



## A Tree Talk by Teddy Winstead in 1986

**Appreciation:** It is funny how little things can mean a lot. A comic strip I read last year opened my eyes to an awareness of the gifts I have received in my life. I was glancing across the funnies this past Thanksgiving when I came across a “Peanuts” strip that went like this: Charlie Brown and Linus are walking along when Linus asks, “Are you going to have a big Thanksgiving dinner, Charlie Brown?” Charlie Brown replies, “I suppose so. Big dinners don’t really interest me.” He continues, “I’ve never thought that much about eating.” The last frame shows Snoopy sitting in front of his dish. He says, “You do when your dish is empty.”

The value of appreciation involves two steps. The first is taking advantage of an opportunity or gift afforded you. The second is to give something back in acknowledgment and gratitude of what you have received.

I hope that as with other values we learn at Pasquaney, we can take appreciation with us wherever we go. And if you take one thing away from this talk, I hope it is this: Each of us can make a tremendous difference in the life of someone less fortunate than ourselves. I encourage you to find a program or volunteer position in which you can share your gifts with others. I want you to realize that this giving of yourself will solve the problem of the “insistent me.” And the rewards of this service are plentiful. Don’t be lazy and say you are too busy. Make the time. You will share in a feeling you can’t get anywhere else.

Let us remember how lucky we really are. Before we complain about a meal we consider poor, let us think for a moment about someone who has nothing to eat. Let us all be thankful that we have the opportunity to share the summer together. Rain or no rain, we have accomplished a great deal. Let us smile together and be happy with ourselves.