our class is making new friends, and met up with some old friends they knew from last year. Overall, we are having a great year so far, but we're going to try to make it better each day!



### **Room 8**

The students of Room 8 were "hired" as meteorologists by the TV station GPA8 to cover Hurricane Isabel as it traveled through New Jersey in September. Each student made observations at home and reported on the hurricane to the class.

In Science we studied the scientific method. We learned how scientists develop a hypothesis, test the hypothesis and make conclusions. We used the scientific method to find out some conditions under which bread gets moldy.

In Social Studies we are studying maps. We learned about the compass rose. The students created original designs for compass roses. Come to Room 8 to see them on display.

**Room 13**

A lot has been happening in Room 13 since the beginning of school. We have gotten a new student. His name is Juan. We also have celebrated Marcus's birthday on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We celebrated Lawrence's, Mr. Lance's, and Jimmy's birthdays in November.

We have had a lot of fun this year even while we are learning. We have been reading about wacky festivals in America. We created our own race. It was an egg race. It was fun! In Science class, we have been learning about habitats and organisms. In Social Studies, we have been learning about maps and New Jersey. We have also been able to go to Horticulture and learn about flowers.

It's Halloween time and some of us earned a trip to Robson's farm. We could pick any pumpkin we wanted as long as long as we could carry it. There were some big pumpkins! We also picked some apples. Although it was raining, we still had fun.

**Room 15**

In the last few months, Room 15 has gotten one new student. His name is Andrew. We celebrated Andrew's birthday with a delicious cake. We also had an ice-cream party one Friday because everyone in the room had a productive school week.

We have made "Halloween Spiders" and "Pumpkin Heads" for room decoration before the "Back to School Night". During Social Studies we created a "Paper Chain", which symbolizes our classroom's community.

**Room 16**

The beginning months have proven to be very successful for Room 16. The students have enthusiastically welcomed their new teacher, Mr. Robert Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson is doing a wonderful job working with our youngest students. The classroom has also gained two additional students (8) making the family atmosphere larger and more loving.

Academically, the students have been lucky in having Mrs. V as their teaching assistant who continues to contribute her creative and academic talents. The students have shown their abilities in basic skills review. They have also learned many new things about plants and animals in science class. They are currently growing their own plants and take turns caring for each other's plants. They have learned about the life cycles of different animals and had the great opportunity to learn from Ms. Donna about her cats and newborn kittens.

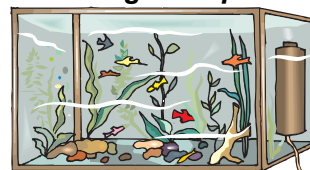
We planned a Halloween party and a trip to a Dairy farm where we were able to see the cows being milked as well as the entire bottling process. An added treat to our trip was the hayride and barnyard play time where we were able to play on the rope swing. And if that isn't enough, everyone was provided a free cup of fresh made ice cream.

**What's Happening in Room 17**

Room 17 has been working on many interesting issues in counseling this marking period. We have been dealing with learning how to relax and utilizing relaxation techniques in the classroom and at home. We have a new sand table that was made by carpentry and is a tremendous hit and utilized frequently. We love rap music in Room 17 and have a tremendous amount of talent in both rapping and dancing. We utilize dance and music during counseling and with our new Music Therapist Kathy.

Our talents do not stop here.

We have students talented in Automotive who actually have great paying jobs in this area when they leave school. We have students dedicated to the Culinary Arts who are enjoying their elective so much that they hope to make this their profession. We have students who excel in Cosmetology and have a flare for fashion and design. We have the business minded students who work hard serving up food and service in the School Store. We have some real talented basketball players in our classroom. Room 17 has an array of talented students!!!

**Room 19 Science Project: Building an Aquarium**

This science project aims to introduce bio-diversity and biology to the students. It will provide a model to study the interaction of pollutants in an environment. This is shown by the build up of nitrates and ammonia, a natural by-product of the fish in this closed ecosystem. We will study the interaction of CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> in photosynthesis of plants in the aquarium environment. This study of aquatic animals will include some biology as well as science.

