



Garfield Park Academy

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Formerly Therapeutic Learning Center

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

April 1, 2004



From The Director's Desk Excellence In Education

During the next few months, Garfield Park Academy will host each student's "Annual Review". This is the time when parents, public school child study teams, and our staff meet together to discuss our students' programs and make adjustments for the forthcoming school year. Our staff has worked hard to positively change academic levels, behavior, and emotional/social growth. Some students may need a little more time to make changes in their behavior. Parents are invited to meet with teachers and social workers to discuss changes that are seen at home and understand the work that has been going on in the classroom at any time.

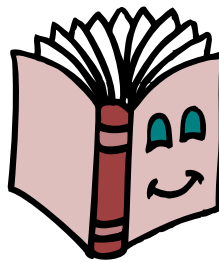
Garfield Park Academy is constantly trying to foster excellence in providing the very latest strategies in dealing with our student population through research and innovation. Each year, we review our school policies and procedures as well as academic and behavior programs to ascertain if GPA can be better than it is. We are writing grant proposals to foster additional research to improve mathematics programs in the high school, as well as additional work in the counseling area.

On March 26, 2004 we had a full day in-service for our staff on Cooperative Learning. Every staff member had an opportunity to learn good group practices in order to motivate our students to learn together. On March 6,

2004, our staff in the high school worked with the Education Information Resource Center (EIRC) during an in-service to provide more hands-on Biology laboratory experiments in the high school classrooms. Throughout the school year, Dr. Starcher has provided in-services to all of the social workers, teaching breathing exercises and stress reduction so that the social workers can work with our students in counseling to reduce their stress. These types of workshops for our staff have been on going throughout the school year.

We are open to any suggestions from parents, child study teams and other outside personnel so that we can continue to provide the very best in educational programs for our students.

Gladys Morse, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Reading Is Fundamental & Boxtops for Education

Garfield Park Academy has just renewed our contract with the Reading Is Fundamental program for the 4th year. Students will again be receiving free books, of their choosing, 3 times within the next year. This year's distributions were especially successful due to the increased cost allotment per book and the addition of students helping with the book selection. We have also been informed that we qualify for additional funding which we will receive as soon as it becomes available

enabling us to increase the variety of choices.

So far this year we've collected over 1600 boxtops from the Boxtops for Education program! We encourage all families to clip, save, and send these in to help us with our RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program. Remember, schools receive 10 cents for every boxtop turned in.

Iris Franklin
Curriculum Coordinator

Activities Committee News

The Activities Committee has been busy as usual planning special activities for the entire school. During the month of February, all classrooms participated in our Multicultural Program. Each classroom studied one country in depth and presented information about its culture, food, geography, etc. All classes got a chance to "visit" at least 2 other countries. This year, the countries studied were: Bahamas, Madagascar, Chile, Kenya, Morocco, India, Belarus, Vietnam, Peru, Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, South Africa, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and Dominican Republic.

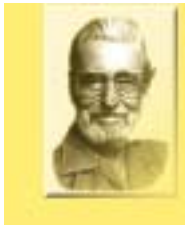


Our next big project is Earth Day. This year's Earth Day theme is *Water for Life*. Our Horticulture teacher, Mr. Jim, is helping us plan some exciting activities to help celebrate this special day. Be sure to read about them in our next newsletter.

We are also looking forward to the month of June when we help plan the last two activities of the school year, our annual Student/Staff Talent Show and Field Day.

As you can see, the Activities Committee has been, and will continue to be, very active!

Iris, Claudia, Maria, Tres, Jim and Steve



To celebrate Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday this year, the elementary classes listened to Miss Iris read *Hop On Pop*, *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, and *Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?*

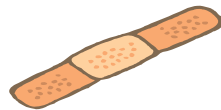
With *Hop On Pop* we learned about rhyming words and created our own rhyming lists. We also hopped on and popped bubble wrap. This book gave us a chance to use our brains and our bodies in a fun learning activity. For *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, we learned about solids and liquids and tried to figure out which category Oobleck fits into. When we made our Oobleck, we discovered that it has properties of both categories and is not easily classified. *Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?* got our creative juices flowing as we created our own unusual Seussian characters after listening to the story.

Theodore Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, would have turned 100 on March 2nd. He may be gone, but children of all ages will continue to enjoy his books forever.



