



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the Week

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



Independent schools all share one important characteristic as schools and that is an intense level of parent involvement. Our schools, many of which were founded by teachers and parents, have built their long history of success with the ongoing support of their most important stakeholder groups: parents.

Throughout the course of our school's history, parents have contributed their time, money and talent to support and enhance the mission of the school on a daily basis. Whether through donations of funds, which always support and sustain the operating of the school, or through the donation of time, which also supports and sustain the life of the school, or by sharing their talents to add to the work being done, parents form a key center in the world of the school and perform key functions to enhance that life.

At Garden School, parents have traditionally supported the work of the school with projects directed at enhancing the daily life of the children: Holiday Boutique, Walkathon, Halloween parties and more, all add to the community of the school and enrich the life of the students. These events take an extraordinary amount of volunteer time and effort; yet they are worth it because of the wonderful effect each has on the communal and interactive experience that children benefit from at Garden.

Financial support has also always been a way in which parents have enriched the life of the school community. Tuition generally covers about 83-84% of the costs of running the school; all independent schools depend on the generosity of parents, alumni, friends, trustees and faculty to help fund the gap between tuition and expenses. Traditionally the largest donor group in any independent school is the parent body. Parents generally organize and execute the fundraising efforts for the school committee (chaired by a trustee). This model permeates the independent school world and has provided the necessary funds required to sustain and enhance school life. At Garden, unlike some other independent schools, we don't hold families to a particular annual contribution amount, but we do expect and count on 100% participation at whatever level feels most generous to a family.

Each member of a school community shares in the responsibility of supporting that school through work and donations. Our schools, the oldest and most successful schools in the United States and in many cases throughout the world, take their strength, their wisdom and their sustainability from our parents.

If you haven't already donated, or if you have been waiting for a call to share your energy and talent to support our children's education, consider this your invitation. Join us with your donation in support of our mission!

I look forward to seeing Garden parents at the General Assembly next Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 PM in the gym.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.

Headmaster