

# THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*  
Volume 57, Issue 2

CONGRATS  
*Graduates!*

PLUS  
**ENROLLMENT SOARS**

EC ALUMNI NEWS  
ALUMNI PROFILES

FALL 2016

# SHOUT FOR JOY!



Each year, the fall issue of The Herald brings to mind the words of Psalm 100. This issue is no exception with its reports of joyous graduation ceremonies, of notable awards and accomplishments, and of milestones in the lives of our alumni.

The following pages provide joyous news of the nearly 100 members of the Eastern Christian High School Class of 2016 who have recently left us to continue their education at a collegiate level, to serve our country in the armed forces, or to enter the workforce, and reports regarding the other members of our student body continuing on to more advanced studies on new campuses. We are thrilled to see reports of important milestones in the lives of our alumni, marking joyful news of marriages, births, anniversaries and reunions, and the sad news of those who have completed their race.

We shout for joy as we read of our students and alumni transforming the world through their work on the mission field, and by teaching inner city children and college students. And we joyously celebrate news of our students' notable artistic and athletic accomplishments.

As we look back on the year profiled in this issue, we also look ahead to the start of a new school year, our 124th year of service to the Christian community of Northern New Jersey. We look forward with great anticipation to having the incredible opportunity of working with more than 800 students as we begin the new year. And as we do, we take comfort in the closing words of the Psalm, "...the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Thomas G. Dykhouse '76  
*Executive Director & Head  
of School*





EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

# THE HERALD

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# IN THIS ISSUE

## 2

### CAMPUS NEWS

- 2 Enrollment Soars
- 3 PTO Events
- 4 MS Athlete Profiles
- 5 ECHS Missions
- 6 Problem Based Learning
- 7 Army & Awards
- 8 Our Father's World
- 9 MAD



**PAGE 25** Tom Dykhouse '76,  
Sarah Y. Kang '17, Noah Hagedoorn '18

## 22

### FOUNDATION, EVENTS & ALUMNI NEWS

- 23 Foundation News
- 25 Events
- 26 Alumni News

## 41

### EC SPORTS



**PAGE 41** Boys Basketball; **PAGE 43** Trent Braen, Boys Track



**PAGE 9** Allison Borduina at Hammering for Habitat

## 10

### GRADUATIONS

- 10 High School Graduation
- 12 High School Graduates
- 14 High School Awards
- 16 Middle School, Elementary & Pre-K Graduations
- 20 Graduation Collage

*The Herald* is a bi-annual publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Eastern Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education. ***The Herald* is mailed free of charge to over 6,500 alumni, families, and friends of the school.**

Our address database is always being updated. If you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Herald*, please contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association office and we will be very happy to update our database accordingly.

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## ENROLLMENT SOARING

### Enrollment Numbers Soar at EC

**One hundred and twenty-four years ago, a small group of newly arrived Dutch immigrants opened the Christian School Society, enrolling 70 students. The mission was clear: prepare students to become transformative adults, developing them into people with Christian vision and influence.**



*Prospective families at the EC open house.*

There have been some changes since then—including several name changes—but the mission remains the same. “Eastern Christian School has survived and thrived for 124 years, through two World Wars, the Great Depression, and periods of tremendous societal change only through the providence of our gracious Heavenly Father. This small school...has lasted this long not because of our intelligence or hard work, but only because the Lord has a purpose for us and wants us to continue to serve for such a time as this,” says Executive Director **Tom Dykhouse**.

Since 2002, 17 percent of faith-based schools in the US have shuttered their doors. By comparison, Eastern Christian School has seen

enrollment soar in recent years. Current estimates are forecasting more than a 5 percent increase for next year. By May, the school had already received its 200th new student application. Acknowledging first and foremost the provisions of the Lord, the school has experienced some exciting new honors and improvements over the past ten years that have helped to propel its enrollment. Here are a few:

- *In a continual pursuit of excellence, EC has launched a STEAM program at the high school, upgraded services for students across the learning spectrum, added new courses and revamped curriculum to reflect the changing marketplace. The school has also invested in improvements in educational technology.*
- *Recognizing the role of teachers in the future success of the school, significant investment has been made in expanded career and professional development opportunities, as well as cultivating an environment that will encourage long-term retention.*
- *To keep high-quality Christian education costs affordable for more families, additional EC-operated business ventures—Eagle Solar,*

*ditto Upscale Retail and our summer camps—have contributed a combined total of \$2 million to the school’s bottom line since 2010.*

- *Two major capital campaigns have enabled dramatically upgraded facilities, cultivating productive learning environments.*
- *The school recently formed the Marketing and Enrollment office, executed a complete re-branding of the school in 2014, and homed in on publicizing the school’s story.*
- *Winning one of only three awards offered nationally in 2015, Eastern Christian School was honored as a National School District of Character. It was also recognized as one of the Top 50 Christian High Schools in America. These awards increased the school’s reputation for Godly character and integrity, but this comes as no surprise to families who have visited. “The feedback that we regularly receive from visitors of all ages is that our students are incredibly friendly and welcoming. Students who visit EC on shadow visits quickly feel at home, and adult visitors are amazed at how welcoming our students are in the hallways and classrooms,” explains Dykhouse.*

The 2016-2017 school year opens with the promise of more innovation across all of EC. “Eastern Christian School is a very different school than it was ten years ago, although its core mission is unchanged from that for which it was formed 124 years ago,” Dykhouse says. “While the techniques have changed, we still exist to love and serve God and our neighbors by preparing the next generation of Christian men and women to lead committed lives in service to the Kingdom.”

# CULTIVATING FAMILY BONDING

## PTO Plans Parent/Child Events

**The time was 6:30 p.m. Dozens and dozens of young boys came bounding through the front doors of the elementary school, their mothers several steps behind.**

The atmosphere was joyous, to put it mildly. It was a Friday evening in April, and it was time for the tip-off of the first-ever mother and son basketball night. Who wouldn't be excited?

The event started with photographs, a craft, a questionnaire and some puzzles. Soon, the boys and their moms charged through the school, lining up to compete in knock out games, "bowling basketball" and other activities. At the end of the evening, third and fourth grade boys, dressed in SOAR EC shirts, played full court, "mini" games against the moms, clad in gold.

The moms got schooled.

The boys, as could be expected, were delighted.

"I would say the purpose of the night was to bring moms and sons together for some quality time in the midst of our very hectic lives, and community building within ECES as well," says **Tonia Foster**. The event was the brainchild of the elementary school PTO. Tonia, along with PTO moms **Michelle Lazor**, **Meri Gupko** and **Emily Wilson**, as well as physical education teacher **Debi Veenstra**, orchestrated the evening.

The mother and son night was not the only event at the elementary school that cultivated family bonding.



Earlier in February, fathers escorted their young ladies to a Valentine's-themed, father/daughter dessert night, which also served as a fundraiser for the school. That evening played an equally important role in bringing parents and children together.

"The event itself on February 8 was intended to be a wonderful night of bonding and setting the example from dad of how a young lady should be treated. It was all that and more. Girls dressed up for their date with daddy and glowed on their fathers' arms as they entered and received a carnation from the special man in their life," explained **Susan Salerno**, a PTO mom who headed the event with **Erica Vasile**. Activities included several games, and food generously donated by 25 area retailers. ECMS principal **Dan Lazor** spoke to the group about the importance of the Christian father/daughter relationship.

Salerno adds, "There was great food and laughter, and many fathers came up to Erica and me for many days later, thanking us and the PTO for making this night possible."

1. Jenna Yum and her father, Brian; 2. Andrew Wilson (hanging) with Xavier Bailey and Logan Wilson (credit: Emily Photography); 3. Caleb Hosier takes a shot (credit: Emily Photography); 4. Tessa Ritsma getting dessert with her father, Ken

# STUDENT PROFILES

## Middle School Students Flex Sports Muscle



### Edward Park wins Junior Olympics competition, by Laura Carey '16

Eastern Christian seventh grader **Edward Park** recently won the Junior Olympic competition at Rutgers University as a “high point contestant” after scoring well in nine different swimming races to earn him the highest combined point count in the competition.

“I started swimming when I was 7 years old...It was annoying at first but then when I was 10, I got better. Now I can’t quit,” Edward explains. The races that propelled him to victory include the 50 free, 100 free,

200 free, 50 fly, 100 fly, 200 fly, 100 IM, 200 IM, and 100 backstroke.

Edward currently swims for the YMCA sharks but plans on trying out for a team coached by a five-star Olympian this year. His next competition is at Princeton University over the summer. This time, he will be competing in an Olympic-size pool, which is 50 meters in length.

Another one of Edward’s goals is to be able to attend the highly competitive Zone Camp. In order to qualify, he has to be one of the top seven swimmers in the Eastern zone. He also hopes to win an event in his age group in order to help him qualify. “I want to do Zone Camp; if we win events there are points for how fast your time is,” Park explains.

When asked what motivates him to work hard in his sport, Park says, “Consistency and trust. You have to trust the people with you that they can make you better.”

### EC middle school student driving her way to the PGA tour, by Emma Hagedoorn '16

In the 2015 Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide, Tiger Woods finished with a score of 85. By comparison, Eastern Christian eighth grader **Judy Baiyunqiqige** averages a score of 81.

Fifteen-year-old Judy Baiyunqiqige aspires to be a golf pro. The middle school student is from China and has been playing golf since she was seven. Her mom influenced her to try new things. “A lot of people played other sports, but no one played golf,” Judy says. “So, I wanted to get to know the game and what it was, and once I started playing I couldn’t stop.”

Judy practices everyday in the spring and in the winter she does different exercises to stay in shape. “In golf, legs are really important so I try to exercise as much as I can to stay strong.” After school, she plays nine holes of golf, and on the weekends, she plays 18 holes, or for about four hours. Even when the sport got difficult, her mom encouraged her to persevere.

In her golfing career, Judy has had three coaches. Her current coach is PGA pro Tommy Lee. Judy said she likes the way Lee teaches as he focuses on her and finds out what way is best for her to play. “My coach has told me that golf is like a math question,” Judy explains. “All 18 holes are different and they have different solutions.” On

occasion, Lee also helps out the Eastern Christian High School golf team during practices. For those who need some golf tips from this up-and-coming athlete, Judy says practice is key. She adds, “If people start playing golf, my advice is to not play in a range first. You should go on the course because that way you can get more experience.”



