Dear Parents,

A few days ago I returned from the National Middle School Conference in Minneapolis where I gave a presentation on middle level philosophy, research and the implementation of school restructuring. Last month, I was privileged to present at the New York State Middle School Association Annual Conference. The presentations were very well received and it was an exciting experience sharing our program with other professionals from across the state, nation and even from other countries.

Without question, our school increasingly serves as a model for schools that seek to implement middle level philosophy with it’s affective and academic benefits for children.

As Dr. Susan K. Nicklas, the Executive Director of the Secondary Council of Middle States Association, wrote in her tentative approval of our candidacy status, “...the Candidacy Visitor observed a sense of enthusiasm and excitement of what has been accomplished and what can be accomplished in the near future. It was remarkable to see the magnitude and impact of changes that have occurred in the last two years. There are many, many more programmatic and student activities choices for students.”

Middle Level philosophy validates what we as parents intuitively know — that our children succeed best when we address their affective needs AND establish high academic expectations. Each element is critically important; neither may be successful without the other.

In Garden City Middle School we embrace this perspective. We mandate that EVERY child must receive a first class education without artificial fixed tracks or sub-par curriculum paths. We recognize the importance of nurturing the whole child whether through Friday Night Recreation, remediation tutoring, or establishing high curricular expectations. As principal, I pledge that this approach of embracing the total child is our only acceptable approach.

Please accept my very best wishes for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,
Peter Osroff
Online Databases Available at Home

The school library’s high quality online databases provide students with 24 hour a day access to reference sources, primary source documents, magazines and newspapers.

Visit the middle school library Website at http://middleschool.gardencity/k12.ny.us/library
To access the same databases used at school from home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Username</th>
<th>Password</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Resource Center</td>
<td>gard39379</td>
<td>garden_rpa</td>
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NOVEL Databases Provided Free to the Public by the New York State Library

Gale Group Databases                                empirelink
EBSCO Research Databases                             gardencityms

JOY IS THE FEELING OF GRINNING INSIDE— Dr. Melba Colgrove

Michael Strandberg won the Nassau County Mathletes Award by placing 5th in Nassau County for all 7th graders! Multiple kudos Michael!

Sixth grader, BOBBY WALLACE, of cluster 6C placed FIRST in the 14 year old and under 5K Run benefiting the North Shore University Hospital Annual Hagedorn Cleft Palate Center. Go Bobby!

Students in David Strauzer’s 7th grade French class had a wonderful learning experience when they reviewed correct pronunciation of the French alphabet. The activity was enhanced by Kathleen Gallic, Arielle Gogh, Kerry Hosford, Devon Schay, and Alexandra Sclapp, who led this review by using sign language. Kudos to the student leaders!

Five students were nominated for the 2004-2005 National Art Awards: Elise Griffith, Andrew Leone, Brian Alluto, Ali Ranieri, and Mary Kate Collins. Congratulations!

GCMS Student Council reminds us that: November will bring the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for Meals on Wheels and in December students will be collecting toys and gifts for St. Christopher of Otterlie, home for disabled children.

Students in the Rumbelow, Olsen, Trousdell cluster, in cooperation with the Marine Leathernecks, hosted a collection of personal items for the veterans hospital. Thank you to the students and our veterans!

FYI-

• Any student who is absent from school or is sent home from school during the day is not permitted to attend any after school activities, including sports.

• When picking up your child before the end of an ATHLETIC activity, please meet your child at the Cherry Valley Avenue exit.

• AS DARKNESS FALLS EARLIER, PLEASE BE AWARE OF OUR CHILDREN.
As part of the students’ outside reading activities, some 6th Grade ELA classes presented Character Biography Book Reports. Students chose celebrities from their social studies and science texts. Oral biographical reports were given as each student displayed their handmade celebrity masks.

Mrs. Lee and Mr. Hakes’s Science classes have teamed up for experimentation and microscope investigation. Each class presented Edible Cells as a culminating activity to a unit on plant and animal cells.

Some 7th grade Social Studies classes have visited Long Island History by spending a day at Old Bethpage Village Restoration.

Parents’ Biggest Worries

A recent survey of 1,500 U.S. parents found that childhood obesity was their biggest concern, outside of their children’s safety. That finding is not surprising, considering that 30 percent of American households have children or teenagers who are overweight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety away from home</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity/weight control</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs and alcohol</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bullying at school</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tooth decay</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Negative influences on Internet</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junk food</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual promiscuity</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching too much TV</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive video game use</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The parents in the study with overweight children did not believe weight problems begin at home, but rather are due to food manufacturers, schools, and fast-food restaurants.

Source: NFO WorldGroup Inc.

Educational Websites for the Whole Family

These days, kids and computers go together like peanut butter and jelly, so what better way to supplement your children’s schooling than to use the medium they find most comfortable? Multitudes of free Websites exist where kids of all ages can learn painlessly through play. These are some of the best:

* National Geographic. For over 30 years, this magazine has made it easy to learn about the world through engaging topics and photography. That same level of quality is also available on the Internet at www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/index.html (upper elementary school and up) and www.nationalgeographic.com (upper middle school to adult). The focus is social studies, but there are science activities too.

* Animal Planet. Kids who love animals can pick up all kinds of interesting facts on Animal Planet’s “A to Zoo” page. www.animal.discovery.com/guides/atoz/atoz.html (upper middle school and up).

* Discovery Channel. At Discovery Kids, www.kids.discovery.com, upper elementary and middle school kids can learn about dinosaurs, space, history, technology, and the Earth.

* Scholastic. This Website has a “kid zone” with links to the most popular Scholastic book series, such as The Magic School Bus, Animorphs, and I Spy, as well as book reviews and an entire “Play Scholastic!” section with educational games. www.scholastic.com/kids/home_flash.asp (elementary and middle school).

* Funbrain. This site has arcade-style games in all subject areas, for all grade levels. It’s not as flashy as some, but its comprehensive content makes up for its lack of style. www.funbrain.com.

* Kidsreads. Getting kids interested in reading is a piece of cake when they log into this site at www.kidsreads.com. It’s full of information on the latest books, series, and authors.