As the academic year begins to wind down I thought it would be appropriate to use this month's column to highlight some of the school's programmatic accomplishments. The list represents the hard work of a dedicated and committed faculty.

1. Introduction of Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP)
   • Analyzed school behavioral data in the creation of a School-wide Positive Behavior Support Plan.
   • PBS includes behavioral expectations across all school settings, a school-wide positive behavior incentive plan, a new Office Discipline Referral document, and a revised discipline flowchart.
   • PBS school play and student kick-off
   • Creation of the BUZZ Newsletter

2. Introduction of Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
   • Implemented school-wide program

See JON, page 8

Growing Pains:

ECS Divides and Conquers Expansion Plan
BY MIKE BENNETT

ECS has now outgrown its home in the lovely old Regent Square School on the corner of Henrietta and Milton Street. In order to create a long-term solution, ECS administrators and the Board of Directors plan to split the student body between the current location and what will become ECS Lower School, the former Park Place School on Braddock Avenue between Waverly and Brashear Streets.

See EXPANSION, page 2
ECS divides and conquers expansion plan

Long term school expansion plans have always taken the growing student population into account. Until recently those plans entailed expanding the Regent Square School to accommodate additional higher grades. The proposed expansion was unpopular with a subgroup of Regent Square community members who were concerned about the potential school expansion would have on traffic conditions. Given the opposition to the proposal and the existence of a high quality alternative it made good sense to shift our expansion focus to the reuse of Park Place School.

The Park Place School was converted to apartments after closing as a public school in the 1980s. ECS will now seek permission from the City of Pittsburgh to change its use from a residential classification back to one of school use. After permissions are granted and construction complete Park Place will become the new home of grades K-3 starting in the 2011-2012 school year. Our current location will become the ECS Upper School while Park Place would operate as ECS K-3 Lower School.

More pressing are the challenges of safety and access to Frick Park. While the current school building is directly adjacent to the Braddock Trail, Braddock Avenue itself separates Park Place School from the park proper. Since allowing students to visit the park frequently for hikes and science classes has become such a critical part of the ECS curriculum, some method for getting students safely across the busy street is absolutely necessary to the success of the new campus.

To this end, ECS hopes to partner with Shadyside Academy’s Junior School, located directly across Braddock Avenue, in planning and funding a school zone. The cost associated with the installation of a school zone is significant. Infrastructure covers not only signage and crossing guards, but also redesigned sidewalks and other physical means of slowing traffic in the area between Waverly and Brashear.

To accommodate families with children at both school sites dismissal times it will most likely be staggered. Under this plan, a minimal increase in bus traffic would be necessary, but siblings could ride on the same bus to and from school. Additionally, parents who pick up and drop off their children could do so without any delay.

To manage the overflow of students between the end of this school year and the...
beginning of the 2011-2012 school year and the opening of the Lower School, ECS will downsize to two Kindergarten classes, which will be held at the existing Shady Lane Preschool at Braddock and Penn Avenues for next year only. Mr. McCann reports that he finds the culture of Shady Lane to be perfectly compatible with ECS, so this appears to be another happy coincidence for our school. Students who begin Kindergarten at Shady Lane will enter as the inaugural first grade at the ECS Lower School, rounded out by twenty first-time ECS students.

Principal McCann considers the “maintenance of our culture” as a school to be one of his most important tasks in the coming years. To that end, he will remain as the Principal of both schools for now, with a long-term plan for splitting the office between campuses. However, this can only be done, he says, when he is satisfied that any counterpart would be similarly inclined and qualified.

Principal McCann admits that this plan will not satisfy every stakeholder. It is apparent that the school administration has gone above and beyond the call of duty to address the concerns of the entire school community, from parents, to teachers, to residents of the surrounding neighborhood. The school itself will no doubt suffer some growing pains over the next few years, but the plan for expansion represents an opportunity for ECS to become a truly unique school.

Our current location will become the ECS Upper School, housing grades 4-8.

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What’s going on here? (LOCAL FUN FOR YOUR FAMILY)

ONGOING

City Farmers’ Markets:
Visit a farmers’ market this summer! You’ll be amazed at the variety of local food available: veggies, meat, bread, eggs, cheese, honey and many other goodies. When you buy direct from the farmer, you are re-establishing a time-honored connection between the eater and the grower. You are also getting fresh, flavorful, nutritious food for your family while supporting the local economy.