Art Therapy News

In anticipation of our May 4, 2004 Interdisciplinary Art Show, Carpentry, Music, Horticulture, Cosmetology, Art, and Culinary disciplines are preparing for the big event. We plan to transform the Markeim Art Center (Haddonfield, NJ) into a Japanese tearoom... High school and middle school students will be receiving an application soon. Parents, guardians, and child study teams are invited.

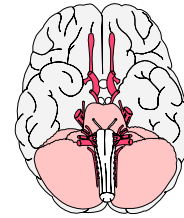


BANDAID NEWS
IMPORTANT FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW REGARDING MARIJUANA

Smoking marijuana may not seem as bad as using other drugs, but research has shown marijuana causes the same changes in the brain as cocaine and heroin. Also, these changes are believed to put a person more at risk of becoming addicted to other recreational drugs. Students who use marijuana get lower grades. Frequent heavy marijuana users may develop a tolerance to this drug which then leads to using increasing amounts of marijuana. The effect marijuana has on memory and learning can last for days. The symptoms of marijuana abuse are dizziness, trouble walking, silly /giggly for no apparent reason, red-bloodshot eyes, and difficulty in remembering things that just happened.

Research has shown the best way to stop using marijuana is involvement in counseling and group support systems. Your family doctor can provide you

with additional information in dealing with a marijuana problem.



Neurofeedback
Parts of The Brain

The cerebral cortex is the part of the brain that has two hemispheres. The right controls the left side of the body and the left controls the right side. The cerebral cortex has four lobes. The function of the frontal lobe includes problem solving, judgment, planning, initiation, personality, emotions, speaking, concentration, attention and awareness of abilities. The parietal lobe controls the sense of touch, and spatial and visual perception. The function of the temporal lobe controls memory, hearing, music awareness and understanding language. The occipital lobe controls vision. Another part of the brain is the cerebellum. Its function deals with balance, coordination and skilled motor activity. The last part of the brain is the brain stem. It controls the consciousness, alertness, breathing, heart rate and basic body functions. If there is an injury to any part of the brain the functions will be interrupted.



Garfield Park Academy had its first musical theatre production for the 2003 holiday season. High school students of GPA helped to write and choose music for a mini-musical that encompassed a variety of holiday cheer. Students performed the musical that was based on Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan for the elementary students. The musical was based on the message of giving and sharing with those in need. The students and staff involved did an excellent job and really helped to make the holidays special for all of us at GPA.

The music therapy department is now working in collaboration with Art Therapy, Culinary, Cosmetology, Carpentry and Horticulture for the Art Show.



Automotive News

The automotive service bays are to start construction in the near future. When this structure is complete the students and staff of Automotive will have the ability to do minor maintenance on GPA staff vehicles only. The type and extent of work performed will be determined by the automotive staff. We will not be able to handle major maintenance from the start.

We are proud to announce the continued progress of the High School students as well as the Pre-Vocational students. We have students proficient in tire changing, tire balancing, brake lathes, and starter rebuilding trades.

The next marking period we will be covering Electrical Systems Theory and some hands-on training on distributors and alternators. We will also cover batteries and lighting.



**Carpentry
Carpentry**

As the year keeps on going, I'm finding huge amount of talent and perseverance. The kids in my classes are working so diligently that they lose track of time. Everyday I have kids who want to stay another period to finish their work. I like their enthusiasm each day. These kids also think about others in this class. They help each other out

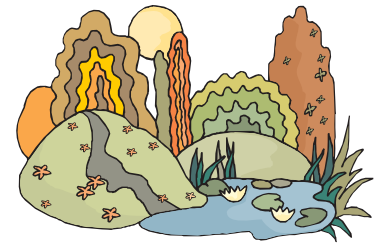
and they really get their work done. Also, they are learning more respect for their peers and me. We have accomplished a lot in this period and we will learn much more in the next marking period.

The projects they did were amazing. The kids are getting more confident with their ability to build different items. They are also finishing a lot of projects that were hard to do. An example is the guitars. They look so professionally done. There are cabinets, shelves, clocks, and much more amazing things that I didn't think the kids would try to accomplish. I'm so proud of them. I want to invite you all to observe and witness the kids work and their beautiful projects..



Cosmetology

We are approaching the end of the third semester and time is moving fast. We have had many new students join our class in the last few months, and a lot has been learned. Before this year draws to an end, we are going to participate in the art show in May. Our theme is Japan. As the Cosmetology department, our contribution to the show will be hair and makeup. In the next few weeks we will explore the Japanese culture in more detail and practice some of the hair designs and makeup. If the students take as much pride in this event as they did in last year's hair contest this will be a great success. We look forward to working with other staff and students to help make this an enjoyable occasion.