# MISSIONS TRIPS

## The Value of Short-Term Missions

During Spring break, 34 high school students plus their leaders set out to serve the Lord on short-term mission trips, traveling to four different destinations: Guatemala, Mexico, Uganda and New York City. The trips were coordinated in partnership with Touch the World, a local non-profit missions organization.

Eastern Christian High School has had a relationship with Touch the World for eight years, rooted not only in a desire to build a strong faith foundation but also to cultivate awareness about the world in which we live. “TTW works hard to provide opportunities for students to be transformed by missions both locally and globally, while providing engagement in service, poverty and culture,” shares Touch the World Executive Director Jesse Kroeze. “Over the years, our partnership with Eastern Christian has grown due to the integration we have within the classroom as a service/learning experience. This leads to having a deep understanding of missions, which is the key to helping our youth embrace their faith as their own.”

Kroeze explains the purpose of short-term missions trips are multi-dimensional, saying it is “to be a catalyst for a student’s spiritual formation, personal development and global competence all while sharing the love of Christ in both spiritual and physical ways with those that we serve.”



### Guatemala

Students traveled to the Guatemala City garbage dump, working with local organization, Potter’s House, on several different projects. In addition to constructing

bunk beds for local children, serving sandwiches, and helping orchestrate Vacation Bible School, the group was particularly impacted by their time spent in community prayer walks.

### Mexico

A team traveled to Juarez, Mexico to partner with the James R. Ganley School, which serves families living in the former landfill. The EC students spent the week



laying brick to build a wall around the school, participating in prayer walks throughout the community, serving burritos at the local hospital, and more. The students loved sharing with children during the VBS time.

### Uganda

Six students spent spring break in Gulu, Uganda, partnering with the Touch the World Dream Center. The team experienced village life with the people of Adak, helped build a widower’s hut, and served alongside some local missionaries. The students also spent quality time with village children. Senior **Sara Leegwater** recalled one little boy in particular: “The other kids pushed him over and I picked him up and sat with him and within an hour he was laughing and smiling. We were having the greatest time together.”



### New York

Only a short drive away, the five-person team worked hard in a variety of tasks. The week began with a middle school retreat at Lake Champion with Young Life, where the crew served in the kitchen and as part of the programing crew. From there, they headed to New York City, working with Abounding Grace Ministries, a local church actively involved in sharing the gospel with the people of the Lower East Side. The team also spent time connecting with a local public school in their art and music programs, helping set-up for an Easter play and praying for the people they met throughout their travels.



**GUATEMALA:** Rachel Tanis holds a local boy in Guatemala City. **MEXICO:** Yereimiya Wright and Ana Arcay working at James R. Ganley School in Juarez, Mexico. **UGANDA:** Sara Leegwater and Scott Steenstra hang out with kids from Adak, Uganda. **NEW YORK CITY:** L-R from top: Joey Chicarelli, Ethan Vander Molen, Carter Heerema, Samuel Chen, and Marco De La Cruz take a break from bagging sandwiches in New York.

# CLOUD OF WITNESSES

## Problem-Based Learning

**In May, elementary school students presented their culminating Problem-Based Learning (PBL) projects to each other. This year's theme centered around the great cloud of witnesses, focusing mainly on characters mentioned in Hebrews 11. Following is a look at specific projects related to the theme:**



**Hebrews 11: 7:** The 4-year-old and Jr. K classes listened to the story of Noah and filled in blanks as teacher **Kathy Faasse** read.

**Hebrews 11:8-12; 17-19:** The third grade created skits based on the life of Abraham.

**Hebrews 11:22:** First graders made an iMovie about Joseph.

**Hebrews 11:23-29:** After learning about Moses, kindergartners made a craft and led schoolmates in a 'story maze trust walk.'

**Hebrews 11:32:** David is mentioned briefly in Hebrews, but his life's story is found in the Old Testament. Fourth graders created skits with trifold backgrounds, focusing on 11 different events in the life of David.

**Outside of Hebrews:** Second graders homed in on the apostle Paul's life and missionary trips. The students created skits about his life that could be watched after scanning QR codes on homemade posters.

According to **Carol Byma**, fourth grade teacher and PBL coordinator, "The overall learning outcome of the project was to explore each main character from their Bible curriculum to see how they ran their race with perseverance, tossed what hindered them, and focused on God. This extended to others in the curriculum as well. Beyond that, students were challenged to apply this to their own lives."

She adds, "Each of us has a different race to run. Each of us has a unique place in God's kingdom. Each of us can help one another run our race and encourage each other along the way."



1. Kindergartners Chase Oaken and Adam Peters; 2. Kindergartners Will Sloomaker, Lucy Meserole, Johnny Gramaglia, Sean Leegwater, Erin Matthews and Christian Macy; 3. Fourth graders Charlotte Steen, Jamie Kim, Christian Boru and Ya'Meir Pope perform for the first graders; 4. Third graders Olivia Adams, Rachael DeRooy and Charlie Denekamp



“EACH OF US HAS A DIFFERENT RACE TO RUN. EACH OF US HAS A UNIQUE PLACE IN GOD'S KINGDOM. EACH OF US CAN HELP ONE ANOTHER RUN OUR RACE AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER ALONG THE WAY.”





# EC HONORED

## In State-wide Exhibition

By Kristina Hajhassan '17

**Sophomore Steve Blanco** was chosen by the State Art Educators of New Jersey to participate in its Youth Art Month (YAM) exhibition.

Held March 4 through March 11 at the New Jersey State House, Steve was also awarded a certificate of achievement and a chance to meet artist **Katie Truk**. He was honored for his self-portrait, created using a graphite pencil.

Art teachers **Donna Aceino** and **Jesse Wright** encouraged Steve to submit his art, he says. He adds, "I actually didn't even consider entering my self portrait into the art competition. In fact, I have never even drawn a self portrait before."

Steve has always been drawn to the arts. His initial inspiration came from Leonardo Da Vinci and he has



1



1. The winning self-portrait; 2. Steve Blanco with professional artist and keynote speaker Katie Truk

been fascinated with him both in and out of the realm of art. Everything about Da Vinci's style captivates Steve, he says, from the underlying geometric balance to the way he captured the human likeness on a canvas.

Besides Da Vinci, Steve is also inspired by the world around him. Everyday and everywhere he looks, he sees the wonders God has created. Because of his admiration of God's creation, he feels a passion to capture what God has made in realistic drawings.

"As advice to anyone entering a competition: enter a competition with the confidence you would have if you won. It's as simple as drawing. You can't win unless you first think about it, and you can't draw until you first imagine it. Create success," says Steve.

Steve Blanco is one of several students recognized for their art ability this semester. The following students were also honored this spring: **Adrian Brown**, Congressional Art Show; **Yilin Liu**, County Youth Art Month; and **Kelsey Veenstra**, **Yilin Liu** and **Stephanie Cabral**, NJPAC spring art show.

## TWO SENIORS SEEK TO JOIN U.S. MILITARY

By Jake Veenstra

More than 1.4 million Americans were in active military duty in 2013, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Two seniors at Eastern Christian are hoping to join them.

**Aaron De Rosa's** Navy sweatshirt and lanyard are an indication of his desire to join the Navy after college. Ever since he was six years old, he has wanted to join the military. When he thought about it further freshman year, he specified his childhood dream to the Navy. He plans on being a helicopter pilot, a Naval Flight Officer...or a Surface Warfare Officer. "My inspiration is my uncle, who is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marines, and all the soldiers who have and still sacrifice everything for us. To me, serving our country is being willing to make sacrifices for its people and protect the freedom of the nation and its assets," said Aaron.

Senior **Mitchell Haddad** can often be seen wearing West Point apparel as he seeks to join the United States Army upon graduation from The United States Military Academy at West Point. To receive acceptance into the academy, one

has to surpass both academic and physical qualifications. As he began to develop his identity in middle school, he started to consider going to West Point and began to research what careers were offered in the Army. In addition to those in combat, there are opportunities in transportation, aviation, mechanics, arts, media, legal and law enforcement, computer technology and more.

"I want to go into the Aviation or Engineering branches in the Army, where I would be able to work on many kinds of Army aircraft," stated Mitchell. With this in mind, he seeks to spend the entirety of his career in the military as an Army Officer. "I know that a career in the military could put me in dangerous areas around the world, but I also know that I'll be prepared if that time comes and will have other soldiers who have my back," explained Mitchell. He added, "When people serve our country, they are putting their country's needs before their own. In many cases, they are sacrificing their own safety in order to protect others."

*Editor's Note: This is a condensed version of an article that originally ran in the January issue of the student newspaper, EC Times. The original version, written by senior Jake Veenstra, was awarded Honorable Mention in Ball State University's J-Day Contest, an annual contest that draws student entries across the nation.*

# THIS IS OUR FATHER'S WORLD

## ES Food Pantry and Letters to Uganda

**What exactly is Eastern Christian's end goal for our students? Our graduate profile answers this:**

*"... Recognizing and responding to the will of God, and seeing in humanity the image of God, the graduate embraces diversity, exhibits compassion, offers respect, and is forgiving and open to others. The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence and seeks to contribute cooperatively and responsibly to God's mission of renewing all of creation."*

This mindset even permeates to our youngest members of the community. This year, preschool and elementary school students participated in a number of activities that embraced graduate profile ideals. Here are two examples:

### "Exhibiting Compassion"

Every year, preschool students partner with middle school students to complete a Trike-a-thon aimed at raising money for St. Jude Children's research hospital. This year, a local component was added to the traditional fundraiser.

Dr. Derek Hanson, a pediatric oncologist and father of Jr. Kindergarten student Luke, introduced the school to The Tomorrows Children's Fund at Hackensack Hospital. The fund was founded to help children with cancer and serious blood disorders. The preschool students collected a variety of items for the food pantry, which is for families of patients receiving treatment at Hackensack UMC.

The unit was tied into Jesus' example of kindness. Preschool teacher **Kathy Faasse** adds, "A

project like this teaches them that they can be helpful to people they don't even see. When they give money or toys or food to others they are showing kindness and being good helpers. Although our students may be small, they are learning that their contributions are large."

