

PTO NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1 Issue



Take a peek!

- COVID-19 Updates
- Get the scoop
- Get Active!
- Take a selfie!
- Dates to Remember

TikTok Tech Talk

Technology is changing fast, and many of us are struggling to stay one step ahead of our kids and learn everything we can about being online. (Not an easy task when most of them know more about TikTok and Roblox than we do!) Join us as we learn internet safety tips from an expert on **November 9th @9pm** Meeting Link: [Family Tech Talk Nite](#)

Are you phenomenally masked?

Take and Share a Selfie of you and your family wearing your COVID-19 precautions. Send it to the PTO mailbox as we'll publish it in our next issue. Email us at pto@goecseagles.org



COVID-19 Protocol Updates

"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (James 2:24)

Returning to in-person learning during a pandemic has had its share of setbacks, reservations, and precautions. Like many organizations, Excellence Christian School (ECS) has had to weather its share of issues such as employee retention, supply delays, cost increases, and operational impacts. To ease, as best we can, the fears of a COVID-19 outbreak as a result of in-person learning, the ECS faculty, administration, and its PTO are continuing to implement and operate precautionary and detection measures. Although the "new normal" requires a change in our minds, routines, and practices, ***we are not alone and in this together.***

Precautionary Measures

ECS has implemented precautionary measures as a result of its return to in-person learning, which are as follows:

1. Installing desk shields
2. Wearing face masks (indoors & outdoors)
3. Frequent Handwashing
4. Cleaning of classroom materials and fixtures

5. Social Distancing
6. Limiting the number of persons in the building
7. Changing the arrival and dismissal processes
 - Ventilation

Detection Measures

ECS has implemented a few detection measures to help limit exposure to COVID-19 by implementing the following:

- Temperature checks upon the arrival of all students
- Providing electronic web-form for Parents to perform temperature and wellness checks prior to arriving to school
- Observing students during class time

Delays and Setbacks

The impact COVID-19 has had on the global supply chain has led to delays in all industries such as building materials, appliances, consumables (paper products), and electronics. As a result, the following school supplies and fixtures also have experienced delays:

- Musical instruments
- Smart Boards
- Curriculum Materials

To curb anxieties, fears, and negative sentiments, the PTO is providing this added communication and information to help keep everyone "in the know" of where ECS stands on its COVID-19 Protocols.

CDC Guidelines & Info

Below are the information websites of the CDC that you too can review and use to stay abreast of the guidelines to keep yourself and families safe.

1. [CDC Prevention Guide-K-12](#)
2. [Parent FAQs](#)
3. [COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
4. [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Children and Teens](#)
5. [Protecting the Unvaccinated](#)
6. [Choosing and Caring for your Mask](#)

GET THE SCOOP



If you want a child's mind to grow, you must first plant a seed.

And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein (Genesis 9:7)

Live. Laugh. Love.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Phil 4:8)

...Be always in the mood to eat healthy food.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

Upcoming ECS Activities and Events

Event or Activity	Tentative Date	Goal
Fall Festival	Thursday October 21st	TBD
Drive-in Movie	November 2021 (TBD)	\$1,500
Chic-Fil-A Nite	Wednesday November 3rd @ 6pm-8pm Clinton Location (Mobile and Drive-Through) Note: Add note in special request section stating "Spirit Nite for Excellence Christian School"	\$500
Chic-Fil-A Nite	Wednesday January 26th @ 5pm-8pm Brandywine Location (Drive-Through ONLY)	\$500
Sip-N-Paint	February 2022 (TBD)	\$500
Chic-Fil-A Nite	Wednesday March 30th @ 5pm-8pm Brandywine Location (Drive-Through ONLY)	\$500
Family Fun Run/Walk	May 2022 (TBD)	\$500

KUDOS!

Shout out to all of the PTO members and volunteers who have assisted with the organization and logistics of arrival/dismissal of students and for installing the desk shields.



