

From The Director's Desk!



This holiday season makes us realize that we have so much that we must be thankful for. It is now mid-year and our students have progressed academically, socially and emotionally. The classroom teacher knows that his / her students are beginning to make the effort to get along with peers.

There is excitement in the air with thoughts of presents and holidays just past, with Christmas trees and Christmas lights. We are beginning a New Year. Welcoming the year 2003 brings New Year resolutions. As a school, Garfield Park Academy has resolved that in the year 2003, we will provide even more in the way of services to our students.

By the spring of 2003, we will have a new high school recreation area that is fenced in. The area consists of an obstacle course with a variety of climbing apparatus and adult swings. The Willingboro Town Council has approved our greenhouse and students in our Horticulture classes will have the opportunity to explore another type of classroom. Auto-mechanics students will be working on taking engines apart and putting them together.

I wish students, staff, parents and school districts a happy New Year and hope that the year 2003 will be your best ever.

Gladys Morse, Ed.D.

Executive Director / Superintendent

Honor Roll Congratulations!



The first marking period was very successful at G. P. A. We had 1 student who made Distinguished Honor Roll, 13 students who made Honor Roll, and 7 students with Perfect Attendance. Two students made both Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance. Congratulations to all and keep up the good work!

Activities Committee



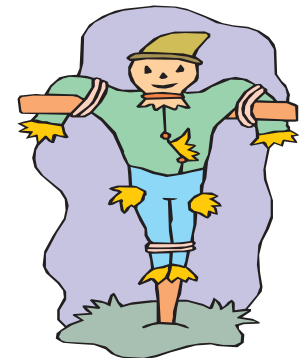
Multi-cultural Program

For the third year in a row, Garfield Park Academy is having a multi-cultural program. Students and teachers selected a country, other than the United States, and are busy studying their country's culture, language, climate, etc. and turning their classrooms into that country.

Next will come our cultural exchange in mid-January. Students will be given "passports", needed to gain entrance into the various countries, which will be stamped (stickers of the countries' flags) when they cross the border. The host class will present information about their country, followed by visitors getting a chance to sample native foods and make a project to take with them.

Countries visited this year will be: Afghanistan, Ireland, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Brazil, Belgium, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Poland, Venezuela, Cuba, France, Denmark, Haiti, and Columbia.

Create A Scarecrow Contest



For Halloween, classes participated in a "Create A Scarecrow" Contest. The staff and students were extremely creative. Our winners were:

Elementary Classes

1st place – Room 15

2nd place – Room 13

Junior High Classes

1st place – Room 2

2nd place – Room 7

3rd place – Room 12

High School / Vocational Classes

1st place – tie- Rooms 19 & 20

2nd place – Room 17

3rd place – Horticulture

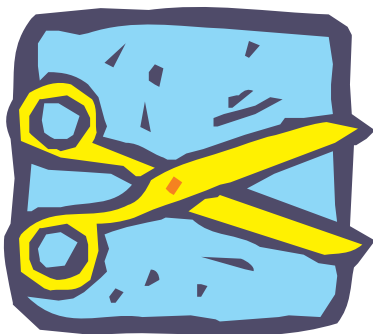
Congratulations to all!

Boxtops for Education



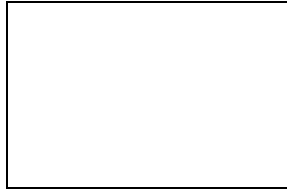
For the third year, we have been collecting Boxtops for Education. Every year our collections have increased and this year has been no exception. Our first collection of the year, in October, gave us 843 boxtops, compared to 1020 for all of last year! Room 13 collected over 100 boxtops! As an extra incentive to the students, the 3 classes (1 Elementary, 1 Junior High, and 1 High School) with the most boxtops and every class with over 100 boxtops earns a prize.

For every boxtop collected, General Mills sends us 10 cents. The money received helps pay for our portion of the Reading Is Fundamental book purchases. In addition, General Mills has issued us a challenge. If we double last year's collection of boxtops, they will send us an extra \$ 50, to use for our program.



We need everyone's help. Clip those boxtops and send them into school with your child.

