



THE *Herald*

A PUBLICATION OF EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2009
VOL. 49 - ISSUE 1

Nurturing Spirits Day By Day

**High School Dedicates
New Gymnasium**

ALSO:

- EC in Africa
- Spanish in the
Elementary School





Eastern Christian School Association
50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

For I Know the Plans that I Have for You...



"I remember a Faith in Action project... that was formational for me..."
"My desire... [to serve] others began as an Outreach leader in the EC Student Council."

Eastern Christian School has a profound, lifelong, impact on its students, their families, churches, communities and all of society. Eastern Christian fulfills a critical mission in developing well educated, Biblically informed young people who are prepared to live lives of vision and influence committed to the mission of renewal and transformation of all of creation!

The evidence of this profound impact was recently reinforced by the hundreds of comments received from our alumni as part of Eastern Christian's ongoing strategic planning process. We were incredibly gratified to hear from alumni from numerous generations regarding the influence that Eastern Christian (and Eastern Academy - the original ECHS!) had on their families, careers, and lives of

service. Stories of alumni who were inspired by their teachers to become teachers – scores of responses from teachers in pre-schools through graduate schools – people who have assumed the mantle of inspiring others to engage their minds and live lives of service. Stories of alumni who were inspired to serve others as doctors, nurses, police officers, first responders, disaster recovery workers, social workers – people engaged in acting as the hands of Christ in serving those in need. Stories of alumni who have sought to positively influence society and culture in almost every imaginable field of endeavor – to use their minds, hearts and hands to act as Christ's restorative agents in this world!

Fulfilling the critically important task of preparing young people for lives of service does not happen by accident. It is the result of God's blessing on the hard work of literally thousands of people across multiple generations who have invested themselves in the work of Christian education, and the application of a disciplined process to develop a plan for the future of our school.

Eastern Christian's Board of Directors has committed the school to a unique strategic planning process to help ensure the school's continued excellence for generations to come. We are simultaneously using the Accreditation for Growth protocol promulgated by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and a Balanced Scorecard planning approach used in the business world. To the best of our knowledge, no other Christian school has previously attempted to combine these techniques, and very few other private or public schools have attempted to combine accreditation with the development of a broader strategic plan.

Already, the Accreditation team has revisited the Mission & Belief statements that tell others how and why Eastern Christian is distinctively different from other schools – how we intentionally seek to Engage the Mind, Nurture the Spirit and Transform the World. The team has prepared a profile of the attributes that we seek to develop in our students – attributes such as the ability to think critically, exhibit curiosity, strive for excellence, exhibit compassion, and offer the respect mandated for people made in God's image – and is now doing the hard work of reviewing Eastern Christian's educational program to ensure that it is fulfilling the mission of equipping our students to be such people of vision and influence.

We will keep you informed of progress as the strategic plan develops throughout the next two years – as we strive to plan for the Eastern Christian of the future – committed to Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, and Transforming the World through future generations of covenant young people!

Thomas G. Dykhous ('76)
Executive Director & Head of School



THE Herald

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Amber Taylor, 6th grader



Ryan Vander Plaats, 8th grader

ABOUT THE COVER

Cassidy Abma and Louis Vizzo, along with the rest of their kindergarten class, begin their morning in devotions with their teacher, Mrs. Nancy Johnston.

Inset: Ms. Meghann Persenaire leads the middle school choir as they sing a blessing in the new high school gym during the dedication ceremony.

The Herald is the magazine for alumni, parents, and friends of Eastern Christian School published twice a year. It is a publication of the Eastern Christian School Association's Foundation Board. Letters, articles, artwork and photography are welcome for possible inclusion in The Herald. Art and photos will be returned when a SASE is included. Send all correspondence regarding feedback and publication to the address above. E-mail (herald@easternchristian.org) is welcomed and encouraged. Eastern Christian School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools and is a member of Christian Schools International.

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CAN YOU HELP?

For many years it has been our pleasure to send you Eastern Christian Schools' publication **THE HERALD**.

Currently we mail over 7,500 issues twice a year to our friends and alumni throughout the country. Correspondence from our readers continues to encourage us to maintain our policy of providing our alumni and friends with a high quality magazine featuring the current happenings at Eastern Christian Schools.



Due to the rising costs of production and mailing, we are asking for your voluntary help in defraying some of these costs. We would be most grateful for any amount you wish to give.

Please be assured that regardless of whether you make a voluntary contribution or not, you will continue to receive The Herald

For your convenience, a remittance envelope has been enclosed in this issue.

SAVE THE DATE!



4

saturday, **25**
APRIL

WHAT: Eastern Christian's Mid-West Regional Reunion

WHERE: Calvin College Commons

WHEN: 6:30pm

WHO:

All EC alumni, former students, former faculty/staff, past parents and friends are cordially invited to attend!

Invitations asking for your response will be mailed in March.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Please contact Beth Milkamp in
EC's Foundation Office at
973-427-9294 x281 -OR-
alumni@easternchristian.org

CAMPUS NEWS

EC Heads to Africa

BY ALYSSA KUIKEN, JUNIOR



St. Stephen's School futbol team wearing EC uniforms.

For three years now, Eastern Christian High School has been supporting St. Stephen's Primary School in Kalungi, Uganda. We have been able to form this great relationship through Real Partners (<http://www.realpartnersuganda.org/>). Real Partners is headed by Dr. Joe and Mrs. Elaine Griswold. Mrs. Griswold is a former biology teacher at Eastern Christian for many years.

This year, our relationship with our sister school is being taken to a new level. During Spring Break, 6 students and 2 faculty members will be visiting and working with St. Stephen's school, in an unique missions trip in partnership with Touch the World.

Previously, students have held a number of fundraisers for their sister school for projects that include buying the children lunch food, building them a new water tank for clean drinking water, and getting mosquito nets for the families to protect them from disease-carrying bugs. The money that was raised last year was used to provide school uniforms and supplies for over one hundred students, and also to help them to develop a poultry farm so they can raise their own chickens.

However, those are not the only ways we have helped our friends at St. Stephen's. Athletic Director **Mr. Steve King** recently sent them our old soccer uniforms. The kids on their "futbol" team now proudly wear Eagles jerseys.

This year, our sponsorship will continue and the fundraiser will include selling t-shirts that advertise this relationship with Uganda. The company making these shirts is a company based in Uganda, so by using this company, money is not only going to St. Stephen's but also to this t-shirt organization in Uganda.

First Fashion Show a Great Success

BY AMBER JOY FIEDLER, SENIOR

On November 8, the Eastern Christian School Association supported its first benefit Silent Auction and Fashion Show at the Brownstone in Paterson. The show raised \$13,525 for Eastern Christian.

Organized by Events Coordinator **Beth Milkamp** months in advance, things fell into place perfectly the afternoon of the show. "It was really good for a first time fundraiser, and with this economy we were very pleased."

continued on page 4



Mr. Steen's journalism class

Extra! Extra!

By Tim Steen

For the first time this decade, high school students are working on a student newspaper again. The previous incarnation, the **Eastern Times**, fell victim to the decreasing ability of students to stay after school and work on a paper. The demands of sports and work schedules unfortunately have stopped many after-school clubs.

The new **EC Times**, however, is the product of a new journalism class that meets every day for class credit. This new class, in addition to the yearbook class, allows the high school to offer a robust journalism program, with both classroom learning and real world experience.

The **EC Times** also allows the school to increase communication to our entire student body and their parents. Unlike many high school newspapers, this is not a paper for and about high school students, but covers all of our students from pre-K to 12th grade. The **EC Times** staff also helps with **The Herald**, as many of the articles of this very issue are from stories written by high school students.

The paper is being published six times during the year, three issues per semester. When each issue is published, the staff of the **EC Times** delivers it to the schools, as well as local churches, the Holland Christian Home, and the Christian Health Care Center.

The staff also maintains a web site, www.ectimes.org, where time sensitive stories can be posted in between the printed issues of the paper. If you don't receive a newspaper, you can check out the web site for the latest Eastern Christian news. You can also write to the paper (care of the high school) and request a mail subscription to the paper for \$20/year. For more information, see the ad on page 25.

Fashion Show continued from page 3

Girls from each of the Eastern Christian schools and mothers of EC students modeled a variety of clothing from boutiques in Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff. In spite of a few stumbles, the models did an outstanding job and seemed to have a great time. Sophomore **Allison Vriesema** voiced, "It was really fun. I would definitely do it again." Another model, sophomore **Rachel Varney**, said, "I liked wearing the expensive clothing. It was such a good experience."

At the start of the event, the guests were invited to browse through the silent auction tables. Organized by **Audrey Kuiken '81**, items varied from a Thanksgiving dinner for 10 catered by the Market Basket to Jets football tickets. The top selling item was a dinner for 8 at the Brick House in Wyckoff. This item offered the buyers two hours of cooking, learning how to prepare food with the owner Aldo,

and enjoying the food they prepared. All of the items were donated by the owners of the businesses and a variety of local stores.

After browsing through the auction items and enjoying a lunch buffet, the guests were encouraged to take their seat. Welcomed by ECSA Foundation Board member **Barbara Tanis Belanus '69**, everyone joined together in prayer. Then Fashion Show Coordinator **Patti Peretti** took the stage. Assisted by Back Stage Coordinator **Sherrie Kuiken**, Mrs. Peretti not only coordinated the outfits and models, but also secured the clothing stores and narrated the entire show.

The 2nd Annual Fashion Show Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2009 at The Bethwood in Totowa, NJ. This will be a fun way to start the new school year and support EC. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Senior **Alex Van Buiten**

Smart Boards Enter the Classroom

BY TIM STEEN AND EMILY STEEN, 1ST GRADE



1st graders **David Visser** and **Molly Boonstra**

Eastern Christian's elementary school has taken another exciting step in technology-based teaching tools by placing a digital "SMART Board" in **Mrs. Bonnie Sloatmaker's** first grade classroom. This interactive board is a far cry from the dusty blackboards most of us remember from school. The board has been so successful that 2 more have been ordered for the school.