For a list of all city locations and times, visit: www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/farmers_market.htm
You can also find farmers’ markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area at www.localharvest.org

Roving Art Cart:
Children can enjoy creativity in nature’s studio - the great outdoors - when the Citiparks Roving Art Cart visits neighborhoods this summer. Find out when it will be in your neighborhood: www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/roving_art_cart.htm

Free Family Outdoor Festivals
Join Venture Outdoors for an afternoon of outdoor fun for the whole family! Venture Outdoors is hosting three Family Outdoor Festivals this summer. Each festival will have free beginner-friendly activities for the whole family.
Try scaling a climbing wall, using a GPS unit to find secret treasures, biking around the park, or even kayaking on Lake Elizabeth during the August festival.
Food, and music will be offered throughout the event. The festivals run from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Join us for all three festivals or the one in your area. Festivals sponsored by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Festival Dates and Locations:
Saturday, June 26 - Mellon Park
Saturday, August 28 - Allegheny Commons
www.ventureoutdoors.org/familyprograms.aspx

Walks in the Woods
Wednesday-night walks in the woods run from June through September, visiting a different regional park each week. Docents familiar with the parks and their neighborhoods provide a tour that touches on the history, ecology, and improvements to the parks over the years.

Our tentative schedule for this year is below. We will be adding several more walks that have a special ecological focus, so stay tuned for those dates! All walks begin at 6:30pm (unless otherwise noted) and last an hour to an hour and a half.
For the full schedule, visit: pittsburghparks.org/walks-in-the-woods

JUNE 19

Father’s Day Clay Workshop @ Union Project
Join us at Union Project for some Father’s Day mug-making fun! The whole family is welcome and no experience is necessary.
Bring Dad, or leave him home and make him a gift. We’ll create functional ceramic mugs, incorporate texture, attach handles, and add some color.
Come because: you like spending time with your family, you’ve never been inside Union Project’s ceramics studio, you love trying new things, we want to meet you, and of course because Dad needs a new favorite coffee cup made by YOU!

JULY 10

Discovery Garden Day @ Phipps
At the children’s Discovery Garden, visitors are invited to dig in the dirt and get planting as they learn about gardening and garden critters. Activities include a scavenger hunt, maze, crafts, a storyteller, games and colorful plants.
11 a.m.-4 p.m., Phipps Conservatory
Diary of the Field Guide

BY AMY BIANCO

Last September seems like it was years ago! The constant watch we’ve kept on Frick Park this past school year allowed us to see everything in a gradual process. We watched the seasons change, not by looking at the calendar, but by witnessing it first hand. It’s hard to believe we’re wrapping it up for summer!

Hikes for Unit 4: Cocoon, Cycles, and Cultivation were Wonderful Weeds, Invasive Plants, and Bugs and Their Plants. I was also able to customize hikes for 3rd grade to compliment their Insects! unit. Needless to say, we did a lot of bug catchin’!

The Wonderful Weeds hike spotlighted plants and their uses. Dandelions are edible and jewelweed can get rid of poison ivy oils! Old teasel flower heads left from the previous season were used to tease wool, and you can make tea with spicebush. The Invasive Plants hike called out the “space hogger” plants which take over large areas of the woods out-competing the native plants. We observed the rapid growth of the Japanese Knotweed and the spreading blanket of goutweed by the stream. I allowed the kids to pull some of the invasive plants out of the ground to take a look at the root systems which can be quite extensive!

Some of the first bug/plant relationships we investigated were galls. Galls are abnormalities on the leaves and stems of plants that are caused by the development of insects and mites inside of them. One sunny day in March, I split open a goldenrod ball gall with Ms. Karitchko’s A Group. Inside was a small wasp! After some research, I found out that the wasp was actually a parasite of the original home owner: the tiny gall fly!

Other bug highlights included the metamorphosis of a peculiar, white, worm-like larva with no legs found in the leaf litter by Gwendolyn Sobkowiak (Miss Craig’s Kindergarten). After a pupal stage that lasted a week, a long, skinny fly emerged!

Brynna Luedde from Mrs. Cowherd’s class found a male dung beetle that had horns like a bull! I didn’t even know we had dung beetles in Pittsburgh!

For our last unit, Everything Above and Below, our hikes will focus on rocks, weather, cardinal points on a compass, and air.

I definitely had a lot of fun learning with the kids this year. You never know what you’ll find out there! I can’t wait to return in late summer to pop the jewelweed pods and inspect acorns for weevils! Happy hiking!
10 green things to do this summer

BY SARAH ANDERSON

1. Enjoy the outdoors whether it is at the pool, the park, or your backyard. Climb a tree, build a fort, go swimming — but don’t forget to wear sunscreen. So many sunscreens are full of toxic chemicals. Do your research and find a safe sunscreen. This database, www.cosmeticsdatabase.com may help. Type in the name of a product and see how it rates in toxicity.

2. Try to get all of your fruits and vegetables from local farms this summer. To do that, plant a garden and visit farmers’ markets. Summer is the easiest time to eat locally because of the abundance of fruits and vegetables that are grown here.

3. Preserve some of those summer fruits and vegetables for healthy, local eating this winter. A lot of produce can be frozen. I freeze chopped up zucchini, shredded zucchini, blueberries, whole tomatoes, corn, and chopped peppers. Roast squash like butternut or pumpkin and puree it after removing the skin. Freeze the puree and use it later in pies or bread. Applesauce is also easy to make and easy to freeze. Chop apples without peeling or coring them, cook them in a big pot. When soft, push that through a food sieve and freeze in containers or Ziplock bags.

4. Learn how to make jam. Summer is a great time to do that when berries are fresh and abundant. Strawberry jam is easy to make and there are many recipes for freezer jam. Freezer jam is the easiest and tastiest jam to make. This is my favorite recipe for strawberry freezer jam because it has rhubarb in it. recipes.epicurean.com/recipe/705/strawberry-rhubarb-freezer-jam.html

5. Hang your clothes outside to dry instead of using your dryer. This works really well for whites because the sunlight actually lightens stains and brightens whites. I hung out my cloth diapers and any stains faded before my eyes. Plus the smell of sheets hung on the line is one of my favorite smells and it takes me back to childhood.

6. Go camping at one of the state parks. We have amazing state parks in Pennsylvania and I’ve been told the parks in neighboring states are great too. Vacationing locally saves money and fossil fuels. The state parks have lots of options from campsite to pitch a tent, Yurts, rustic cabins, and fully equipped cabins. While camping, hike through the state parks and enjoy the beauty Pennsylvania has to offer. Take time to appreciate the native wild flowers and grasses. Teach your kids to identify local flora and fauna. For more information on state parks visit, http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/

7. Cool off in one of the city’s water fountains. The fountains in SouthSide works are fun and so are the ones Downtown. The water steps on the North Side near PNC Park are really fun for both kids and dogs! While on the North Side bring your bikes and bike along the trail by the river. It extends for several miles and is safe and fun for the entire family.

8. Wait as long as possible to turn on the air conditioning. It’s amazing how much pulling shades down, turning on fans, and opening windows help to cool down.

9. Drive with the windows down instead of cranking up the air conditioning! My kids love to do this!

10. Take advantage of the nice weather and walk or ride your bike to neighborhood destinations like the grocery store or church.
Fourth graders travel to McKeever Learning Center

To further the work we do at ECS, 4th grade students will embark on a journey in early June that applies all of the learning, content, and thinking skills we strive to implement throughout our program. At McKeever Learning Center in Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania, students will engage in a three-day, two night experience that captures students’ imaginations and allows kids time to explore in a beautiful setting.

The McKeever experience will be the first of an annual capstone trip for the intermediate grades. As students progress through the ECS program, their ability to engage in environmental experiences of increasing complexity will grow. To build exposure to varying ecosystems and content areas, overnight trips will build students’ experience in the field as well as develop teamwork and cooperation at each progressing grade level.

The McKeever Environmental Center is located on 205 acres in northwestern Pennsylvania, with four miles of trails that meander through hardwood forests with streams, meadows and hemlock ravines. Students stay in lodges with bunks fitting up to 24 girls or boys and chaperones, eat family-style with their classmates, and participate in a variety of content-focused activities that support the Environment and Ecology Standards.

To fully engage in the outdoors and reconnect children with nature, students are prohibited from bringing electronic devices, toys and other distractions that could distract them from the greater experience. By disconnecting from the electronic world, we hope to invite students to a natural setting in which they can play, learn and celebrate.

Faculty and additional parent chaperones will support students throughout the trip, and McKeever staff will ensure that all organized activities follow safety precautions and procedures. A nurse will be available to dispense medication, and specific dietary concerns or restrictions will be coordinated before leaving for the trip with the food service provider.
A letter from Jon

JON, from page 1

• Weekly class meetings to support Olweus/ PBS

3. MMS Student information system

• Streamlined collection of student data for state reports
• Created central repository for student records

4. Standards Based Report cards

• Created new standards-based report card

5. Federal Grant Purchases

• Purchased mobile laptop lab
• Purchased 15 additional desktop computers
• Installed of 6 Smart Boards
• Purchased Compass Learning on-line program to support reading and mathmatic

6. Public Relations and Outreach

• Provided space for sponsored activities that align with the ECS mission
• Increased media exposure:
  a) Allegheny Front feature on ECS to be broadcast in June
  b) Business Times charter school op-ed advertisement
  c) Business Times article about school assessment: publication TBD
• Presented work in local environmental education seminars and conferences:
  a) Green Healthy Schools Conference: October 28th, 2009
  b) Imagine St. Louis Regional Conference: Presented EIC work and the benefits of developing strategic partnerships
  c) Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators: March 11th – March 14th; presented EIC work, Arts Integration work and strategic partnerships

7. Strategic Partnership Development

• Expanded network of partnerships to critical environmental and educational organizations in Pittsburgh:
  a) Penn State Extension and Master Gardeners – developed outdoor learning laboratory (front gardens)
  b) Riverquest – developed a multi-year program to support curriculum experience
  c) Chatham University – partnered to develop an environmental education class for the 2010-2011 school year for faculty. Chatham to place student teachers in ECS classrooms for the 2010-2011 school year
  d) Pittsburgh Friends of the Urban Forest – partnered for a school-wide Arbor Day.
  e) Pittsburgh Department of Urban Forestry – partnered to learn about Oak Wilt Disease in Frick Park
  f) Frick Park Nature Center – continued work with first grade, developed collaboratively and piloted programming for second grade
  g) Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania – worked to create outdoor classroom space program within Frick Park
  h) University of Pittsburgh Geology and Planetary Science Department – utilized expertise to inform and educate students and teachers at ECS
  i) Carnegie Museum of Natural History –

See JON, page 9

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began relationship to extend local geology content knowledge for students and teachers

ej) ALDCOSAN – provided educational support to students and made classroom visits

k) Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy – partnered to support various projects in and surrounding Frick Park

l) Nine Mile Run Watershed Association – provided volunteers to support classroom activities surrounding content about the local watershed

m) Creek Connections – partnered to provide enriched experiences about stream ecology; students presented at the regional symposium

n) Allegheny College – students visited classrooms to gather information about our program; presented to a college class about the ECS program

o) EarthForce – developed programming for one classroom and attended the student symposium to present student work

p) Conservation Consultants, Inc. – continued to work to refine content and programming about the built environment

q) Cyert School at Carnegie Mellon University – partnered to learn from existing programs and refine professional development program at ECS to support systems currently in place at Cyert.

r) University of Pittsburgh – Department of Instruction and Learning – developed relationships and infrastructure to support redesign of fourth grade literacy program

• Formally developed outdoor classroom space with partner organizations (Full implementation to begin fall 2010)

8. Environmental Education

EIC Model/ Ongoing Curriculum Development

• Created comprehensive curriculum map for each grade level

• Developed new template for EIC Unit development based on Green Woods format

• Revised, refined and extended EIC Units developed by grade level educators

• Met and planned with instructional specials to build integration into the arts

• Met and planned with grade level teams to infuse environmental themes

Assessment:

• Created formal data collection system for outdoor instruction

• Utilized state prep assessment model for baseline data on PSSA performance

• Developed post assessments reflective of the content in each EE Unit for each grade level

Professional Development

• Located and planned professional development experiences that build content in the five major unit areas

• Created pre and post assessment markers for staff development progress (in content and EIC)

• Attended professional development opportunities that support, emphasize or focus on integration of science content

• Attended/presented at a conference to build contacts and knowledge base

• Created a funding plan for additional projects and the greening of the school as it relates to the curriculum.