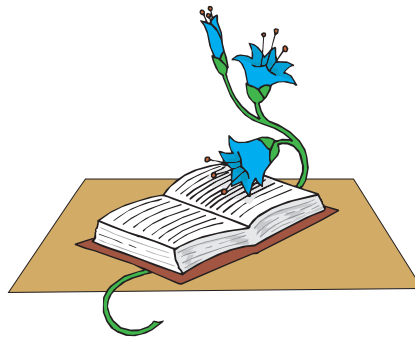
Reading Is Fundamental



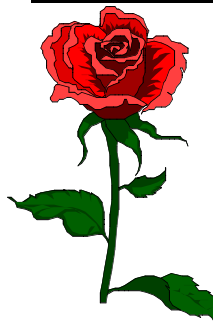
December saw our 2nd RIF distribution of the 2002 – 2003 school year. This distribution was planned for right before the holiday break to encourage students to read while out of school.

Our RIF contract for the 2003-2004 school year has been submitted for final approval and we look forward to continuing to provide free books to our students throughout the school year and summer program.

Reading IS FUNdamental !



What's Growing On In Horticulture!



Horticulture is in full bloom, and growing! The students have designed and created many interesting projects. For example: topiary silk flower arrangements, living topiary animals, boxwood trees, fresh Thanksgiving centerpieces with candles, Halloween

mugs filled with fresh fall flowers, fresh holiday wreaths, bonsai plants, dried flower arrangements, silk floral wreaths, fresh flower corsages and boutonnieres. The students also designed and created flowers for a wedding.



Outside, the students planted azaleas and boxwood shrubs that will last all year long. They also planted ornamental kale for some much needed winter color.

Cosmetology Looking Good!



We made it through our first report period and we accomplished a lot. In theory, we studied Professional Image, Bacteriology, Decontamination and control and we're presently working on Properties of Hair and Scalp. These are just a few of the important chapters we will study this year. In practical, we learned sectioning, corrowing and invisible braiding, shampooing, various elevations in haircutting, and blow drying techniques. Currently, we are working on roller sets. These are some of the skills we will use in our creative hairstyle competition coming up this year. There are many new skills we will learn, and we look forward to applying these skills in the future.

Retail Trades The Park Café Takes Shape!

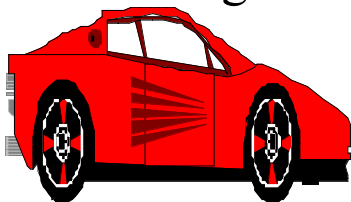


The Garfield Park Café has continued its renovations with the remodeling of the counter tops, point of purchase advertising and decorative lighting. The changes have led to a brighter and cleaner look in the school store.

The Retail Trades Classes have decorated for Christmas and have a Holiday Contest for the students of Garfield Park Academy. The student who comes the closest to guessing the correct number of lights on the Park Café Christmas Tree will win a special holiday prize.

Also, the Retail Trades students have been working on improving their computer skills with internet projects and researching many of the famous people in the Business World.

Automotive Technology Started and Running!



I am excited about the transformation that has taken place at what was the pool house. We have a state of the art classroom, lab and

equipment. This is a huge undertaking, but things are moving along at a steady pace, and upon completion we will have the finest Automotive Technology facility in New Jersey. I promise you that!

Automotive Technology is a bonified field for a student that is dedicated and career oriented. This world moves on wheels. Possibilities are unlimited; likewise is the money earning capacity.

The latest statistics show that there are 180 million passenger cars in the United States alone (1.6 per household). This is just 1/3 of the cars in the world. The automobile is a direct or indirect source of employment for one out of every nine workers in the country. Americans drive an average of 8,000 miles per year. I ask you, is this or is this not a career beckoning industry?

Our Automotive students, as a majority, are excited by our offering. Many bring in automotive problems, as did some of our teachers, testing my diagnostic skills. My diagnostics were correct and the students were impressed.

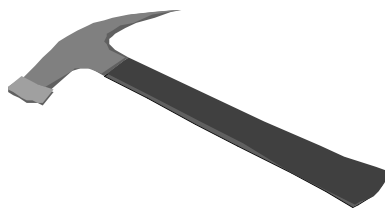
Our goal is that our freshman students in their senior year will test and succeed to be ASE certified technicians. ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) is required by most employers in the automotive field.

