



## The O'Gorman Garden

An Early Childhood Program in Harlem

### News From Our School – Fall 2015

#### Our New Name, New Look, and Website

The Ricardo O'Gorman Garden and Center for Resources in the Humanities has officially changed its name to The O'Gorman Garden. Our new name aims to continue to honor our founder Ned O'Gorman as well as his son Ricardo, while simplifying our public image and face for supporters, families, and friends.

To go along with our shortened name, we have a new logo, look, and website! Our logo was designed pro-bono by Ms. Liliann Ramirez, who works with the Carbone Smolan Agency in New York. Our new website, which we hope you will visit at [ogormangarden.org](http://ogormangarden.org), shares developments, news, and school information with greater clarity and ease.

#### Two New Teachers!

We are thrilled to welcome two new teachers to our team. This year, the children have the opportunity to learn from **Pamela Buchan**, our newest classroom teacher. Pamela is a trained Montessori teacher and recently returned back to New York City after spending six years studying for her Masters degrees in philosophy and mindfulness at Aberdeen University in Scotland.



The children will also benefit from the musical teachings of **Eleanor Dubinsky**, who is a New York City based singer, songwriter, cellist, guitarist, and dancer. She graduated from Brown University with a BA in Educational Studies and performs regularly in New York City, nationally, and internationally.



We welcome these wonderful, seasoned professionals to our outstanding team!



#### During The Last School Year

We had a great 2014/2015 school year. We worked with 34 wonderful children from the Harlem community, 32 of who were on full scholarship to the school – scholarships enabled by generous supporters, like you.

Some of the highlights from the year include:

#### [The Launch Of Our Afternoon Program](#)

For the first year ever, The O'Gorman Garden offered its programming to a second grouping of children through our afternoon schedule. By offering two separate programs – one in the morning, and the other in the afternoon – we are able to reach double the number of children with our high quality curriculum. Our morning students receive four hours per day of instruction while our younger afternoon students are here for two hours each day. During the 2015/2016 school year, we will reach a total of 36 children through those two schedules along with our Friday toddler program.

#### [A New Chicken Coop!](#)

The O'Gorman Garden now has a beautiful chicken coop as part of its backyard garden learning space. Our children were thrilled about the addition, and to help get our animal husbandry program up and running, the chickens were hatched in the classroom after incubating



them in the early spring. The chicken coop provides exceptional opportunities for learning about nature, animals, and the cycles of life.



### Fresh From The Garden

Also as part of our garden programming, the children planted a vegetable garden from seed, learning how to prepare soil, effectively plant seeds, nurture seedlings, and encourage growth. The children successfully grew tomatoes, red peppers, beans, peas and a selection of herbs. They are now composting in preparation for spring planting.

### Our Young Dramatists....

You are never too young for Shakespeare! This past spring, our four and five year olds took on the ambitious task of learning a little Shakespeare through a very simple, but adorable performance of *Romeo and Juliet* during their graduation ceremony. Kudos to Gemma Smith, our drama teacher, for fearlessly continuing our tradition of bringing a tiny bit of Shakespeare to our little ones.

### Onwards And Upwards!

And of course, one of our most pride-filled accomplishments of every year is learning which exceptional kindergarten programs our graduates have been accepted to join. This year our students were accepted at Brearley, Brooklyn Friends, The School at Columbia, Central Park East One, The Blue School, and City and Country.

We wish them the best of luck and are confident that during their time with us they gained the skills they need to succeed.

### Thank You For Believing In The O’Gorman Garden

Our very special school exists entirely through the generosity of individuals and private foundations.

We thank you for providing children in Harlem with an exceptional beginning to their education. We encourage you to stay involved.

Come and visit the school; we’d love to show you what we’re up to. You can also make a donation today by visiting [ogormangarden.org/support-us/](http://ogormangarden.org/support-us/).



Founded in 1998 by the late Ned O’Gorman, The O’Gorman Garden is a small, independent 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit educational program in Harlem that promotes neighborhood children’s learning, creativity and self-confidence through a Montessori-inspired curriculum infused with the arts, foreign language study, gardening and yoga.

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We are proud of our recent graduates who have been accepted into wonderful kindergarten programs around NYC!