



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the Week

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



Most independent school began as individually founded institutions that were usually the vision of the founder or of a group of individuals who had a shared vision of what a school should be. Garden School was established much in the same way by a group of individuals who have a common belief in the virtue of a small yet dynamic school. In the earliest days of our school, the "fees" (not then yet called tuition), were sufficient for the running of the school.

Today, of course, the majority of independent schools are organized as not-for-profit institutions with tuition covering approximately 85% of the costs. This tuition to cost ratio has existed for the past forty years or so as the curriculum, the facilities and the technology expenses have grown beyond the level of tuition. Many of our schools have responded by creating tuition levels that are extremely high and that are even additionally supported by very active fundraising. Some of the most expensive schools have also the highest levels of fundraising.

In part due to Garden School's history as a neighborhood school, Garden School has always attempted to remain accessible to our Queens population and maintain a reasonable level of tuition that is then supported by auxiliary activities and fundraising. For the past seven years, we have had successful Galas and several years ago, we instituted the Annual Fund as another means of supporting the budget and of sustaining our growth and development as a school that is true to its mission.

A critical factor of successful fundraising, almost more significant than the revenue it helps generate, is that all members of the community, present and past, take part in sustaining something that is of great importance to them. It is not an overstatement to say that satisfactory community member participation in fundraising is what makes Garden School remain the finest, most enriched education in Queens, and a realistic alternative for a growing number of New York families. This opportunity and responsibility to demonstrate our commitment to the Garden community has been passed along again this year, as it has year after year. It is once again, our turn.

We are all members of the Garden School Community—parents, teachers, alumni, trustees, alumni---and we all share in the responsibility for sustaining that mission. Garden School relies upon the support of those who belong to our immediate and greater community. Current families, teachers, trustees and administrators form the immediate member of the family. Alumni, past parents and former trustees form part of the larger community. Together, all of these groups provide crucial short and long term support for our school.

I urge you all to join me in donating to the Annual Fund. Together we can reach our goal of 100% participation and \$50,000 that will go toward the support and development of our school.

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster