



A Tree Talk by Townley Chisholm in 1991

Between the ages of 11 and 18 you go through awesome, scary changes that force you to deal with big responsibilities. These years are critical not just for developing abstract thought, but also for developing a sense of who you are, what values you live by, and how you treat the people around you. The great purpose of Pasquaney is to create the best possible conditions for you to become your best self and to develop community values in these critical years. We work together as a group to go beyond tolerance to the happy condition in which each individual is loved for his own traits and contributions to the community. Pasquaney never completely succeeds in building this atmosphere of loving acceptance. But we know what we are trying to do, we know we can try harder, and we know we can succeed, partially at least I felt that success last Thursday night during the theatre play. There is an indescribable feeling of warmth, friendship and shared joy which cannot be forgotten. What an opportunity we have here to grow, to be stretched, to demand more of ourselves. How dull and tedious in comparison seems a summer spent dipping ice cream, working for a stockbroker, or even traveling. Grab every summer you can here and milk it for all the challenges and opportunities it holds. You will never find as good a place to grow into the person that in your heart of hearts you want to be.