Although it's the most recent, this is certainly not the only drive younger students have participated in this year. The elementary school collected winter wear for families at Madison Ave. Crossroads Community Ministries and also food for New Hope Community Ministries.

### "Embracing Diversity"

This year, elementary school students were paired with pen pals from Kidron Valley Ministries, a school based in Uganda. The idea stemmed from a letter sent to EC by Shiundu John, the pastor and director of Kidron Valley Ministries.

Although the Ugandan-based school has a Christian mission, it accepts students from all walks of life, many

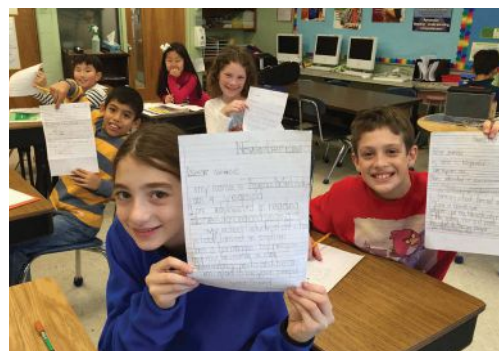


(L to R): Preschool students Danielle Lee, Jonah Pastor, Danny Cook, Spencer Main, Elissa Mirkhan, Michael Tarta

who are orphans. First through fourth graders at EC, paired up with students of approximately the same age, exchanged letters several times throughout the school year.

"The first through fourth grade teachers were very excited to participate in this project, develop relationships with children from Uganda and work on letter writing skills," explained Elementary School Principal **Sandra Bottge**. "This was also a great opportunity for our students to share the Gospel with the children in Kidron Valley Ministries and pray for their pen pal. Our students enjoyed learning about Uganda."

Starting from foreground: Grace Sehulster, Lucas Genuario, Sarah Onufer, Diego Romero, John Lee, Sarena Lee



# MAD UPDATE

## Sixth Graders Receive Award from Habitat for Humanity

Although the event was years ago, the memory stands out in **Naomi Braunius'** mind. She, along with sixth grade teacher **Everett Henderson**, had been tasked with creating a community garden and classroom for School 12 in Paterson as part of EC's partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

In preparation for the workday, "We had mulch dropped off, we had wood chips dropped off, we had stumps, a rain barrel, even picnic table material. We had so many materials," she recalls. "I pulled up in the bus with about 60 kids, looked at the stuff, and was like, what have we done?"

“

**WE ARE TRANSFORMERS. LOOK AT THE MISSION STATEMENT. WE DON'T DO THIS FOR OUR GLORY. WE DO THIS FOR GOD'S GLORY. THAT'S WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE...**

Braunius remembers the hard work the kids put in over the next several hours. She remembers they were tired. But she also remembers when fourth graders from School 12 came outside at the end of day, enjoyed the new space, and shared ice pops with her sixth graders. "They were all so excited. It was such a neat thing to see the interaction."

Although the projects change with each year, the Eastern Christian sixth graders still continue to serve alongside Habitat for Humanity. Their age prevents them from building homes, but they have participated in creating gardens and flower boxes, as well as crafting welcome home baskets. A good part of their efforts also involve fundraising activities. This year, under the direction of Naomi, Everett, and new teacher **Beth Hoffman**, the students have written letters to area businesses, and organized several events, including a bake sale, pancake breakfast and a middle school "fun night."

Braunius estimates EC has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for five years. This year, the non-profit

awarded Eastern Christian sixth graders with its Paterson Habitat for Humanity Volunteer of the Year, Youth Partner Award 2016. As a result of this honor, the school received several more: a mayor's award, as well as commendations from Bergen County and the State of New Jersey Senate and General Assembly.

The Habitat for Humanity partnership is just one non-profit relationship within the middle school. As part of the Make a Difference (MAD) program, each grade works with a different organization. Fifth grade focuses on St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, seventh grade works with the Children's Therapy Center, and eighth grade partners with New Hope Community Ministries. The program extends into the classroom in many ways, with creative, cross-disciplinary lessons.

Ultimately, however, the MAD program ties back to the mission of the school. Braunius adds, "I like to say this to the students: Why do we do this, guys? We are transformers. Look at the mission statement. We don't do this for our glory. We do this for God's glory. That's what makes us unique; it's our perspective."



1. *Daniella Fernino, Naomi Braunius, Beth Hoffman, Alicia Ulaikere and Allison Bourdin hold a Choco Taco and Italian Ice Sale for Habitat;* 2. *Maria and George Takla wrap gifts for schoolchildren in Paterson.*



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!



**On Wed., June 15, nearly 100 graduates walked down the halls of Eastern Christian High School for the last time as students. For some, it was the end of an era that began in the preschool 15 years ago.**

Commencement speaker, High School Math Teacher **Ian Zacharias**, challenged students to think about what happens next. He shared sobering statistics, saying that studies show 70 percent of youth leave church after graduation. The remedy, he added, was to live with intention.

“Living with intention is the best thing you can do for yourself, for your faith, and for your community when you leave high school. This is how you can make sure you are one of the ones standing,” he said.

“ LIVING WITH INTENTION IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOURSELF, FOR YOUR FAITH, AND FOR YOUR COMMUNITY WHEN YOU LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL.



1. The graduates process out of the auditorium for a final time; 2. Josh Groenewal and Kelly Tanis; 3. Sokhee Son; 4. Kimona Dussard; 5. The class of 2016 performs the class song



## GRADUATIONS



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6. Andrew Kuiken receives his diploma from father and EC board member, Nick Kuiken; 7. Valedictorian Caitlin Shurminsky; 8. Ian Zacharias, commencement speaker; 9. Kylie Kim and Yoseop Kim

On a similar vein, Valedictorian **Caitlin Shurminsky** spoke about following the prompt. “My classmates and I are leaving this place tonight, heading on completely different journeys, but we will all still be following a prompt: God’s prompt,” she shared. She added that our prompt, as believers, comes from the Great Commission found in Matthew 28.

In closing, Shurminsky challenged her classmates with the words from Casting Crowns’ song, *Lifesong*:  
**“Lord, I give my life / A living sacrifice / To reach a world in need / To be Your hands and feet / So may the words I say / And the things I do / Make my lifesong sing / Bring a smile to You / Let my lifesong sing to You.”**

**“THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.” - Matthew 28: 19-20**

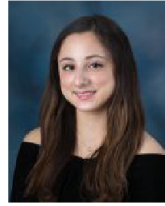
# GRADUATIONS



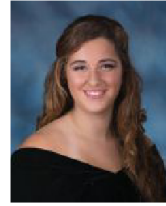
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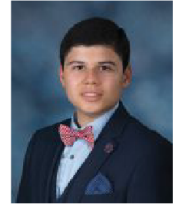
Nicole Chie Aoki



