



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 94 Number: I

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, September 16, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

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



Dear Garden Families,

Welcome to the new school year. Throughout the summer, we have been busy with the preparation for our opening day of school. Now that we have completed our first full week, we can all feel that those preparations have made for a very successful opening. We continue to maintain the level of enrollment that we achieved last year, and the excitement that we feel about this year can be felt throughout the building. We have returned to school with some very positive advances in program and facilities. The renovation of the Library, spearheaded by the PTA and supported by the Trustees, has transformed the Library into a modern and fabulous space. With the technological additions to the Library, we have supported the work being done by the Technology Committee. In addition to the renovation in the library, there has been the installation of a computer work station that can accommodate eight users. To further support our technological development, we have purchased 40 new computers that have been

installed throughout the school. We have also made some changes to the cafeteria by installing an electronic billing system and two more sophisticated refrigerators.

Throughout the summer, we have continued with our preparation for the NYS AIS accreditation visit, which will take place from October 23 until October 26. For almost two years now, our committees and subcommittees have been busy preparing the self-study which is now finished and in the last stages of edits.

In the area of academic growth, we have added an additional science and math teacher to enhance our pedagogical approach and maintain small classes in these two critical areas. We have also added an Upper Division Debate Club, and we now feature three forums for our students to engage in this important activity: the middle school debate team, the upper division debate team and the model United Nations team. We have continued our work with the engineering course in the Upper Division and have added a HAM Radio component both to the engineering course and now with the establishment of a HAM Radio Club.

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year of learning and teaching. Please join in support as we fulfill the mission of the school; the most direct ways of doing this is to contribute to the upcoming Annual Fund and to support the PTA in its efforts to support and sustain the school's mission. Once again, I am proud of the progress we have made in modernizing the facility, in enhancing the curriculum and in expanding the teaching staff. Our sustained level of enrollment, our positive growth in the staff, and the improvements made to the facility all signal that Garden School continues its tradition of dynamic and student centered education.

Welcome back,

Richard Marotta, Ph.D.
Headmaster