Environmental Focus Group

• Defined timeline of LEED process for the existing building

• Organized committees and monitored progress in each category

• Partnered with Green Building Alliance as a mentor in the LEED process

• Worked with Carriage House and Phipps to understand the process and procedure for moving forward in the LEED process

• Developed “Greening it Up Seminars” for ECS parent population to gain basic knowledge about environmental topics

Overall School Evaluation of EIC

• Created formal data collection system for outdoor instruction

• Began development of a “performance evaluation model” that reflects progress on integration; working with University of Maryland to create criteria for evaluation in January 2011.

9. School-Wide Achievement Period (SWAP)

• Implemented in grades 1-4

• Each grade level received targeted and differentiated instruction

10. Gifted Education

• Created Gifted Coordinator position

11. Addition of School Counselor

• Added a part-time school counselor.

• Supported teachers in maintaining a safe and healthy school environment

• Supported the Olweus anti-bullying program

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The Dream Job Series…Making Dreams Come True by Mrs. Hanis, Compass Club

On the door of the stage leading to the Compass Club is a sign 2nd Grader Jack Troxel made, “Dreams are made behind this door…come on in!”

That is exactly what Jacob Boles did for his Dream Job series, he reached for the stars or should I say he reached high to the sky.

Jacob Boles, 4th Grade, Compass Club Member, had the chance for his dream to come true! One of Jacob’s requirements in the club’s Dream Job series was to conduct a personal interview with someone in the profession that someday he would like to pursue. Jacob wrote that he wanted to be a professional baseball player, and his favorite team was the Pittsburgh Pirates. Jacob took this project seriously and sought out an actual Pirate to interview. Jacob was invited to attend a Pirate pitching and hitting training camp at Gilda’s Club in Pittsburgh. Jacob met his hero, Paul Maholm, pitcher of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Jacob actually hit balls pitched by his hero, and received pitching tips for making the ball go directly over the plate.

Jacob even beat Mrs. Hanis in a pitching contest! Jacob is currently a pitcher for the Edgewood baseball Team. Jacob used his presentation skills to interview Paul to see how goals and getting good grades in school subjects are important for making dreams come true.

My Interview with Paul Maholm by Jacob Boles

Jacob: “What 3 goals did you meet on your way to become a professional baseball player?”

Paul: “Staying in the big leagues, having a dream come true, and having fun.”

Jacob: “What subject in school helped you become a good baseball player?”

Paul: “I really enjoyed Math.”

Jacob: “What advice can you give me to become a professional baseball player?”

Paul: “Have fun and realize it’s just a game.”

Jacob shook his hand and enjoyed pizza with his baseball idol. Was this an ordinary day in the life of Jacob Boles? Probably not. Can your dreams come true just like Jacob’s dream. Yes, all you have to do is reach for the stars and believe in yourself! As Jack Troxel best put it…come on in, dreams are made behind any door, just open one for greatness!

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*HISTORY*

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Get Fresh: A seasonal recipe from Jamie Root, Culinary Coordinator

Rhubarb and Berry Trifle
This dessert is the perfect compliment to a picnic or a BBQ, and a wonderful way to use rhubarb!

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 pound rhubarb, washed and sliced in 1/2-inch pieces, about 4 cups
- 4 tablespoons orange juice
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 4-5 slices of pound cake (I like to use lemon)
- 1 pint strawberries, sliced
- 1 pint blueberries or raspberries

PREPARATION:
In a saucepan over medium heat, combine rhubarb with orange juice and sugar. Bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and continue cooking, stirring occasionally, for about 5 minutes. Cover and continue cooking for 5 minutes longer, until the rhubarb mixture is very soft. Transfer to a bowl, cover, and chill thoroughly in the refrigerator.

Whip the Cream until you get soft peaks, add the sugar and continue to whip until you get the right consistency- hard peaks, or when you dip the whisk into the cream and pull it out, the cream will stick to the end of the whisk and not return to the bowl.

