



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the week



By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



In reviewing the responses to the Parent Survey, it struck me that several of the comments touched at the heart of our school as the difference between being an institution and a community. A number of responses pointed out this distinction, which, from my point of view, expresses precisely our identity, mission and uniqueness as an independent school. We are a community.

While this distinction may seem to be semantic, the opposite is actually true. An institution consists of a series of structures that have a life of their own and transcend the individual identity of its members. For the institution, its own survival and growth forms its mission. The institution's main purpose is to sustain itself for itself.

A community seems to me to be a rather different entity. A community takes its missions from its members, has the well being of its members as its purpose and sees itself as promoting the individual within the context of the community. Garden School is a community.

Of course, there are collective goals, both educational and social ones, which we value and implement effectively on a daily basis. Building the bonds in the Garden community also serves to make us more successful in realizing our mission. When we work together at the Parent Coffee Mornings to enhance our school, or when we gather socially, as we will for the Gala next month, our collective ability to support each child's education is improved.

Our mission is not to grow the institution but to strengthen it and so better serve the needs of our children and develop them into the global citizens of the present and the future. The growth we strive for is individual growth, which then helps to grow the community. The success of the individual contributes towards the success of the community. We are not serving the needs of a system but of our community.

As a reminder, all the coffee mornings will be held from 8:15 - 9:15 AM in the Library. Here is the schedule of the remainder of the Board and Administration Coffee Mornings:

- Tuesday, March 3 Grades 7-9
- Thursday, March 5 Grades 4-6
- Friday, March 6 Grades 10-12
- Tuesday, March 10 Grades N-K