

## Building Community ↔ Community Building A Cycle of Strength

The concept of “building community” is so deeply imbedded into the fabric of EHS that we sometimes forget how lucky we are to have such a united team of faculty, parents, students, alumni, and friends. And whether it is the Ruthian efforts of the faculty or the extreme generosity of our parents and alumni, what has become the norm at Eagle Hill is the envy of our peer schools. However, despite our accustomed view of the world, nothing could have prepared us for the unbelievable events of the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Auction Gala. It was partnership at its purest and its finest.

It would be tempting and accurate to use dollar figures to declare the auction a complete success. Who could argue – with the net proceeds exceeding \$550,000, the winning bid on the Golden Retriever at \$25,000, and the fund-a-future alone topping an astonishing \$375,000. By all accounts it was an incredible night! To measure this evening solely on a monetary basis, however, would be to miss the bigger picture of the evening. The Auction Gala was about love, about saying thank you, and about investing in the future of this special school that has answered so many dreams and prayers. The Auction Gala was about children...beautiful, bright children and their school.

Ironically, our efforts and success at building community now necessitates that we spend the next several years doing some significant community building—in fact, three major projects simultaneously! First, the Auction Gala proceeds have allowed us to begin immediate construction of three faculty homes on our campus, with a completion date of this coming August. Secondly, on April 28, 2003, we will break ground on the construction of a new 37,500 square foot living and learning center located at the end of the soccer field. This state-of-the-art facility has 105 single student dormitory rooms, 18 student bathrooms, three spacious student lounges, eight faculty apartments, and four student life offices. This project is due to be completed by Thanksgiving 2003. Lastly, because of the location of the living and learning center, this summer we will begin construction of new soccer and softball/baseball fields. The ball fields will be ready for interscholastic sports in the fall of 2004.

These are indeed exciting times for Eagle Hill School. In the next several years you will see the landscape of the campus change dramatically and the facilities drastically improve. However, as the saying goes, the more things change the more they will stay the same. We are all very much looking forward to new facilities to support our mission and philosophy—now 35 years old and better than ever.