

In speaking about the launching of the Student Leadership Initiative (SLI) last spring, I suggested that the SLI would become the single most important and exciting program that we have implemented since the inception of the pragmatics curriculum in the mid-1990s. I went on to say that the SLI would be mutually beneficial—offering the EHS faculty yet another avenue to further develop the whole child (the EHS triad of educational, social, and personal growth) and the SLI participants a more formal way to demonstrate, to experience, and to be recognized for their leadership abilities. Quite frankly, after the completion of the first two initiatives under the SLI umbrella, I think I understated the impact that the Student Leadership Initiative would have on our campus for many years to come.

The five students chosen to participate in the 2002 *Summer Internship Program* surpassed all of our expectations. They were eager, responsible, enthusiastic, and great to have as members of the summer community. At the end-of-summer faculty meeting, several faculty members remarked that it was hard to imagine how we ran past summer programs without the interns' assistance! It was also quite apparent that all of the summer interns had a new appreciation and admiration for the faculty and staff of EHS. Summer intern Drew Redmond wondered, "How do the teachers do this every day of the year?"

What the second SLI phase lacked in duration, it more than made up for it in its intensity. The *Orientation Leadership Program* featured twelve young men and women who arrived the weekend before school opened for a three-day retreat with members of the administration and faculty. It was an unbelievable experience for everyone involved and truly set the tone for a positive school year. We laughed together, ate together, cleaned together, learned together, and shared personal stories. It was a genuinely moving experience. The weekend schedule ranged from a paintball team building exercise (nothing like shooting at the headmaster!), to leadership workshops, to one of our school's founders, Dr. Peter Figgie, speaking to the student leaders about the early days of the school. While the official function of the orientation leaders was to ease the transition of our newest EHS students, the orientation leaders set the example for the entire school—and the entire year.

The Student Leadership Initiative is an important part of our school that will undoubtedly grow and strengthen in size, scope and importance. A recent example of this was the invitation I gave to members of the Student Leadership Initiative to meet with me about the different possibilities being explored through the school's strategic plan. I was extremely impressed with their constructive and insightful feedback, and I look forward to their continued leadership in all aspects of the school.