Chloe' Brooke Argyros



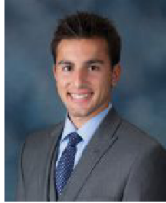
Jessica Lynne Barna



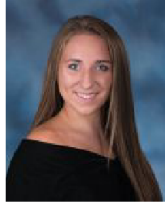
Jesse Ryan Blanco



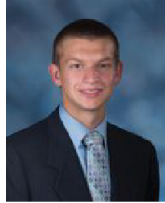
Jane Elizabeth Bond



Richard Peter Boodaghian



Samantha Laura Boonstra



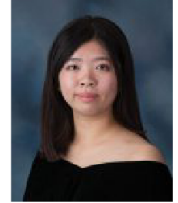
Matthew Robert Bottge



Trent Abram Braen



Natasha Brancato



Chong Cai



Chelsea Loreen Campbell



Hannah Elise Campbell



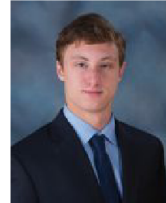
Jonathan Alexander Canales



Laura Pearle Carey



Alexis Ann Cuervo



Daniel Dominic D'Urso



Lujia Dai



Steven Christopher Davis



Aaron Clifford De Rosa



Jeanae Elyse Dedio



Dana Lynn DelPizzo



Kimona Elizabeth  
Janae Dussard



Kelly Grace Dykman



Adam Jacob Dykstra



Kyle Robert Dykstra



Caleb David Engelhard



Jason Robert Englishmen



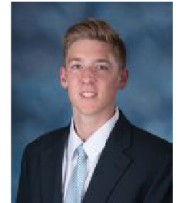
Hannah Layne Furman



Calvin John Gorter



Devin Thurston Graham



Joshua William Groenewal



Mitchell Joseph Haddad



Emma Lee Hagedoorn



Jennifer Lorraine Harrison



Jonathan Robert Hartensveld



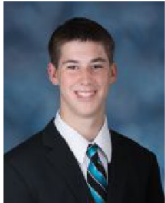
Xinyi He



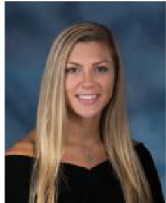
Carter William Heerema



David John Hefty



Jonathan Adam Hook



Morgan Rose Janjigian



Rebekah Jane Jarvis



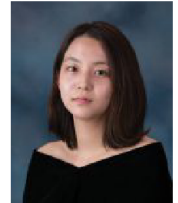
Zhenglei Ji



Wade Thomas Johnson



Eun Jung Kim



Kahyun Kim

# GRADUATIONS



Yoseop Kim



Brielle Marie Kough



Andrew Nicholas Kuiken



Nathaniel David Kuiphoff



GaYoung Lee



Ji Young Lee



Seung Hyun Lee



Sara Lynn Leegwater



Bradley Allen Leentjes



Brandon Lee LeFevre



John Lawrence Lenahan



Shanhui Liao



Bryan Edwin Lineweaver



Sarah Christine Martin



Jordan Taylor Moran



Emily Lynn Mulcock



JaeKan Park



Jaeyoung Park



Sebastian Giscard Pierre



Evan Paul Quintero



Brianne Marie Remy



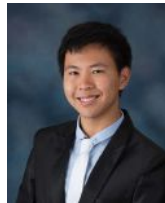
Matthew James Rief



Henry David Ruitenber



Bradley Scott Schipper



Erdong Shang



Caitlin Nicole Shurminsky



Ya-En Sie



Carlin Rae Sietsma



Joel Antonio Smid



Sok Hee Son



Alissa Ann Sytsma



Kelly Ann Tanis



Rachael Adele Tanis



Nicole Anne Tartini



John Richard George Thomas



John Stuart Urciuoli



Ashley Nicole Van Boerum



Mark Richard Van Reeth



Jacob Henry Veenstra



Jonathan Milo Veenstra



Kelsey Anne Veenstra



Samuel Alan Veenstra



Amanda Nicole Vincenti



Michael Anthony Vriesema



Ruide Wang



Xinghui Wei



Mackenzie Ruth Wiegiers



Shao Rui Wu



Yao Xiao

# CLASS OF 2016 AWARDS



## Department Awards

### Art Department Award

Jane Bond  
Kelsey Veenstra

### Bible and Life Award

Amanda Vincenti

### English Department Excellence in Writing Award

Amanda Vincenti

### Eastern Christian Scholastic Writing Award

Kimona Dussard

### Drama Award

Hannah Furman

### Journalism Award

Emma Hagedoorn

### Technology Department Award

Mark Van Reeth

### Spanish Language Award

Bryan Lineweaver

### Mathematics Award

Jonathan Hook  
Bradley Schipper

### John Philip Sousa Award (Band Award)

Emily Mulcock

### Orchestra Award

Michelle Sie  
Caleb Engelhard

### Choral Award

Amanda Vincenti

### Overall Musical Achievement "Arion Award"

Matthew Rief

## Athletic Department Awards

### ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Jonathan Veenstra  
Kelly Tanis

### NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Carter Heerema

### Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award

Carter Heerema  
Bryan Lineweaver  
Kelly Tanis  
Jake Veenstra  
Jonathan Veenstra  
Sam Veenstra

### New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Kelly Tanis

### North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award

Jason Englishmen  
Kelly Tanis

## School and Community Awards

### Valedictorian Recognition

Caitlin Shurminsky

### Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Rachael Tanis

### Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Mark Van Reeth

### Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Sara Leegwater

### Smith-Shute Nursing Scholarship

Sara Leegwater

### The Harold Phillips Vocational Scholarship

Carlin Sietsma

### Henriette & Kathryn Houseward Vocational Scholarship

Carlin Sietsma

### Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award

Emma Hagedoorn

### Richard J. Vander Plaat Service Award

Kelly Dykman

### Peter D. Bordin Memorial Music Scholarship

Mathew Rief

### High School Faculty Award

Bryan Lineweaver

### Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Bryan Lineweaver  
Caitlin Shurminsky

## State and National Award Winners

### President's Education Award - Gold Certificate

Nicole Aoki  
Jesse Blanco  
Hannah Campbell  
Laura Carey  
Aaron De Rosa  
Kimona Dussard  
Kyle Dykstra  
Hannah Furman  
Mitchell Haddad  
Emma Hagedoorn  
Carter Heerema  
Jonathan Hook  
Rebekah Jarvis  
Eun Jung Kim  
Kahyun Kim  
Seung Hyun Lee  
Bryan Lineweaver  
Jaeyoung Park  
Sebastian Pierre  
Matthew Rief  
Henry Ruitenber  
Bradley Schipper  
Erdong Shang  
Caitlin Shurminsky  
Carlin Sietsma  
Alissa Sytsma  
Rachael Tanis  
Jacob Veenstra  
Jonathan Veenstra  
Samuel Veenstra  
Amanda Vincenti  
Xinghui Wei  
Mackenzie Wiegars  
Yao Xiao

### New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipient

Nicole Aoki  
Jesse Blanco  
Hannah Campbell  
Jeanae Dedio  
Kimona Dussard  
Mitchell Haddad  
Jonathan Hook  
Rebekah Jarvis  
Bryan Lineweaver  
Matthew Rief  
Bradley Schipper  
Caitlin Shurminsky



# CLASS OF 2016 COLLEGES

The Class of 2016 reported their college acceptances and post-graduate plans to the College and Career Office. Following is a list of colleges and U.S. Military services reported.



Albright College	Fairleigh Dickinson University
American University	Felician University
Anderson University	Florida Institute of Technology
Andrews University	Fordham University
Arcadia University	Fortis Institute
Arizona State University	Gardner Webb University
Art Center College of Design	Geneva College
Asbury University	George Mason University
Azusa Pacific University	George Washington University
Babson College	Gordon College
Belmont University	Grove City College
Bergen Community College	Hartford Art School at University of Hartford
Bloomfield College	High Point University
Boston University	Irvine Valley College
Bowie State University	La Salle University
Cairn University	Liberty University
Caldwell University	Lincoln Technical Institute
California College of the Arts	Loyola University Maryland
Calvin College	Lycoming College
Catholic University of America	Marist College
Cedarville University	Maryland Institute College of Arts
Chapman University	Messiah College
Clarion University	Monmouth University
College of Charleston	Montana State University
Cornell University	Montclair State University
Covenant College	New Jersey Institute of Technology
CUNY Baruch College	New York Film Academy
Drew University	New York International Academy
Drexel University	New York University
Duquesne University	Northeastern University
Eastern University	Norwich University
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University	Nyack College
Emerson College	
Fairfield University	

Oakwood University	SUNY New Paltz
Palm Beach Atlantic University	Syracuse University
Passaic County Community College	Temple University
Penn State University	Texas Christian University
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts	The College of New Jersey
Pratt Institute	The College of William & Mary
Purdue University	Towson University
Quinnipiac University	Trinity Christian College
Ramapo College of New Jersey	University of California, Irvine
Randolph-Macon College	University of California, San Diego
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Rider University	University of Iowa
Roberts Wesleyan University	University of Maryland, College Park
Roger Williams University	University of Minnesota
Rowan University	University of New Haven
Rutgers University	University of Pennsylvania
Sacred Heart University	University of Rhode Island
Saint Thomas Aquinas College	University of Richmond
Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Rochester
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Scranton
Seton Hall University	University of Texas at Austin
Siena College	University of Vermont
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at City College	University of Virginia
Southern Adventist University	University of Washington
Springfield College	United States Coast Guard
St. John's University	United States Military Academy at West Point
Stevens Institute of Technology	Virginia Military Institute
SUNY Stony Brook	Westmont College
SUNY Binghamton	William Paterson University
SUNY Buffalo	Word of Life Bible Institute



Graduates representing their chosen schools of higher education

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION

Recognizing the Bigger Picture

Family and friends packed the neatly lined rows of chairs in the middle school gym on Thursday, June 16, to celebrate the accomplishments of 66 eighth graders and cheer them on to new beginnings in high school.



1. Brayden Vogel, Tyler Rumsey, Sam Faber, Dylan Olsen, Ryan Carey, Chase De Jong;  
2. Valedictorian Ben Parker

The evening was highlighted by a commencement address from Principal **Dan Lazor**. He shared slides from a wordless book titled, *Zoom*. The book started with a zoomed in photo of a rooster's crown, and gradually panned out to reveal an entire farm scene.

Comparing the book to life in general, Lazor added, "You see, there are many things that have occurred in your life over the last four years which may only now at this point be coming into focus. Perhaps there are some events that have occurred, which leave you unsure as to how they fit into the final picture, no

matter how significant or insignificant those events seem right now. But those events are nevertheless a part of the makeup of who you are becoming, and those events will one day be clear as to how they fit into the total picture."

He went on to tell a story about how sari's are woven in India, comparing it with the metaphor of God weaving beauty and design into our lives. He ended

“

WE CAN WITH CONFIDENCE KEEP OUR EYES FIXED ON THE FATHER, WAITING FOR HIS NOD, AND RESPONDING IN OBEDIENCE TO DO THAT WHICH HE ASKS US TO DO.”



Connor (Gangseok) Shin

## GRADUATIONS



3



4



5

with a word of encouragement to the graduating class: “Like the illustrations in the book *Zoom*, there are parts of the image that will be unclear until we have a

greater perspective as to how they fit into the whole picture. However, we can with confidence keep our eyes fixed on the Father, waiting for His nod, and responding in

obedience to do that which he asks us to do.”

Students played a key role in the evening. The night included a student address by Valedictorian **Benjamin Parker** and an opening prayer by **Salutatorian Hope Hartman**. The eighth grade ensemble, comprised of 20 eighth grade girls, sang two songs: *On My Own* from *Les Miserables* and *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)* by Hillsong United.



6

3. Full class; 4. Girls ensemble; 5. Andre Gardner with mom; 6. L-R, Hope Urdang, Tara Brain, Francesca Boru, Morgan Vulpone, Jasmin Lazer, Alexis Schoener

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Fourth Grade Promotion Chapel



The sun flooded through the top windows of the gym, casting a soft glow on the fourth grade graduates below. Soon, the sounds of recorders playing Ode to Joy filled the room, signaling their final farewell to elementary school.

The fourth grade promotion chapel, held Tuesday, June 14, was a time to celebrate the accomplishments of 44 students and spur them on to new beginnings in middle school.

After a welcome and invocation by Executive Director **Tom Dykhouse**, Fourth Grade Teachers **Donna Hoogerhyde** and



1. Donna Hoogerhyde hands out a diploma to Hannah Visbeen; 2. Richard and Sarah Lee with Sarena



**Carol Byma** read four passages of scripture related to the year's theme of running the race. The program continued with two songs, the presentation of certificates, and a speech from ECES Principal **Sandra Bottge**.

milestones the students achieved over the past few years. She then turned their attention to the future, exhorting them to “run your race with perseverance, no matter what hurdles you will encounter.”

The ceremony ended with a welcome to middle school from Principal **Dan Lazor**, followed by a prayer. His prayer stemmed from Hebrews 12, and he ended with, “May he give you eyes that are fixed on Jesus, who is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”



Fourth graders play Ode to Joy

“Today marks the completion of the last mile of your elementary school race,” Bottge said, as she went through some of the more important

# PRESCHOOL

## Graduation and Special Memories



“

WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE SO VERY SPECIAL. OUR PRAYER

IS THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON JESUS.”

The evening closed with a prayer from Principal **Sandra Bottge**. Before praying, she took the time to congratulate the youngest graduates on a job well done: “We loved your singing and we are so proud of you.”

