



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



Recent tragic events in Nepal have touched our community deeply. Jackson Heights has one of the largest Nepalese communities in the New York, and Garden School has families who have come from Nepal. Our school has always been a part of this community and has also always endorsed the idea that it is our human obligation to help and support our fellow human beings.

As an extension of that idea, over the years, our students have participated in community service projects that have benefits the surrounding communities, have assisted in combating diseases, and have provided assistance to families and children in need. We believe that this is a very important aspect of our mission as a school as we strive to create students with a consciousness of the immediate community and of the global community.

Our students worked diligently after the disastrous tsunami to help provide whatever relief they could to help in the global effort to channel resources to the victims of this horrific disaster. Today our students are putting together various fundraisers to contribute to the relief effort for Nepal. Led by our Key Club and the Ninth grade, Garden will attempt to raise funds in the next week that we will be able to contribute to the relief effort. Through the office of Councilmember Danny Dromm, we have identified several reliable agencies that are participating in this effort. The Jackson Heights community began these efforts last Sunday at Diversity Plaza. Today our students will start their work of collecting relief funds. They are also working on some projects that will also support this work. On Monday, we will distribute more information about this and how you may help if you chose to do so.

What impresses me most about this is that this was a call for action that originated with our students. They came to me expressing their concern about what had happened in Nepal and that they wanted to help. Their concern was so genuine that I was moved by their desire to do something for others from half way around the world. For those of us who work in education, this is the kind of awareness, reaction and "social involvement" that we hope to see in our students. What is thrilling about Garden School is that this is not an isolated occurrence; it is a part of our culture.