The Automotive Technology Department will make Garfield Park Academy proud.

Until next time, I'll see you in the hallways.

Choa, Mr. Pat

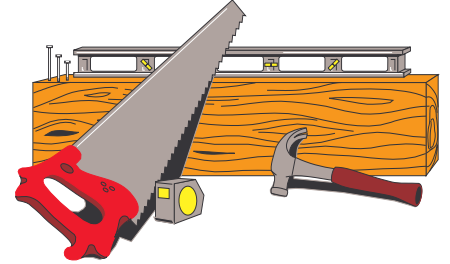
Carpentry It's Hammer



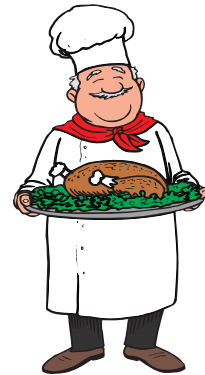
Time!

We are coming up on the second half of the school year and Mr. B's woodshop is in full swing. As always safety is a top priority. We are

in our third year of woodshop with a perfect safety record (take that Culinary!) Coming soon, tables, chairs and guitars, oh my! Woodshop will be joining with Horticulture to make planters for the front of the school building.



Culinary Arts What's Cooking



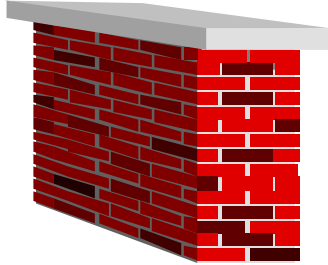
This marking period is highlighted by two of the most anticipated holidays of the year for culinary students, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

We start off with Thanksgiving, which is an opportunity for the classes to show off various skills and techniques that they have gathered over the past few months.

This culminates with the Thanksgiving feast, which all the students in every class voted on and then prepared for one another. This was a great success by all standards. The students appreciated the time and effort that each class diligently put into each presentation.

For Christmas the students have decided to participate in a Pollyanna. Each student will choose a recipe and prepare it for the person that they pick.

Room 2 Building on a Good Thing



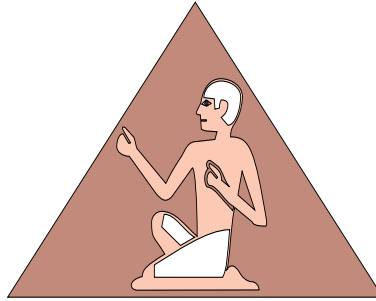
Hi, this is room 2. Our students are building two domes. We split the class into two teams, as we are having a competition to see who can build the strongest dome. We are also working on our Afghanistan project for January. Our class just got two new high school students in our class. Our teacher is going to have her baby in March.

Room 6 Helping Others

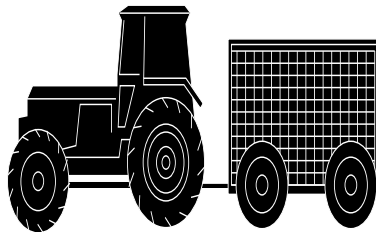


Room 6 is planning some very exciting things for the month of December. This month, we have decided to focus on the spirit of giving to others. We are currently collecting food from our classroom students and staff to be donated to others in need. So far, the students and staff have really come through and have brought in many items! We are planning a trip on December 18th to an area nursing home. We will be bringing the residents Christmas cookies and holiday cards. We are also planning a trip to McGuire Airforce base on December 19th. We want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday season!

Room 7 Just Like An Egyptian



Hello again from rm. 7! This month we have changed electives. Shakeira and Myeisha are really cooking during 2nd period on Monday and Wednesday. We learn the basics of cooking in Culinary Arts by slicing and dicing onions and potatoes. Byron, Lawrence and Naim have moved on to Horticulture. They have been studying plant life and doing related projects. Devin and Chris are learning safety and how to operate machinery in woodshop. They are working on birdhouses, lamps, drums, and other projects. Justin and Jeremy are learning about keeping customers happy in the school store during business class.



The class took a field trip on November 6. We went on a hayride in Medford at Johnson's farm. We learned numerous things about popcorn, peanuts, and apple cider. The best part of all was the petting zoo!! We were able to feed chickens, pigs, goats, sheep and llamas.