**The snapshots on the screen as guests arrived served as touching reminders of a special year. There were Abma’s Farm hayride and pumpkin picking pictures, photos of reading buddies, and of course, costume-clad portraits from the annual Thanksgiving Feast. It was a good reminder of all the work—as well as the fun—that occurs during preschool.**

run the race that’s set before you by God who is always on your side,” they sang during the chorus. The medley rolled through a series of other songs and then ended with a familiar stanza: Jesus Loves Me.

Prior to the presentation of certificates, preschool teacher **Kathy Faasse** added, “We know that they are so very special. Our prayer is that they will continue to focus on Jesus, which is what they’ve been taught this year.

The year’s culminating activity—graduation—occurred on Tuesday, June 14 at Cedar Hill CRC with 41 preschool students in attendance.

A highlight of the night included a medley of songs sung by an animated and joyful group of students and conducted by **Nancy Martin**. The first, titled *Run*, tied back to the school theme of running the race. “Run with all your might, out of darkness into light,



1. The Class of 2016 performs for a packed house; 2. Hailey Anema and her dad, Mark; 3. Nathaniel Van Lenten; 4. Christopher Im

## SPECIAL MOMENTS

From the 2016 Graduations



## GRADUATIONS



7



8

“AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE GOD HAS SET BEFORE US.”



9



10



11



12



13

1. Jason Englishmen and Nicole Tartini; 2. Mary, Kelly and David Dykman; 3. Fourth graders play Ode to Joy; 4. Lamont & Marivic Roberson with Lena; 5. Sam Faber with sister Taylor and Alumnus Seth Stadtlander; 6. Danielle Lee, Brenna Nelson, Clara Vander Pyl; 7. Shane Taylor & Caitlin Westra; 8. Addison Baitzel and mom Rochelle; 9. Justin Kim with sister Katie; 10. Matthew and Anne Spatz with Makena; 11. Aaron DeRosa; 12. Rachel Tanis; 13. The preschool children singing during the ceremony

**Congratulations to all of our 2016 EC Graduates!**

## BOLGER CHALLENGE

EC Meets the Challenge

**J.T. Bolger, Treasurer/Trustee of The Bolger Foundation presents a check for \$30,000.00 to Tom Dykhouse, Executive Director and Head of School and David Visbeen, Executive Director of The Foundation for ECSA.**

The Bolger Foundation challenged EC to raise \$60,000.00 for security upgrades. Thanks to The Bolger Foundation and our generous supporters, Eastern Christian School will be making \$90,000.00 in security improvements this summer.



## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

Beyond a Lifetime Impact

**Late last year, two of Eastern Christian School's ministry partners provided the funds to create charitable gift annuities (CGA). A CGA is a contract (not a "trust"), under which a charity, in return for a transfer of cash, marketable securities or other assets, agrees to pay a fixed amount of money to one or two individuals, for their lifetime.**

A CGA provides an immediate tax deduction for a portion of the gift amount. Capital gain is spread out and a portion of the annual payment is tax exempt. CGA's generally escape estate tax and inheritance taxes. The interest rate received by the donor(s) is based on the donor's age. In the case of our donors who were in their early to mid 80's, the rates were 6.10% and 6.60%.

Using an example of a \$20,000.00 CGA at 6.1%, the donor(s) will receive an \$8,859.08 tax deduction. If

the donor is unable to use the entire deduction in the current year, the deduction can be carried over for five years. The donor(s) will receive \$305.00 in quarterly payments (this example is a 2 life, husband and wife, annuity) for the life of both individuals. Eastern Christian School receives the balance of the funds at the death of the donor(s).

For individuals who have supported Eastern Christian School a Charitable Gift Annuity is a wonderful way to continue that support after their lifetime. For those liquidating assets or tiring of low rates at the bank or in CD's, a CGA is an option worth considering. Eastern Christian School partners with Barnabas Foundation for charitable gift annuities.

For more information, contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School at 973-427-9294 or [foundation@easternchristian.org](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org).



**FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO CONTINUE THAT SUPPORT AFTER THEIR LIFETIME.**



# MILESTONES

## EC Community Milestones

**Every spring, hundreds of thousands of students across the country reach a milestone in their education and graduate. At Eastern Christian School and in this edition of The Herald we mark those milestones in Pre-K, 4th Grade, Middle School and High School. But those aren't the only milestones reached at EC that are worthy of mention. Let me share just a sampling of others:**

On the first day of school in September, we celebrated the 5th anniversary of ditto of North Jersey. For five years ditto's directors, managers, and volunteers have labored to create a store that has become an important part of the larger community, serving customers from Bergen and Passaic County. ditto is recognized for quality products, exceptional pricing, and friendly service. Early in May, ditto sent a check to EC as it does each month. But this was a special check. **ditto of North Jersey has now donated \$752,800.00 to Eastern Christian School. That is a net donation after all operating expenses were paid.** This year brought yet another milestone to ditto. As of April 30, 2016 **volunteers have given 60,679 hours** of their time to sort donations, stock racks and shelves, and serve the community. That works out to more than **29 years of full-time labor.** Every EC student has benefited from those hours of labor and we thank God for our dedicated volunteers. What a blessing to be a part of this community.

In October, 2015 Eastern Christian School celebrated the first Homecoming Weekend in recent memory. We were blessed with a wonderful Fall weekend and we filled the days with fun and exciting events. Hundreds of alumni and friends came to the campuses to celebrate homecoming. It was a great weekend and a time of wonderful fellowship for the EC community.

In March, 2016 The Foundation for Eastern Christian School published our first Annual Stewardship Report. The report shared exciting updates by our campus administrators of what is happening on each of the campuses; a State of the School report from Executive Director and Head of School Tom Dykhouse; a financial report; and a listing of those who gave generously in 2015. This was our opportunity to share how your gifts are being stewarded to accomplish the mission of Eastern Christian School and to celebrate our generous community.

In April the EC community came together for the all new Eastern Christian Auction Gala. Changes this year included a new venue and a new theme. Our amazing community came out in record numbers to support Eastern Christian and the event raised a record \$75,000.00 for Christian education. We are amazed by our supporting community.

Late last year, The Bolger Foundation offered Eastern Christian School a \$30,000.00

## 2016 Service Awards

### 5 years

Eric Boonstra  
Ralph Rypkema  
Melody Zacharias

### 10 years

Donna Aceino  
Christina Buccini  
Nancy Martin  
Justin Van Dyke  
Wayne Vriesema

### 15 years

Cynthia Flim  
Donna Hoogerhyde  
Lynda Pasqueretta

### 20 years

Joyce Breur  
Debra Veenstra

### 25 years

Kathy Faasse  
Daniel Martin

### 30 years

Joel Apol  
Cynthia Visbeen

### Retiring

Anne Borduin

grant for security upgrades. The Bolger Foundation wanted to be certain that the EC community was also involved and so the offer came with a challenge. Eastern Christian School had to raise \$60,000.00 in order to receive the \$30,000.00 grant. It was late April when we received the last of the challenge dollars. How did we do it? We simply made our community aware of the need and the dollars were donated. For rising to the challenge and raising the needed funds, we thank our Eastern Christian School community.

God has blessed Eastern Christian School with an amazing and generous community of friends. Thank you to each and everyone of you for all that you have done to help EC succeed this year. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

## AUCTION GALA

Record Attendance

April 21, 2016 was a special night for Eastern Christian School. The Annual Spring Auction Gala was held at Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes and saw a record attendance of 321 guests. Those guests came ready to support EC.



After our guests registered at the entrance, they were treated to a cold antipasto buffet and a room packed with an incredible variety of Silent Auction items. All the while, a video loop featuring the Live Auction items for sale later in the evening was running, providing a preview of what was to come.

Following the buffet dinner, the Silent Auction was closed and the guests were invited to take their seats for the Live Auction. At times, bidding was intense. Our auctioneer and spotters made sure things moved quickly and entertained us as well. Highlights from the Live Auction included a backstage tour of Weekend Today New York with Pat Battle, a week in



1. Auction guests research the items up for bid; 2. Ryan '11 and Paige '11 Visbeen; 3. Raeann '44, Garry, Larry '70, and Carole Dykhouse '72



St John, and a cooking class with Chef Christine Nunn at Picnic on the Square.

Along with a record crowd, this year's Spring Auction Gala raised a record amount for Eastern Christian School. Thank you to our generous community for raising \$75,000.00+ to support the important ministry of Eastern Christian School.

# GOLF OUTING

2016 Spring Event



Dennis Bloom '03, Dave Rainville '10, David Marais, Mike Dykhouse '08, Steve Hook '09, Zach Westra '09, Matt Boonstra '09, Keith Spoelstra '07

The morning began with temperatures below 40 degrees and high winds, but the sun was shining and 127 hearty golfers came to support Eastern Christian School. By the time of the shotgun start, temps had climbed, winds had calmed (just a bit) and spirits were high. It was a fabulous outing!

This year we welcomed 31 additional golfers and were delighted to provide beautiful 2016 EC Golf Outing golf shirts to each player. We also welcomed a number of new sponsors. Thanks to the increased number of players and especially thanks to our sponsors, our net profit to Eastern Christian School

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## Planned Giving The 1892 Society

Continue your legacy of partnering in the ministry of Eastern Christian School.

You may have been giving to EC for a short-time or for your life-time. But have you considered giving beyond your lifespan? Whether you think of yourself as wealthy, poor, or somewhere in between your gift can make a lasting difference over time. Your gift to EC may even increase what your family receives by reducing estate/inheritance taxes.

The 1892 Society is a group of ministry partners that have named Eastern Christian School in their estate plan. They will leave a legacy and have a lasting impact on the ministry of Eastern Christian School.

For more information on The 1892 Society and planned giving, contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School.

[foundation@easternchristian.org](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org) | 973-427-9294

rose by more than 25% to a record \$45,000.00.

To view video and pictures from the day, as well as the listing of winners, visit [easternchristian.org](http://easternchristian.org) and search: **127 golfers.**

# SAVE *the* DATE

## OCTOBER 21 - OCTOBER 23

2nd Annual EC5K  
Boys', Girls' and Alumni Soccer  
Family Fun Fair & BBQ  
Heritage Alumni Sunday Dinner  
Alumni Choir Concert  
And more!