OTHER NEWS & INFO

- Look out for the Uniform Order forms! We have an abundance of uniform items in storage that your child can wear....**FOR FREE!**
- If you have uniform items that are too small, the PTO will inform you soon of future and forthcoming uniform exchange dates!
- Does your child have a testimony or favorite scripture, see Ms Johnson for contributions to the School's Loud and Clear!

IT'S SCIENTIFIC!

What about Self-Esteem? Why does it matter?

Source: KidsHealth.Org

Self-esteem helps. It gives your child the courage to try new things or make new friends. With self-esteem, your child believes in themselves and knows that good things can happen when they try. Self-esteem helps them when things don't go their way and helps them accept their mistakes. Children with self-esteem know they can just try again and will find ways to do better next time.

Low self-esteem hurts. It makes children feel unsure or think they cannot do things well. With low self-esteem, kids might not try. They might not go after their goals. They might be afraid to fail. Low self-esteem makes losing seem worse than it is. It makes mistakes seem bigger than they are. It makes it hard to get over things that don't go well. Instead of trying again, kids with low self-esteem might give up.

You can build your child's self-esteem.

Self-esteem can start with things parents say when a child is very young. Being told good things makes children feel proud and good about themselves. As they get older, self-esteem can grow. Parents and teachers can let students know they see good things in them. Friends can help

them feel liked. Your child can build their own self-esteem too. You will notice when they try to learn new things. They may try a new sport? ...Learn to ride a bike, play a song, or do a math problem! Be happy and proud when they try something new. Celebrate them too! They don't have to brag out loud, but you can give them a quiet high-five saluting their incremental achievement.

Simple @Home Science Project



Lesson in Sound: Cup Amplifier (Cardboard Box Engineering)

Slide a mobile phone into this low-tech amplifier and the result is music to your ears! What's your hypothesis?

Materials: (1) Cell Phone, (2) plastic cups, (1) cardboard tube, (1) straight edge knife or scissors, (1) 1 sponge

Directions:

Step 1: Customize the size of the tube to fit your phone by measuring it and adding 2" (1" on each side)

Step 2: Cut a slit or small hole in the tube for your phone to fit inside. Be sure to only cut 1 side of the tube.

Step 3: Cut holes in both cups to fit the tube

Step 4: Insert tube into holes of the cups as illustrated

(Note: May need a moist sponge to soften materials)

Step 5: Hit play!



Get Active!

This school year the PTO has set a goal to raise **\$20,000** (Fourth Grade expanded form Twenty Thousand Dollars) we can do it!

Here is the list of priorities the monies raised this year will go toward:

- Replenishing school's funds used to purchase new Smartboards
- Teacher Appreciation Gifts & Annual Kickoff Breakfast
- S.T.E.A.M. Lab Code Course for Lower Grades
- School Supplies (reducing the supply list)
- Traffic control and Dismissal related supplies

How do you plan on getting active for ECS? Have you volunteered for a PTO committee or activity?



Participate in the ECS BoxTops Campaign

Participation in the ECS BoxTops Fundraiser does **NOT** require you to buy anything new or something you will **NOT** use. All you have to do is buy your normal household and food items and scan the receipt using the BoxTops for Education app. That is it! Just that simple! Below are instructions on how you can help us raise **\$500.00** from BoxTops for Education:

BUY
BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

SCAN
YOUR RECEIPT

EARN
CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

- **DOWNLOAD** the Box Tops app and select our school (Excellence Christian School) to support. Don't forget to register using the Parent's DOB. Registration using the App ensures that your Box Tops purchases count toward ECS earnings. Scan the QC Code below to download the App to your phone.



- **SHOP** for Box Tops products and use the app to scan your receipt to add to our school's earnings online.
- **LOOK** for any remaining unexpired Box Tops clips on packages. If you find some, clip them and send them to school!
- **VOLUNTEER** to help the ECS PTO, especially during submission periods of October & February.
- **SPREAD THE WORD** about ECS Box Tops! Invite your friends and family to help us raise money for ECS.

