



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: XVIII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, January 27, 2017



Thoughts for the Week

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



At the heads of school meeting on Wednesday evening, one of the main themes that emerged was the importance of trust between parents and school. The development and the nurturing of mutual trust and respect between parent and school energizes and supports the mission of the school on a daily basis. Without this trust, life at a school is full of pitfalls and can swerve away from fulfilling the mission.

Each of us had our own opinion about the issue and how to build and maintain a high level of trust among all members of the school community. What was interesting was how many heads thought that an institution cannot function without trust, let alone flourish.

My feeling was that each head who joined in the conversation understood that trust develops from the consistent application of the school's mission on a daily basis, which includes all of the aspects of the mission. So, a school that explores curriculum in a consistent manner, a school that communicates regularly and openly, a school that insists on respect as a mutual and reciprocal virtue, is a school that will build and sustain the trust necessary for success.

When we talk about sustainability, we often mean financial sustainability, which is of course vital to any school. But assuming financial sustainability isn't always enough. I think that those of us who work in a school, those of us have children in a school, and those of us who are responsible for the school's well being, all have to remember how important it is to respect each other's humanity, to respect each other's professionalism and to respect each other's concern for the well-being of children. This level of mutual recognition when coupled with a clearly defined curriculum delivered with consistent and caring pedagogy creates the trust (on a more global scale) that sustains all of the dreams we have for our children and for our school.

In an age in which creating 'alternative facts' seems to be gathering strength, we all need to remember that we share a common vision for our school, which is to foster the academic, social and personal growth of our students. When we keep that vision in mind, we build the trust, respect, and caring environment that engages our loyalty, our commitment and our affection.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.

Headmaster