### HOMECOMING

2016

and

# EC5K

[www.easternchristian.org/homecoming](http://www.easternchristian.org/homecoming)

We are very proud of and grateful for our supporting community.

Join us for these fun and family-friendly Homecoming events!

## ALUMNI

*Note: The Alumni News printed was received via a written note, e-mail, or from media sources. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions.*

**Georgia (Faber) Meeter '67** graduated June 2016 magna cum laude from Fuller Theological Seminary with a Masters in Global Leadership. She plans to develop recovery care and spiritual mentoring in the local church and to “go on the road” with seminars and classes on family spiritual formation, youth social media, and for all to “finish well” with relationships and Kingdom outreach. Georgia comments, “I have deep gratitude for my family and EC heritage creating a lifelong impact on my faith and life... and simply desire to share that joy and path with others.”

**Nancy Dykstra-Powers '71** has retired after 27 years as Director of Bethany Christian Services of NJ/NY/CT. Under her leadership the office grew from a staff of 3 to 23. She began the Manhattan office in 2000, Rochester in 2006, Albany in 2008 and Danbury CT in 2011. She gives thanks to God for the privilege of placing children into loving Christian homes. She now has a private practice in Waldwick NJ specializing in marriage counseling, and conflict resolution with teens.

*Reformation Riches for the Contemporary Church: Liberation for Both Skeptics and Burned-Out Evangelicals* by **David**

**Bruins '75**, was recently released by Wipf & Stock Publishers. Bruins says that while he “always appreciated to some degree the clarity the Reformation brought to understanding the Bible and the Gospel, when I really delved into the riches of the Reformation in recent years, I began to realize just how amazing and liberating Christianity really is. I began to see how important it is for many of today’s churches to rediscover

these liberating treasures of biblical Christianity.” To schedule a book signing at your church or organization or to order a book, visit [reformationriches.com](http://reformationriches.com) or contact [reformationriches@gmail.com](mailto:reformationriches@gmail.com).

**George Montanari '83**, has started his 14th year serving as pastor of Middlebush Reformed Church in Somerset, New Jersey. He also serves as a Fire Police Officer and Chaplain of the Middlebush Volunteer Fire Department, who has recognized him with the First Chief Elmer T. Smith Memorial Award. This is the department’s highest honor, awarded annually to a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the department.

**Amy (Douma) Brooks '90** was recently elected to the Executive Board of GEMS Girls’ Clubs. GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a non-denominational ministry with clubs offered in local churches and Christian organizations throughout the US and Canada. GEMS offers girls in grades 1-8 the perfect place to learn and grow as they discover who God created them to be. Amy has been involved with GEMS in various ways on the local level for the past 20 years.

**Dr. Julie (Dykhouse) Tokarski, '01**, has completed her advanced training in pediatric emergency medicine at Montefiore Children’s Hospital in The Bronx, N.Y. Julie graduated from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of Rutgers University in 2010 and completed her residency in general pediatrics, also at Montefiore, in 2013. She is becoming an attending physician in the pediatric emergency room of Mt. Sinai Hospital in Manhattan

and a member of the faculty of its associated medical school. Julie is married to **Bill Tokarski '01**, who is Assistant Vice President of Daiwa Capital Markets America, Inc.

**Ashley Braen '10** was awarded a 2016 New Jersey Teaching Fellowship by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. This highly competitive program recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and math—the STEM fields—and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools.

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### Celebrations

**Sharon Veenstra '93** & Michael Atema were married on 2/13/2016.

**Gretchen Steen '98** & Peter Schweigert welcomed a son, Brahm Alton Philip Steen Schweigert on 2/11/16. He joins big brother Arlo (2).

Marissa & **Keith Kooistra '99** welcomed a daughter, Mikaela Elizabeth Fontainhas on 2/3/16. She joins Daniela (age 5).

Amar & **Julia (Belanus) Patel '99** welcomed a daughter, Liliana. She joins big brother Logan (age 3).

Sam & **Melissa (Bruins) Macy '99** welcomed a daughter, Lilah Jeane on 2/6/16. She joins siblings Christian & Caitlin.

Ashley & **Joe Tanis '00** welcomed a son, Sage Joseph on 4/3/16.

Andrea & **David Steenstra '02** welcomed a son, Caleb David on 1/27/16. He joins big brother Josiah.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Philip '02 & Lindsey (Braunius) Tuit '02** welcomed a son, Aiden Philip on 12/8/15. He joins Brandon (age 3).

Katie & **Allan Fix '03** welcomed twin sons, Curtis Lennon and Hank Alexander on 3/18/16.

**Margaret (Betsy) Ratcliffe-Lee '03** & Yeung Cheung were married on 12/11/15. They reside in Whippany, NJ.

**Brad Huther '04** & Angelica Kukla were married on 4/30/16.

Lauren & **Nick Lindemulder '04** welcomed a daughter, Emma Audrey on 11/30/15 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Jordan & **Mandy (Kuiken) Minnema '04** welcomed a son, Evan Elijah on 3/28/16.

AJ & **Larissa (Troast) Santino '04** welcomed a daughter, Shiphrah Joy on 2/18/16. She joins big sisters Jayelle and Hadassah.

**Sarah Veenema '04** & Wesley Livesey were married on 4/2/16. They are living in Bloomfield, NJ.

**Kevin Van Schepen '04** & Elizabeth Babyak were married on 4/3/16. They reside in Pompton Lakes, NJ.

**Kelli Bollen '05** & Peter Daood were married on 5/7/16. They reside in Clifton, NJ.

Carlos & **Annette (Kuperus) Franco '05** welcomed a son, Lucas Charles on 5/13/16.

**Jillian Gallagher '05** & David Kertesz were married on 7/5/16. They reside in Ireland.

Steve & **Kristin (Dykhouse) Gelenter '05** welcomed a son, Bryce Thomas on 5/27/16.

**Michael '05** & **Suzanne (Tarta) Kraai '05** welcomed a son, Charles Michael on 3/4/16.

**Taylor Maneri '05** & Kristine Durkin were married on 4/30/16. They reside in Haledon, NJ.

**Sara Davidson '05** & **Sean Tanner '05** were married on 2/21/16. They reside in Flanders, NJ.

**Ben & Melanie (Susen) Vanderbeck '05** welcomed a

daughter, Evelyn Ruth on 2/21/16.

Rachel & **Michael de waal Malefyt '06** welcomed a daughter, Lydia Marie on 4/9/16.

Greg & **Brooke (Veenstra) Hagedoorn '07** welcomed a son, Owen Gregory on 5/27/16.

David & **Alyssa (Vanden Berg) Johnston '07** welcomed a son, Nicolaas David on 2/26/16.

**Justin Van Dyke '07** & Sara Joo were married on 4/30/16. They reside in Hawthorne, NJ.

Katie & **Kyle Klingler '08** welcomed twin sons, Kole Joseph and Mason Kyle on 4/30/16.

**Ryan Dykstra '11** & Samantha Abma were married on 7/1/16. They reside in North Haledon, NJ.

**Courtney Martin '11** & Travis Dedrick were married on 4/8/16. They reside in Prospect Park, NJ.

**Send your alumni news to: [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org)**

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Left to right, clockwise:  
 1. Bryce Thomas, Steve & Kristin Dykhouse '05 Gelenter; 2. Samantha Grace, Nick '00 and Kristen Joustra '90 Vander Plaat; 3. Josephine James, Bryan and Katie Tarta (EC staff); 4. Kenleigh Joy, Steve '98 and Jessica Dykstra '02 Lagerveld; 5. Charles Michael, Michael '05 and Suzanne Tarta '05 Kraai; 6. Raegan Grace, Brian & Meghan Visbeen '07 Vis; 7. Nicolaas David, David & Alyssa Vanden Berg '07 Johnston; 8. Eli, Ian (EC faculty) and Melody Lyman '07 Zacharias (EC faculty)

# REMEMBERING

*The Foundation Office has learned of the following deaths of these alumni and former faculty members since our last issue of **The Herald**.*

## Former Faculty & Board

**Ida (Kuiphoff) Martin '46** of Whitehouse Station, NJ on 5/18/16. She worked at EC from 1981-1983 as a remedial teacher and paraprofessional.

**Helen (Sikkema) Van Harken '49** of Waldwick, NJ on 4/2/16. She taught at Eastern Christian Elementary School for 31 years.

**Thomas Holwerda** of Grand Rapids, Mich on 5/1/16. Tom taught at Eastern Christian from 1963-1967 and was Principal of Eastern Christian High School from 1973-1981.

**Nicholas Huizenga** of Grand Rapids, Mich on 6/19/16. He was EC's Junior High School Principal from 1967-1987.

**Nicholas Veenstra '68** of North Haledon, NJ on 6/11/16. Nick served on EC's Board of Directors during the 1990s and was a member of the facilities and transportation committees.

## Alumni

**Jessie (Rienstra) Gelderloos '33** of Jenison, Mich on 12/6/15.

**Douglas Bush '37** of Grand Rapids, Mich on 4/28/16.

**Helen (Haringa) Halma '38** of Wayne, NJ on 2/10/16.

**Florence (Jelsma) Fawley '41** of Westerville, Ohio on 5/6/16.

**Katherine "Kay" (Postma) Veenstra '42** of North Haledon, NJ on 3/12/16.

**Wilmer Witte '44** of Grandville, Mich on 5/10/16.

**Harold Dyer '45** of Wyckoff, NJ on 2/22/16.

**Alice (Kruithof) Baker '45** of Midland Park, NJ on 3/9/16.

**Harry Westra '46** of Pompton Plains, NJ on 2/21/16.

**Alice (Dyer) Ruitenberg '48** of Oakland, NJ on 1/14/16.

**Gertrude (Vermaas) Borst '52** of Midland Park, NJ on 1/13/16.

**Nancy (Stelpstra) Huettmann Cutler '56** of Pinetown, NC on 1/23/16.

**Shirley (Orbeck) Buwalda '61** of Wayne, NJ on 3/17/16.

**Ildiko (Havassy) Zarzycki '66** of Marlboro, NY on 12/16/15.

**Mark Cooper '68** of Clifton, NJ on 2/21/16.

**Janice (Walkotten) Haystead '68** of Montague, MI on 3/17/16.

# REUNIONS

## Class of 1966: 50-Year Reunion



**On Saturday, June 4, 41 members of the class of 1966 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.**

Three members traveled from as far as California, one came from Canada, and many from the Midwest and other states. Tom Dykhouse led a group of alumni on a tour of the High School in the afternoon and those who came were amazed at the changes. Seeing some of the familiar classrooms brought back wonderful

memories. In the evening 70 people (classmates and spouses) gathered for dinner at Portobello's Restaurant in Oakland. We enjoyed hearing Andy Swankie and Pete Ten Kate share their favorite stories of their time at Eastern Christian. Even though it had been years since some of our classmates had seen each other, it didn't take long to renew old friendships. Our time together went quickly and we look forward to our next reunion!