This is a great job for kids. In second grade we made it a race to see which table could do it the fastest. Reminding them that the more they spill the less they eat is a good way to keep it clean.

In a glass bowl, begin to layer the different parts, first the cream, next the rhubarb and then the berries. Continue until the bowl is filled. Finish with a layer of whipping cream and few berries for decoration.

Chill thoroughly.

The Book Nook

Dear ECS Families,

As the year winds down, I would like to thank you all for your support. In spite of the challenges our library has faced, the collection has grown this year to include a variety of media, including magazines, educational DVDs, audio books—even digital cameras! Also, thanks to your generosity, the Birthday Book program has been a great success. Look for that to return next year.

As always, you can keep up with the ECS library online at http://ecs-wheeledlibrary.wikispaces.com/

Keep on reading,

Mrs. Fulton

Unit 5 Library Pick

Florian, Douglas.

**Comets, Stars the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings**
(2007) K-Adult

Celebrate space with this fascinating poetry collection. Every planet in our solar system has its own dedicated two-page spread filled with beautiful mixed media illustrations. Younger readers will enjoy the rhyming verse and cut out pages while older readers will appreciate the subtle humor integrated with scientific facts. It’s sure to inspire everyone to head outdoors for some summer stargazing! Includes a “Galactic Glossary” for further explanation of space vocabulary.
Thank you for the wonderful teacher appreciation lunch! I think a Parents of ECS Cookbook is must for next year!

Kate Dattilo, Student Services Coordinator

I’d like to thank the PCO for the fantastic lunch. All of the beautiful added touches (along with the scrumptious dishes!) made it really special. It’s so nice to know that we are appreciated!

Rachel Sica, 4th Grade Teacher

Thank you to all the fabulous volunteers who provided the teachers with such an amazing lunch. It was relaxing, delicious, and much appreciated!

Mrs. Cowherd, 3rd Grade Teacher

Thank you, PCO for the fabulous appreciation lunch! All of your thoughtfulness and hard work is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Tisa Schuit, Title 1 Staff

Dear PCO,
Thank you so much for the scrumptious lunch that you provided for us. It was extremely thoughtful and I really appreciated it!

Many thanks,
Jennifer Mars, 1st Grade Teacher

ECS staffers would like to say:

Thank you.

Lynn Murray, Title 1 Math Specialist

Dear PCO,
I would like to thank you so much for the scrumptious lunch that you provided for us. It was extremely thoughtful and I really appreciated it!

Many thanks,

Jennifer Mars, 1st Grade Teacher

Thank you for the wonderful teacher appreciation lunch! It was delicious and very much appreciated. I loved the beautiful flowers too. Thank you!

Lynn Murray, Title 1 Math Specialist

Thanks to our PCO for serving us the most delicious, yumm-o lunch! It is wonderful to feel as appreciated as the PCO makes us feel!

Chelsea Young, Personal Care Assistant

Thank you for making Teacher Appreciation Week extra special this year! Working with such wonderful families really makes ECS a special place to be.

Jackie Fulton, Librarian

Thank you for the PCO appreciation lunch for teachers. It was delicious and very much appreciated. I loved the beautiful flowers too. Thank you!

Lynn Murray, Title 1 Math Specialist

I wanted to thank all the parents that donated and help prepare the delicious staff appreciation lunch. It was a wonderful treat and a rare opportunity to eat with colleagues …… sitting down! We are truly lucky to have such supportive and active parents. Thanks for all that you do!!

Jon McCann, Principal

Thank you for the amazing lunch. All of the food was wonderful. It was also a very relaxing break.

Ashley Frye, 1st Grade Teacher
“Before coming to ECS, I didn’t even know there was a “teacher’s appreciation week.” Needless to say, I was overwhelmed by the support and kindness of ECS families. Thank you so much!”

Andrea Stewart, 4th Grade Teacher

“Thank you so much for arranging the wonderful luncheon during Teacher Appreciation Week. The food was delicious and your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with your children each day and I look forward to watching them grow as ECS continues to expand its family. Thank you to all that prepared food, helped set up, helped supervise lunch duties, and shared the beautiful plants with our staff. The PCO did a wonderful job of making us feel special!”

