

THE PCO AND YOU

Did you know that everyone is automatically a member of the PCO? There are no dues and there is nothing you need to join. Next time someone asks you if you're in the PCO you can answer "Yes!". We welcome everyone to be involved at ECS whether it is volunteering for a PCO event, baking for a bake sale, helping with a class party, making photocopies for the teachers, or becoming a grade level rep... just to name a few. Learn more on our website ecspco.org

Mid-Year PCO Financial Update

- Do you ever wonder if your batch of cookies really made a difference to the PCO? Or if anyone else bought mums this spring **Here's a recap of what we've raised this year!** (our full budget can be accessed on our website)
- **Bake Sales** have brought in \$1800 (which covers our room parent fund for the year!)
- **Mum Sale** raised over \$800
- **Pie Sale** raised over \$800
- **Uniform Re-Use Market** raised \$950 (with one more to go this spring!)

The Fair Trade Marketplace raised over \$4000 - This 2-day event draws hundreds of people from the ECS community and the general public during a December weekend each year. It's a win-win-win: for artisans around the world who are working for better living conditions in their communities; for shoppers looking for unique, affordable and environmentally-friendly gifts; and for ECS PCO who relies on this fundraiser to support our families and staff.

Grade 2 enjoying their new flexible seating!



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The PCO funds these lesser known initiatives with our hard-earned fundraising dollars:

- Helping Hands Fund helps families who are in need of basic financial support for their students to succeed in school
- Garden Fund funds seeds and other gardening supplies for the Edible Schoolyard
- Nurse Fund provides extra supplies to ensure all students have the dignity they deserve at school
- Upper School Positive Behavior Fund buys incentives for the students to purchase with their good behavior tickets
- Field Day Fund provides funds for activities for all students to enjoy this end-of-the-year fun day

AND MINI-GRANTS! ONE OF THE LARGEST PCO ALLOCATIONS ARE THE MINI GRANTS!

ANYONE CAN APPLY SO IF YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA, FILL OUT AN APPLICATION (VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO). **HERE ARE SOME OF THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:**

- Drum Circles for Lower School (\$495) requested by Martin Reidell (Lower School Music)
- Books for Character Education (\$300) requested by Beth Flynn (Lower School)
- Flexible Seating Classroom (\$400) requested by Jodi Chen and Chelsea Knetzer (Grade 2) (**check out the picture of the seating in action above!**)
- Building a Multicultural Library (\$400) requested by Abbie Yasika (Lower School)
- Bike ECS (\$405) requested by Corey Vasbinder (Upper School)
- Seeds and Soil for Edible School Yard (\$250) requested by 3rd grade team
- The Hate U Give, Novel Study (\$200) requested by the 8th grade team

Upcoming Events

*Plant Sale deadline April 12, pick up
May 3*

Earth Nite

Staff Appreciation Week- May 6 -10

Kennywood Day- Last day of school!

2018- 2019 EVENT UPDATES

It's not all fundraising! Here are some of the fun events that have happened this year!

Family Game Night

The PCO held two game nights this year, and they were the best attended ECS game nights in 10 years with 150 people at the February event! The PCO supports this popular family-oriented event by supplying free pizza for all attendees and providing a broad selection of board games to play and to win at the popular game raffle. Look for exciting new game-related events next year!

Fall Festival- International Fair

This beloved event was attended by many current families and alumni! It always draws a large crowd and this year families enjoyed learning about other countries, playing games, getting their faces painted, eating dinner from local food trucks and more!

****New Chair needed!****

Gingerbread House Building

This festive candy extravaganza is a favorite ECS tradition. This year, 70 houses were built and a lot of sugar was consumed!

Winter Chill

On a snowy night this January, 50 parents gathered to enjoy delicious chili and good conversation. Congrats to our top winner, Vicki Fisher!

Staff Appreciation

Our Staff Appreciation is small but mighty! New members are always welcome! Here are some things that have happened this school year:

Welcome Back Treats and Supplies

Excess for Recess

Holiday Gift Collection

Homemade Breakfast

After School Snacks

Valentine's Day Treats

A Call for Leaders in 2019- 2020

WE NEED (AT LEAST) 3 ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS TO STEP UP TO HEAD

EVENTS. Without them, these events won't be able to happen; **Summer Playground Playdates, Welcome back coffees on the first days of school AND Fall Festival!!** These would be a big loss if we can't host them so please consider filling those roles. Beth Lott is happy to talk to you about what is entailed.

volunteer@ecspco.org

REMINDERS

- Save those Box Tops! This fall, 2A won a pizza party for their class by collecting the most Box Tops. The PCO has raised over \$500 so far this year with Box Tops!
- Amazon referrals raised over \$650 through January. We receive a monthly check, so if you shop at Amazon, be sure to click through the PCO website first! <http://ecspco.org/fundraising/>
- The ECS PCO Facebook group is a great source for up to the minute information. We also recommend following ECS on various social media platforms so you don't miss any important updates.

OUR THANKS

Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers! Some volunteers are more visible than others but know that every single act of service you do means a lot! Whether you send in supplies for a class party, make photocopies for your teacher, help distribute plants or bake for the bake sale, **we truly appreciate YOU!**

Questions? Email parents@ecspco.org

Connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecspco/>

Check out our website <http://ecspco.org/>

