



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Volume 93 Number: XXVIII

"Cultivating Success in Every Child"

Friday, May 6, 2016



Thoughts for the Week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



Each school year, I think often about the number of individuals who have devoted themselves to our schools. All across the country, teachers, families, students, alumni, trustees and administrators give themselves over to sustaining, growing and enhancing the life of our schools. At Garden School, we share that same tradition of commitment to the mission, the history and the life of the school.

When I look around Garden, I see so many people who have dedicated their professional lives to Garden. This is Teacher Appreciation Week; so many of the parents and the PTA have expressed that appreciation through generous gifts and food for our faculty. Some high school students, through the Key Club, also brought in some wonderful treats to the teacher's lounge. Some classrooms resembled a feast.

This all speaks to the nature of an independent school and how the devotion of the members of its community actually sustains the life of the school. Teaching is a profession in which you must give yourself to others; your whole existence as a teacher depends on sustaining others, in helping them grow, of helping them develop. Within this experience, there are many challenges. Although success is not guaranteed, many teachers never give up on the idea that they can help a child develop into a successful, educated and caring adult.

Fulfilling this mission frames our lives as teachers. We do this because we chose to do this. Education in our society has never been fully appreciated and historically has been devalued in favor of more profitable centers in our economy. Yet all of us remembers how important teachers were to us as children, and now as parents, we can still see how that importance has actually grown for our children.

The life of teaching and working within an independent school offers many satisfactions and challenges. The challenge for all of us is to continue our commitment to our school, to continue our dedication to our subject and most important to continue our devotion to our students. Families, alumni, and all of the other stakeholders in our school need to reaffirm that devotion every year, and indeed, with each opportunity to support the school whether financially, through volunteering, or supporting the school in the community at large. Supporting the school's mission remains the primary imperative; for all of us to maintain our devotion to our school ensures our successful completion of the mission.