



The O'Gorman Garden

A Montessori Program in Harlem

News From Our School - Spring 2017

The O'Gorman Garden school year is always full of wonder, love of learning, and laughter. In 2016/2017, we had more children enrolled than ever before - 39 attending our morning and afternoon sessions. We had an education rich curriculum, focusing on **phonics, math, art, foreign languages, science, and gardening.** In this newsletter, we share some of our best moments and achievements. Enjoy!



Congratulations Graduates!

With 80% of our students who applied to independent kindergarten this year having been placed in their top choice schools, we can definitely say that we are thriving in our mission of providing our students with the strongest possible educational foundation. Congratulations to Aden, Ella, Olivia, and Quincy as they continue on their impressive journeys at Buckley, Chapin, City & Country, and the School at Columbia. Each of them makes us so proud. We will miss them (as they have each been with us for at least three years). As with all graduates, we hope for visits for years to come!

Time to say goodbye once again to our soon-to-be kindergarteners! We are so proud of you!

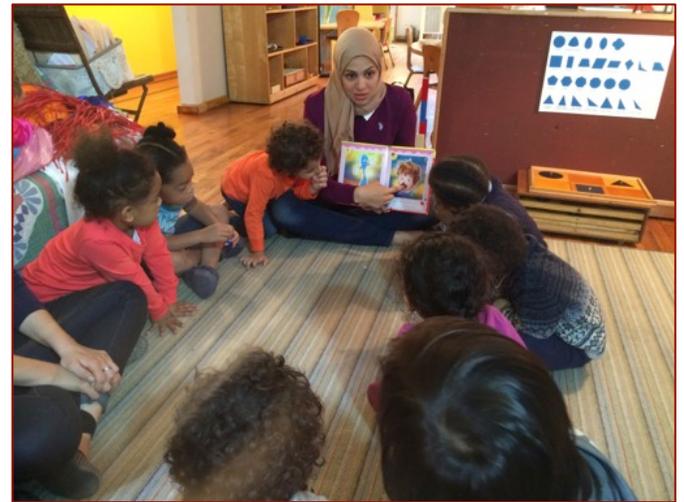
Our first year following a Montessori curriculum!

The O'Gorman Garden has begun work to become an accredited Montessori program. This year has been our first as a fully Montessori environment and the classroom reflects the peace, focus, and open-ended possibilities that allow each child to thrive, as individuals, at their own pace. This spring, Pamela Buchan (teacher) and Alice Buchanan (Head of School) both attended the annual Montessori conference in San Diego, and returned inspired, reaffirmed, and with lots of

new resources for our classroom. We want to express gratitude to The Robbins-de Beaumont Foundation, who has generously supported our efforts as we pursue this goal on behalf of all our future students.

Learning Arabic!

This year, our morning students have had an Arabic lesson each Tuesday with Dina Abdallah, a Garden parent who is also a teacher and originally from Egypt. Our young students have thoroughly enjoyed learning Arabic introductions, counting, colors, and body parts. Our afternoon students continued lessons in Urdu, focusing on counting, body parts, colors, animals, and children songs. It is wonderful to see our young students take delight in learning other languages of O'Gorman Garden community members.



Learning science with chickens!

Our chicken adventures continued this year with another round of incubating eggs, which hatched in the classroom this spring. Through the guidance of science teacher Joan Wilce, our very own zoologist, our young urban farmers have learned all about chicken incubation and hatching. The chicks will remain in the classroom for six weeks before joining our outside flock, just in time for summer camp. Chicken names selected by the students in the past have included Ned, Scooter, Twilight Sparkle, Sleeping Beauty, Chicken Noodle, and Pretty Girl. Let's see what imaginative names come out of the hat this spring!



Getting Garden Ready

The children have spent spring getting the garden ready for planting and growing. Hard work cleaning the garden area, raking leaves, preparing the vegetable beds, and planting seeds have nourished the soil and their young minds. They are now carefully tending their seeds and watering them regularly. They are looking forward to seeing everything begin to bud and grow.



Art Adventures

The O’Gorman Garden is fortunate to have access to some of the finest museums in the world as extensions of our classroom. Sculpture, painting, photography, figurative, abstract, contemporary, ancient – nothing is off limits for our students. Funded generously by the Robert Lehman Foundation, we use Visual Thinking Curriculum Strategies (which Alice learned during her time in the education department at MoMA), to enable students to become confident and articulate in their appreciation and discussion of arts of all kinds.



Time With Babacar

Babacar Ly, an O’Gorman Garden graduate, interned with us last fall as he waited to begin community college, and he continues to help out on occasion this spring. It is a gift to remain connected to such a fine young man from our community. The children enjoy stories of his time at the O’Gorman Garden as a very young boy, as well as reading time with him and his energized games of *Simon Says*, *I Spy*, and *Freeze Dance*. Babacar also led our students in the fall clean up of our vegetable beds, winterization of our chicken coop, and preparation of our garden for spring planting. We are grateful for his energy and involvement!



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.

See The O’Gorman Garden in action!
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram –
visit ogormangarden.org to connect today.