



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



Now that we are midway through the second quarter, our second Character Education Value, *Honesty*, has become the focus of some of our activities. Honesty, as we all know, can be imagined in a variety of ways, from academic integrity to personal self assessment. Throughout this quarter, we will investigate the many sides of this complex value to discover ways in which to further integrate it into our daily lives.

Strong organizations engage in the practice of honesty as well, in their daily work and into practices of management, communication and long range strategic planning.

On January 21 at 7:00PM, Garden School will hold its annual General Assembly. This important event is an opportunity for our community to come together and hear information from the school's administration and board of trustees about our school, its state, and longer term plans for growth and development.

As an exercise in parent communication and trust, there is nothing more effective than a face to face information session with the Board of Trustees. This is a time for all members of the Garden family to learn about our school's current state and its future plans, and to meet those responsible for guiding our school into a strong future. Similar to the education program, when the quality of cooperation between families and the school can have an effect on a student's achievement, the success of our school development work depends on Garden and its families working together in trust, honesty and transparency.

It seems fitting to me that the General Assembly will take place during the *Honesty* phase of our Character Education Program. We all share an appreciation of this value and want to see a high level of honesty in all that we do, including and most importantly in implementing the mission of the school. The powerful idea of a partnership between our families, our teachers, administrators, children, alumni and trustees permeates our philosophy and is something we strive for each day in the life of our community.

My hope for honesty stems from my belief that honest self-assessment propels us into an effective state of mind and an effective mode of conducting our professional lives and following through on our responsibilities. A school needs to do the same as it reflects on its mission and practices. The General Assembly embodies that collective a self assessment in an honest and transparent manner. We have built our community on trust; let us communicate that trust in an honest manner.