

Welcome to the ECS Parent Community Organization!

Having a child enrolled at ECS automatically makes YOU a part of the ECS Parent Community Organization. We have no dues or mandatory fees. Being involved with the PCO is a great way to help shape the community in which your child learns and thrives.

PCO Kick-Off Meeting – Thursday, September 28, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Upper School Cafe

The first PCO Meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, September 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Upper School Cafe. All K-8 parents, guardians, and ECS staff are invited to join us to kick off the school year with the PCO.

We would like to know what questions YOU have about the Parent Community Organization and what YOU want from the PCO this year. Submit your questions or comments on this form and then come to the meeting to hear more and be part of the discussion: <https://goo.gl/HC8XMF>

ALL PCO MEETINGS include free childcare for school-aged children and free pizza for parents and children.

PCO Meeting: Transitions – Thursday, November 9, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Upper School Cafe

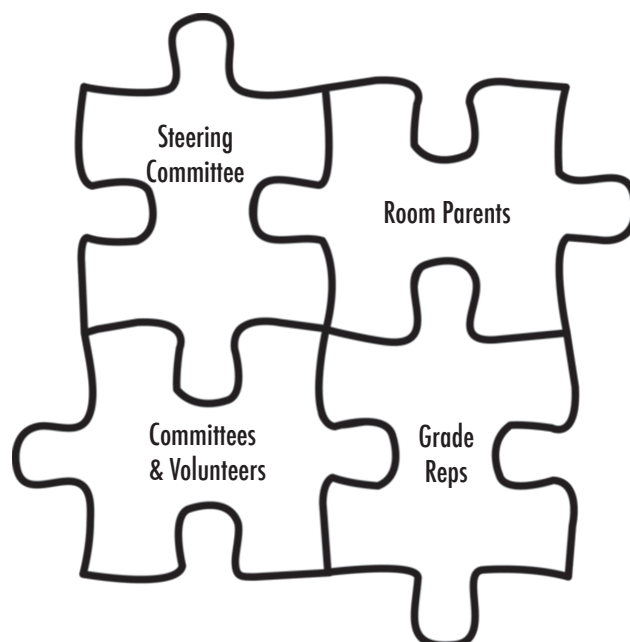
This PCO Meeting will focus on the many transitions each student experiences at ECS: 3rd to 4th grade (Lower to Upper School); 5th to 6th grade (transitioning to middle school), and 8th grade to high school. We will invite ECS teachers, counselors, and current and former students to speak about their experiences.

Future PCO meetings and events scheduled for later in the school year will be announced in the Monday Blast and posted on the ECS online calendar at <http://ecspco.org/calendar>

We want all ECS families to feel involved, connected, informed, and valued within the PCO community. If you plan to attend a PCO meeting, please reach out to another ECS family in your community to offer a ride or share information about the meeting.

PCO Structure

First and foremost, the Parent Community Organization is made up of parents and guardians of current ECS students, as well as school employees and Board of Trustees members. The PCO **Steering Committee** coordinates the overall activities of the PCO, but much of the PCO's work is done by **committees and individual volunteers**. **Grade Level Representatives** are parent representatives who meet with the principals each month to discuss parent concerns and questions. **Room parents** coordinate classroom activities and act as a point of contact between teachers and parents, as well as the PCO and parents. All of these pieces are crucial in making our organization a supportive and vital part of ECS.



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PCO Volunteer Needs

Volunteering your time with the PCO is an inexpensive way to meet the needs of our school, make an effective contribution to your child's school experience, and show your child that you value their interests. There are opportunities to fit everyone's interests and schedules. Some committees that especially need help this year are:

Staff Appreciation - Help is needed both year-round and for Staff Appreciation week (May).

Gingerbread House Event - Help plan, shop or volunteer at the event on December 2 so families can enjoy a day of creativity and merriment.

Blooming Bash - We are currently assessing whether we have adequate volunteer commitments and availability to hold this fun adults-only fundraising event next spring.

Mini Grants - Help us review mini-grant submissions four times a year and decide what to recommend for approval.

Urban Ecostewards - This group of volunteers maintains a Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy site in Frick Park and keeps it free of invasive plants. Training provided; kids and adults welcome during our after-school or weekend sessions.

We are always open to great new ideas! Email volunteer@ecspco.org.

To sign up, fill out at the volunteer form at <http://tinyurl.com/2017ECScommittees>

Communication at ECS

To stay updated and informed, we recommend opting in to several communication avenues at ECS:

- Schoolwide newsletter, the **Monday Blast** -- sign up at <https://ecspgh.org> under the Parents tab.
- Weekly **grade-level newsletters** are emailed on Fridays -- contact your child's teacher if you aren't receiving these.
- The **PCO's Facebook Group** is an online forum for parents and caregivers of ECS students to connect, share information, find understanding, and build community -- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ecspco>
- The **Grade Representatives Committee** is comprised of school principals and volunteer representatives from each grade level. Grade Reps collect trending concerns and feedback from parents in each grade to share with the administration with an eye toward problem solving when needed -- <http://ecspco.org/volunteer/grade-representatives>
- The **PCO website** is updated regularly and includes PCO announcements, meeting and event info, fundraiser order forms, calendar, and more -- <http://www.ecspco.org>

PCO Fundraising

Support the PCO through our very easy year-round fundraising initiatives:

Amazon.com: ECS will receive 4-10% of your purchase when make a purchase at Amazon.com from the PCO website: <http://ecspco.org/fundraising>

Box Tops for Education: Clip and collect Box Top labels. Send them to the school in an envelope or bag labelled PCO or drop them off in the school office any time of the year.

Giant Eagle Apples for the Students: Enroll in this program with your Advantage Card and all of your Giant Eagle purchases will support a cash donation to ECS. Our school ID# is 5305. Enroll online: <https://schools.gianteagle.com>

ShoeBox Recycling: The PCO collects gently used shoes for our Shoebox Recycling Program. Learn how to recycle your shoes and make money for ECS at the same time: <http://ecspco.org/fundraising/shoebbox-recycling-fundraiser>

Emily Press Labels: We partner with Emily Press Labels to offer customized iron-on or stick-on labels for clothing, shoes, lunchboxes, books, water bottles and more! When you shop through the following link, we earn commission from every sale. <http://www.emilypress.com/ecs>

Look for these fundraising events this year:

Uniform Re-Use Market - Fall Festival (October 6, 2017) and Earth Night (April 20, 2018)

Poinsettia Sale - November-December 2017

Fair Trade Marketplace - December 9-10, 2017

Plant Sale - April-May 2018

Contact the PCO

You can reach the PCO Steering Committee by emailing parents@ecspco.org or leaving a voicemail message at 412-247-7970 x014. This number is for voicemail only and calls will be returned as soon as possible within two school days.