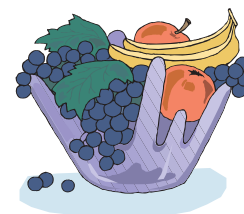
Horticulture Happenings

The foundations are in, the liner is in place and in another couple of weeks the Horticulture room pond will be ready for the fish! We are working hard down in Room 1 building a full sized freshwater pond. The pond, when complete, will have everything you could ask for in a pond, even a waterfall. The plan is to stock the pond with some fancy goldfish, snails, tadpoles and even freshwater clams.



**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE
PARK CAFÉ**

The Retail Trades students have been working hard in The Café preparing the lunch specials and serving the many students and staff who use The Café everyday. The Café has added "Philly-style" pretzels, delivered fresh every Tuesday and Thursday. The Retail Trade students are in the process of completing market surveys to see what new products might be added to The Café's menu.



Culinary Arts

This time of year brings new energy and ideas to students of Culinary Arts.

It's spring and with it comes a new harvest of fresh vegetables, fruit and multitudes of flavor combinations. The students have been gathering and testing their favorite recipes from family and friends to include in their own GPA cookbook, which consists of the class' most requested menu selections. We are planning to take a field trip to Atlantic City's TropWorld, where we will be meeting the gold medal winner of the Pastry Chefs of America, Tom Vaccaro.



Room 2

We have a lot going on in Room 2 this spring. We have celebrated Mr. Ricardo's, Amanda's and Ms. Rachel's birthdays. We'd like to welcome a few new students to our room, Juan, Andrea and Montel. We are enjoying getting to know them.

We have completed our multicultural studies and celebration, as well as our visits to other classrooms' countries. We very much enjoyed learning about the Bahamas and teaching the other classrooms a little bit about what we studied.

We just enjoyed earning our first field trip to the Camden Aquarium. There we saw sharks, sea turtles, stingrays, sea horses, star fish and tons of fish. The best part was the "touch tank" where we could pet the stingrays and the sharks. We really appreciate all those who have helped us earn that trip and we are looking forward to future field trips.

We would also like to congratulate the two students that have moved up levels this marking period, Jacnell and Myeisha. We would like to continue to encourage everyone else to try their best to achieve moving up levels. It is definitely more fun at school to be on privileges and on higher levels..



What's Happening in Room 6

My name is Ricky C. and this is an update on our classroom. Recently, we just finished a Madagascar project that was a big success. I feel that we educated and entertained our audience. We made vines that hung from the ceiling and the kids in my class had great peer relations while doing the project. They worked together without a problem. Now we're starting GEPAs and we are all nervous but doing very well. We are hoping to have more students move up to Level 3 and 4 in the coming months.



Room 7

We recently gave our Multi-cultural presentation to rooms 12 and 13. The country we studied was Chile. We had four stations so that the classes would get a wide range of information about Chile. The four stations were: the beauty of Chile- where we talked about the beautiful landforms in Chile, the Andes Mountains station- where we talked about the Andes Mountains that run the entire way through Chile, the Chilean flag station- where we talked about the Chilean flag, and our last station was the Chilean food station- where we served flan, banana milk, and grapes and pineapple, which are fruits that Chile grows and exports to the United States.

We have some students that are moving up levels. We have two

students on level three. We also have one student on level four!

We celebrated two birthdays in February and are looking forward to the birthdays that we will celebrate the rest of the year. We are also looking forward to everyone's behavior continuing to improve.



Room 8

In our reading group, we studied character development in a novel. Each student made a chart of the main characters in the novel *Scorpions*. As we read the novel, we recorded the things that we learned about each character. We also used *Scorpions* to help us study geography. The novel takes place in Harlem in New York City. As we read, we located various places mentioned in the novel on a map of Harlem.

Kenya was the focus of our multicultural study. We made flags, masks and a musical instrument used in Kenya. In addition, we learned some Swahili, the language of Kenya.



Room 12

Our new classroom is now 6 weeks old! Our students are getting settled into classroom routines. This month for our multicultural presentation we worked on studying the country of India. We made a poster presentation board and cooked Apples Raita. For Black History Month we talked about Harriett Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr. We have a new social worker, Miss Mary. Mrs. Ilene is

the teacher, and the facilitators are Mr. Eric, Mr. Julian and Mr. Todd.

