



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the Week

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



Thinking about the end of this year and the beginning of the new-year always fills me with the impetus to make plans for the future. I am always moved by the amount of energy flowing through the school during the week before a break, especially this break, since we all return to the beginning of a new year. It is, of course, fashionable to think about resolutions for the upcoming year as ways of changing our behavior and improving our performance. This emerges from our culture which often thinks in terms of renewal, which for many of us seems unrealistic.

As I walked through the school today and listened to the Lower School Show, and right before that bid farewell to the Upper School as it left for a day trip, I felt a bit of nostalgia knowing that for the next two weeks, there will be no children in the school. Somehow, a school takes its life and its energy from its students, whether in a class, in the hallways, even in moderating a disagreement or solving a problem. Schools derive their energy from the presence of students.

This break is welcome as a time to rest, re-energize our spirits and prepare for the return in January. We have lived through a very interesting, tumultuous and controversial year. The cultural climate has, it seems, hardened into factions that have no interest in listening to any other point of view. Rhetoric and slogan have replaced thought and idea. Yet our school remains a center of open-mindedness, our teachers continue to teach based on the universally agreed upon body of knowledge, our students continue to think, discuss and argue their points of view, and our school continues to fulfill its mission.

As we think about what we want for the new-year, we should keep our mission in mind that we are committed to educating young people to think critically, to evaluate information, to reject a culture of imagery, to embrace others and to be authentic. Our school has fought for these ideas since its beginning. We will continue to nurture genuine thinking in the new-year.

Happy New Year to all members of the Garden Family!

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster