



# GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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## ***Thoughts for the week***

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



Community celebration remains one of the most important parts of the life of any community. Within the ethos of a group structure, the importance of coming together to rejoice in the accomplishments, successes and the future of that community can never be underestimated. In fact, it is so important, that we perform these rituals within our own lives on a regular basis. When we celebrate a birthday or a holiday, we are engaging in a group reaffirmation of our identity, our values and our future.

Next week, the Upper School will stage its Spirit Week. This consists of six periods, spread over three days, in which the Upper School community celebrates its identity through games and competitions. A similar event takes place when the Lower School has its Field Day, in which children engage in games and activities that reinforce their identity as a group. Yet within the group celebration there is always the recognition of the individual's role within that community.

In two weeks, the Garden School community will come together at the Annual Gala. This is an important moment in the life of the school not only because of the fundraising aspect of the event but, more importantly, because of the community celebration of our past, of those individuals who have helped create that past and of our future. A Gala creates a moment of togetherness, of the communal endorsement our values, of our mission and indeed of our existence.

This kind of celebration recognizes the achievements and the legacy of the past, while at the same time supporting the present and ensuring the future. As a group of individuals who make up the community of the Garden School, we together affirm the value of our identity and of the role we have played, currently play and will play in the education of our children. When a community comes together to celebrate both the collective and the individuals within the community, they are in reality creating the future.

Please purchase your Annual Gala tickets, your raffle tickets and/or make your donations of items to be auctioned or financial contributions to the fund. And, join me on March 27th in celebrating our 92<sup>nd</sup> year and those who have helped make it possible.