Room 7, as a class, is working on a social studies project. We are studying the great country of Egypt. We are learning about their history, people, culture, economics, and day to day life. We plan to share what we learned with other classes in mid January.

Now we have two students on level 3. Myeisha is a new addition, joining Devin who has been there for a

couple of months. We also have several students who are very close to moving up. With hard work and dedication they will be there in no time at all.

Finally, it's the holiday season, Hooray!! We love this time of the year, family, friends, fun, great food, snow days and gifts.

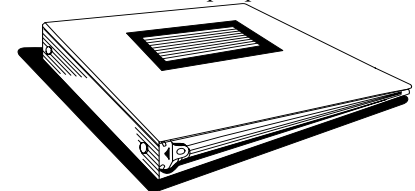
Thank you for taking a peek into room 7's world. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!



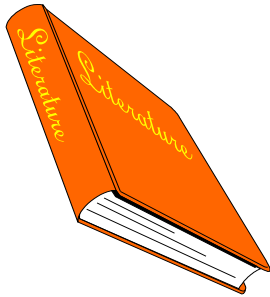
Room 8 Hard At Work



Hi, we are the students of Room 8. We are Ibn, Michael, Abraham, Sharik, Shanice, Jessica, Stanley, Jacnell, Dwight, Daniel, Jesse, and Fareed. We are all increasing our reading levels and doing fun stuff like Math bingo. Some of us like clean desks, some of us like to eat, and some of us can sing. We do counseling every day and we talked about racial slurs and why we shouldn't say them. We also talk about respect and getting along working with people. We all really like this school because we like electives. We have learned to give appropriate greetings when we meet someone new. We do homework, we learn to work as a team, and we learn how to treat other people.

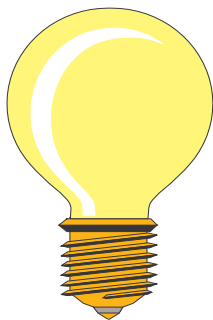


Room 12 Wants to Know About Edgar Allen Poe



During the past few months, we have studied Edgar Allen Poe. It was interesting. We read a series of mysteries, humorous stories, horror stories, funny stories, and poems. The two favorite poems of our class were The Raven and The Bells. To conclude our study of Poe, we took a trip to his house in Philadelphia. It was very interesting.

We have also taken a class trip to see A Christmas Carol. The play was great. It really got us in the holiday spirit. We are reading a very short novel, Stone Fox, by John Gardiner and then we are going to watch a movie about dogsledding races. So far the book is all right. In Science we are learning about energy and work, and in Social Studies about Mexico.



Everyone is eagerly awaiting the holiday break. Everyone needs the time off to relax and do his or her own thing. Here is a little poem that we enjoyed and would like to share with everyone... Happy Holidays! – Room 12.

December Respect
Rules that we should live by
Are simple and direct
And one of them is treating
Other people with respect
And even though we disagree
On many things is true
We have no right to interfere
With what they say or do.
-Carolyn Jacks

Room 13 An Original Performance!



There have been lots of things happening in Room 13. We had a special visitor. His name was Police Officer McKendrick. He told us about his job. He shared with us that he was bitten by a pit bull. He also showed us his handcuffs and police car. We are glad he came to visit us. Thank you Officer McKendrick!

Our class created our own Thanksgiving play. We performed for Mrs. Armstrong's and Ms. Daniel's classes. The play was exciting and everyone enjoyed themselves. Happy Holidays from Room 13!

Room 15 Becoming Belgium



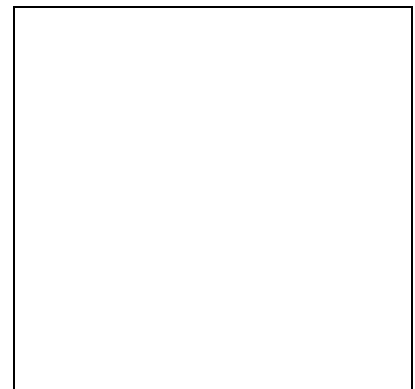
Our class is very excited about all the things that we have been doing. We are enjoying studying about

Belgium for Multicultural week in January when we get back from our winter break. We have been busy making a Belgium Countryside on one of the walls and looking up all sorts of interesting information about Belgium to tell the other classes who are going to visit us.