## Thurmeka Ward '04

### An Old EC Kid at New City Kids

By Emma Hagedoorn '16

Only 9 percent of low income students graduate college. However, 90 percent of New City alumni in the past seven years are in—or have already graduated from—college.

New City Kids is a non-profit organization focusing on different aspects of child development, including academics, leadership, music and spiritual growth. There are three different locations, including one in Paterson. According to its website, the reason behind New City's success is their message to kids: "You are valuable."

Thurmeka Ward, who goes by the name Meka, works as the After School Center Director in the Paterson location of New City Kids, and she is also an alumna of Eastern Christian School.

As a student, Ward was involved in many different activities that EC offers, such as track, cheerleading, choir and Timothy Group leadership. "Eastern Christian was very influential for me and helped foster the things I love to do," Ward said. "It shaped my Christian values, principles and academics. Even when I come back, I am received with love. I love the community aspect."

After graduating from ECHS in 2004, Ward went on to St. John's University in Queens, NY and then graduate school at Bank Street College of Education in

► FEATURE continued on page 30

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Heritage Years - 50 Years or more

Sunday, October 23

Alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more are invited to a catered "Sunday Dinner" at the High School cafeteria at noon as part of our homecoming activities. More information will be emailed and available on our website.

### Class of 1967 - 50 Year Reunion in 2017

Plans are underway for the Class of 1967's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion next year!

Georgia (Faber) Meeter is committee chair and can be contacted directly at [gmeeter@gmail.com](mailto:gmeeter@gmail.com) or by calling 315-415-8400. We welcome your participation whether in person or online. We will be selecting a date and developing a class survey and facebook page. Please send us your ideas and updated addresses – both email and postal mail. We look forward to a great response and reunion celebrating our EC heritage!

### Class of 1976 - 40 Year Reunion

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Our 40-Year Reunion is at Portobello Restaurant, Oakland, NJ. Check out the class facebook page at: [Class of 1976 Eastern Christian School Reunion](#) and join the conversation! Invitations are on their way. Contact Judy (Veenstra) Bruinooge at [judybruinooge@easternchristian.org](mailto:judybruinooge@easternchristian.org)

### Class of 2006 - 10 Year Reunion

Saturday, November 26, 2016

Our 10-year reunion is at The Brownstone, Paterson, NJ on Saturday, November 26 from 8pm-12am. The cost is \$65.00 per person. Money can be sent by check to Kali (De Haan) Spoelstra at 12 Carter Road, Haskell, NJ 07420 or via Venmo@ [kalspoel](#). Classmates can find more information on our Facebook page or email Kali for more information at [kalispoelstra@gmail.com](mailto:kalispoelstra@gmail.com).

## ► FEATURE continued

Manhattan. Majoring in Psychology as an undergraduate and General and Special Education as a graduate student, she went on to become a teacher.

Ward grew up attending Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church, which has a partnership with New City Kids. This is where she first heard about the ministry. As a teen she would collaborate with New City Kids teens and volunteer there with her church youth group. In 2015, she reached out to New City Kids in Paterson to see how she could help, and soon became a part

of its after school center.

“I love all the aspects of New City Kids. Whether it’s the singing, music, leading worship for the kids, or just how artsy and creative it is. I love that stuff,” Ward said. “I’ve always wanted to mentor teens and develop relationships with kids in other ways than being a teacher, and this allows me to do that. Plus, I still get to interact with the place and church I grew up in, so it is cool for people who saw me grow up to be able to see me as a leader now.”

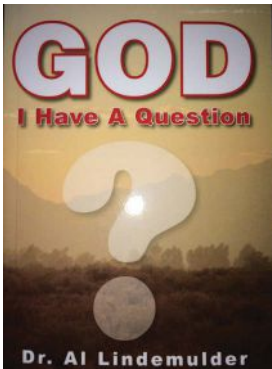
She adds: “EC really helped mold me into being someone who is confident

in Christianity and gave me a platform to express myself vocally and as a leader.” For more information about New City Kids, or how to volunteer or donate, email Ward at meka@newcitykids.org.

*Editor’s Note: This is a condensed version of an article that originally ran in the March issue of the student newspaper, EC Times. The original version, written by senior Emma Hagedoorn, was awarded Honorable Mention in Ball State University’s J-Day Contest, an annual contest that draws student entries across the nation. This year, Emma was also awarded second place for her article about the EC basketball team’s tribute to Dan Hoffman. This piece was first published in the Hawthorne Press, and later in the EC Times.*

## Al Lindemulder ’64

### Retired...kind of



Perhaps some people view retirement as a time to slow down and take time for self. For retired pastor, Al Lindemulder, however, it was a time to explore a new career: writing.

He has authored two books published by Inkwell Productions, called *Life: It is all about God*; and *God, I have a Question*. In addition to his writing pursuits, Lindemulder also leads worship a couple times a month, does pastoral care work for his home church, Pinnacle Presbyterian, and serves as deacon.

“The first book began with a devotional I gave at a board meeting, which turned into a series of sermons, and I decided to try my hand at writing. I was retired and had time,” he explains.

Lindemulder’s books address questions people have about their own life and about the Bible. In *Life: It is all about God*, he distills content down to answering four basic questions: “Who am I? Why do I do what I do? What should I do? What should I expect?” His latter book looks at Bible-related content questions. “It attempts to give the reader permission to ask an eternal God questions in a temporal world,” he says.

Lindemulder recalls his journey to becoming a pastor and now author, which includes an education at Eastern Christian. “I appreciate all the good interaction I had with [my former classmates] while at EC,” he shares. “I was always a fan of EC.” What stands out most to him was the “great learning experience” and “life-long friendships.” He also recalls a bit of teenage mischief as a highlight: “A friend and I got caught sunbathing on

the roof of the auditorium during an assembly.”



From high school, he attended Calvin College, Calvin Seminary and Western Conservative Baptist Seminary. Although he initially wanted to pursue social work, the Lord eventually called him to ministry in an organized church. This calling has been an adventure.

“Meeting people and conversing with them about life in general is an exciting aspect. There is always something new to learn. Helping people make adjustments and trying new things is a constant challenge. They come to you for help but they also want to define how you should help them,” says Lindemulder. “I think we do that with our prayer requests to God as well.”

Lindemulder’s books can be ordered at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, as well as directly from the publisher, Inkwellproductions.com.





*David Van Heemst and his wife April, flanked by their five children—a set of 15-year-old twins named Maggie and Ellie; and a set of 9-year-old triplets named Ani, Libby and Jessie.*

## David Van Heemst '84

### Something to agree on

The debates have been raging at dinner tables for months now.

Yet no matter what side Christians fall on in the upcoming election, Dr. David Van Heemst offers this thought:

“The key is to have clarity in terms of our over-arching goal. Biblically speaking, there are over 800 verses that challenge Christians to seek justice in politics. So, the overall goal is clear: how do we build a more just society? It’s encouraging to see so many Christians discussing not only the current campaign but also contemporary policy issues framed this way: which option helps us to achieve a more just society—especially for those who cannot advocate for themselves?”

Van Heemst knows a thing or two about politics, to put it mildly. He earned his Ph.D in Government at the University of Virginia in 1993. In the same year, he was hired as the first-ever Political Science professor at Olivet Nazarene University, where he cultivated an award-winning program and authored five books. His publishing credits include, *Empowering the Poor: Why Justice Requires School Choice* (published by Scarecrow Education) and *Hope in Troubled Times: A New Vision for Confronting Global Crises* (published by Baker Academic Press).

His favorite part about being a professor is “interacting with the students.” He adds, “It’s incredible to think that I can be a small part of God’s will for their lives. I get to challenge them to see how they might be a part of God’s redeeming/renewing/right-making work in this world. I love helping them to see that the question is not, ‘what’s God’s will for my life?’ but rather, ‘how can I become part of God’s will for His world?’”

Although currently living in Illinois, Van Heemst spent 13 years at Eastern Christian, “from Miss Van Melle’s kindergarten class at old Prospect Park CRC to our 7-win varsity basketball season my senior year,” he adds.

He shares that in addition to the “legacy of teachers who invested in the lives of their students,” he also appreciates the consistent tone of his Christian education. He explains: “The constant theme running throughout those years was the challenge to live out the whole of our lives from a kingdom perspective. That education not only shaped my life, but is now impacting the students under my charge. It’s been deeply moving to witness God’s faithfulness from generation to generation.”

***“I love helping [students] to see that the question is not, ‘what’s God’s will for my life?’ but rather, ‘how can I become part of God’s will for His world?’”***

## HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO SHARE WITH THE EC COMMUNITY?

Let us know and you might be published in an upcoming issue of The Herald. You can email [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org) or call Beth Milkamp, Alumni Relations at 973-427-9294.

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The 1892 Society is a group of ministry partners that have named Eastern Christian School in their estate plan. They will leave a legacy and have a lasting impact on the ministry of Eastern Christian School.

For more information on The 1892 Society and planned giving, contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School.