Academically, our reading groups just finished reading the novels *Mr. Poppers Penguins* and *The Boxcar Children*. In addition to this we have read stories about many famous people and read "*The Iceman*" and watched the movie. Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, Phys. Ed., and Electives consume most of our day, but our favorite activities are computer games, arts and crafts, playing games, basketball and eating snacks.

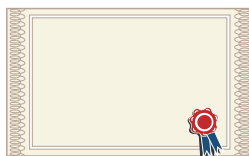


Room 13

Come see what's cookin' in room 13. First, we want to welcome our new classmate Enrico. We also want to thank some new staff, Mr. Brandon and Mr. Manny for all their help.

February was Multicultural Month and our class presented Morocco. We shared our knowledge of Morocco with other classes. We learned many things. First, Morocco's capital is Rabot and they have a national anthem like we do. Next, we tasted Moroccan dishes such as Cous Cous, Taboulah, and Mint Tea. Lastly, Moroccan women put tattoos, called Henna tattoos, on their hands and feet that last about a month. Ssalamu 'lekum (peace be unto you)!

Finally, we have been able to earn different privileges. We earned a Taco Party by having ten people on privileges three out of four days. Many of us are on our way to going back to district. We are working hard, learning to make right choices, and believing in ourselves. We are also trying to improve our social skills and behavior.



Room 15

There have been lots of things happening in our room. During the last few months our class welcomed three new students. Their names are Toya, Danielle, and Dana.

Everyone did an excellent job participating in the presentation about the Republic of Belarus, during school's multicultural week. We performed for rooms 2, 8 and 13. The presentation was exciting and everyone enjoyed themselves.

In our class everyday we have someone called Student of the Day. To be Student of the Day, you need to have the highest point in the class. The student of the day gets a certificate, right choice ticket and becomes staff's helper for the next day.



Room 16

In the second half of the year we have completed various new tasks including the multicultural presentation on Vietnam. During the presentation our class learned how to create decorations that represented the Chinese New Year, as well as the Chinese zodiac. The children also enjoyed making a traditional drink that the Vietnamese children call soda. This event was further enhanced by a slide show that was put together by Mr. Rob. The children also enjoyed sharing this event with Rooms 6 and 7. It was enjoyed by all.

Our class also has taken full advantage of the nice weather by playing hula-hoops, basketball, football, and playing on the playgrounds. This has helped to break

up the long cold winter. Hopefully spring comes very soon!

We were recently saddened by the loss of our teacher's aide, Mrs. V, who is now happily living in sunny Florida. Although we all miss her greatly we wish her well. Mrs. V has been here approximately 6 years and has been a great asset to the kindergarten / elementary class. While we have suffered the loss of our beloved Mrs. V, we have gained 3 new students. Welcome to Room 16!



Room 17 Highlights

Multicultural Theme Project:

Currently in our classroom we have successfully accomplished:

- Our Multicultural Theme Project included: creating a Plaster of Paris Map of Peru. Students enthusiastically created a map that displayed all of the major cities in Peru.
- Many of our Culinary Students created some tasty Peruvian cuisine that many students enjoyed throughout our presentation. Students also created posters showing the culture, art, recipes and many other areas.
- Students have used computers to create reports on famous people in Black History. These people include: **Tony Dungy, Muhammad Ali, Condelezza Rice, and Smokey Robinson**, among many others,.
- We have completed the novel: *Rumblefish* by S.E. Hinton. We are currently reading

Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers.

- In History, students have created maps and illustrations, while increasing their vocabulary, along with their knowledge of history.
- In Science, students have created illustrations of Viruses, Protists and Plant Life.



Room 19 Class Field Trip

The students in Room 19 voted to take our class trip to the Philadelphia Zoo in April. Every student who is on level will go to the zoo. We believe that every student will be on privileges to go on the trip. The students are looking forward to going to the zoo. I was amazed to find out how many students have never been to a zoo. The idea of going to the zoo came up during History when we were studying Africa. I think this trip will be a positive experience for the students.



Room 20

During the month of February we had a lot of exciting activities in Room 20. All of us have been learning new things together this year. First we studied the country of Panama for multicultural month. As we studied Panama, we were able to learn some very interesting facts about it (Panama). For instance, their religion is Roman Catholic and Protestant. The climate there is usually hot and humid. Also, in Panama there

is a prolonged rainy season from May to January and a short dry season from January to May. The major language spoken in Panama is Spanish. The class made Mango-Banana Smoothies and we played a game with other classes that came in to visit.

