



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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## Thoughts for the Week

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



We are just a week away from our visit from the NYS AIS accreditation team, which officially begins on Sunday, October 23. The Visiting Committee's stay at Garden is the culmination of nearly two years of discussion, self-reflection and preparation. All of us at Garden are very excited about the work that the team will do here during the four day visit and the feedback we will receive from them.

Throughout our preparation, Garden School has been making strides in our educational program, our technology, and our financial situation, all in service to improve our ability to fulfill our mission. Since the sale of the field in 2013, Garden has been busy redesigning and enhancing many aspects of our school life.

Financial sustainability has been paramount on our list of strategic initiatives, and we have positioned ourselves for the next decade with a strong financial profile. We are debt free, in our third consecutive year of being in the black and have a small reserve fund. All of these advancements add to our commitment to long-term stability.

Our building and grounds have been steadily undergoing some major changes. From the renovation of the bathrooms in the main hall to the new windows in the high school wing and the new stove and refrigeration in the cafeteria and the front gate at our entrance and our new heating system for the main hall, we are making the moves to improve our physical space.

Our most recent renovation is in the area of technology. With the efforts of the Technology Committee, we have purchased 40 new computers, are finishing the rewiring of the school network and have engaged a company to install a broadcast internet system that will increase our band-width by a factor of ten. All of these improvements will increase the quality of the education we provide to the students and build our capacity to serve the Garden community.

As lifelong educators, it is the educational program that means the most to us. After ensuring the safety of your children, our primary goal is and will continue to be the education of our children in the best and most insightful ways possible. To support this goal, we have made a major part of our preparation of the self-study an in-depth and frank evaluation of our program. Ultimately, this focus guides all self-reflection. Financial sustainability, improvements to the physical plant, and improving the use of technology all support the primary focus of our school; to educate our students in the most effective and thoughtful way possible.

Your continued support of Garden School, by sharing your time, your talents and through your financial contributions is what makes all of this possible. Thank you, we cannot do this without you!

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.  
Headmaster