



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



Among the many qualities of independent schools, the one that always adds most to the quality of the overall experience for families is communication. Communication touches upon the nature of the partnership between families and schools and almost always enhances the child's educational experience.

All of the literature about independent school mentions the importance of the bond between families and school in the success of the student. Not only are parents a truly important partner in educating children, they often act as the conduit for information and to implement plans that insure the student's success. At Garden, communication is highly valued and it occurs in a variety of ways: parent conferences, planned and impromptu meetings, telephone calls, emails, newsletter and teacher pages on *Think Wave*.

To that end, I look forward to seeing all 8th and 9th grade parents and students at next week's meeting scheduled for Tuesday at 6PM in the school library. The topic of "*How To Make the Most of your High School Years*" will address ways that students and parents can take advantage of all that Garden School has to offer and that each student's experience is positive and academic success is ensured. There will be time for questions and the information presented is intended to enhance your Garden School experience.

Another vitally important aspect of school communication occurs between the school itself and the parent body. Schools need to inform parents on a regular basis about trends in education, about plans for change within the school, about soliciting parent input on various issues and finally about the larger more visionary aspects of school development.

Studies by NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) and ISM (Independent School Management) regularly confirm that the most important aspects of school are the quality of teacher/student interaction and parent involvement in the life of the school. The greater the parent involvement, the greater the educational experience for the student. At times, parent involvement may center on volunteering for activities and at other times the focus may be on communication. Whatever form parent involvement takes, it almost always enhances the scope of the educational journey. Our new world is a world of partnership.