



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



A staple of independent school life is communication among the various stakeholders of the community. Whether it is in person, by telephone or via email, communication remains a meaningful and important part of the life of an independent school. It not only allows for an exchange of information that is beneficial to the education of the student but also fosters a sense of community that sustains a long term relationship based on trust.

Our weekly newsletter forms a recurrent part of that communication process. However the recently instituted morning coffee with parents, administrators and trustees has been a wonderful addition in enhancing communication in a face to face forum. While attendance has varied at these morning coffees, the conversation has been open, stimulating and constructive. So much so that it seems to me that these coffees should be a recurring staple of each school year. While there is importance and value in having a one-time meeting, there is an even greater value in making these meetings a regular part of the school year.

One of the themes of the Parent Survey was the articulation of the desire for more communication throughout the school. My sense is that we should all make every effort to insure that we meet this goal. Communication always makes a community stronger and more effective in pursuing its long range plans for growth and development. All communities need to undergo the process of self reflection and self evaluation for the sake of growth. In fact, I would argue that almost all progress begins with the first step of honest self-reflection that then can be followed by thoughtful and strategic actions.

As we move into the Spring (which I have been assured by a very knowing acquaintance will occur soon), we should as a community continue to communicate about our ideas, our concerns and our most important subject of all, our children. The more we talk, the more we grow.

