



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the Week

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



This week, we just concluded our Holiday Boutique, at which our students, particularly our younger students, can shop for gifts for family and friends. Housed in the Library and staffed by parents and members of the PTA, this year's Boutique was a great success. For three days, children went 'shopping' and purchased gifts with great love and excitement. It was a wonderful three days.

As I watched the children purchase small items which were then wrapped by parent volunteers, I began thinking about how much and how often our parents support the school. Earlier this year, parents organized, staffed and supervised Picture Day, which is actually several days. There was an enormous amount of work to be done to organize pictures for over 500 children! Yet our parents did this with grace and love. Following that was the Halloween Party—another massive undertaking, involving planning, purchasing necessary materials to decorate the Gym and the extraordinary 'haunted house' put together by alumni parents. Next is the Annual Fund, the Valentine's Day activity, the Gala, the Walkathon etc. All this incredible amount of work is done by parent volunteers who give hours of their time to the school, its children and its mission.

All of this illustrates how important parents are to the mission of the school. First and foremost, parents entrust their children to us for seven hours each day. They trust us to protect their children, to educate them and to help them grow into well-developed young people. This is a significant act of trust that parents place in a school and its staff. After this, parents place their energy and trust in helping the school to grow and to enrich the daily life of children with the many activities sponsored by the PTA. The volunteer spirit that our parents exhibit in all of these activities clearly supports the identity, the benevolence and the mission of Garden School.

Independent schools rely on parents to enrich our daily life. Of course, parent support begins with enrollment; however, it is the volunteer and financial support that parents provide that ultimately ensures the school's success. When I think of how supportive our parents are in every aspect of our schools life, I am heartened and sustained by that goodwill, that endorsement and that validation.

Thank you to all our parents.

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Headmaster