



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

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Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



With our final marking period, we celebrate our fourth Garden School character value, independence. Independence as a character value is particularly appropriate for a school at this time of year. As educators and parents, we have the responsibility of giving students at each developmental stage the necessary skills to move forward and succeed in the next grade level, division or, for our soon-to-be graduates, the next college or university.

At Garden, we encourage independence by providing a sequential curriculum within a thoughtfully designed program that is guided by faculty with a pedagogical approach that provides the necessary support while also encouraging each student to assume age-appropriate responsibility for their own education. Kindergartners learn to manage their backpacks and to bring homework to and from home and school. Elementary students learn to complete larger projects that require time management and multiple steps to complete, middle and high school students learn to take responsibility to seek out the help they need from their teachers and/or advisors, and to balance their academic responsibilities with their participation in Garden's many clubs and activities.

As a twenty-first century school, Garden is also preparing our students to work together, collaborate and communicate with one another by sharing of their community spaces, completing shared projects together, and learning to rely on themselves and others through team sports, performances, and community service projects. In these ways, Garden students learn that they are not just capable of being independent, but also of the benefits, importance and often necessary nature of being INTERdependent. For example, today's celebration of Earth Day is an opportunity to remind ourselves and our students that we are all in this together, relying on each other to be responsible citizens and to do our part for our mutual benefit.



I will take this opportunity to make the connection between learning the benefits of interdependence, with knowing the responsibilities that we all share as members of an independent school community like Garden School. Every member has a part to play in volunteering and donating funds to support the school's ability to offer the best educational opportunity for our students. There are facilities upgrades and maintenance that ensure our ability to deliver an enriched program and our safety and future, field trips and special projects and activities that inform and broaden student learning beyond the classroom and community events that strengthen the very interdependent nature of our community approach to education at Garden School. I urge all of us to participate with time, talent and funds in the school's efforts to ensure a sustainable future for Garden School and our ability to offer the finest of college preparatory education's to our students.