

MSPPTO

Together we achieve more

SERVING EC UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL



Welcome Back!

What is the purpose of our PTO?

Our PTO consists of parents, caregivers, and teachers who work together to build a Christ centered community of service and activities around our school. We hope to enhance our students' overall EC experience and be a blessing to our students, their families and school staff.

How can you help?

We all have unique talents and the PTO encourages you to share them. We have a lot of ways to get involved, even for working parents. There is something for everyone (a little or a lot) in person or remote.

Our new PTO Board are all volunteers who have been busy preparing but there's still a lot to learn, do, & figure out. (Like how to update our website! Be gracious while we get our sea legs! ;)

Joking aside, **we would really love for you to get involved and invest in our efforts to bless this community.** We have a full calendar for this year and **NEED YOUR HELP to make them happen and be successful!**

"If you want to go fast,
go alone.
**If you want to go far,
go together".**

A message from your PTO President

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a fun summer and as excited about the year ahead as we are. **A warm welcome to our 3rd & 4th graders and our new EC families!** We hope to help your family get settled and that this packet will help.

EC's spiritual theme is "Seek Truth, Speak Truth" with Psalm 119:10 as our key verse: "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands." As our children learn this at school, it is important for us parents to reflect on this too. Do we do this ourselves?

Our teachers can do their part in the classroom but it is up to us to partner with them and **be a model for our own children at home.** In addition to our calendar of fun events, I pray that that **we parents will also grow in our faith walk** this year alongside of our kids, teachers, and school!

Soo Brown, married to Dave and mom to Kaelyn (Gr 3) & Elyse (Gr 5). EC family since 2018 and lives in Hawthorne. Grew up in Norwood and attends Grace Church in Ridgewood. Worked at EC for a season and also many years in community affairs for a financial firm in NYC. Loves the Lord, jigsaw puzzles, plants, tiny house videos, and connecting people. :)



Meet your new PTO Board!

Most of us are new to our roles but excited to serve together

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2023/2024



SOO BROWN

*President
Parent of 3rd & 5th*



LISA VANDE VREDE

*co-Vice President (MS)
Parent of 3rd, 6th & 8th*



AMY WERNER

*co-Vice President (UES)
Parent of TK, 2nd & 3rd*



JOELLE HALLAJIAN

*Secretary
Parent of 2nd & 3rd*



THELMA MINNAAR

*Treasurer
Parent of 6th, 9th & 11th*



AIMEE ALTOMARE

*Marketing Coordinator
Parent of 8th & 10th*



NANCY PERALTA

*Volunteer Coordinator
Parent of 4th, 6th & 7th*

Additional PTO Coordinators

**Pizza/CFA - Lynda Vincenti (Orders), Ernie Pastor (Vendor)
Megan Weltscheff (Pizza volunteer training)
Eunbee Cho (CFA volunteer training)
Parents in Prayer - Stella Osae-Twum**

Your name would be very nice on here too!

STAY CONNECTED!

There are several ways to stay up to date and not miss out

Fun Events

Stay Informed

Embrace Community

Volunteer

Build New Friendships

Use Your Talents

Get To Know Staff

Something For Everyone

We have such busy lives and so much to keep track of!

- 1) Check our website if you need more info
- 2) Email us if you can't find your answer
- 3) Attend PTO meetings & events
- 4) Read your weekly school newsletter
- 5) Participate and be a part of our community

We made it easy for you with QR codes.

****ADD THEM NOW or you'll forget!****

PTO Website
ECMSPTO.com



Be Our Friend!
ECMS PTO



Instagram
ecms_pto



CONNECT WITH US!

OUR EMAIL: MSPTO@EASTERNCHRISTIAN.ORG

Sign-up or Volunteer



Pay or Donate



Volunteer/Service Opportunities

No experience needed - Just a willing heart!

We have something for everyone whether you work full time, part-time, or stay at home.

Students love to see parents involved and we invite all of you to consider how you can volunteer your time or serve in other ways.

- **YOUR SKILLS or BUSINESS!** (photography, writing, graphic design, web design, building things, etc.)
- **Social media contributor**
- **Creativity, decorating, organizing**
- **Class Parents & Room Helpers**
- **Chick-Fil-A Tuesdays or Pizza Thursdays Lunch Servers**
- **Recess duty**
- **PTO Committee Leaders**
- **Event planning or day of event support**
 - Family Movie Night, Holiday Market, Winter Festival, etc.
- **Teacher Appreciation efforts**
- **General help!**

SignUp
.com
Formerly VolunteerSpot



We will be adding more on our volunteer website soon.
We are stronger together! Thank you in advance for your service.



Our Immediate Volunteer Needs



Chick-fil-A server

Volunteers are needed to receive delivery and sort Chick-fil-A orders per class.