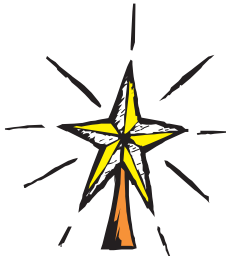
We are also very excited about all of the points and bonds that we have been earning. When we get to go to the superstore, we have been able to get some really cool things there. Some of us got some great markers to help us decorate the classroom for Belgium, and others have been able to do some shopping for our families for Christmas.



We have had a great time learning about the different winter and fall holidays. Right before Thanksgiving and Hanukkah we had a great time learning about those two holidays. We loved being able to eat different holidays' foods such as Pumpkin Pie and Potato Pancakes, or Latkas. And right now we are learning about Christmas and Kwanzaa.



Room 16 Happy Holidays Means More Than Just Christmas



We are learning about Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Christmas is celebrated by Christians around the world. The Christians believe that it is the birthday of Jesus. Christmas is a joyous time of sharing and spending time with family and friends. Based on the belief that The Three Wise Men brought gifts to the Christ child, the exchanging of gifts is one Christmas tradition.



Hanukkah is the eight-day Jewish holiday of lights. Celebrated by people of the Jewish faith, Hanukkah means "dedication." The holiday begins on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, which usually falls in December. Hanukkah was celebrated early this year (November). It celebrates events which happened over two thousand years ago.

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration. It was established in 1966 by Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga, a scholar and social activist. It celebrates African harvest and is based on beliefs and values of traditional African customs. The cultural celebration focus is to help African -Americans remember their heritage. It is also a time of joy and sharing. The goal of Kwanzaa is to put the 7 principles into practice in our daily lives.

The celebration begins on December 26th and extends over a period of 7 days. Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili word for "first" and it refers to the "First fruits" that are picked at harvest. Swahili is the language spoken in many African countries. It's been estimated that between 10 – 11 million African-Americans observe Kwanzaa every year.

Room 17 Rolls Out The Red Carpet To Welcome Their New Teacher



Out with the old, in with the new. Room 17 is turning the corner in education. There's a fresh new face in the halls of G. P. A. We have an excited, energetic, and motivated educator with a wealth of experience in helping shape and mold these young minds. With a cornucopia of experience and innovative style, the teacher in room 17 relishes the challenges ahead. We all deserve a second chance in life.



Room 19 Learning About Poland & Plants



Room 19's multicultural project will be about Poland. We will be showing the different types of food, clothing and beverages that are famous in the country. The students are working hard to make this a fun, learning experience.



In room 19, we're studying plants in Science. The students will plant seeds and monitor the plants as they grow. This will help the students learn about the stages of plant life.

Room 20 Venturing Into Venezuela



During the month of December, we will be working on our multicultural project. We have chosen the country of Venezuela to research. During our Social Studies, we will be studying Venezuela's culture, geography, population, climate, money, etc. Later on, we will decorate our

classroom to resemble Venezuela, as well as invite other classrooms to have their passports stamped by us. Come ready to experience Venezuela in room 20!

Our students and staff in room 20 would like to welcome new classmates Antoinette and Robert. We would also like to mention that Tareek has returned back to his local district. Good Luck Tareek! Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, we were unable to say a proper goodbye to Mrs. Barbara. Her last day would have been December 6 with GPA. We love you "Granny"!

Lastly, we are looking forward to the upcoming holidays and will continue to make learning a fun experience in room 20.

Room 24 Moving on up!



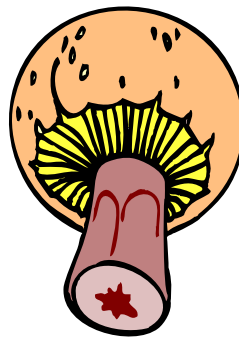
The second marking period began as a clean slate for all students to achieve great things. This marking period, there is going to be a serious effort made for students to move up in levels. We currently have only 1 student on level 4. It would be nice to have more students on Level 3. Currently there are 3 students very close to being on Level 3.

