



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



As well as being Garden School Headmaster, I am also a faculty member, an alumni parent, and also the proud grandparent of a child currently enrolled in our early childhood program. These various roles allow for a unique and valuable perspective on the impact of each group on the well-being of Garden School. However, as different as each of these is, they share some common characteristics. One of the most significant of these similarities is that in each role, the greater my active participation and support, the greater the reward for me, for my family, and for Garden School.

There are many ways I get to be involved at Garden School and many of you participate in your own way. Perhaps you prepare our child for the day, communicate with teachers around homework, and generally support the educational process. This morning, as I registered and paid for my family to attend the Gala, I thought about the role of giving in an independent school. There are several thousand independent schools across our country. All espouse a belief in the individual child and the learning process, in the efficacy of small classes, and especially in the importance of their partnership with parents at every level of school life. And, yes, in order to cover the real cost of providing an enriched education to their students, all independent schools rely on their fundraising activities, such as Annual Giving Drives and an Annual Gala, to supplement tuition and ensure the long-term financial health of their schools.

Our American society has developed a culture of giving unlike any other. In fact, a well-known French writer, Guy Sorman, has written a book on this very subject, *Le Coeur American (The American Heart)*, which pays tribute to the incredible generosity of Americans. 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 and also a critical part of our institutions, including our schools.

Independent schools like Garden, have very specific stakeholders—parents-teachers-students-alumni-trustees and administrators. The responsibility for our healthy and thriving future rests with all of these groups, indeed with all of us, and our willingness to actively support the school financially, through volunteering, and the sharing of expertise. Many of our stakeholders have been generous with Garden School both in supporting the mission financially and personally. As the April 8 date of our Gala nears, I urge all of our families and alumni to share this responsibility and to participate in this celebration of our school. Your support is crucial and is part of the culture of giving that sustains our mission, allows us to make key physical and programmatic improvements, and ensures Garden School's future.

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