



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



As I look over our plans for this year and next year, I am mindful of the role that self-reflection plays in the process of school growth, development and improvement. The very idea of self-reflection leads to subsequent values and opportunities. Even when the process raises uncomfortable issues, the fact that the issue is there, opened up for discussion and then, best of all, for a positive resolution, makes self-reflection important and necessary for any institutional movement.

Affecting change in schools has always been a complex process because of the passionate involvement of the stakeholders, of tradition, of the concern for the individual and of the importance of incorporating the most significant of modern practices. In the world of best practices, being able to assess the nature of an institution through the direct input from stakeholders provides a far more precise way of assessing and implementing change.

Some of the reasoning behind the Parent Survey that you received by email this week emerges from this desire to reflect on the practices within our institution and use those reflections to grow and develop our performance. Next year, when we embark upon our self-study year in preparation for our NYS AIS accreditation, the goal of that intense self-reflection will be to analyze those insights and transform them into concrete programmatic advances.

I think that it is fair to say that growth and improvement take their impetus from input from both within and without the community. The goal of every school should be to work diligently to improve its practices, its environment, to enhance its ability to fulfill stated goals and always to make certain the philosophy and practice are in a direct alignment.

Change-growth-self-assessment—these are the hallmarks of the pathway to the comprehensive and positive evolution of an institution. The more the honesty in the process of self evaluation, the more positive the resultant change and alteration may be.