

Philosophy Reflection by George Roeper

We, George and Annemarie Roeper, have founded this school more than thirty years ago because we held the optimistic view, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, that human beings had the capacity to behave in a humanistic manner, if they had the opportunity to experience love and acceptance. Moreover, if the world was to continue, the humanistic kind of behavior was the necessary precondition. As far as we were able, we wanted to contribute to this goal through our work with children.

In our beliefs, we have never deviated from these convictions. In our actions over the years, we strayed from it, redefined it, rediscovered it, applied it in different ways and probably many times contradicted it.

This philosophy and the school which grew from it, has grown not only into our life's work, but has to a large extent, maybe too large, become our life. Just as the school has grown and changed, defined itself and redefined itself, has created images and changed its images, so have we changed and grown along with it. We are still growing and changing with it, we are defining and redefining ourselves both together and individually, and along with it our respective roles within the school change and differ. The difference is not only because we are in charge of different sections of the school, but because we are different people with different priorities and gifts, complementing each other in many ways, sometimes opposing each other. We are redefining our commitment within the school in a manner which allows each of us to be him or herself. It is for this reason why in this report there are statements made by each of us separately.

We hope that our impact on this school is not one of a composite of two, but that of two separate individuals who are hoping to show that one can be personally free, no impingement on each other, and still continually strive for unity by working toward a common goal.