On November 22 every student that reported to school was on privilege. This was a major accomplishment. As a reward, the students were permitted to play games, whether it be cards, board games, or computer games. It was a wonderful day for staff and students.



We are studying the Phantom of the Opera. In Biology, we are trying to understand the mechanics of cell division. We did 2 experiments in class to show how diffusion and osmosis work. The students had fun with this. Anatomy is discovering the importance of nutrition. Social Studies has involved the causes of the Revolutionary War. Students understand that we fought a war for independence, but thinking 21st century mind, the causes are hard to understand. There has been dialogue among the students, during our current events class, as to why we as a country are at war and why so many countries do not like the United States. We have had many a lively discussion as to the current state of affairs in American politics.

Room 25 Fungus Amongst Us

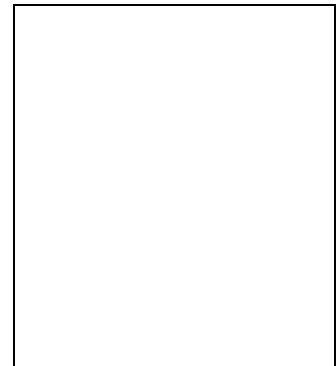


In United States History I, we are learning about the use of primary sources in the writing of history. We talked about primary sources such as medical records, prescription records, x-rays, taped conversations and autopsy reports. A historian is using these primary sources to write a biography about President Kennedy.



In Biology I, we have been learning about fungi. We examined some mushrooms by taking them apart. We identified the various parts of the mushroom.

Room 26 Delving Into Denmark



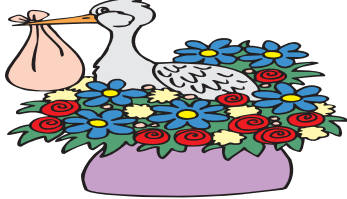
We are starting to learn about Denmark. Mrs. Brenner says there are some surprising things about this little Scandinavian country.

As we enter the new year, we are learning about the World Wars in U. S. History II, and in U. S. History I we will start learning about the Revolutionary War and the beginning of our country as a United Nation.

We are planning for Black History Month. Mrs. Brenner says we will write a report on a famous African-American and do a diorama on that person.

Mrs. Brenner says there are other surprises in store for us as the school year goes on.

Room 27 Bids a Fond farewell to Miss Jill



The month of November was a hard month for the students in room 27. This month we had to say good bye to one of the best facilitators in Garfield Park Academy, Mrs. Jill. I mean we couldn't be selfish and ask her to stay longer because she is becoming a mother now and it is time for her to have a break and bring her child into the world properly. She will be greatly missed because she was such an understanding facilitator and she helped us in as many ways as possible. We all still looked at it as if that might be the last time we see her cause we all graduate this year. With the little bit of time we had left to share with her in our classroom, we did many things with her before she left. We threw her a surprise breakfast baby shower and we got to have our Thanksgiving feast with her. Then when the last day came around, instead of us saying what we were thankful for, we told her why we were thankful that she was a part of our lives. We just wanted her to leave knowing that she still has kids at this school that she has to come back and check up on. We were very glad that she lasted this long in our classroom instead of leaving early. We were very thankful for that.

Room 28 Feasting for Knowledge



Room 28 lost a valuable team member in Ms. Natalie, who had to resign to care for her mother in South Carolina. She will surely be missed.

Rooms 27 and 28 had a delicious and well-prepared Thanksgiving feast. The turkey was very tender and tasted great. We also had garlic and regular mashed potatoes, corn, string beans, and macaroni and cheese. The feast wasn't lacking in desserts. There were pumpkin and pecan pies, cranberry bread, pumpkin bread, and an assortment of cookies. Special thanks to Ms. Marcy and Ms. Colleen and to everyone else that helped in making this dinner a success. We also appreciate Chef Larry for his help and use of his kitchen.

Both groups in room 28 made gingerbread houses. Dr. Morse and Ms. Nell did the judging. Great job room 28.

School To Career Work Rules!



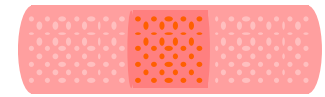
The School to Career class went to the Imax Theater on Dec. 13. It was a science-related field trip.

