

Over the course of our professional lives there are circumstances and opportunities that dictate how we must allocate our individual time and effort. For the last fifteen months, a great deal of my attention has been focused on developing, communicating, and implementing Eagle Hill's new strategic plan. The results of this hyper-focus have been exciting and tangible—a new dormitory, nine new faculty homes and apartments, new athletic fields, and the groundwork for the faculty compensation initiative and the future classroom building. Yet, despite all of the time I have had to spend on the physical progress of the school, one of my highest priorities is to remain involved in the lives of the students and connected to the pulse of the community.

As I look back at my eleven years at EHS, I have always endeavored to strike a balance between attending to the short-term needs of the individual and the long-term needs of the institution. Without exception, all of my fondest memories revolve around helping young men and women with smiling faces to find their way in the world. Thankfully, the 2004 spring family weekend gave me a much-needed sabbatical from the world of builders and contractors and reminded me of the importance of my work and the spirit of our students.

The talents of the EHS student body have always impressed me, and reconnecting over the last several weeks has been wonderfully refreshing. At the play two Saturdays ago, I sat in awe as each member of the eighteen-member cast played his or her role with absolute precision. That evening, I sat in amazement as ten of our students performed in front of 350 people at the community dinner—by far the best entertainment we have ever had. Three days later, I watched as fifty-nine students were recognized for their participation in winter sports—the most successful season in EHS history. Just days later I participated in thirty-two student interviews for the highly coveted Student Leadership positions. The next morning, I read with great pride of the third place finish by the nineteen members of the EHS chess club in their match against public schools five times our size. And today, I am filled with envy as twenty-four students, six faculty, and six parents prepare for a sixteen-day adventure to South Africa! All the while, every child has experienced academic and social success in every classroom...every day.

And so I am reminded of why Eagle Hill is so special—it is the place where everybody knows your name. We are committed to providing a school in which students are free to explore, to achieve, and yes, even to fail from time to time. We are there by their sides, every step of the way, supporting them in their growth, their development, and in their dreams. What a great few weeks I have had reconnecting with the students. Now, back at my desk, it is obvious that we will need a performing arts center to support the remarkable talent about which I have just been reminded. Cheers!