[foundation@easternchristian.org](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org)  
973-427-9294

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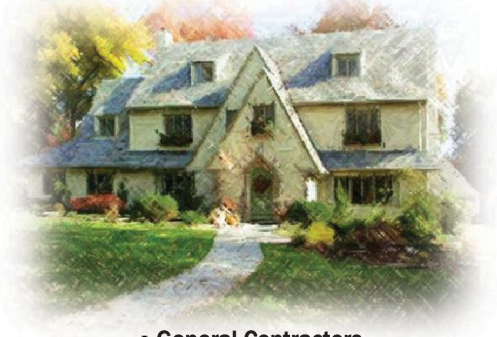
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# WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Basketball, Track & Bowling



Jon Veenstra

### Boys Varsity Basketball

A senior-laden boys varsity basketball team enjoyed their first winning season in several years under the direction of first-year coach **Bill Schoener**, including exciting home victories in front of packed houses versus Rutherford and league champion Manchester, and a road victory versus Saddle River Day in the state tournament.

Leading scorers **Jon Veenstra** and **Jason Englishmen** received Honorable Mention All County honors and were joined in the starting line up by classmates **Henry Ruitenbergh**, **Evan Quintero** and **Sam Veenstra**. Jon Veenstra, Englishmen and Sam Veenstra also received All League Honors (First, Second and Honorable Mention, respectively).

### Girls Varsity Basketball

Under the direction of coach **Barry Veenstra**, the girls finished second place in the league with an impressive 22-5 overall record, featuring two exciting wins in the state tournament, which included a thrilling 56-54 win over #2 seed Newark Academy.

Freshman **Madison Wynbeek** led the team in scoring and rebounding and was joined by junior **Brooke Van Lenten** as First Team All League selections, while senior captain **Kelly Tanis** and junior **Erin Vander Plaats** were named to the Second Team. Sophomore **Addie Peretti** received Honorable Mention All League. Wynbeek was also named to Second Team All County and Tanis and Van Lenten received Honorable Mention All County.



Brooke Van Lenten

**Winter Track**

**New talent, combined with several strong veteran runners, made for an exciting Winter Track season and a promising Spring season, led by coach Lindsay Pedersen.**

After months of preparation and racing, the team qualified for the State Meet of Champions in four different events: men and women’s 4x400, 55 meter hurdles, and 400 meter dash. Sophomore **Katie Hefty** ran strong this winter and was nominated for First Team All County. Junior **Stephanie Cabral** and **Emily Byrnes** both received Honorable Mention All County along with Juniors **Carter Heerema** and **Bryan Lineweaver**.



*Stephanie Cabral, Allie Steiginga, Katie Hefty, and Emily Byrnes*

**Bowling**

**Under the direction of coach Terry Allen, several EC bowlers received Honorable Mention All County:**

**Hannah Salvato, Christina Poliandro, Connor Van Hoff and Matthew Shore.** Van Hoff was also awarded Honorable Mention All League.



*Members of the bowling team at the pep rally*

**MLS star comes to EC**

*By Lindsay Hope '17*

Last season, he played in the Major League Soccer regular and playoff season for the New York Red Bulls. His 171 saves in the regular season were the second-most in the MLS. **Luis Robles** was named Best Goalkeeper of the Year in MLS. And in March, he came to Eastern Christian middle and elementary school to speak in two very special chapels.

Robles and his family attend Emergence Church in New Jersey. He met ECMS Principal Dan Lazor at a community event and they talked about an opportunity to speak at an EC chapel.

ECMS principal, Dan Lazor said, “I think that Luis’ story is one that our students relate to. He is a professional soccer goalie (was named MLS Goalie of the Year this past season and was named to the US Men’s National Team this winter) and our students love to play soccer. He is humble about his position and thankful that he has had opportunities to play soccer professionally and to use the platform to share his faith.”

Luis has been playing soccer since he was a young boy. At the age of 11, Luis started playing competitive soccer. His favorite memory was when he was 14, and had to play a team who should’ve beat his team pretty easily. “I experienced a lot of anxiety before the game, but as I prayed to the Lord for strength, not only did I experience His strength manifest through my performance, but also realized that there may be more to this “Christian” thing than going to church and attending Sunday School,” described Luis. He spoke about what it is like being a professional soccer player, while walking with the Lord.

Luis stated that, “My faith is the focal point of everything I do. Whether we speak about the overall theme or the day to day. Since Christ is the center of my life, everything I do is done with the motivation of glorifying His Name. My testimony is that God has shown Himself to me in mighty ways and through this journey I have realized that it’s not about me. It’s about His glory and His will being done. Without oversimplifying the process, we exist to serve Him, and the sooner we realize that and are willing to surrender, the more incredible the journey is going to be.”

***Editor’s Note:** This is a condensed version of an article that originally ran in the March issue of the student newspaper, EC Times. The original version, written by junior Lindsay Hope, was awarded Honorable Mention in Ball State University’s J-Day Contest, an annual contest that draws student entries across the nation.*

# SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Track, Baseball, Golf, Tennis, Lacrosse & Softball

## Boys & Girls Track

The boys and girls track teams were both very successful at the NJ State Non-Public B Championships, with the girls finishing in fourth place and the boys in fifth place.

Highlights included **Brooke VanLenten**'s victory in the javelin, **Madison Wynbeek**'s second place performance in the shot put and **Sam Veenstra**'s two, second place wins in the 400 and 110 hurdles. The girls mile relay also took second, while **Trent Braen** took third in the discus, as well as the boys two mile relay. New school records were set by Braen in discus, Van Lenten in the javelin, Veenstra in the 400 hurdles and Wynbeek in the shot, as well as the boys and girls two mile relays. A team this large required a coaching staff,



*Sam Veenstra*

consisting this year of **Joel Apol, Lindsay Pedersen, Jesse Struck** and **Kyle Coan**.

A number of students received league and county awards in their respective events. For the boys, Braen and **Carter Heerema** won First Team All League. Braen also won First Team All County. **Sam Veenstra** was honored with First Team All League and Second Team All County. **Jake Veenstra** and **Bryan Lineweaver** won Honorable Mention All County. For the girls, **Brooke Van Lenten** won First Team All League and First Team All County. **Katie Hefty** won First Team All League and Second Team All County. **Emily Byrnes** won First Team All League and Honorable Mention All County. **Kelly Tanis** won Honorable Mention All League and Honorable Mention All County. **Madison Wynbeek, Stefanie Cabral** and **Mackenzie Wieggers** won First Team All League.



*Kelly Tanis*

## Baseball

Under the direction of first-year head coach **Max Harvell** and led by **Andrew Kuiken** and **Jon Veenstra** in a lineup dominated by seniors, the baseball team displayed resilient character and battled every game in the tough Colonial division.

► continued on page 44



*Adam Dykstra*

Highlights included wins under the lights at Community Nights and some tight games versus some of the leagues' best. First baseman **Ben Boonstra** was recognized as Second Team All-League and

returns next season. Other players recognized included **Johnny Urcioli** and **Andrew Kuiken** as Honorable Mention All County and **Adam Dykstra** as Honorable Mention All League.

## Golf

**A season filled with lows would typically signify negative connotations. However, in a sport where low is the goal—a season of lows would signify a successful season. Such is the case for this year's golf team.**

Coached by **Ben Kuiken**, the 2016 Eagle Golf Team lowered their cumulative average from 225 to 205 in a year's time, finishing third in their division. Thanks to the addition of junior transfer, **Sarah Kang**, and the continued growth of returning players **Noah Hagedoorn**, **Scott Steenstra**, **Connor Van Hoff**, and **Clay**



*Noah Hagedoorn*

**Sietsma**, the future looks low for the Eagles. Two players this year received league and county honors: Hagedoorn clinched Second Team All League and Honorable Mention All County, and Kang received Honorable Mention All League and Honorable Mention All County.



*Jeremiah Johnson*

## Tennis

**Led by James Uitermarkt and Ryan Dykstra, as well as a strong group of experienced seniors including co-captains Kyle Dykstra and Brad Schipper, the boys tennis team enjoyed a successful spring as they doubled last season's win total.**

Highlights included a strong team performance at the Passaic County Tournament and advancing to the quarterfinals of the state tournament. At first doubles, **Calvin Gorter** and **Kyle Strelman** took First Team All League honors while **Jeremiah Johnson** was Second Team All County and Second Team All League at first singles. Dykstra and Henry Ruitenbergh received Honorable Mention All County.

## Girls Lacrosse

Girls lacrosse continued to build its new program under the direction of coaches **Christi Mulder** and **Amy Hulsebos**, and made gains in its competitive level, highlighted by an 11-10 win at PCTI.

Senior attack **Laura Carey** was the team's leading scorer and was joined by middle **Brenna Duffy** as Honorable Mention All County selections.



*Brenna Duffy*

## Girls Softball

With no seniors and only one junior on the team this year, the varsity softball team remained competitive and built for the future.

Season highlights included a strong victory against Hawthorne Christian in the first round of the county tournament, as well as two wins against Manchester, and a shut out victory against Mary Help, where pitcher **Becky Parker** threw a one-hitter. The offense was led by freshman **Alex Griffin** and sophomores **Tiffany Martin** and **Hanna Faber**. Catcher **Brianna Altamuro** and Martin received Honorable Mention All county recognition, while Griffin and Faber won Second Team All League and Honorable Mention All League, respectively. The coaches this year were **Kevin Vander Beck**, **Paul Cusack**, and **Cheryl Cusack**.



*Alex Griffin*

## Middle School Track: Eagles Strike Gold at Ridgewood Invitational

Under the direction of coaches **Terry Allen** and **Aaron Goldstein**, four athletes earned gold medals at the season finale, Ridgewood Invitational. **Matias Cortez** won the boys 400 with a time of 61.3. **Naomi Engelhard** won the shot put with a throw of 29' 8.5" (she also won silver in the discus), **Kaily Campbell** was a surprise overall winner in the discus (61'3"), and **Madison Libby** captured the Triple Jump with a combined leap of 27' 10" (Madison also struck silver in both the 100 meter dash (13.6) and the Long Jump (13' 11").

And that wasn't all. With the support of **Sidney Moore**, (fifth in the 400 with a time of 68.1), **Kristen Ghinelli**, (third in the long jump with a distance of 13' 2"), **Kaily Campbell**, (fifth in shot put), and the 4 X 200 relay team of Moore, Ghinelli, Libby and **Rachel McGinnis** (bronze medal), our girls team earned second place honors out of 10 schools.



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