We are continuing to read the Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis. We just finished Vol. 2 - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and will begin vol. 3 The Horse and His Boy soon. First we have to write a critical essay about vol. 2.

We are looking forward to the new year and the many things Mrs. Brenner has in store for us to learn.



Band Aid News



Please Don't Smoke, For Everyone's Health

When you smoke it is important to realize that you are not the only one who is affected by the poisons in the smoke.

If you smoke anywhere in your home, your children are also breathing in the poison from your cigarettes. This smoke is called poisonous because it contains many dangerous substances such as benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, nicotine, ammonia and cyanide.

When you smoke you're most likely are using a filtered cigarette. When your children smoke by breathing in your smoke, it is unfiltered and much more dangerous.



You may have noticed that your children have many colds and chest infections. Your smoke causes these.

Your smoke can also put your children at risk for getting lung cancer later in life.

Asthma is the main reason why children are chronically ill and have to miss school. If your child already has asthma, your smoke makes asthma worse.

Ear infections are another major problem caused by your smoke. The smoke gets into the fluid in the ear and causes these very painful problems.

P. E. Classes Let's Get Physical



Physical Education High School classes are continuing Presidential testing. The elementary and middle schoolers are doing a variation of base games, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball and weight training and conditioning.

Dr. Morse has allowed the purchase of workout tapes – Tae Bo with Billy Blanks, a 7 times world Martial Arts Champion, and Zumba, a tape of Latin Dance steps. The students really enjoy them.



Varsity basketball is getting started and the students have been practicing and are very enthusiastic. Games will begin this week, due to inclement weather.



Neurofeedback

Functions of The Left and Right Brain



Have you ever wondered which part of the brain controls certain functions?

The Left-Brain controls:

- The right hand
- The right half of the body
- Talking, reading, writing, spelling
- Speech comprehension
- Linguistic and verbal thinking
- Verbal intelligence
- Verbal memories
- Dreaming in words
- Logical and analytical reasoning
- Perception of details
- Keeping score of football games
- Marching
- Math
- Typing
- Grammar
- Concentration and motivation
- Loss of speaking ability (Broca's expressive aphasia)
- Loss of language comprehension (Wernicke's receptive aphasia)
- Loss of writing ability (Agraphia)
- Loss of reading ability (Alexia)
- Loss of math ability (Acalculia)

The Right Brain controls:

- The left hand
- The left half of the body
- Emotional and speech
- Singing and swearing
- Comprehension of music, emotion, body language and environmental sounds (chirping birds, buzzing bees, babbling brooks, thunderstorms)
- Visual, emotional, musical, creative, geometric thinking
- Emotional and childhood memories
- Insight and intuitive reasoning

- Throwing and catching a football
- Riding a bike
- Dancing
- Dreaming in visual-emotional images
- Unconscious awareness
- Perceives faces and both halves of body
- Maintains body image
- Loss of musical abilities (Amusia)
- Loss of facial recognition (Prosopagnosa)
- Left-sided neglect and denial, disturbances of the body image (Anognosognosia)

Speech Therapy & Art Therapy A Coordinated Effort



Room 8, in a coordinated effort with the Speech/Language Therapist and the Art Therapist, has completed a compelling project on the issue of tolerance among ourselves. Miss Jill and Miss Sheri presented a wonderful book, "The Other Side", to the class for interpretation and understanding of the issues involved. The adjoining issues related to "civil rights" were discussed in a preteaching series of classroom discussions.

The culmination of the project was a series of paintings on woodboard that define the related emotions. The historical issues were enhanced by a discussion of art and its relationship to history as in Picasso's "Guernica".



The Garfield Park Academy's Library A Classic Favorite



The Garfield Park Academy Library is available to students and staff. Students have a scheduled library period each week during which they are able to browse and borrow books. The concentration for the first part of the year has been on encouraging students to read independently by exposing them to a wide range of literature. Together we have read novels, short stories, poetry, non-fiction and folklore.

Through a series of "classic" comic books high school students have been introduced to many of the great works of literature. Most students appear to enjoy coming to the library and I am gratified by the positive response.



Parent Education Program (PEP) Schedule

- Dec. 11 Stress and Your Child
 - Jan. 22 Dealing with Anger, The Educational Process
 - 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