A SMART Board (a brand name of interactive whiteboards) is a touch-sensitive whiteboard. When matched with a computer and a projector, it can not only display the computer's

screen, but also allow the user to manipulate the computer by touching, pointing, and drawing on the screen. In fact, the "markers" that come with the board don't contain ink, but rather send digital signals that draw the appropriate color onto the computer desktop.

For our first graders in Mrs. Sloatmaker's class, that means learning math and reading is a lot more interactive. In a demonstration for the **EC Times**, the students were asked "Do you get a newspaper at home?" Taking turns, the students were able to drag a digital photo of themselves on the screen into the "Yes" column or "No" column. When each student had a turn, Mrs. Sloatmaker asked them to analyze the results with their math skills.

Molly Boonstra said "I can find out if there is more of something or less by using the SMART Board."

Students are also often presented with math story problems. One example a student explained was a photo of 6 kites. They were told 3 kites flew away. The students were able to draw an "X" on 3

kites, and then write the math problem " $6 - 3 = 3$ " on the board.

Students also use the board to help with reading. Each morning Mrs. Sloatmaker types the morning message on the SMART Board. Together, students search the message for common words they already know, and can underline them in different colors.

Using money from state technology grants, the school has decided to order a board for the Spanish Lab, and another for either the Horizons room or keyboarding room.

The board is definitely a hit with students. Just calibrating the board each morning to work with the projector is a coveted job. **Ben Parker** said, "I like how you can move things around," and **Amanda Faber** said, "It's cool how the pen draws on the screen."

Zoe Higby summed up her impression with a comment on how far school technology has come in the past years: "My mom didn't have one, and she feels good that I do."

Spanish Lab Installed at Elementary School



4th graders **Sam Kuder** and **Andrew Brooks**

BY TIM STEEN

This fall, students in grades 2 - 4 began learning Spanish, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from an anonymous donor. The grant, received last spring, has allowed the Elementary School to purchase 24 new iMac computers and the award-winning Rosetta Stone software.

The school installed the new equipment in a classroom over the summer, creating a new Spanish Lab. Students began using the lab in late October, after the teachers had a chance to learn how to use the program themselves.

The success of this program has encouraged the Eastern Christian Board of Directors to pursue a similar project for the Middle School, hopefully starting this next fall.

Rosetta Stone is the most widely-used language-learning software in the world. It teaches students by using headphones and microphones to practice both speaking and listening to the language. The software has voice recognition technology to identify how well students are able to speak the language. For elementary school students, the software uses common objects and images from everyday situations to immerse them into the language.



Abi Johnson, Justin Kuiphoff, Kyle Jones, Jason De Vries, and Erica Hwang.

EC Students S-U-C-C-E-E-D in Spelling Bee

By **Tim Steen** and **Taylor Leentjes**, *Sophomore*

On November 20, 11 students at ECMS competed in a spelling bee. These students were selected from all middle school students who took a pre-test. The winner was 6th grader **Nate Ocot**, and **Sarah Post** took second place. The winners of the school spelling bee get to go to Fairleigh Dickinson University to compete in the North Jersey Spelling Bee against more than 130 other schools. The winner there will be in a final statewide bee, the final round before the national Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington DC.

On Tuesday, October 29, five students from ECES participated in the Northern New Jersey Christian School Association (NNJCSA) spelling bee. The five participants included fourth graders **Kyle Jones** and **Abi Johnson**, third graders **Erica Hwang** and **Jason De Vries**, and second grader **Justin Kuiphoff**. Congratulations to Erica for receiving third place in the final round of the spelling bee.

The elementary school spelling bee was hosted by Abundant Life Academy and run by Hawthorne Christian Academy (HCA). There were a total of eleven schools that participated in the spelling bee. The students met with their own grade level (approximately 25 students represented each grade) for the first round of the spelling bee. The three best spellers of each grade level moved on from the first round to the final round in front of the entire group of participants.

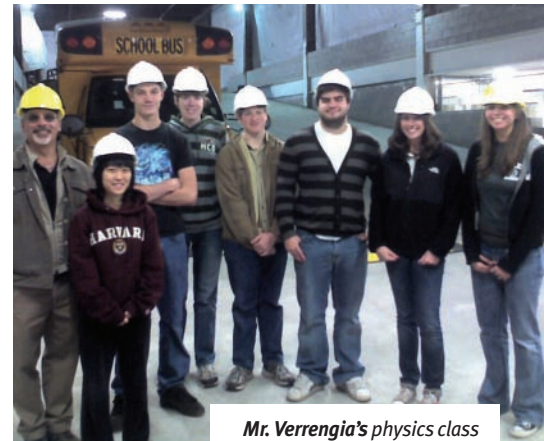
The Physics of Construction

BY NICOLE VEENSTRA, SENIOR

On October 24th, **Mr. Phil Verrengia's '73** physics class found themselves on the corner of Main Street and Ward Street in Paterson for a field trip. They were there to learn about the new Center City Mall that is being built on the corner Main Street and Ward Street, which takes up an entire city block. **Bob Verrengia '03**, Mr. Verrengia's son and alumnus of Eastern Christian, is the project manager for the construction site. He invited the class to show them how they could apply what they had been learning in the classroom to real life situations. The students had the chance to see examples of force and static, which they had previously only read about.

Senior **Matt Touw** said that it was "interesting because [we got to see] the ways they use steel to reinforce the ceiling so it doesn't fall." While they were there, they also got to explore the building, see how the electric was run through it, and even got the opportunity to see what the area looked like from the rooftop.

Mr. Verrengia agreed that the field trip was extremely interesting and helpful because it "showed [the students] a practical application of what they have been learning."



Mr. Verrengia's physics class

Visiting the Veterans

BY ABBEY WOODFIN, SENIOR

On November 11, the EC Middle School embarked on a field trip to the Christian Health Care Center to celebrate Veteran's Day with some of the residents. Students in grades 5-8 entered a poster contest judged by teachers, and twenty winners were named from about 100 submissions. The poster-making project was requested by the Activities Director of CHCC at Longview Assisted Living. When asked why she did this, 8th grader **Michelle Van Dyke** responded by saying, "To honor all of the people who served in our country—plus I got extra credit. However, when you think about it, these people risked their lives everyday, so it was no big deal."

"[The Veteran's Day Project was really cool because] there were a lot of veterans that I had never seen before and a lot of impacting stories. This guy named Big Tony was in the war, and after he had fought he decided to become a circus clown because he wanted to make other people happy—unlike he had been during the war," shared **Chris Coles**, 7th grade. "[It was

fun when] we talked to the residents and veterans about where they had served. My poster had a flag as the background with a service man dressed in camouflage, a cross, and another American flag on top of it. And, in between the stripes in the flag there were words written like peace, love, joy, family, friends, etc. . .," explained **Sara Schmidt**, 5th grade.

Although it was a competition, students created these posters to honor veterans and service men for a Veterans Day presentation at the Christian Health Care Center.

All three schools are also collecting cellphones and accessories for our soldiers. The donated phones will then be recycled for calling cards which will be sent to our soldiers overseas. Please show your support by dropping off your old cellphones in the designated box located in the front office of any Eastern Christian campus. It will mean a lot for these soldiers to be able to call home occasionally, and you will be able to help. For more questions please contact **Laura Steenstra '89** at 973-427-4617.

Middle School Pursues Green Technology

BY TAYLOR LEENTJES, SOPHOMORE



Members of the 8th grade Horizons class and the Bergen County Utilities Authorities.

Eastern Christian Middle School has been working hard to save the environment by making a few minor changes at their school.

Last year, one of **Mr. Everett Henderson's** fifth grade classes worked on a science project and came up with the idea of solar tube lighting. Solar tubes are special tubes made with a reflective material that magnifies light. They require no use of energy, thus saving energy that would be used by regular lights.

Jason Van Goor, a sixth grader, is very passionate about helping the school "go green" with these natural sources of light. He was a part of the

science group last year who came up with the idea of installing these lights in Mr. Henderson's classroom. Jason said, "Solar tubes are a very good idea, and I'm positive that we should get more, because they are very energy efficient." These solar tubes are a big hit in Mr. Henderson's classroom, and many students say they want more. Unfortunately, even though this natural light source is energy efficient, they are not the cheapest things around.

Another way in which Eastern Christian Middle School is working on "going green" is through the new compost grant they received. It started out as a project of the eighth grade Horizons' students. They wanted to make a garden, and began brainstorming how they could make this happen. Eighth grade students **Jeff Clark** and **Justen Stiles** came up with the idea of requesting a grant to get a machine that creates a compost pile. The Bergen County Utilities Authorities gave ECMS a grant of \$800 in order to make this happen. Students will be able to put their lunch scraps, and other recyclable materials into this machine, which will break it down into compost, with which they can create a garden. Eighth grade Horizon's student **Ann Abadeer** said, "This will be a really good thing, because it will make everyone aware of what is compostable, and what we can recycle."

These activities are great learning experiences for the students, and will certainly help the kids in the future.

Academic Teams Prove Their Mettle

BY TIM STEEN

The Eastern Christian Middle School academic team performed impressively twice this fall in academic competitions. First, the team won 3rd place at the Seton Hall Pirate Open in October. Then they did it again by achieving a first place in math at the John Brady Memorial Academic Challenge at Bergen Catholic in November. And now the high school is organizing a team for competitions as well.

The 7th graders — **Bobby Peretti, Jesse Ojeda, David Foley, and Dan De Jong** — took second overall out of twenty schools at the Bergen Catholic competition. In both of these competitions, the team beat out many older teams of 8th graders to earn their honors.

The four students said that the Pirate Open was a quiz bowl, where students compete directly by answering questions in a short time limit. The Bergen Catholic competition was different from their first event. It involved researching one particular topic for 30 minutes and then creating a poster. The boys said they liked the quiz bowl competition more, even though in that event they lost in the semifinals to the eventual champions.

