



EAGLE EYES

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News From Summer Trimester 2003

ERS CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

September 1993. Two and a half buildings. A few staff members including Robert Burkhardt, John Oubre, Judy Gilbert, Sally Duncan, Burt Bowles, Tim Phelps, Michael Soguero, Garth Lewis, Deb Eads. Sixteen young people. A culture, a program and a curriculum to be refined by experience. A Professional Development Center yet to be designed.

September 2003. Sixteen buildings plus five faculty houses. Twenty-eight full-time Honda staff, including 12 who are mostly instructors. A fellowship program providing professional development to 12 fellows in conjunction with Public Allies. Part-time staff including an activities director and a computer whiz. Nearly 96 students. Eighty-six graduates. Five students who have not only graduated from ERS but from college. Two in graduate school. Countless more who are earning a living, involved in service, raising a family or serving in the military. A professional development center that hosts as many as 2000 visitors a year. A book and many articles published and conference presentations made (usually with students). Alliances with other reform groups.

Although the changes are profound, some things stay the same. The culture of Eagle Rock is still based on a set of principles known as $8 + 5 = 10$. The culture is that of a learning community. Students still do a lot of service – over 500 hours per student per year. The curriculum is still experiential and interdisciplinary. POLs (Presentations of Learning) occur three times a year.

On September 12, 2003, current and former Eagle Rock staff and students and friends of the school celebrated the enduring as well as changing aspects of Eagle Rock. A formal ceremony at 11:00 that day helped over 300 cel-

ebrants focus on the original purpose of Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center, remember those no longer with us, and hear the stories of a current student, graduate, and a parent. Mr. Koichi Amemiya, President of Honda Motors, delivered a keynote address.

Former students and staff marched into the ceremony to the music of the Estes Park Village Band. An “E-rade” (Eagle Rock + parade = E-rade) threaded the first group of students and staff (ER1) through a double-line of later ER groups into seats on the Field of Dreams. Students and staff from ER 2 through ER 30 continued to thread their way through later groups until the last group, ER 31, was seated.

Lunch on the Field of Dreams, under white tents, featured Colorado foods, mostly from local, small farms and dairies, as well as a birthday cake and an ice sculpture.

Rock Alive in the afternoon brought Eagle Rock alive for former staff and students and visitors.

Guided by expert student guides, small groups touring the campus witnessed Eagle Rock in action. In the Human Performance Center, they watched current students and staff using the climbing wall and exercise machines. At the outdoor amphitheater they observed students rehearsing musicals. Groups watched students creating art, doing science, learning history, speaking another language, and doing mathematics – the Eagle Rock way. It was one big Presentation of Learning.

Commemorative items included mugs with ERS medallions on them, water bottles, carabiners, pens, postcards and other memorabilia.

September 12 was just the first day of celebration. The third Eagle Rock reunion of students and staff continued over the weekend.