Tuesdays - 11:30am - 1:00pm (may finish earlier)



Thursday Pizza Server

Volunteers are needed to receive pizza delivery and sort out orders per class. This is an easy opportunity for anyone who has an hour to spare.

Thursday - 11:30am - 1:00pm (may finish earlier)



Class Parents & Helpers

This opportunity is more than just organizing class parties. This is a wonderful way to support both our school and your child's classroom! **You'll be the primary liaison to help build community in the class and to support & encourage your teacher.** This includes praying for your teacher, assisting with class parties & school events, supporting the PTO board, chaperoning class trips (if available), and connecting with other parents.

Summary of Events

Check our website for details & updates

Reminder: All our events need volunteers like you to make them happen!



Every Monday is Parents in Prayer! Join us for fellowship & prayer after drop-off. Start each week praying for our EC students, staff, and families. It is truly a blessed time! Don't like to pray out loud? That's ok, come join us whenever you can. Where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name, He is with us!
Starts weekly on September 11, 2023, 8:15am



Monthly Teacher Appreciation - Teachers are appreciated year-round. Each grade has been allocated a month - donations of goodies for the staff lounge will be collected for the first 2 weeks of that month & will then be re-stocked.
Oct (8th), Dec (7th), Jan (6th), Feb (5th), Mar (4th), April (3rd)
You can sign up anytime but **8th grade, please do it soon!**



Virtual Volunteer info session!

A great opportunity to learn more about all our wide ranging volunteer opportunities such as being a class parent, events volunteering or planning, serving lunch, or use your skills & gifts in other ways!

Date: September 11 2023, 8:00pm



Our **PTO meetings** are held several times a year to keep parents updated on events, opportunities to get involved, for fellowship and to ask questions to other parents. New for this year are combined campus meetings and school administrators will also provide updates. Save the dates and be in the know!

Dates: Sept 15, Nov 8 (EC wide), Jan 15, Mar 26 (EC wide), & June 11(?)



Back 2 School Family Picnic & EC Swag Swap. Pack a dinner for your family, gather some outgrown EC swag, and head on over for some fellowship!

Check our PTO website for more info.

Date: September 22, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30pm



Mom's Night Out! This fellowship event is open to Wyckoff campus moms. Save the date you busy ladies! Enjoy an evening of meeting new moms or catching up with old friends. If you're new, we'll be happy to introduce you and make you feel welcomed!

Date: September 30, 2023, 7:00 - 10:00pm



UE Free Family Movie Night! This fun event is for UE students in 3-5 grade and their families. Watching a fun movie in the school gym surrounded by classmates and your family plus a fundraiser pizza dinner and yummy concession stand? Sounds like a great Friday night activity not to be missed!

Date: October 27, 2023, Time TBD

DAD'S NIGHT OUT

Dad's Night Out for all EC dads. Save the date now and come and enjoy an evening with other dads. The evening plan is still in the works but it'll be something fun and casual.

Date: November 1, 2023, Time TBD



Dude & Student Night! This event is for students in 3-8 grade with an important adult dude in their life (dad, uncle, grandpa, etc). More details to follow as the date nears.

Date: December 1, 2023, Time TBD



This **Mom's Night Out is for all EC moms** and will be a great opportunity for all campus moms to connect while paying it forward with an act of kindness. Invite a fellow mom to come out and enjoy the evening.

Date: January 26, 2024



This winter is filled with fun events. Make sure to save the dates for our all EC **Family SnowTubing Night out.** Plan with your friends to meet and come have some fun.

Date: February 13, 2024



MS Mom & Student Volunteer Day

Come volunteer with your 6-8 graders in serving our community! More details to follow as plans are finalized.

Date: TBD in March 2024



MS Winter Carnival! Our students love our annual student-only carnival for MS grades 6-8. This is a fun evening filled with laughter, lots of games, and popcorn.

Date: March 23, 2024



Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week - This is a fun week where we choose a theme and get creative to make our staff feel extra special. Do you have creative ideas or the planner/host in your family? Join the planning team.
Dates: May 6-10, 2024



Fun(d) Run - A carryover from our ES, this fundraiser is an opportunity to combine student fitness, fundraising, and parent volunteers! Students get sponsored by family & friends who pledge an amount per lap or a total amount. It is always a fun day!
Dates: May 9, 2024



Inviting all EC parents for our **Parents Night Out**. As summer approaches, this is a casual evening for parents to just come and enjoy a night out with other parents without the kids.
Date: May 18, 2024

MONTHLY STAFF APPRECIATION



Each grade is allocated a month to show some extra love to our teachers by replenishing the staff lounge.
 Please use **SIGNUP** to see the list of items.