Overall the boys were very enthusiastic about the competitions.



7th graders **Bobby Peretti, Jesse Ojeda, David Foley, and Dan De Jong.**

Bobby said, “I can’t wait to do the next one. It’s really fun.”

Meanwhile, EC alumnus **Dr. Alan Kooreman '79** is putting together a high school academic team. Last year the new team competed in the Bridgewater-Raritan Invitational Tournament of Excellence (BRITE) and made it to the top 16. This year’s plan is to expand the team, and compete in more events. The team this year consists of seniors **Sarah Galo, Justin Tyvoll, AJ Panzica, Scott Genzink, and Ryan Keavney**. In addition, there is a freshmen team of students **Jacob Shotmeyer, Ameer Halim, Luke Everson, and Matt Botbyl**.



Ms. Meghann Persenaire conducts the Middle School Chamber Singers.

This Christmas season, Eastern Christian Middle School Chamber Singers visited Barnes & Noble in Paramus, NJ to perform some holiday songs and spread the Christmas cheer. This event corresponds to a special fund-raiser opportunity at Barnes & Noble, where a portion of sales is donated to Eastern Christian.

There are about 35 students in the choir. This is an annual event in which the choir participates. They sang two songs about the life of Jesus and two Christmas songs. The event was a success! Many people stopped to listen to

ECMS Junior Chamber Singers Spread the Christmas Cheer

BY TAYLOR LEENTJES, JUNIOR

their wonderful singing, and they received much applause after every song.

According to **Beth Milkamp**, Events Coordinator, this year the store invited members of the Barnes & Noble national management team to show them how to organize and run a successful book fair. All of Barnes & Noble was impressed with the behavior, and the talents, of the student performers.

This was a great way for the kids to reach out to the community, raise money for the school, and spread the Christmas cheer!

Partnership with Drew University Promises Exciting Projects

BY JAMES FYLSTRA, JUNIOR

During the past few months, EC's Head of School, **Mr. Tom Dykhouse**, has been working with local Christian organizations and other institutions in order to broaden our school's connections in the New York metropolitan area.

One connection that our school has made is with Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Drew is home to a Methodist seminary and is a very highly regarded liberal arts school.

Last summer, Mr. Dykhouse, High School Principal **Mr. Jan Lucas**, and Middle School Principal **Mr. Dick Van Ypren** went to meet with the president of Drew. They all shared a common interest in creating bonds between universities and secondary schools. They also discussed our current Project Acceleration program with Seton Hall where certain honors classes count toward college credit. Mr. Dykhouse and a team of seven EC faculty members met with four faculty from Drew at our middle school in October. They met to discuss specific things that the school and the university could do together. Mr. Dykhouse said, "although all preliminary at this point, EC and Drew have talked about many exciting new programs for the school." One of these programs is a possible teacher program that includes various classes for our teachers in coordination with Drew's Master of Arts in Teaching program. These in-services could happen as early as next fall. Drew also showed an interest in the woods behind our school as a way to benefit their environmental studies programs. This would involve our school being a lab for collecting data that the university would then use to study.

An event that the student body could see as early as this spring is a poster session at Drew. A poster session takes place when science professors find enough evidence about their topics to release the information to the public. Posters may review current scientific literature or present preliminary research findings. Before the findings are finalized, a professor and students working for him bring their data together in the form of a poster. On April 24, Drew is inviting our school to participate in a poster session with five or six other schools. Biology teacher **Ms. Anne Bazanowski** said that, "Students from the biology, chemistry, physics, and computer classes would be able to look through previous research for whatever topic they are assigned. After gathering sufficient information on their given topic, students would be able to compile a poster to present at Drew."

Right now, teachers **Mr. Phil Verrengia** and Ms. Bazanowski have been invited to a lecture series about neurodegenerative disorders sponsored by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. This lecture series covers not only the diseases, but also treatments for these diseases.

Mr. Lucas says these programs would benefit both Drew and EC. The benefits for Eastern Christian would be that the staff would be able to learn from experts at the university. They could also study the staff at Drew and learn how to utilize new and effective teaching strategies in the classroom. It also has the potential to boost the productivity of our science and math departments, especially in the advanced classes and independent study programs. This seems to be the start of a beautiful relationship.



Seniors **Abbey Woodfin** and **Kendall Everett** host a student from PS25

Spreading the Love

By Jackie Mendez, Junior

The annual high school Christmas Festival was held on December 5, 2008. The whole atmosphere of the high school was energized with excitement and the children from Paterson School 25 came to Eastern Christian as eager as ever.

The band started off the day by playing joyful songs and getting everyone jazzed up, while a group of "elves" jumped and danced to hype the atmosphere even more. Seniors AJ Panzica, Andrew Abadeer, Sarah Galo, Stephanie Jacobs, and Ashley Ronco were the singers. They were accompanied by Amber Fiedler on bass, Da Bin Moon on saxophone, Mike Flim on drums, Wan Jin Lee on piano, and Jo Eun Park on guitar.

After that the Christmas skit was performed. This featured high school students Giacomo Greco, James

Fylstra, Alyssa Kuiken, Jen Pellegrino, Andrew Vriesma, Cassie Versnel and Jackie Steinbruch. They performed wonderfully and reminded everyone of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Festival continued at full speed as the children left with their assigned students for three activities in the decorated classrooms: games, cookie decorating, and crafts. There were many cool classroom themes, decorated by the high school students earlier in the day, including Santa's Nightclub, Christmas at the Beach, and Santa's Workshop.

Throughout the day Santa Claus and elves visited different rooms to talk to and entertain the children. Too soon the school day ended, leaving the students, children, and faculty in a great Christmas mood as they went home.

Bazaar Brings Community Together

BY AMBER JOY FIEDLER, SENIOR



The busy Bazaar in the high school gym

On December 6, 2008, the Eastern Christian School Association held its annual Christmas Bazaar. Offering a time of fellowship and community building, while also raising funds for EC's Annual Fund, the High School opened its cafeteria, classrooms, auditorium, and newly renovated gym for a fun time.

Like many years past, EC had various crafters reserve space to sell their different items. This year 36 different vendors participated by offering everything from beautiful jewelry to delicious candies, from creative wood products to adorable doll clothes. The Bazaar proved to have something for all.

EC families could also pick out their Christmas tree. Historically staffed by EC's Board of Directors, this year it was run by **Mr. Dwayne Leegwater '86**. The merchants fought the bitter cold and sold a number of trees to the community to raise money for EC.

While this annual tradition continues, the Christmas Bazaar never ceases to have some new surprises. This year there were two new additions to this annual EC tradition. The first was a *Guitar Hero* contest. Coordinated

by EC parent **Mrs. Laura Steenstra**, children of all ages could participate in a large jam session to determine the best guitarist. "We had about 60 tries because a lot of people tried over and over again," said Steenstra. The winners of the competition were **Jesse Ojeda** on expert, **Jeff Clark** on hard, **Connor Milkamp** on medium, and **Dan De Jong** on easy.

The second addition was the newly renovated journalism and yearbook room. Offering tables full of yearbooks dating back to the 1950s, numerous EC alumni stopped by hoping to find themselves in their early years, while purchasing a snack from the class's bake sale.

Mrs. Beth Milkamp, Events Coordinator, offered this information about next year's Bazaar, "[It] is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2009. I would love to add Children's Games or Children's Crafts to have something for the younger children. If anyone would like to help on this project, please call EC's Foundation Office at 973-427-9294." So mark your calendars; next year's Bazaar is guaranteed to be even better than this year's!

BLESSING & DEDICATION OF NEW GYM CAPS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



High School Gym Gets a Make-Over

BY DANA KUKOL, JUNIOR

Alumni with a fond memory for basketball games and gym classes in a dark and depressing gym will have a pleasant surprise next time they visit Eastern Christian High School. After renovations, which ran from June to October 2008, the gymnasium has never looked better. Bright and welcoming, the gym not only looks better, it functions better.

The expansion of the gym was a center point of the recent Capital Campaign, a \$1.5 million fundraising effort. Other plans in the

campaign include getting a new roof on the high school and middle school. The new gym cost \$430,000 and the roof was \$650,000. Almost all who worked on the renovations were alumni of Eastern Christian.

When **Mr. David Visbeen '74**, the overseer of the new gym project, was asked to plan the layout for the new gym, he was ready with the design. "I had the vision before I was asked. And the result is pretty much what I had envisioned." Most of the gym is the same but there are some major changes: the old wooden pull-out bleachers were replaced with new, plastic, electrically-driven ones, the ceiling is painted blue, and the lights are bigger and brighter. All of the gym has been cleaned and painted, and the floor has been redone. New mats line the walls. There is also a new addition to the weight room (see sidebar). All the basketball hoops were replaced

with clear backboards that can be electrically raised. The end result is a brighter, more welcoming gym that manages to look bigger without any major new construction.

When asking students what needed the most improvement, the answers varied. Some said the floor, others said the weight room. Junior **Dave Rainville** said, "The gym needed a new floor and hoops, but the weight room is a big deal."

But the one area that almost all students agreed needed an upgrade was the locker rooms. And they got their wish -- the locker rooms are fully tiled along with new sinks, showers, and lockers: everything is new. Principal **Jan Lucas** commented, "None of the students could take showers after gym class or sport events. Now, with the new locker rooms, they can."

Mr. Lucas also said, "The new gym will promote a clean environment to everyone and will be a safe place for sports and other visitors."



Blessing and Dedication Reopens the Gym to the Public

BY TIM STEEN

With a pair of giant scissors, the mayor of North Haledon officially reopened the refurbished high school gymnasium during the Blessing ceremony on Sunday, November 2. The act was the culmination of a successful Capital Campaign fund-raising effort and of a moving and heart-felt dedication. The event was



Gym project manager **David Visbeen**, Principal **Jan Lucas**, North Haledon Mayor **Randy George**, Head of Schools **Tom Dykhouse**, and Board Vice President **Nick Kuiken**.

open to the public and well attended by many dedicated EC community members.

Focused on the theme of blessing, the ceremony offered the perspectives of a student, parent, and teacher speaking on “How EC has blessed [them].” The ceremony also featured participation from student musicians—high

school students playing in a string ensemble and the middle school choir singing a blessing to the school and community.

Senior **Scott Genzink** spoke on Eastern Christian’s blessing to him. He said that EC is, “a lot more than a school, it is a community,” and spoke about the dedication he has seen in both students and teachers to work together as a Christian community. “This has truly shown me what God is all about,” concluded Genzink.

Mrs. Jane Okma gave her perspective on how Eastern Christian has blessed her, and her family, as a parent to 2 Eastern Christian students. She said that right from the start of their education, it was apparent that teachers and others in the community “saw my daughter and my son as an image of God.” She said that the school has “taught my children about living a life of gratitude.” “Christian education is an investment where the dividends will continue to pay off for years to come,” said Okma.

Mrs. Anne Bazanowski continued the idea of investing time and energy in EC to see God’s blessing. As a first year teacher, she says she has already seen this investment obviously paying off, “not only in academic life, not only in athletics, but in their spiritual lives.”

Following the ceremony, EC student athletes led tours of the gymnasium and the locker rooms, pointing out all the new work and how they see the gym as another of God’s blessings to Eastern Christian.



Senior **Scott Genzink**



Junior **Sam Martino**

New Weight Room Opens

By **James Fylstra, Junior**

The new weight room was the last section of the new gym to open. This December, the final machines were added to the newly renovated weight room. During the school’s recent construction work on the gym, changes were also made to the space below the bleachers where the old weight room previously resided. “It was enlarged, had special flooring put in, and new machines were added, all of which cost the school about \$30,000,” said PE teacher **Mr. Barry Veenstra**.

The new machines in the weight room consist of two elliptical machines and seven weight machines made by Atlantis Strength Equipment. You can now get a really good workout in the weight room, which should boost the strength-conditioning of the sports programs, as well as overall student health.

Director of Operations **Mr. John Belanus** said, “We received a grant from the Frank X. Wenly & Mary Ethel Wenly Charitable Trust, which has covered the cost of all but about \$2,000 of the equipment, and the flooring. Also, we have received a donation for a sound system. We are looking for monies to cover the cost of the new storage cabinets that were installed this past summer. We still would like to install mirrors on the large wall adjacent to the hallway.”

The whole student body is very excited about the new equipment, including junior **Sam Martino**. “I am very pleased with the new design and how professional it looks.” Fellow junior **Joe DiGiorgio** commented, “I know my gyms, and this is a huge step from what we had.”



WHAT DOES "NU

In Depth: Nurturing the Spirit Day by Day

Eastern Christian Schools has been using the slogan “Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, and Transforming the World” for the past 3 years on our web site and promotional materials. More and more, we find it an exciting, challenging, and accurate statement.

Engaging the mind goes on every day in every classroom. The evidence of our work in education is found throughout the campus news of this issue, as well as in the work our students complete each day.

Transforming the world, where “the rubber hits the road,” is filled with photo opportunities. These service projects, missions, and class projects show the community our dedication and our learning in real and positive ways. We cover such transformational moments every chance we get, especially in our school-year-end graduation issue.

Nurturing the spirit is a quieter activity. Completely central to our mission, building Christian character and strengthening our relationships with Christ is the bridge we use to take the learning from our classroom and use it to transform the world. It is the education with eternal consequences. However, it can easily be overlooked when telling the story of Eastern Christian. It happens every day in quiet ways, in meetings and classrooms, mornings and afternoons. In this special report are some key components in our efforts in this most important mission: nurturing our students’ spirits.

Starting the Day Right

Morning devotions are definitely a hallmark of all Eastern Christian School classes. Before students even arrive, faculty and staff meet together for faculty-led devotions, praying for blessings on each day as well as specific students every day. According to Principal **Jan Lucas**, the faculty at the high school pray specifically for each student at least once during the school year, usually on their birthdays.

Inside the classrooms, prayer, Bible readings, and discussing God and our relationship to Him is central to the start of the day. Often, these devotional times are led by students, who pray for each other and share something that they have read or thought about. By anchoring each day with devotions, students are reminded daily to see each other as fellow Image-bearers of God.

Kindergarten student **Katie Kuiken** prays during morning devotions.

RTURING THE SPIRIT" LOOK LIKE?



The 4th graders led their classmates in song and motions during their Thanksgiving chapel.

Worshipping God Together: Weekly Chapel

Communal chapel is another key ingredient to Eastern Christian's effort to keep spirituality at the center of our mission. At the high school and elementary school, these chapels are held weekly, and at the middle school, chapel time is mixed with other proactive efforts to keep spirituality engaging and relevant to students each week.

This year at the high school, chapel has had themes of exploring Micah 6:8 in detail, and recently, exploring C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*. Organized each week by **Mr. Adam Culp's '97 Bible & Worship class**, the chapels are always student-organized and student-led. Usually, students lead the worship, playing instruments and singing. One highlight this year was the praise band made up entirely of energetic international students at EC. Skits, videos, and engaging speakers also work to keep students interested in a variety of topics, all the while trying to focus the student body on worshipping God.

The elementary school chapels this fall were focused on exploring the ideas of "[loving] the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your strength" (from Mark 12:30). Every week, students were asked how exactly this could be done in our every day lives, and what it would look like. Elementary school chapels are always lively, upbeat, and eagerly anticipated. Students were definitely astonished this year when Vice Principal **Alisa Engleharda** rode right out of the gym on a bicycle during a skit!

Every week, the challenge for chapel planners is how to make the worship meaningful and connect with students. The danger of mandatory weekly chapels is that they become routine, and students become numb

to meeting together. The middle school combats this by mixing chapel times with small group Bible studies and other worship activities. The high school is constantly exploring with new chapel formats. This year a few chapels have featured a panel of faculty and students answering questions about tough topics such as drugs, sexuality, and finding meaningful connections with God.

Hopefully, these efforts continue to nurture the spirits of students each and every week.



*Sophomore **Jaison Hernandez** often plays bass during high school chapel.*



Middle School students and their teacher Mrs. Dyksen

Student-led bible studies add another layer to EC students spiritual lives. Bible studies give students opportunities to lead, to share and to learn about one another in a different setting other than the usual classroom.

At the Middle School, Bible studies are an integral part of nurturing the spirit. Every other week, groups of students meet together, along with a faculty sponsor, to talk to each other in 20 small groups that meet throughout the school. 8th-grade students are trained as leaders for these small groups, and meet regularly with Principal **Dick Van Yperen** to prepare for the meetings. Then, these leaders facilitate their small groups. In this setting, students are able to share with each other stories from their personal lives, and their triumphs and struggles as young Christians. They are able to pray together and then hold each other accountable through-

Small Group Bible Studies Add Depth, Community

out the regular school day. New and stronger relationships are formed thanks to these small groups.

Students at the High School started their own Bible studies this year when they saw a need to bring the student body closer together. Senior leaders organize and run the Bible Studies on their own, as a way to connect the classes spiritually. Each week, separate girls and boys groups meet during lunch time. They mostly talk about how “loving your neighbor as yourself” can be actually done in their daily lives, according to senior **Amber Fiedler**. She says that about 25 girls come to their group each week. In addition, the boys and girls groups meet together every other week in the evening outside of school, to pray together and encourage each other in their spiritual lives.

Micah Challenge Puts Faith into Practice

BY AMBER JOY FIEDLER, SENIOR

This year during the activity period at the high school students have a choice of something that makes a difference. Faculty sponsor **Mr. Paul Beverly** came up with the idea of Eastern Christian’s own Micah Challenge group. “The Micah Challenge is an international group of Christians dedicated to working for justice and the eradication of poverty in our world. I thought EC students could be challenged to participate in this work. And, of course, the chapels that dealt with Micah 6:8 laid a fine foundation for it,” said Mr. Beverly when asked where this idea came from.

Sophomore **Jon Snack** was the only participant in the Micah Challenge Activity for the first quarter. Snack signed up for Micah Challenge because he wanted to do some type of service project. The projects that Beverly and Snack organized during this time included writing Christmas cards to prison inmates and a Thanksgiving food drive for families in need. The Christmas cards were through the Crossroads Bible Institute that Mr. Beverly helps out with and every year they request Christmas cards for prison inmates who are involved with their Bible correspondence courses. When they asked Mr. Beverly about this, he thought the idea would be great for this activity

group to organize. The food drive is through the New Hope food pantry in Haledon. In an attempt to encourage students to bring in donations or canned food for the drive, the students offered a special treat at lunch time on Monday, November 24, and called it “Mr. Lucas’ Birthday Bash,” in celebration of the principal’s birthday. The food drive and “birthday bash” were very successful as numerous cans were collected and on the “birthday bash” day alone \$130 was raised for the cause.

As second quarter is just beginning, they have been able to encourage more students to join the Micah Challenge Activity. The number of students signed



Sophomore Ryan Visbeen

continued on page 15

Middle School Mentors Relationships

The middle school is creating a system to strengthen relationships between their faculty and students in the new advisory program. Students attend their advisory group every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. However, the purpose of these meetings is not so much to study the bible, but to foster communication. The goal is to give each student the chance to meet one-on-one with their advisor at least two times a month to discuss academic as well as personal concerns. While not meeting with their advisor individually, students are working on an advisory activity based on a theme such as listening skills or peer relationships. Other times, students will use the extra time to meet their individual reading goals.

This connection to an adult at the school gives students a place to go when they need extra support or help, whether it is about school or about a personal situation. The goal of these relationships is to give students a role model, a Christian adult who cares for them and understands what they are going through, and is able to advise and pray for their students.

