



Eastern Christian Elementary School Home Bulletin

“Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, Transforming the World!”

www.easternchristian.org

May 12, 2017

Next Week at a Glance:

Mon., May 15: Kindergarten Field Trip

Wed., May 17: 8:30 am – Chapel – ECMS Ensembles
Snack Day – Pretzels – Don’t forget your quarters

Thurs., May 18: TRIP Orders Due at any school campus by 9am
PK4 & JK Grandfriends’ Day

A Message from Mrs. Sandra Bottge, Principal:

Since we are all created in God’s image, how can we show empathy to our fellow students at ECES? That was the essential question posed to students for this year’s PBL project. This question was derived from our spiritual theme *In His Image*. Knowing that all people are created in the image of God should lead us to show love, compassion and empathy to everyone.

PBL stands for Problem Based Learning. Each year at Eastern Christian Elementary School, we participate in a school-wide PBL project. In Problem Based Learning, students are presented with a question or problem that they must solve collaboratively.

We began our PBL unit with the Cherokee proverb, “Don’t judge a person until you have walked a mile in his/her shoes.” We learned that empathy is the ability to understand what someone else is feeling by putting oneself into his/her shoes.

Each grade level came up with a different response to our essential question:

- Preschool students recognized that Jesus came to save everyone so we should love one another. We can show love to others in many ways. Preschool students showed love to the children at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital through their recent Trike-a-Thon.
- Kindergarten students read a book entitled, God Gave Me a Face for Feeling. We are created in God’s image with many different feelings. We can show empathy to our classmates when they feel happy, sad, excited, nervous, etc. because we have those feelings too.
- First grade students created a book entitled, I Understand: A Guide to Showing Empathy at ECES. Students came up with different scenarios that often happen at school. We can choose to treat others with kindness and respect because we can empathize with the way others are feeling.
- Second graders created a commercial for “Chalk Heart.” A Chalk Heart is a heart that you draw around yourself to let others know that you are a friend who needs a friend. Second grade students bring chalk on the playground so that students who are lonely can draw a chalk heart around themselves. Students then look for classmates standing inside a chalk heart and invite them to play.
- Third grade students created a Prayer Box for our front hallway. We can show empathy by praying for the needs of others. Third graders will collect the prayer requests and pray for others in their classroom and at home.
- Fourth grade students focused on gossip. They found Bible verses that teach us how to treat others and the importance of avoiding gossip and slander. Students created empathy boxes and filled the boxes with Bible verses and questions to discuss in classroom devotions.

Our PBL project is a great way for students to wrestle with problems in the world and learn how to use our understanding about God and His Word to solve problems together.

Mark Your Calendar:

Mon., May 22: ECES Field Day (10:30 am – 1:30 pm)

Tues., May 23: 8:30 am - Patriotic Chapel presented by Grade 3

Mon. May 29: No School – Memorial Day

Tues., May 30: 8:30 am – Violin Chapel

Fri., June 2: Kindergarten Grandfriends' Day – 8:45 – 10:15 am
PTO Family Picnic

PTO News:

- **Family Baseball Evening:** Time is running out - get your baseball tickets now at <https://store11224149.ecwid.com> or they are available for purchase for \$15.75 each in the front office.
- **Family Picnic:** Mark your calendars for the end of year family picnic scheduled for Friday, June 2 from 6-8pm. More information to follow.



The Great EC RoboRally: 6:30pm Wednesday, May 24 at the Eastern Christian Middle School. What's better than a robot fight? A robot fight combined with a race track! Come on out to witness our high school Robotics class compete in our first ever RoboRally. There will be crash ups, harrowing obstacles, and thrilling finishes! The event is free! Snacks, ice cream, and other concessions will be available for purchase. Doors open at 6:30, when you can meet the racers, see the robots up close, and vote for your favorite. The race will begin at 7. It's a school night, so we will strive to have the race finish at a reasonable time.

Foundation News:



TOUCH A TRUCK: What a day while the rain held at bay! Thank you to our amazing committee for helping to usher in another great event. This year we saw over 65% growth in proceeds and will likely be able to fund 3 more Smart Boards! Big Thanks to Stephanie Tanis for her photography and to the Volunteers from the both PTO's, staff and students alike!

Requested Announcements:



Midland Park Soccer Registration is now open: All Eastern Christian students are invited to play soccer in the Midland Park Soccer Program! Play with your friends! You can register for Rec Soccer with Saturday games only or Travel soccer with weekend games and weekday practices at www.midlandparksoccer.com