- PTO - September
- 8th gr - October**
- PTO - November
- 7th gr - December**
- 6th gr - January**
- 5th gr - February**
- 4th gr - March**
- 3rd gr - April**
- PTO - May
- PTO - June



Items will be collected during the **first week of the month**. When sending items with your student, please mark it for **attention : PTO SA**.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The PTO is looking for your help with increasing our **Box Top participation!**

Since the physical box tops have been phased out, it's so easy to forget to scan receipts to earn money for our school.

Twice a year, our school receives a check to help pay for whatever we need - equipment, supplies or experiences the kids love!

To save free cash from being thrown out with the trash, **please send in your receipts with your students in their backpack, and a volunteer will happily scan them for school credit!**

There will be a zipper pouch outside of each classroom for your child to place receipts in, and a volunteer will collect them at the end of the week and scan them in, so you don't have to!

If you haven't downloaded the Box Top app yet, scan the QR code, and use code **nu9m2p58** for an extra \$5 bonus for the school when you scan your first receipt!

If you receive your grocery receipts digitally, you can forward the receipt to mspto@easternchristian.org for credit as well!

Thank you for your help with this! For any questions, please email our PTO: mspto@easternchristian.org



scan to download the box tops app and use code **nu9m2p58** for a bonus



UE/MS PTO CALENDAR

2023/2024

Let's Connect!

- **Parents in Prayer** - Monday mornings 8:15am
- **Weekly Fellowship** - Tuesday mornings after drop-off until 9:00am UE Chapel
- **Visit our PTO Website** for more details & updates! (www.ECMSPTO.com)

AUGUST

29 - PTO 1st Day Welcome Meet & Greet
29 - 1st Chapel for UE & MS
(Parents welcome to attend each week)

SEPTEMBER

7 - UE Back to School Night **
11 - Volunteer Info session (virtual)
13 - Picture Day **
15 - PTO Meeting (live & virtual)
21 - MS Back to School Night **
22 - Back 2 School Family Picnic &
EC Swap
30 - Mom's Night Out

OCTOBER

13-14 - HomeComing Weekend
18-20 - Spruce Lake 7th graders
27 - MS Hands Dirty Day **
27 - UE Family Movie Night
28 - 8th grade Bowling Social

NOVEMBER

2-3 - Teachers Conferences
3 - Dad's Nights Out (All EC)
8 - Combined campus PTO meeting
28 - Giving Tuesday **

DECEMBER

1 - Dude & Student Night
9 - Christmas Market w/ES (All EC)
21 - Teacher Christmas gift distribution
21 - Class Christmas Parties

JANUARY

12 - PTO Meeting (live & virtual)
26 - Mom's Night Out (All EC)

FEBRUARY

13 - Family Fun Snow Tubing (All EC)
16 -17 - No School (In-Service)
20 - No School (President's Day)

MARCH

10 - MS Mom & Student Volunteer Day
23 - MS Student Carnival
26 - Combined campus PTO meeting
27-28 - UE Parent/Teacher Conference**
29 - Good Friday - No School **

APRIL

1-5 - Spring Break
19 - EC Gala **

MAY

6-10 - Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
9 - Fun(d) Run
18 - Parent's Night Out (All EC)

JUNE

11 - Volunteer & Family Appreciation
12 - End of year student celebration
13 - 8th Grade Promotion **



**** Non-PTO Event**
All events subject to change

EC Parents - Do This Now!

Below are the things to take care of before you forget!

1) Order your student's hot Lunch (& volunteer to serve 1 lunch)

We are taking both **Chick-fil-A Tuesdays & Pizza Thursdays orders right now!** This is for **Sept - Dec** and you'll have a chance to order again for Jan - June later on. This is a ongoing PTO fundraiser (and a service to parents who don't like to pack lunch everyday like many of us).

To start serving right way, the deadline to submit your order is Friday, September 1, 2023! Please make your full payment when you register but we also understand there may be budgetary concerns so there's an option to break up your payments.

Go to the PTO website to place your orders. (www.ECMSPTO.com)

2) Register on our PTO website and social media accounts

We made it super easy to do with QR codes on the Get Connected page!

3) Sign up for your child(rens) Monthly Staff Appreciation by grade

We made it super easy again with details on which grades have which months. Go to the PTO website to sign up. (Sign up to volunteer for other things while on there too!)

8th grade starts first for October and it goes down each grade per month except the ones that PTO takes care of. You're bringing in items such as seltzer, fruit, chips, etc. to bless & stock the staff lounge with goodies. Love to bake? That's even better!

One more...

Yay - Free Money for our PTO but we need your grocery receipts!

Yes, we get free money through **Box Tops for Education!** BUT, no one likes to scan so we miss those rectangular paper ones!

Our solution? Just send in your grocery receipt with your student whenever you go shopping and **our awesome volunteer will scan it for you!** More info is in our packet.