Micah continued from page 14

up is now 27 and the brainstorming and organizing is once again beginning for more opportunities to serve the community. A few ideas they will possibly be doing in the future consist of helping out around town, or maybe cleaning up a park, even things like helping the elderly with shoveling their driveways during the winter.

When students were asked why they had signed up for the Micah Challenge, many of their answers were about wanting to serve others. Seniors **Abbey Woodfin** and **Schuyler Sietsma** had a lot to say. Sietsma said, "I know that I signed up because I thought it would be a great way to help others in the community around us and it'd be awesome to make a difference." Woodfin's response was also a good one when she said, "I decided to do something worth while because normally I sign up for Student Commons, but instead of using that activity time for homework I always ended up playing cards and talking. So I decided to do something different. Also, I wanted to support Jon Snack because I knew he was the only one in it last quarter when he shared about it at Bible study." To sum it all up, Snack says, "I hope we accomplish a lot to make this community a better place and I think we can use this as an outreach to places around us."



Sophomore **Paige Rainville**, senior **Taylor Ocot**, and sophomore **Jon Snack** lead the high school worship during chapel.

BUSINESS DRIVE

Business Donor Profile—De Jong Iron Works Inc.

De Jong Iron Works was founded in 1908 by Charles De Jong, operating from facilities located in Paterson. The current managing owners, Ed De Jong '68 and Jerry De Jong '78, are great grandsons of Charles De Jong and have operated the company for over 25 years. They are among 11 family members in the business which fabricates steel for a wide range of business uses.

The company, which fabricates and installs structural steel, has approximately 300 customers who need steel for high-end homes and miscellaneous iron works for storefronts, stairs, and HVAC rooftop units and supermarkets undergoing renovations and maintenance.



EC Parent Mark Boonstra '86

The company records clearly reflect a steady flow of support for Christian education going back to the early 50's, when Aaron and Martin De Jong were operating the business. Even in the late 30s, Jacob De Jong regularly advertised in the *Eastern Christian*

Academy Envoy. De Jong Iron Works has always continued to support the school, and their ad can be found in the 2008 *Echoes* (the annual yearbook). They regularly support the EC Golf Outing and Business Drive. Ed and Jerry, both Eastern Christian graduates, feel strongly that alumni support is important to help the school continue to provide a quality Christian education. As Christian businessmen, they also feel that today, more than ever, a strong Christian worldview is necessary for our students as they face the challenges of the social and business world.

Eastern Christian is indeed grateful for the many years of faithful support from the De Jong Iron Works Inc. and for the opportunity to teach the next generation of students who are members of this family of supporters.



Jerry De Jong '78 and Ed De Jong '68

Eastern Christian's 2008-2009 Business Drive exceeds goal!

The recently concluded Business Drive set new records with number of donors and dollars contributed. 42 donors contributed a total of \$47,575.00 to the Business Drive making these results the best to date! EC thanks Michael Westra of Wayne Tile Co. for his strong leadership as the 2008 ECSA Business Drive Chairman.

We truly appreciate the support from the following donors:

Action Graphics
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Jennifer Bushman D.M.D. PC
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Visbeen Construction Co.
Wayne Tile Co.
Dr. John Wispelwey

Upcoming Events

Auction Elegance

Thursday evening, April 16, 2009

The Tides Estate, North Haledon

To benefit Eastern Christian School

TICKETS: \$60.00 per person.

Call EC's Foundation Office @ 973-427-9294 to reserve tickets.

The evening features a delicious hot/cold buffet dinner during which a Silent Auction takes place. Beautiful baskets, as well as many unique items and services, are available to bid on. During dessert the Live Auction occurs where our mild-mannered guests pull out all the stops to be the highest bidder. Live Auction items often include tickets to sporting events, long weekend get-aways, catered BBQ's and much more!

We need items for our guests to go crazy over... can you

Help us get ready for a bidding frenzy?

Please consider donating event tickets, the use of vacation homes, goods or services.

CALL 973-427-9294 X 281 FOR MORE INFORMATION



EASTERN CHRISTIAN GOLF OUTING

Monday, May 11, 2009

Black Bear Golf Resort

Hamburg, NJ

To Benefit - Eastern Christian School

12:00 PM

REGISTRATION and PUTTING CONTEST

1:00 PM

MODIFIED "TEXAS" SCRAMBLE

6:00 PM

DINNER

After golfing, enjoy a delicious hot/cold dinner buffet.
Sponsors and Contest Winners will be recognized. Additional prizes too!
For more information, visit www.easternchristian.org

FOUNDATION NEWS



Eastern Christian School Association
50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

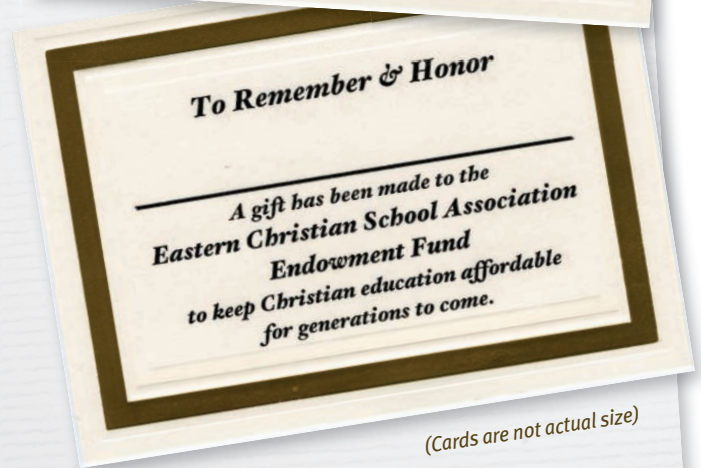
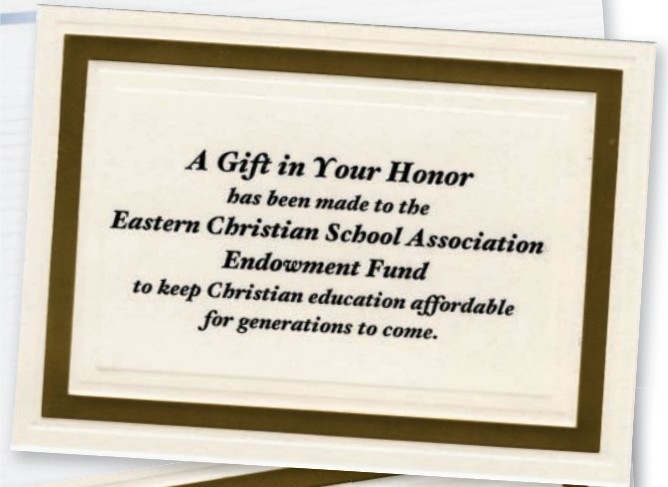
EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DONATION & MEMORIAL CARDS

A new way to show your support for Eastern Christian School while honoring or remembering a friend or relative. A thoughtful gesture or a meaningful alternative to a gift. Easy to enclose in your own card or letter or can be sent separately.

\$60.00 GIFT: 4 "CREAM & GOLD" CARDS & ENVELOPES

You can order cards using the return envelope in this issue of **The Herald** or online by clicking on the Donate Online button at www.easternchristian.org. Designate Endowment Fund and type the number of cards that you want into the "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" boxes in the online form.

If you would like the names of the card recipients to be included in **The Herald** listing of designated gifts, each set of cards comes with a form to be returned to Eastern Christian for that purpose.



(Cards are not actual size)

Do we have your current e-mail address?

Would you like to receive news from EC more frequently? We would like to send you news via e-mail but we need your current e-mail address. Please e-mail us at Foundation@easternchristian.org from your current email address and include your name and address as it appears on the label of this issue of **The Herald**.

Wish List



NEEDED: \$1,440 TO PURCHASE AWNINGS FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM DOORS.

Every time it rains, water leaks onto the gym floor. When it rains, our maintenance staff must quickly drive over to the Middle School to put towels down to avoid damage to the floor. If you can help financially with the purchase of awnings, please contact **John Belanus**, Facilities Director at 973-427-6244.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR
EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION:

Handling Our Wealth

GARRET G. NIEUWENHUIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jesus taught us that you can learn a great deal about people by how they use their resources. In fact, he told a parable that addresses this very issue in Matthew 25. It is the Parable of the Talents. It is about being faithful with what God has given to each of us. Listen to the voice of the Master: "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents and to another one talent, each according to his ability (Matthew 25:14-15)."

Understand that God is not looking for quantity as the measure of success here; He gave to each servant "according to his ability."

The Master knew each of his servants well. He knew what they were capable of managing. The faithful steward is responsible for what he or she has, whether it is little or much.

What is the standard for success in managing God's gifts to us? God's standard is faithfulness. We have a responsibility to handle our wealth effectively.

The way we handle our wealth can also honor God. "Honor the Lord with your wealth..." Prov. 3:9 How do we best do that?

We honor God by managing what we have: timely payment of bills, prudent management of debt, saving for emergencies, saving for retirement and wise investing.

We also honor the Lord by generous giving. Giving a cup of cold water in His name is demonstrating His love to those in need.

Another way we can honor God at the end of our lives is in the distribution of our estate. Christians can share a powerful testimony to their heirs about the importance of stewardship. Through proper planning, they may make the largest charitable gift of their lives to a Christian ministry like Eastern Christian School. This becomes a time when we can make a significant statement about our priorities while continuing the work of God's kingdom after we are gone.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Garret Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian @ 973-427-9294 Ext 212 or call Barnabas Foundation directly at 1-888-448-3040.

(the above reprinted by permission: Barnabas Foundation, Tinley Park, IL.)

Offering individuals and families the opportunity to discuss estate planning from a Christian perspective is important at Eastern Christian School. That is why we are members of Barnabas Foundation. Barnabas Foundation encourages people to develop an estate plan which meets their individual and family needs and reflects their values, including the support of Christian ministries that are important to them. A Christian professional from Barnabas Foundation will be happy to visit with you, provide information on specific concerns and answer your questions. They provide confidential, objective estate planning at no cost to you. Look for the date of the next visit of a Barnabas representative in your area in your local church bulletin or contact the Barnabas Foundation @ 1-888-448-3040.

*Each student is encouraged to
develop his God given gifts
& talents for God's Kingdom.*

Support the 2008-2009 Annual Fund!

Use the enclosed envelope or donate
online @ www.easternchristian.org



*Please prayerfully consider an increase in your donation
this year – both in prayer support for EC and financial gifts
to our school. This is one way in which you can be used
by God to change the world and help teachers train
students to be God's global servants in word and deed.*

ALUMNI NEWS

In celebrating Eastern Christian's 116th year of service to the children of the Christian community of Northern New Jersey – we also celebrate that many students today are the third and fourth generation of families that have chosen Eastern Christian. Now, after 116 years, a new fifth generation of students are walking the halls! If you or a family you know is a part of this tradition, please contact EC's Development Office – we would love to hear from you.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Al Miller, Class of 1948

Al sent **The Herald** a photograph of several EC alumni living in the Richfield Springs area in upstate New York. All attend the Richfield Springs Bible Church. In the picture, they are standing in front of a painting titled, "Daniel in the Lions Den" by Marinus Woudenberg in 1917. Al states, "It graced the walls of the Prospect Street CRC in Passaic, NJ for many years. When the church was demolished and relocated to Clifton, the painting was displayed there. A fire did some smoke damage to that edifice and the painting



(L to R): John '49 and Paula Woudenberg, Jacob '51 and Elaine '51, Brand Schuurman, Dorothy and Walter '55, Andela, and Joye '48 and Alfred '48 Miller

was removed and placed in storage. Later it was discovered and was offered to **John Woudenberg**, son of the painter. It now is displayed above the fireplace in the new church addition of the Richfield Springs Bible Church."

Alumni News

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

HERITAGE YEARS

Donald van Reken '37 has published his 16th book. As reported in *The Observer*, "His most recent publication is based on his extensive research about longtime Holland businessman and local leader who lived at the turn of the last century, Reinder E. Werkman." The book was self-published last year and is available at Readers World.

DEATHS:

Florence Veenstra Everett '30 of North Haledon on October 8, 2008. Florence and her late husband Frederick were the proprietors of Everett's Cozy Market in Hawthorne. She was a lifelong member of Unity Christian Reformed Church in Prospect Park.

Ralph Nienhouse '33 of Waldwick on December 25, 2008. He was a charter member of the Irving Park CRC and later became a member of the Midland Park CRC. He served his country during World War II in the United States Army. Ralph enjoyed more than 20 years of

volunteer work with the Paterson Habitat for Humanity.

Abe Schwier '33 of Loganville, Ga., died October 18, 2008. Memorial services were held with full military honors.

Hessel Bouma, Jr. '35 of Grand Rapids, died on May 10, 2008. He graduated from Eastern Academy in New Jersey, and received degrees from Cooper Union and the University of Michigan (Chemical Engineering); M.I.T. (Meteorology); and Calvin College and Seminary (Divinity). He served two congregations, the Reeman Christian Reformed Church and Comstock Christian Reformed Church (Kalamazoo). He was a member of the LaGrave Ave. Christian Reformed Church.

William Tanis, Sr '36 of Green Pond on November 7, 2008. He was a co-owner of Ideal Farms, Inc., a large dairy operation located in Augusta NJ, with a Creamery and Milk Distribution facility in North Haledon.

Cornelia Tamboer '39 on December 14, 2008. Born in Holland, she lived in Clifton before moving to North Haledon in 1945.

THE 1940's

DEATHS:

Leanore Kole Jonkman '48 of North Haledon, NJ on December 6, 2008. She was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church of Wyckoff and did volunteer work with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC).

Ralph Jeltjes '48 of Midland Park on June 25, 2008. He was a member of the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church. Ralph served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, and served his community in the Midland Park Ambulance Corps.

Rev. Leonard Van Staaldhuizen '49 of Elizabethton, TN on September 10, 2008. Rev. Van Staaldhuizen was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. He completed four years of high school in three years at Eastern Academy and attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. He served many churches in Canada as well as Lodi and Richfield CRC of Clifton.

THE 1950's

REUNION: The Class of 1959 will have their 50th Reunion on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel. There will also be a breakfast gathering the next morning, Friday, June 26, 2009 at Eastern Christian High School at 10am. There is still time to respond! Contact Lois Vander Ploeg Amos at 201-444-6849 or email: loisamos@optionline.net

DEATHS:

Leonard Van Eck '51 of Clifton on August 16, 2008. He was a member of Northside Christian Reformed Church in Clifton. Leonard was a US Navy Veteran of the Korean Conflict.

Robert J. Zuidema '51 of Hawthorne on December 15, 2008. Bob was a member of the Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. He served his country in the United States Army.

Pearl Schwier Abma '53 of Mahwah, on November 08, 2008. Pearl was a member of the Christian Reformed Church of Midland Park and Gideons International.

Judith Den Blyker Blackwood '53 of East Harwich, MA on May 23, 2008. Judy spent most of her life in Franklin Lakes before retiring to Cape Cod 11 years ago.

Richard Van Harken '59 of North Haledon on November 5, 2008. He was a member of Bridgeway Community Church in Haledon, NJ.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Clix and Alyce Pruiksma Meines, Class of 1950

Clix and Alyce are wonderful examples of "nurturing the spirit" as tireless volunteers. On October 9, 2008, Clix and Alyce were honored with the Earthen Vessel Award by the Christian Living Communities in Denver, Colorado, which ministers to senior adults through a continuum of care that reflects Christian love, respect and compassion. Clix and Alyce were chosen in recognition of their commitment and service to their communities. Stated at the dinner, "One could never say enough about the Meineses – their love for seniors, their commitment to CLC, and their selfless and tireless efforts in almost every area of our communities." One staff member wrote, "Clix is the engine and Alyce is the heart, [together] they are a volunteering machine." Clix has received a number of Volunteer Recognitions. He has traveled with a group to Nicaragua the past seven years to help with school and church construction projects.



In Memorium

William Spoelhof, Class of 1927



William Spoelhof, former president of Calvin College, died peacefully in his sleep on December 3, 2008. Calvin College's Office of the President issued this statement, "We praise God for his long and fruitful life, his love for his family, and his long and loving service to Calvin College, service which continued well after his official retirement three decades ago. Dr. Spoelhof would have celebrated his 99th birthday on December 8, but now rests instead in the arms of his Lord and Savior...Dr. Spoelhof was president of Calvin from 1951 to 1976, but his association with the college first began in the fall of 1927 when he journeyed from his hometown of Paterson, N.J., to begin his studies at Calvin."

Calvin President Galen Byker said, "He was a consummate scholar, leader, manager and Christian role model. His involvement very much shaped the college we know today as a leader in Christian liberal arts education. He was thrust into the presidency and performed with great integrity and effectiveness for a quarter of a century."

Former Calvin President Anthony Diekema agrees. "President Spoelhof was a gentleman, a scholar and a statesman," he said.

There is much evidence of Dr. Spoelhof's influence and admiration at Calvin College, with a building named after him, the William Spoelhof College Center, as well as the Spoelhof Chair (an endowed chair that spans the college's academic disciplines) and the William Spoelhof Planned Giving Society at Calvin, which helps others assure Calvin's future.

For more information about Dr. Spoelhof's life and memorial service, visit www.calvin.edu.

THE 1970's

REUNION: The Class of '73 is considering having a 35+ year reunion this summer. Please contact **Bonnie Jonkman Newton** if you are interested and haven't let her know previously. We are also looking for people who live in NJ and can work on logistics for the event. Call 801-277-6845 or email billn205@aol.com.

Jerry '75 and Donna Rijkse Veenstra '78 along with **Gary '81 and Jeanne De Korte Veenstra '81** are the new owners of Veenstra's Home Style Deli (formerly Ingwersen's Deli) at 567 High Mountain Rd in North Haledon, NJ. Donna adds, "Many of the items the deli is famous for will remain the same, but look for some new and delicious items soon. Stop in and see us when you are in the area!"

DEATHS:

George W. Cooper '70 of Fulton, MD on August 20, 2008 of cardiac arrest after running a race. George had been a National Security Agency engineer since 1990. He did volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity and the Christian Reformed Church of Washington, of which he was a member.

Ronald Martin '75 of Wyckoff, NJ on July 9, 2008. Ron was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. He had been employed as a residential appraiser by Columbia Bank in Fair Lawn, NJ.

THE 1980's

REUNION: A 30-year Reunion for the Class of 1980 is in the planning stage for sometime in 2010. Please contact **Beth Abma Fylstra** for additional information. If you have not returned your survey, or did not receive one, contact Beth at 201-818-6832 or bfyfstra@aol.com.

REUNION: a 25-year Reunion for the Class of 1984 will take place on **Friday, November 27, 2009** (Thanksgiving weekend) at the Midland Park Fire House, Midland Park, NJ. Enjoy an informal gathering to renew acquaintances and catch up with old friends. Watch your mail/email for updates. If you haven't updated your contact information, please contact **Cheryl Mabie Bereksazi** at echs_1984_reunion@yahoo.com.

BIRTHS:

Pat and **Shari Struck Alessio '84**, twins, Riley Elizabeth and Jack Aidan on August 22, 2008. They join big brothers Chad Miller (age 15) and Justin Miller (age 12).

Mark '86 and Michelle Huizing Boonstra '92, a daughter, Maiya Lucy Grace on August 19, 2008. Maiya joins Samantha (age 10), Jesse (age 9) and Bridget (age 7).

Yvonne and **David Zuidema '87**, a daughter, Sylvia Marina on July 23, 2008. She joins big brothers John (age 7) and Matthew (age 4).

DEATH:

Daryan D'Alessandro '80, of Passaic, NJ on January 2, 2009 of leiomyosarcoma. A "Celebration of Life" service will be held the end of April. For more information, contact Vera D'Alessandro at 973-779-8072.

