



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the Week

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



This was quite a wonderful and exciting week at Garden School. We had our four day visit from the NYS AIS Visiting Committee as part of our decennial accreditation procedure. We celebrated United Nations week; we played in a championship middle school Varsity game, and we continued with our process of educating our children in the fullest sense possible.

Our week began with the visit from the NYS AIS Committee. Nine colleagues from our independent school world spent Sunday through Wednesday visiting classes, talking with faculty, students, parents, trustees and administrators. Each of them had read our Self-Study with care and was prepared to discuss our self-reflections with us. These conversations were thorough, insightful and helpful. The Committee, as I have written about in earlier columns, explored every aspect of our school within the context of our Self-Study. They left to write their own report to us with a solid and clear knowledge of our school, its mission and its identity.

Another major event this week was our celebration of United Nations week. We look at the United Nations not as a political issue during our 'presidential' campaign but more as a symbol for those in world who have struggled for a voice in the modern world. We celebrate the global nature of the UN and its primary purpose in its founding after the monumental and tragic disaster of World War II. The UN was established to attempt to foster peace and justice in our world, and this forms the core of our celebration. We began with an Assembly on Monday about child trafficking. Our students were able to ask questions of the speaker and to gain an insight into this troubling world issue. Our school was decorated with flags, representing every country in our world; our students took a global knowledge quiz and will visit the United Nations on Tuesday of next week. All of this was lead by Sarah Smith and Mr. Gomis, who brings his global perspective to our school.

Our middle school soccer team has its best season ever, culmination in the championship game on Monday. This game was hard-fought and close. We came away not with a trophy but with the knowledge that we played extremely well, have established ourselves in the league as a team to watch and with great hope and spirit for next season. Congratulations to our players, coaches and parents who have supported our team's efforts.

As you can see, this was a busy and productive week. However, this makes school an exciting and dynamic environment. Learning in the classroom for the foundation upon which other learning can take place. Learning through discussion with others, learning through a consideration of the world around you, learning through sports—these are the hallmarks of developing students into life-long learners and critical thinkers. This is our mission.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster