

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It is with a tremendous sense of pride and excitement that I tell you how well the school year has begun. Your children are motivated, engaging, and respectful in the classrooms, on the dorm floors, and in all of their extra-curricular and social pursuits. Numerous members of the faculty and staff have remarked that this year's student body has a special spirit and collegiality that is both noticed and appreciated.

This is an extremely important year in the school's history. As you know by now, the EHS board of trustees has authorized the design, fundraising campaign, and eventual construction of a new \$15M Center for the Arts. This new facility will address three strategic objectives that the board has deemed critical to the school's long-term future: 1) to provide EHS with a state-of-the-art facility to support and expand the artistic, technological, cultural, social, and business experiences of our students, 2) to become a cultural destination for our students and the central Massachusetts community, and 3) to become *the* teacher training center in support of urban public school students who will never have the opportunity to attend EHS. I am pleased to say that all fronts of this vision have been moving quickly from possible to probable to simply inevitable.

Our lives have been and will be spent making sure that your children's needs are met. Of course as you well know, providing all of these wonderful opportunities for our students is not an inexpensive proposition for the school or for you, though I think we agree that we need only to look into the hopeful eyes of our students to know that it is all worth it. Like all independent schools and colleges, each year EHS successfully raises significant funds in support of our faculty and our mission. However, given the important and simultaneous initiatives currently being pursued with vigor, this year will be an unusual year for fundraising at EHS. So, in the interest of partnership and clarity, I want to take a moment to outline the opportunities that will be afforded you this year.

The **Annual Giving Fund** is a campaign that is run each year with all of the proceeds going to fund a competitive, comprehensive, and transparent compensation program for the entire faculty and staff. This annual campaign is one reason that EHS has such a dedicated and professional faculty and staff, and why EHS has virtually zero employee attrition each year. Of course, the true beneficiaries of this fundraising effort are your own children. You will be contacted this fall about making a contribution to this important campaign, and I ask that you participate at a level commensurate with your individual financial ability.

On May 5, 2007--during spring family weekend--we will hold our **40th Anniversary Auction Gala** at the Worcester DCU Center. This community-building and fundraising event is held every five years to coincide with our major anniversaries, and members of the Worcester and Boston professional communities will join the EHS community in celebration of educational excellence. The Parent Advisory Board is responsible for putting on this wonderful event, and members of the board will be contacting you after

family weekend about purchasing tickets/tables and contributing auction items. All of the net proceeds from this event will go toward the Center for the Arts campaign.

Finally, we are in the beginning stages of a **Capital Campaign to fund the Center for the Arts**. Over the last several months we have raised \$3.7M in gifts and pledges, and there are several families with whom I have already met who will be making their capital commitments shortly. Over the next two years, I look forward to speaking personally with each of you about investing in the future of EHS and changing the lives of thousands of urban school children who will never have the opportunity to experience an EHS education.

I want to thank you in advance for your commitment and generosity. As I have said on several occasions, the beauty of limiting our enrollment to 150 is that each of our students gets the academic, social, and personal support the he or she needs and wants. On the other hand, I am also keenly aware that maintaining such a small and intimate school community places greater financial pressure and responsibility on you as parents. Fortunately, for four decades the EHS community has risen to every challenge...working alongside our faculty and staff on a daily basis. Together we can change the world...one child at a time.

I look forward to seeing all of you over family weekend.

Regards, PJ

Peter J. McDonald
Headmaster
Eagle Hill School