THE 1990's

Jonathan Jeffer '91 updated his online alumni profile and added, "I have recently remarried to the love of my life, Christine, and we bought a house together in Cave Creek, AZ. I am currently working for Sara Lee Food and Beverage as a Portfolio Development Manager calling on national accounts. Christine is a podiatrist, so we are pretty busy with our new blended family."

Class Rep **Jennifer Meyer Ross '93** writes, "I have a personal item of news for my classmates. Rebecca Allison Ross, born April 4, 2007, came home from Bethany Christian Services May 1, 2007 and her adoption was finalized March 20, 2008. She has been a joy and has my blue eyes and my husband's brown hair. God is good! I do ask as well for all classmates interested in a "off year" get together in 2009 to shoot me an e-mail at cessenabigbird@optonline.net with updated contact information."

Class Rep **Jennifer Vander Heide Rysdam '99** sent in a birth announcement along with an update that she has completed her Master's Degree in Reading at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI this December, and is working part time as a literacy coach for Calvin Christian Schools.

REUNION: Class of 1999: From Class Rep **Jen Vander Heide Rysdam:** It's hard to believe

10 years has passed since we've graduated. Please watch your mailboxes in the next few weeks for a survey regarding our upcoming 10-year reunion. In order to stay in touch with each other, a group has been formed on Facebook. If you're a member of Facebook, or you've been waiting to join, now is your chance. The group name on Facebook is "Eastern Christian High School Class of 1999." Watch the group and your mailbox for reunion updates!

MARRIAGES:

Jeff Byma '96 and Jamie Tazelaar at Faith CRC, Elmhurst, Ill. on July 26, 2008. The couple resides in Oak Park, Ill.

PJ De Jong '97 and Ashley Booth in St. Thomas on October 4, 2008. The couple resides in North Haledon, NJ.

Karen Ten Kate '98 and Keith Vander Leest at Cedar Hill CRC, Wyckoff, NJ on August 15, 2008. They reside in New York City, NY.

Joel Spoelstra '98 and Jessica Hart at St. Margaret's Church in Pearl River, NY on May 30, 2008. Joel is a police officer in Orangetown/Pearl River. The couple resides in Nanuet, NY.

Jim Unrath '99 and **Lauren Decker '03** at Hawthorne Gospel Church on September 27, 2008. The couple resides in North Haledon, NJ.

Laura Dykhouse '99 and Toby Schuler on July 19, 2008. The couple resides in Grand Rapids, MI.

BIRTHS:

Keith and **Cyndi Thompson DeLorme '91** a son, Timothy Lee, born on July 19th, 2008. He joins his brothers Andrew (age 11), Phillip (age 8) and Matthew (age 4).

John and **Lora Vandenberg Albertson '91**, a son, Ben John on August 7, 2008.

Nick and **Lynn Dykman Kinahan '92**, a daughter, Jessica Lynn on August 23, 2008. She joins big brothers Nicholas (age 9) and Joshua (age 7).

Mike '94 and **Sara Sonderfan Heerema '94**, a daughter, Margaret Joy on July 25, 2008. She joins big brother Aiden (age 3).

Kerry and **Jonathan Belanus '95**, a son, Jackson Alexander on October 21, 2008. Jackson joins big brother Taylor (age 2).

Mandy and **Keith Post '95**, a daughter, Hannah Gertrude on July 24, 2008.

Marcus and **Sarah Klein Vander Wall '95**, a son, Caleb Dirk on September 27. He joins big brother Matthew (age 4).

Marissa and **Gregg Boonstra '95**, a son, Colton Patrick on August 14, 2008.

Shannon and **Brian Roper '95**, a daughter, McKenna Faith on April 8, 2008.

Tim and **Ginny Dykhous Spahr '96**, a daughter, Rachel James on November 19, 2007. Rachel joins older sisters Lauren Elizabeth (age 4) and Heidi Laine (age 3).

Jason '97 and **Jennifer Bley Crean '97**, a son, Brayden Michael on August 13, 2008.

Jim and **Wendy Dyksen MacLean '97**, a son, Elijah James on July 15, 2008.



Wendy and Elijah MacLean

Glenn and **Sheryl Pruiksma Runz '98**, a son, Bryson Cole on October 16, 2008. He joins big sister Olivia Grace (age 3).

Amanda and **Jim Bushoven '99**, a daughter, Brynn Ashleigh on April 19, 2008.

Andy and **Jen Vander Heide Rysdam '99**, a son, Kaden Benjamin Rysdam on July 11, 2008.

Eric '98 and **Michele (Sietsma) Nelson '98**, a

son, Andrew Michael on October 28, 2008. Jillian and **Michael Conlon '99**, a daughter, Aubrey Danielle on September 6, 2008.

THE 2000's

Krissy Belanus '02 is currently pursuing her doctorate in clinical psychology at Long Island University. She recently graduated with her Master's in Clinical Psychology, from William Paterson University. During her Master's program Krissy worked in a community mental health facility counseling children with Asperger's Syndrome and anxiety disorders. She also worked with Bethany Christian Services for over two years, counseling women who were considering adoption. Krissy graduated from the University of Delaware with a double degree in Music and Psychology in 2006.

MARRIAGES:

Calvin Bogertman '00 and **Bridget Thornton** on August 23, 2008. They reside in Edgewater, MD.

Heather Bushoven '01 and **David Troupas** on July 5, 2008. They reside in Merchantville, PA.

Katie Dyksen '03 and **Chase Maneri '03** at Cedar Hill CRC, Wyckoff, NJ on October 17. The couple resides in Pearl River, NY.

BIRTHS:

Curt and **Jamie Dekker Lucas '00**, a son Alden James on August 5, 2008.

Ben and **Sarah Steenstra Ashby '00**, a son, Eli Thomas on November 7, 2008

Rev. Brian and **Katherine Everett Bolkema '02**, a daughter, Mikayla Lynn on October 28, 2008.

CLASS REUNIONS

Class reunions are a special time when classmates can reunite – catch up on each others lives and reminisce of their EC days.

If you are a member of one of the classes listed below and would like to organize a reunion, please contact EC's Foundation Office. We can connect you with others who are interesting in helping as well as provide a listing of classmates and their contact information. Call Beth Milkamp, Alumni Relations @ 973-427-9294 x 281.

POTENTIAL 2009 REUNIONS

Class of:

1999 – 10 year	1974 – 35 year
1989 – 20 year	1969 – 40 year
1984 – 25 year	1959 – 50 year
1979 – 30 year	1954 – 55 year

POTENTIAL 2010 REUNIONS

Class of:

2000 – 10 year	1975 – 35 year
1990 – 20 year	1970 – 40 year
1985 – 25 year	1960 – 50 year
1980 – 30 year	1955 – 55 year

ALUMNI PROFILE

John Ratcliffe-Lee, Class of 2000

John was recently promoted to Senior Digital Media Specialist at MWW Group. MWW Group is one of the nations' top ten public relations firms. The press release adds, John "has been a force behind many of the most effective online initiatives undertaken by MWW Group clients such as McDonalds, Under Armour, ING Direct, Deloitte, Nikon and Volkswagen. [He] is well-versed in utilizing digital media tools such as blogs, podcasts, social networks, social bookmarking and content syndication tools to generate results. Always on the forefront of digital media technology, he has a passion for interactive marketing efforts that add value for brands and their audiences."



Can You Identify This Photo?

We found this photo in the back of a file drawer in an old "to do" folder. We think that the photo was taken at Terrace Lake but have no idea who is in the photo or if the photo was taken at one of the EC picnics that were held there for years. If you know the people in this photo or any additional history around the school picnics, we welcome your comments!



ALUMNI LETTER

Recently we received a letter from an alumni and supporter from 1936. He wrote regarding the passing of a classmate...

"I note in the Fall edition of The Herald that my old friend has passed away. His passing brought back a rush of memories from our high school years at the old Eastern Academy on North Eighth Street. He and I were inseparable pals, both of us interested in anything scientific. I noticed in an earlier Herald that he had donated

his mineral collection to Eastern Christian. We both shared an interest in mineralogy, although my interest waned with time while his apparently persisted.

The two of us would spend hours clambering over the cliffs in the quarry that was at the head of Planten Ave. in Prospect Park. Our parents would have been horrified if they were aware of the risks we took. I still have a few specimens of the crystal-line minerals we found. We both continued our interests in science and we both found our careers

in the Pharmaceutical industry.

Despite limited resources, and almost primitive laboratory equipment, we both received an excellent and demanding education at the old EA, thanks in large measure to some dedicated and excellent teachers. I especially have fond memories of John De Vries and Bastian Kruithof.

And so it is with fond memories and profound appreciation for the education we received and the interests we shared, that I make this small gesture in my friends memory."

Alumni News continued on page 27

Send us your news! Return to: The Herald, Eastern Christian School,
50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508

Names(s) _____

Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail _____

☐ Alumni News ☐ Reunion Information ☐ Alumni Profile ☐ Change of address

Support the EC TIMES!

The EC Times is a student newspaper for the entire EC community. It is published 6 times during the school year to EC families and local churches.

Subscribe to receive each issue in the mail: \$20/year

Run a classified ad or display ad!

