



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: X

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, November 18, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

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



We have seen over the past years and months how our culture has moved away from a spirit of altruism and generosity and into a mode of taking and acquisition. In some ways, this manifests itself both in concrete terms, giving, and in more emotional ways such as the shrinking of the human sense of kindness and acceptance. This seems to be a national (and perhaps international) trend that will be with us for a while.

Garden School and its faculty, students, trustee, parents and alumni have always supported the idea that education should expand one's viewpoint, should open the world both geographically and intellectually to our students and should support the idea of independence, critical thinking and generosity of spirit. In the past several years, I have seen our students organize relief efforts for Nepal, for Haiti and for Ecuador. They have worked in soup kitchens, hospitals, and senior citizens homes and have given themselves to making a better community.

We are dedicated to educating our students to be citizens of the world, to think openly about complex issues, and to insist on civility and kindness toward each other. When it happens, we rejoice; when it doesn't, we educate once again. This sense of justice, fairness and kindness forms a cornerstone of our mission that we invoke each day.

Many of us are questioning what it is we can do to support the better nature of our communities and its members; how to have a local impact on these cultural trends. As parents and educators of an independent school, perhaps the answer to what we can do is right in front of us on a daily basis. We all bring so much to ensuring the very best for our children and Garden students. We care for and educate them every day guided by the Garden Mission. So, to continue with our mission seems to me to be the most direct, paramount, and positive response we can have.

Garden families are generous in so many ways with our school, and we value them for all that they do for Garden. Now, at this time of year, I am asking all members of our community, parents, teachers, alumni, trustees and administrators to contribute to the Annual Fund. Your contribution helps us continue the work that is now needed more than ever in our culture and in our world. We see with dramatic consequences how important it is for us to educate our students in the necessary art of critical thinking, of knowing history and of being able to evaluate the correspondence between language and truth. The world needs our students to be knowledgeable, thoughtful and analytical. Now more than ever, our students need to recognize the difference between a sound-bite and truth.

Therefore please support our mission to educate our students and to create a society that is kind, generous and ethical. By contributing to the Annual Fund, we all not only support our school, but we support building the kind of future that we want, deserve and need. Please contribute.

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