

# Open Pages

## Garden Road Launches CSE

*New Elementary Cooperative Open for Enrollment.*



*Garden Road elementary students rehearse "Pollito" in Spanish. Kanyon's self-portrait. First signs of spring. Lorelei shares a page from her journal.*

The new Garden Road CSE (Community Support Education) embodies the organic evolution of the elementary school over the past ten years. "We have always nurtured a partnership between parents and educators. The CSE provides a structure to support and grow this essential connection," says Executive Director Donna Mikkelsen.

Parents will be increasingly integral to the functioning of the school, contributing their own genius, time, effort and heart toward an enlightened, and more affordable, education for our children. To learn more or for Fall 2011 K-2 enrollment, contact Donna at [director@thegardenroad.org](mailto:director@thegardenroad.org).

### K-1 Performs April 17 with Dan Zanes

Garden Road K-1 students will join Dan Zanes at the Paramount to perform "Springtime," an original song they wrote in Music Lab with Audi Wilken-Dowrick, and "Pollito," a Spanish song honed with Garden Road language teacher Lowry Reinauer. Former lead singer for The Del Fuegos, Zanes and his Grammy Award winning band perform exuberant, handmade music filled with irresistible grooves. Rock on Garden Road!



Dan Zanes and Friends  
 Sunday, April 17 at 3pm  
 Paramount Center for the Arts  
[www.paramountcenter.org](http://www.paramountcenter.org)

### ART SHOW APRIL 1 - 30

Gallery hop to the annual Garden Road Art Show at the Peekskill Coffee House beginning April 1. View mixed-media work by every Garden Road student and celebrate our Arts in Education



### CELEBRATE ART APRIL 14

Program with music and good company on Thursday, April 14 from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The exhibition will be on view April 1-30 at The Peekskill Coffeehouse, 101 South Division Street. 914.739.1287

**Dear Parents and Friends,**

The Garden Road School is a hive of activity this spring. A new short documentary, *The Garden Road Education Evolution*, is part of the buzz. With the goal of using media as a tool to communicate our mission, Cofounder Terese Giammarco and I enrolled in ‘Reel Change for Nonprofits’ at The Jacob Burns Film Center. The resulting work captures the transformative experience of attending The Garden Road School, where each child’s natural brilliance is realized and nurtured.

Whether you’re a family considering the school for your child, or an educator looking to join the (r)evolution, view the [video](#) and pass it along. Help us get the Garden Road buzzing!

Donna Mikkelsen, *Executive Director*



*Donna Mikkelsen, top  
Terese Giammarco*

**P.S. Two EASY things you can do to help our school...**

- On YouTube, mark [The Garden Road Education Evolution](#) as a favorite; share it. “Subscribe” to ‘thegardenroad’ channel while you’re there.
- Join, or “Like” the new [Garden Road School](#) page on Facebook.

**Winter Thaw Heats Up!**

Thanks to everyone for heating things up at the March 12 Winter Thaw Benefit -- on the dance floor, at the Blackjack table, and in the Silent Auction. Over \$2,000 was raised to enhance programming this year. We are especially grateful to Gala Chair Lowry Reinauer, who along with DJ Five Star, made the magic happen.



*Incoming Preschool Director Donna Sabia Marino (left) with parent, Debbie Schaefer and educator/art therapist/parent Diane Metviner at the Garden Road Winter Thaw Benefit.*

**Upcoming**

**April 14, 6:30pm**

Arts Celebration, Peekskill Coffeehouse

**April 15**

Early Bird Preschool Registration Deadline - 10% enrollment fee discount

**April 17**

Dan Zanes and K-I at Paramount

**May 1**

Garden Work and Play Day with Landscape Artist Bob George

**May 9, 7-9pm**

‘Every Child is an Artist’ Workshop with Donna Mikkelsen, Diane Metviner

**June 11 (June 12 rain date)**

Giant Day of Street Games  
**View the documentary film Street Games and hop, skip and jump in an action-packed afternoon. Open to all.**

**June 17**

End of Year Celebration

**July 11 - August 5**

Summer Creative Arts Programs

**The Garden Road School**

offers a progressive alternative education for Elementary (Kindergarten-Grade 2) and Preschool (2+) age students. The school’s mission is to educate children for a purposeful future through a vibrant curriculum that merges academic excellence, creativity and core human values.