**Room 20**

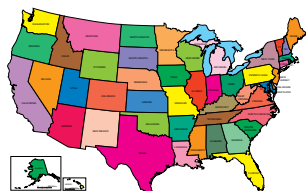
This year our Social worker, Stephanie, took a leave of absence due to her pregnancy. We're looking forward to her return. We have welcomed 3 new students, Tyrell, Larry, and Tiyauda to our class. Our wonderful classroom staff keeps us on task.

Everyone is looking forward to moving up a level. Our staff is very proud of the students because we do our best on our work and work hard on our behavior. Currently, one student is on Level 3. Congratulations to Leah B.!

### Room 24

This has been a busy marking period. We have been studying the bones and muscles. We have done experiments showing decay of bones and the use of calcium in the bones. Last week we started investigating the process of digestion. We did 3 experiments simulating the different processes the body uses to digest food. The students like doing the science experiments as part of the learning process.

Our class is starting to prepare for the HSPA exam that will be taken in March, 2004. The students are writing in their journals, as well as working on the components of an essay. We have been studying the different parts of a narrative piece of literature. We will continue working on improving our writing skills in preparation for the HSPA.



Social Studies includes US History I and US History II. Each subject is full of interesting pieces of trivia that most people have no idea happened in the US. We have been spending Fridays doing Current Events. The students like discussing the latest headlines.

The students look forward to their elective classes. The Automotive students are working on auto parts stations and waiting until they will be able to work on some real cars. Culinary Arts and Horticulture have made some great products. Having such great hands-on electives for the students makes the school day move along quickly.

Next marking period, the students and staff will be looking forward to the Thanksgiving and Winter Recess Holidays. We will

continue working hard on our academics as well as our target behaviors.

### Room 25

The students in our class are Glen, Jerry, Chelsea, Jessie, Maurice, David, Dylan, Steven, Ashanzay, John, Isaac, and Carlos. Our teachers are Ms. Hope, Mrs. Flo, Mr. Mark, and Mr. Timberlake.

We have 8 periods. We are reading a books called *Journey to Jo'burg*. Although we are having a bad time for some people, we will get on target soon. I take cooking. I'm an excellent cook. Tell me to cook anything and I will cook it. Some kids have been kicked out of other schools like me. I go to Garfield Park Academy in Willingboro, NJ. I like this school because it has a Super Store and you can go buy things and take them home. It also has a School Store where you can by junk stuff to eat. I've been in this school for 4 years. I have met my goal, but I still need to work on my language.

Written by Carlos V.

### Room 26

We have been busy working on are phonics and grammar.

Mrs. Brenner has been reading stories from a book called "Voices of the Holocaust." Then we discuss what the story was about and how we feel about it.

We did an endangered species quilt and Mrs. Brenner is planning other quilts for us to do. We will be doing one for the holidays.

Mrs. Brenner has other hands-on projects in store for us, but won't tell us what they are.

### Room 27 United Nations Day

October 24, 2003 Room 27 celebrated United Nations Day by

making a quilt. Each student chose a country and made a design on a

white piece of fabric. Most of the students copied the country's flag. Some of the students were a little more creative and added items that would be found in that country, such as the Eiffel Tower for France. Angela, who is very artistic, copied the United Nations flag.

All of the squares were then sewn together by Miss Wright. This project was both fun and educational. We are all looking forward to making a quilt for every month. I can't wait to see what the theme of next month is going to be.

Written by Becky B.



### Room 28

Hi, my name is Phil G. and I go to GPA. I just started here earlier this year. We have an awesome Culinary Class, but what really makes this school unique is my class, Room 28. This class is filled with laughter and knowledge. This is a very good class because everyone respects each other. So far this year, I think I'm doing the best I've ever done in school. Miss Aricia and Miss Tara try to teach us about how important our future is to us and for the first time, I've been thinking about what I want to do after High School.