Also, in February we celebrated several birthdays (Sean, Kara, Brian, and Eric). The Friday before Valentine's Day we had a very nice party. We made chocolate candy, flowers and cards for the special occasion. Next month in March we will be celebrating Leah's birthday.

This year we have welcomed Angela and Sean into our classroom. We have also welcomed Ms. Amy as our new social worker. Congratulations to her on winning employee of the month! Our former classmates T.J. and Larry have moved on.

In room 20 we have two Varsity Basketball players, freshmen Eric D. and Sean P. They have contributed to the Warriors three recent victories. We have had several level achievers. Dan, Steve-O and Ernie made level 3 and Leah has made level 4. Very good!

Carlos & Kids.



Room 24

This third marking period, there have been quite a wide range of topics covered. We started off with multicultural day. We studied Portugal. Our presentation consisted of the students doing an oral presentation of interesting facts and a food buffet of many of the favorite foods of Portugal. The students learned some unknown facts about this quiet European country.

The Anatomy students have been working on the nervous, circulatory, and excretory systems. The students

have done some experiments to demonstrate how these organ systems work.

The Biology students have covered the cell structure of plants and animals. We are moving on to how the scientific world classifies organisms.

The students have finished reading the play, *Julius Caesar*. The language of Shakespeare was difficult to understand, but the students worked well to understand the main theme of the play. We have not yet finished *Treasure Island*. The students are learning about life on a pirate ship.

In Pre-Algebra, the students have been working hard on their basic skills, as well as having success in solving equations.

Our History groups are working on the causes of the American Revolution. The students are amazed how things were done 200 years ago. One group is discussing the causes and outcomes of the Spanish-American War.

This marking period, we started Health class. We have started with the components of a good healthy lifestyle. The students know the components but still continue to pursue at risk behaviors that may compromise good health habits. Nutrition has been a key part of our discussions.

The students have been working hard to complete their make-up work with the marking period quickly coming to an end.



Room 25

Welcome to Room 25. We recently experienced an exciting field trip. We went to the Franklin Institute. A couple of our students went on the flight simulators. Another enjoyable experience was the baseball speed gun.

During the month of February, we studied the country of South Africa. We presented what we learned to two other classrooms. They received

information from us about leaders such as Nelson Mandella. We shared South African cuisine such as oxtails and lemonade with them.



Room 26

We have been busy working on our antonyms and synonyms.

Mrs. Brenner has been telling us about and trying to get us familiar with people and events from the Civil Rights Movement. We also did reports for African-American History Month and we did a quilt on famous African-Americans, which is hanging in our room.

We are now working on a quilt of famous American women and we might do more quilts.

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



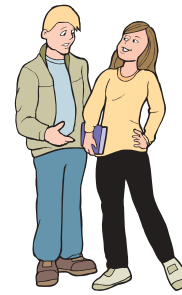
Room 27

In classroom 27, Ms. Wright is teaching us how to use Quicken Deluxe on the computer. We have mailboxes on our desks and everyday we get mail in the form of bills and once a week we get a paycheck.

We use our paycheck to pay rent, electric, food, transportation and phone; basically all the bills you would have to pay if you lived on your own. Our paychecks come from the positive points we earn during the week. Every one point equals two cents. If we don't pay our bills we get late notices and fees and shut off notices, just like real life.

My peers and I are very grateful that Ms. Wright is teaching this to us because it is preparing us for the real world. She is teaching us a very important life skill that we would not get anywhere else.

By Becky B.



28 Is The Best

Since 28 is such a mystery, here is just a little taste of our history
Academics, freedom and fun is what takes place most of the day

Because we work real hard, but at game time we don't play
Relaxing in a spot where there is love and unity
Inside of this school, we have our own happy community
Listen as we rap and have a great time
If you listen closely, you can hear our charismatic rhymes
Music in the back as we eat our lunch
We are a squad, a family, and even a wild bunch
Now pay attention as we learn subjects like our History
Or as we participate in biology and learn life's mysteries
We definitely work, have a little fun and all out "chill"
A unity I wouldn't give up for any amount of dollar bills
I hope you had a nice time exploring our room of fun
Because now it's 2:00 and our day is now done!

Collins B.