An independent, nonprofit educational organization, the school is tax-exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

[www.thegardenroad.org](http://www.thegardenroad.org)

914.526.4033

The Garden Road School  
P.O. Box 300  
99 Baron de Hirsch Rd  
Crompond, NY 10517

Editor: Julia Waters

**We are so grateful to the donors who contributed to the Annual Appeal. Your support has already enriched our children’s curriculum...**

PRESCHOOL MUSIC INTENSIVE

Singer-songwriter **Audi Wilken-Dowrick** enthralled preschoolers in an intensive hands-on, nine-session music program. Working in small groups, the students engaged in important aspects of music-making -- moving in rhythm, singing in various tonalities, improvising, listening, using language in musical ways and dancing, all skills that support language, cognitive, emotional, social and physical development.

It’s in Audi’s Music Lab where the K-1 students composed the original song they will perform with Dan Zanes at The Paramount. And where a lifelong love of music is being nurtured in even our youngest children.



AFRICAN RHYTHMS AND DANCE

The dynamic **Belle Ritter**, of Belle’s Dance Network based in Peekskill, and Evolve Dance Company, extended the musical experience through dance in a high energy Black History Month celebration on February 17. She had the whole school stepping lively with rhythmic African dance and instrument playing.



*The whole school shakes it with Ms. Belle, who shared the vitality of African culture through movement and song.*



OUR WISH LIST FOR SPRING

Trikes and Bikes  
Garden Trowels, Plants, Mulch  
Laptop

Digital Projector  
Brooms, child-size

**New, Used or Financial Donations Welcome**

SQUIRREL PAINT

“The red mouse stepped into a yellow puddle and did a little dance...” Ellen Stoll Walsh’s *Mouse Paint*, inspired our own ‘Squirrel Paint’ as the children dripped, collaged and merrily mixed their way through the world of color. Look for your squirrel’s work in the April Art Show at The Peekskill Coffeehouse!

In March the Squirrels Company also tuned in to music. At easels, they drew along with the speed of music, starting off with fast-paced guitar riff and ending with a soothing piano mix. Such concentration! After listening to and playing instruments, the Squirrels built their own tambourines to share music-making at home.



OWL TEAMWORK



Teamwork and Persistence are the behaviors being practiced by our little parliament of Owls. The Owls have a wonderful time together, so beginning our Teamwork Lump felt natural. Everyone had a hand in putting together a large puzzle. We patiently waited our turn to pick a piece to add, and were rewarded as the puzzle was completed. The Owls also determined that riding a bike and learning to walk, among other feats, required *The Little Engine That Could's* “I think I can, I think I can” persistence. Very worthwhile!

KITTENS READ, WRITE, DRAW

For three weeks, the Kittens Company was immersed in scribbles, doodles, lines, curves and alphabet shapes. They wore letters, drew letters, made letters with wooden shapes using the Handwriting Without Tears method, played with letter sounds, and they even had a short introduction to Words in Color, the reading method used by our elementary class. The progress in just three weeks is astonishing. Nothing makes the heart soar more than to hear a child say,

“Wow! I just drew my first Q.”

See the [Garden Road Draw, Write, Read](#) video on YouTube.

