



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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## ***Thoughts for the Week***

***By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster***



One of the mainstays of an independent school is communication. Of the many elements that make up a school community, communication emerges as one of the most important tools in supporting and furthering the mission of the school. Communication between the school and the families supports and sustains the learning process. Academic achievement, social development, and personal growth are sustained and augmented by the school's active and dynamic communication plan.

Communication may occur through newsletters, emails, letters, telephone calls, face to face meetings, electronic media and through the specific assigning of teachers to act as advisors and deans. Frequent sharing of information between families and school enhances the quality of the educational environment in which students and teachers pursue knowledge and growth.

I am happy to share with you some of the elements of personal communication that we have established here at Garden. For each cluster or grade level, we have designated a specific teacher to take on the role of dean or advisor. Mrs. Reyes is the dean for the Nursery, Pre Kindergarten and the Kindergarten. Her role is to coordinate activities, programs and special cluster-wide projects. Because Ms Renner is now the chair of our Accreditation Committee, Ms Ingravallo is now the Dean of First, Second and Third Grades. Ms Ingravallo's role is likewise to coordinate program and events and any special projects. As the students move deeper in the process of reading, it is important that these early grades coordinate materials with each other to ensure a smooth and dynamic progression from one level to another. Mr. Albano is now the Dean of grades Four, Five and Six. For these grades, Mr. Albano will be available for consultation and coordination with other teachers and parents. I want to welcome Ms. Ingravallo, Ms Renner and Mr. Albano to these new positions.

In the Upper Division, Mrs. Massand continues in her role of Middle School Dean. Here the responsibilities touch all aspects of middle school life, including curriculum, program planning, trips and coordination with teachers and parents. For the High School, each grade has an advisor who remains with the same students from year to year. Mrs. Dapice is the advisor for grade Nine; Mr. Pigman for grade Ten; Mr. Kruczek for grade Eleven and Mrs. Elkind for grade Twelve. These advisors primarily monitor the ongoing academic progress of students from year to year and will also interface with parents to enhance the support available to students.

All of the advisor and dean programs serve a similar purpose: to enhance the communication between the school and the family and to make that communication both effective and positive. Parents place a tremendous amount of trust in our school that we believe that the more communication the more the trust.