Participate in the ECS AmazonSmile Campaign



You have the Amazon Shopping App already! Simply turn on AmazonSmile in your Amazon Shopping App by following these instructions:

1. Register to support Excellence Christian School of Upper Marlboro, MD at smile.amazon.com
2. Open the Amazon Shopping app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

TREASURER REPORT

We are far from our goal, however, we just got started! AS of September 21, 2021, the ECS PTO kicked off the first fundraiser with Claire's Gourmet. If you have not already registered for Claire's here's the information to do so:

Go to: www.clairesgourmet.com

Select: "Participant Registration"

Select: "Register Now"

Remember to use the Organization Code: 1267

End Date: Monday, October 18, 2021

Delivery Date: Thursday, November 18th

More financial updates on Claire's to come. To date, we have raised the following from active and passive fundraisers:

BoxTops	\$ 34.50
AmazonSmile	\$ 763.92
Total	\$ 798.42

W.O.R.K....Let's Work!



Next Fundraiser: Double Good Popcorn - January 2022

<https://www.goecseagles.org/pto>

A Note From Kevin!

Welcome and Thank you! Can you believe we are almost through the 1st quarter of the 2021/2022 school year (SY)? The last year went by in a blur, and while this year we are not fully back to "normal", I am happy that our kids are able to return to the classroom.

For the PTO, our goals remain consistent and are to:

- Support and strengthen Excellence Christian School (ECS), and
- Ensure all students can reach their full potential!

We are here to build the school community and to support you and your scholars through enriching programs, events, and fundraisers. While what we do this year may look different than previous years, I hope it will bring the same joy, fun, and excitement as years' passed.

To all of the new ECS families, I say "Welcome"! ...And to all the returning ECS families, we are so excited to see you around campus again! We are coming out of a year that was unlike anything we could have imagined.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and faculty for your hard work and dedication to the enrichment and education of our kids. I acknowledge it wasn't easy for any of us. ...But, you went above and beyond any normal expectations, and I cannot thank you enough for the time and energy

you put forth throughout the last school year.

2021/2022 SY Limitations

Many things are still fluid. As we navigate the ever-revolving door of ECS and county rules and regulations, we ask for **patience**. While we have the green light for some programs, others are still tentative. We are following the county health guidelines for all programs and expect this year's calendar to be somewhat fluid as guidelines shift. With that said, the PTO will work hard to keep you up-to-date on any and all changes.

How can you help?

I'm so glad you asked! The PTO is a volunteer organization that relies directly on the support of family and friends of ECS. You can help by providing monetary donations and volunteering your time. The money we raise goes directly back to ECS for the enrichment of our children's education. By contributing to the PTO, you are helping fund things like:

1. **Enriching students' education**
New STEAM learning opportunities through art, science, music, and more!
2. **Powering classrooms** Supplies needed for our students to thrive in their classrooms or from home.
3. **Supporting technology**
Accessibility and support for students and teachers through classroom equipment, Chromebooks, and staff.

How else can you help?

Get involved and volunteer! Whether you can share your professional expertise, a hidden talent, or give time to help - be it every day, an hour a week, or for a specific event. **You definitely are needed! Your presence matters!**

Remember that ECS currently is participating in the following shopping and fundraising programs that do not require additional purchases in order to participate:

- Amazon Smile
- Box Tops 4 Education

Thank you!

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful ECS community and for your commitment to education. I'm so excited for this year and look forward to seeing you all around the campus. Please feel free to reach out to the PTO via the [PTO mailbox](#) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Edwards, PTO President

PTO Meeting Dates to Remember:

2nd Quarter	Thursday, November 4, 2021 @ 6-7pm
3rd Quarter	Thursday, February 3, 2022 @ 6-7pm
4th Quarter & PTO Officer Voting	Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ 6-7pm



**WE ARE THE FAMILY
OF ECS SCHOLARS
AND WE SOAR!**

I am Soaring for **EXCELLENCE**
through grace and knowledge.

I am Spiritually-minded

I am **Overflowing** with Christ-like character

I am Academically Superior

I am Relationship-oriented

I am an **ECS EAGLE** and I **SOAR!!!**