



The O'Gorman Garden A Montessori Program in Harlem

News From Our School – Fall 2016

Thank you for a wonderful school year!

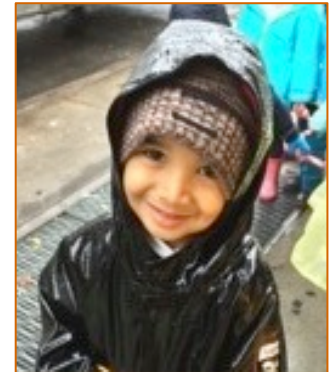
The O'Gorman Garden's 2015/2016 school year was full of wonder, love of learning, and laughter. We served 37 children across our three programs – the most ever in our history. Our young students studied **phonics, math, music, drama, art, gardening, and animal husbandry.**



Seven students graduated in June and were accepted into exceptional kindergarten programs including Alexander Robertson School, Calhoun School, Central Park East, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, The Hewitt School, Pine Street School, Rudolf Steiner School, and P.S. 125 (Harlem's first progressive public school). **We are proud of them all!**

This summer, we held **an inaugural six-week summer camp**, which was open to our students and other community members. Our campers enjoyed gardening, field trips, and arts and crafts.

Follow The O'Gorman Garden on Facebook and Instagram. Visit our website to connect on social media!



Art Explorations

We had a great year exploring, talking about, and making art together. We visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Guggenheim and more, to look at and discuss paintings and sculpture and how art makes us feel and think. We visited local churches to look at the **stained glass windows and then made our own** (pictured to the right). By the end of the year, our young students demonstrated an impressive understanding and interest in art.



Fresh From The Garden

In spring 2016, we completed the renovation of our backyard garden, which now includes a chicken run and vegetable beds.

Our students planted broccoli, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, peas, collard greens, and lettuce. They also took care of their chickens, which laid eggs daily.



The vegetables and eggs provided nourishment to our students during meals in the late spring and during summer camp. We enjoyed many meals together outside at our picnic tables.



A Fond Farewell

A bitter sweet moment at our school, as we **say goodbye to longtime teacher's assistant and friend, Elika Cole**, who having just earned his Montessori certificate, has been hired to teach at Twin Parks Montessori School in Manhattan. We will miss his wonderful way with the children and irreplaceable spirit.



Elika was a student of our founder, Ned O’Gorman, at his first school, The Children’s Storefront, an experience that inspired him to dedicate his life to teaching. We wish him the best of luck on his new venture!

Our school’s strength is our wonderful teachers. Thank you Elika! And welcome Ambar and Joan!

And A Warm Welcome

Ambar Salam, our new teacher’s assistant, is a parent to an O’Gorman Garden graduate. Ambar was educated as a cellular biologist, but shifted gears to accommodate motherhood. Drawn to early childhood education, Ambar is now able to combine parenthood, a love of learning, and natural teaching abilities. Teaching Urdu to some of our students in the past and again this year is just one of the many enrichments Ambar brings to our classroom. She also contributes to our amazing science program. We welcome her aboard in her new official role.



Dina Desouki will teach Arabic to our morning students this year. Raised in Cairo, Egypt, Dina earned a Bachelors degree from Ain Shams University in 2007, and worked as a teacher for elementary and middle schools. She moved to the U.S. with her family in 2011 and to New York in 2013.

Dina’s first contact with The O’Gorman Garden was also as a parent, where her family “experienced the warmth of this community, and it felt like a second home.” Dina is thrilled to be part of The O’Gorman Garden teaching team and looking forward to the new school year.

For **Joan Wilce**, it is actually a welcome back! Joan is our new science teacher, however, she is also a long time partner and friend to The O’Gorman Garden. Beginning during the years of our founder, Ned O’Gorman, Joan taught at the Children’s Storefront for many years before joining Ned at The Garden. Joan has a Master’s and PhD in Botany from the University of Michigan and has been a teacher of math, history, science, and everything in between. She will be teaching the children the delights of botany and zoology in our classroom.



Thank You For Your Friendship and Support

Our very special school relies on the generosity of individuals and private foundations. We thank you for providing children in Harlem with an exceptional beginning to their education.

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/.