*The letter ‘E’ brought to you by the Kittens Company.*

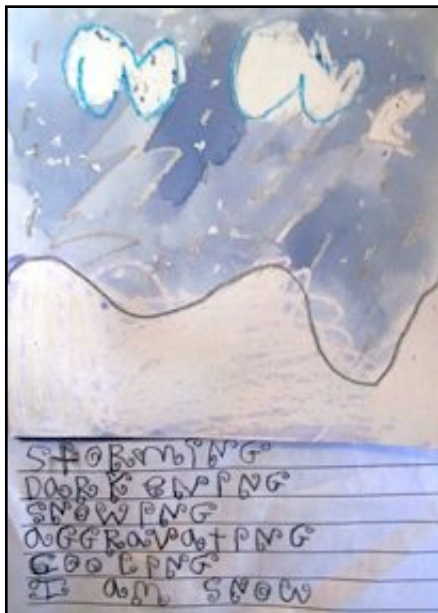




**New Journals!** It is amazing how much the K-1 children enjoy writing and drawing in their own personal journals. They write words as they hear them or together we spell them. Often we consult the chart for Words in Color, an approach to literacy created by Caleb Gattegno that develops the specific skills of reading rather than focusing on rote memorization.



The class collaborated on a book, writing sentences about themselves -- "I am" and "I can" -- with illustrations. (above) Julian reads his page from the final bound book to an admiring audience of preschoolers.



In **Picturing Writing**, a method developed by Beth Oslansky, the children write descriptive poetry inspired by their own artwork. For our watercolor/crayon relief paintings of weather, we wrote "ing" poems. "Crying... dripping... seeping... rain." pictured, poem by Yabli

UPCOMING

**Time, Calendar, Money.** Mark the calendar, save your pennies. A Shopping Trip is set for spring!

ONE GOAT, THREE RABBITS!

The elementary and preschool students proudly donated livestock to an impoverished family through Heifer International. Thanks to parents for buying the students' beautiful handmade cards, crafts and holiday cookies at the Winter Solstice Concert in support of this altruistic endeavor. Katrine Bangsgaard, Garden Road's Literacy Teacher, orchestrated a heartwarming way to make the winter holidays a season of learning and giving.

*Nolah and Maribelle's rabbit hops in for a visit.*



# Summer Creative Arts Programs

**Give your child the gift of creativity this summer.**



**For ages 5-12, 9am to 3pm daily. REGISTER TODAY at [www.thegardenroad.org](http://www.thegardenroad.org).**

## **Visual Art with Lowry Reinauer and Diane Metviner**

**July 11-15**

Explore visual art mediums and creative expression. The week will include the study of contemporary artists, and the processes of drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, print and mural making, culminating in an art show on July 15.

## **Modern Dance with Maria Colaco**

**July 18-22**

Enter into the world of modern dance through a study of movement technique, and the basics of partnering. Explore improvisation, based on Merce Cunningham's work with chance dance, and create an original piece to be performed on July 22.

## **Music with Liz Nolf**

**July 25-29**

Create a band, find your voice! Explore rhythm and harmony, and discover the joy of making music as a group. Bring an instrument, which you are physically capable of playing but do not need to be proficient at; the instrument could be your voice. The band will perform on July 29.

## **Theater with Terese Giammarco and Audi Wilken**

**August 1-5**

Enjoy a week of theater games, music, set and costume design, and star in an original play, with performances at the Martha Guinsberg Pavilion, Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6, and at the Mohegan Colony Storytelling Festival, Saturday, August 13.

## **Singapore Math with Susan Midlarsky**

Challenge yourself in this fun and engaging approach to math. Offered from 9-11am, the program will be outdoors and in. Consider registering in conjunction with Garden Road's Creative Arts Program. [singaporemathny.com](http://singaporemathny.com)

**July 11-15 (Grades 1-2) July 18-22 (Gr 3-4) July 25-29 (Gr 5-6) August 1-5 (Gr 7-8)**

**TUITION      \$250 per week (10% sibling discount)  
\$400 per week for combined Arts and Math program**

The Garden Road School 99 Baron de Hirsch Rd, Crompond, NY 10517 [www.thegardenroad.org](http://www.thegardenroad.org) 914-526-4033