



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

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## Thoughts for the Week



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



This morning as I worked on preparations for our Gala,, I began thinking about the role of giving in an independent school. Throughout our country there are several thousand independent schools. Each has its own mission; each has its own culture and vision for its students and families. All of these schools believe in the individual child and the learning process; all believe strongly that small classes create the most effective learning environment and all believe deeply in the partnership with parents.

To support that vision common to all of our schools we have developed a culture of giving unlike any other culture in the world. In fact, I remember writing a column last year about a well known French writer, Guy Sorman, who is now the owner/publisher of *France Amerique* has written a book on this very subject, *Le Coeur American (The American Heart)*, which pays tribute the incredible generosity of Americans who participate in a culture of giving. Sorman's point is that over the years, American culture has evolved into a culture that recognizes the importance of giving to institutions in which one may or may not have a stake. The idea of giving has become an ingrained part of who we are as a culture, and our schools reflect that culture. While we raise money to support the vision of our school, we also raise money to support other causes, such as the fight against Leukemia, to help relieve the victims of natural disaster and even to try to ease the plight of those who are fleeing from war zones.

Independent schools, of course, have very specific missions and very specific stakeholders—parents-teachers-students-alumni-trustees and administrators. The responsibility for the future rests with all of these stakeholder groups and their willingness to give. Our stakeholders have been very generous with Garden School both in supporting the mission financially and personally. As March 31, the date of our Gala nears, I urge all of our families to participate in this celebration of our school and in supporting its mission and its future. This kind of support permeates our schools and is part of the culture of giving that sustains our mission.

Please join my family and me by attending the Gala and proclaiming your support for Garden School.