Write to
ectimes@easternchristian.org
for more information.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

JUNE 19, 2008 – DECEMBER 31, 2008

During this time period, 372 gifts were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount of the gifts received in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$154,935. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

Endowment Fund

In Memory Of

Nellie Bangma

Mary Bangma Doornbos
Gail Bangma Baker

Benjamin A. Bruinooge

Marie Werner

Jacob “Jay” Bruinooge

Berta Bruinooge

Marilyn “Max” De Block

Nicholas & Norma Hagedoorn
John & Eleanor Kooreman
The Ladies' Living Word Sunday School
Class of Providence Baptist Church

Anna Mae De Block

Kenneth & Denise Wiegers

Marie De Bruin

Beverly Byl

Marge De Haan

Alice, Donald & Danielle Neeb

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Carole Roper & Family

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William & Jessie Martin

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Barnabas Foundation

Cedar Hill CRC

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Estate of Clara Tuit

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Class of 1958
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(91st Birthday)
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Ria De Haan
(Birthday)
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(90th Birthday)
Carrie Voorman
Alice Borduin
Jewell Vander Weide
Thomas Kearns
Stanley Blom
Elinor Postma
Dorothy Hagedorn
Joyce Schoonejongen

Norma Hagedoorn
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Anna Mae De Block
Alena & Christian Kuiphoff
Leonard & Betty Dykman
Carol Van Dyk

Peter & Lorraine Hagedoorn
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Nicholas & Norma Hagedoorn

Betty Kuiken
(60th Birthday)
Phyllis Sweetman

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Robert & Gertrude Troast
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Ruth Spikeboer

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Estate of Jacob Tolsma

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(50th Wedding Anniversary)
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David & Shannon Maura
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Wilma & John Philips
Paul Vitolo
James & Robin Martin
Douglas & Marianne Bushoven
Roger & Carolyn Veenstra
Jasper & Mary Ann Koster
Elizabeth & William Almroth
Joanne & Michael Kukol
Corene De Graaf
Stuart & Alice Struck
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Estate of James Dansen

In Honor Of

Lee & Sharon Augsburg
 (25th Wedding Anniversary)
 John & Anita De Korte

Bernard and Muriel Tolsma
 (50th Wedding Anniversary)
 Henry & Evelyn Kuiken

Honor and Memorial gift cards are now available.
See page 18 for details.

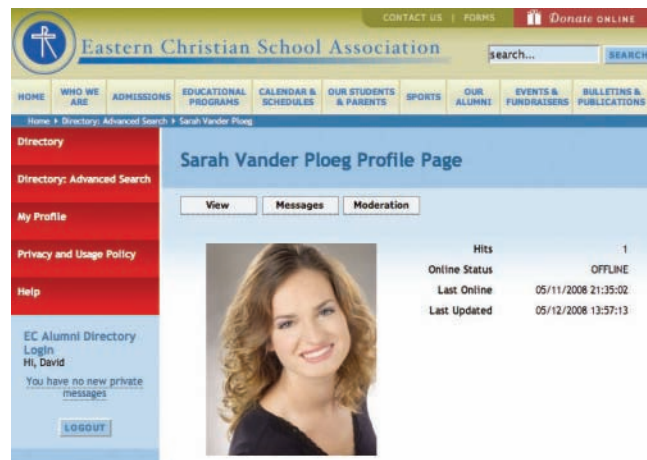
NOTE: Please mail all endowment, memorial & honor gifts to the attention of the Foundation Office. Each gift (not the amount) is acknowledged to the appropriate family or individual. The donor also receives an acknowledgment letter. Gifts to these Funds are eligible for matching gifts from companies with a matching gift program. Gifts may also be given online at EasternChristian.org.

Using the Web to Stay in Touch with EC

While the *Herald* is only published twice a year, there are numerous ways for you to stay in touch with Eastern Christian online.



- The EC website (www.easternchristian.org) contains plenty of information for you to stay updated on the latest events and news. The newswire on the front page brings you stories directly from the new high school journalism class. In addition, you will find links to the latest event information and fundraising opportunities.
- The EC website is also home to the Alumni Directory, the easiest place to get in touch with past classmates and friends. You're able to update your contact information, create photo galleries, and send private messages to other alumni. It's easy to find all this information... click on the "Our Alumni" button on the EC home page and log in.



facebook

EC, as well as many alumni, are using Facebook to connect to many of our alumni. On Facebook, search for the Eastern Christian School Association page and become a fan to follow updates to our site. From this page, you can:

- subscribe to the **EC Times** for stories that we put online,
- view upcoming events and RSVP for them,
- see photos and videos from previous events,
- leave messages on the wall or discussion board,
- browse the other users who have become fans and find former classmates.

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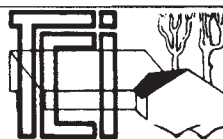
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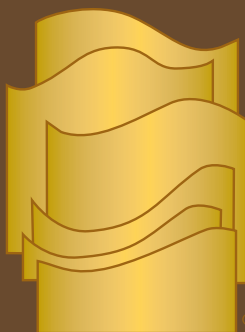
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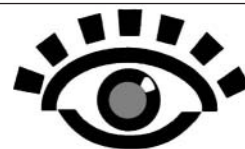
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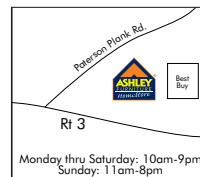
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EC SPORTS



With a state title last year, and a coach who earned his 300th career victory this year, the **girls' varsity soccer** team remains a strong program. This year, the girls had another very successful season, winning the league championship and ending the season with a 14-6 record. They won their first six games against tough competition by outscoring their opponents 34-0.



The **boys' varsity soccer** team battled to an 8-10-1 record this fall, coming very close to a .500 record. They ended the season losing only once in their last 6 games. Senior **Brian Sietsma** led all scorers with 11 goals, and senior goal keeper **Kendall Everett** recorded 128 saves. Highlights of the year included a come-from-behind overtime win against Waldwick and a strong win against Elmwood Park.



The **girls' JV soccer** had a successful season at 6-5-3. Junior captains **Sarah Schipper**, **Ashley Braen**, and **Alyssa Kuiken** led the team. A highlight of the year was overcoming a tough Hawthorne team twice, beating them 1-0 and 2-0 for hard fought victories. Schipper led the team in scoring while freshman **Shannon Dykstra** led the defense from the sweeper position. Sophomore **Liz Clarkin** played an important role in the goal.



The **boys' JV soccer** team struggled early in the season as they looked for replacements for 12 players from last year. Injuries also took a toll, especially when starting goalie sophomore **Ben Hoekstra** broke his hand. But led by sophomore captains **Sam Braen**, defensive sweeper, and forward **Chad Miller**, who led the team with 8 goals, the boys won or tied most of the games toward the end of the season. Their final record was 2-7-5.



Girls' varsity tennis finished with one of their best seasons in recent times, with a record of 8 – 11 – 1. The highlight of the year, though, was their performance in the Passaic County Tournament, where almost all seven players reached the second round. Sophomore **Victoria Westra**, the second singles player, reached the 3rd round, where she played very well against one of the top players in the county.



Girls' varsity volleyball finished with a strong 18-7 record, one of their best seasons ever. The team made it to the semi-finals in the county tournament, losing there in a close, well-fought game. Another season highlight was giving a tough Glen Rock team their first loss. The team was led by 7 seniors, including captains **Emily Brotherton** and **Rachel Kuder**.



The **girls' cross country** team had a hard time at the start of the year finding enough runners to form a team. They ended the year with a tremendously successful season. Led by freshmen runners **Kristen Traub** and **Jessica Wisse**, the girls finished 7-3, second in their conference. Both Kristen and Jessica ran among the best 5 times in EC girls cross country history.



The **middle school girls' soccer** team completed a successful season at 12 wins and 2 losses. The graduating 8th graders on the team were **Carly Branter**, **Sarah Bruinooge**, **Heidi Lieneweaver**, **Ana Melendez**, **Julie Van Buiten**, and **Carly Veenstra**. The girls were coached by **Laura King**.



The **middle school boys' soccer** team finished their season 9-1-3. Some key players were **Matt D'Urso** at forward and **Tae-Yoon** at center mid-fielder. The team scored a total of 41 goals. The defense recorded 8 shut-outs in the season. The season concluded with the annual team vs. parents game. The parents team consisted of many EC alumni soccer players and gave a good fight, but the student team won 8-4 in an exciting, injury-free game.



Senior **AJ Panzica** also ran a top 5 time for the **boys' cross country** team, leading the team to a league championship with fellow seniors **Jon Mas** and **Josh Tanis**. The team ran their way to an 8-2 record.



The fall 2008 **middle school cross country** teams experienced much success and growth over the course of their season. Overall, the girls were 9-2 in dual meet competition, and 2nd as a team at the Darlington Park Invitational. The boys were 6-7 in meets, and 3rd overall at Darlington Park. Highlights were 7th-graders **Kayla Van Lenten** and **Kathryn Post** finishing 1-2 at Darlington Park, and 8th-grader **Tyler Van Lenten** earning medals at two invitational meets.

Fall 2008 Athletic Awards

Girls' Tennis

Schuyler Sietsma
Second Team All County
Second Team All League

Kathleen D'Urso
Second Team All League

Brandi Bushman
Second Team All League

Victoria Westra
Honorable Mention All League

Rachel Soodsma
Honorable Mention All County
Honorable Mention All League

Girls' Cross Country

Kristen Traub
First Team All County
First Team All League

Jessica Wisse
First Team All County
First Team All League

Kerith Sunden
Honorable Mention All County
Second Team All League

Taylor Mincey
Honorable Mention All County
Second Team All League

Uchenna Okosa
Honorable Mention All League

Girls' Soccer

Megan Polulak
Honorable Mention All County
First Team All League

Rachel Greenfield
Second Team All County
First Team All League

Brianne Traub
First Team All County
First Team All League

Kelsey Spoelstra
First Team All County
First Team All League

Dara Veenstra
Honorable Mention All County
First Team All League

Abbey Woodfin
Second Team All League

Emily Bruins
Second Team All League

Sarah Gabriele
Honorable Mention All League

Girls' Volleyball

Steffanie Boonstra
Second Team All County
First Team All League

Jamie Van Buiten
First Team All County
First Team All League

Rachel Kuder
Honorable Mention All County
Second Team All League

Alexa Lewis
Honorable Mention All County
Honorable Mention All League

Boys' Cross Country

AJ Panzica
Second Team All County
First Team All League

Craig Jacobs
Honorable Mention All County
First Team All League

Josh Tanis
Honorable Mention All County
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Boys' Soccer

Tyler Westra
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