Many Thanks,
Kristen Priganc, Vice Principal

“To Our Wonderful PCO:
I just wanted to say Thank you!
Everything was delicious.”

Theresa Dillon, Business Manager

“PCO –
Thank you for the fantastic spread for Teacher Appreciation Week. Not only was the food fantastic, but the beauty and thoughtfulness that went in to the presentation and serving was outstanding. A beautiful day, and a beautiful event. Thank you for making us feel special! Cheers,”

Nikole Brugnoli Sheaffer,
Environmental Education Coordinator

“Thank you for providing the delicious appreciation lunch! The food was amazing and the outdoor lunch atmosphere was incredibly relaxing! Thank you for making the day so special!”

Amy Lassiter, Second Grade Teacher

“The teacher appreciation luncheon was wonderful. Thank you so much for all the wonderful goodies to fill our tummies and the beautiful plant. All the great things done during the week were very much appreciated!!”

Becky Brunger, 3rd Grade Teacher

“Dear PCO,
I cannot thank you enough for the delicious lunch you provided for the entire crew at ECS the other day! It truly was amazing. Things like the picnic lunch really help us to realize that we are appreciated for all of the hard work that we do, even though we may not feel as if people notice all of the time.
Thank you again!”

Melissa Raimondo Morris, Kindergarten Teacher

“You gave us a scrumptious lunch,
We thank you a bunch!
We loved the pasta, salsa and chocolate brownies too!
PCO the pretty flowers brightened up our day…
A big hug from me to you!
I am glad I joined your family,
This lunch was truly a gift
It made me smile and gave
My spirits a big lift!”

Beth Hanis, Gifted Coordinator

“The teacher appreciation luncheon made us all feel very special. Not only were we served outside in elegant style, but our parents thoughtfully covered our recess and lunch duties so that we could fully enjoy the meal — priceless!”

Wesley Horst, 1st Grade Instructional Aide

“Hello! Thank you very much for the lunch last Friday. The food was absolutely terrific. I ate too much dessert! My stomach hurt all afternoon!”

Joe Burke, 3rd Grade Teacher

“Thank you for the DELICIOUS teacher appreciation lunch! It was evident that many people worked together to do something extraordinary for us. Our families show their appreciation to us in so many ways all through the year — this is one of the many things that makes our school environment special:)

Diane Karichko, 2nd Grade Teacher

“Team E-Day sends out a big thanks to all of ECS for thinking of us.”

Team E-Day
E-Day hatched **chicks**!

During the month of April, E-Day worked with Mrs. K’s and Miss Micco’s classes to hatch chicks. The Penn State cooperative extension provided two incubators full of eggs which were cared for by ECS students. Each afternoon, E-Day-ers completed the third egg turn of the day. After 21 days of careful tending, the chicks began to pip out of the eggs! Between April 26th and 27th, 15 beautiful chicks emerged. E-day students visited with the new arrivals before they returned to their farm. Everyone enjoyed the amazing process of egg hatching!

— By Paige Wiegman of E-Day

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First graders learned about famous inventors and the inventing process this spring. At the Invention Convention, many fabulous creations were on display. (At left, a robot, a talking clock and a Lego Picker-Upper.) A surprising number of them had the purpose of cleaning up toys! Kids and parents can agree... anything to make that process easier would be a welcome invention indeed.
Get to know an ECS community member better through 5 fun questions...this month, Heather Dessell, First Grade

1. What are you looking forward to most this summer in Pittsburgh?
I will be relaxing at the pool, hanging out with friends and family and hopefully going canoeing before summer ends.

2. Best thing overheard in the classroom this year?
Here are some things I have heard:
“I love centers—school is so fun!”
“Sometimes it’s better to go hiking in the rain, you can see more things come out.”

3. What is the most unusual item in your home?
I live in an old farm house and we have well water—so, we have a pump in our basement that runs on electric. If there is no electric, we also have no water!

4. You are stuck in serious Parkway traffic. What song are you caught belting out to pass the time?
Well, anyone that knows me, knows that I will sing just about anything I hear on the radio — I know lots and lots of songs...

5. What is your favorite Kennywood ride?
I love the Pitfall — feet dangling, overlooking the park — what a rush!