

# THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*  
Volume 58, Issue 2

## *HATS OFF to the GRADS!*

PLUS  
**CAMPAIGN 125**  
& A NEW ECHS PRINCIPAL

FALL 2017



# DRINKING FROM WELLS THAT WE DID NOT DIG

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August 17, 2017 marked the 125th anniversary of a stiflingly hot meeting of 65 people in the basement of Second Christian Reformed Church of Paterson called for the purpose of forming Eastern Christian School.

In the 125 years since that meeting, the Lord has provided, protected, nurtured, and used that small school to prepare generations of young men and women for lives of service in the Kingdom. As we reach this important milestone, it is critical that we not forget the source of each and every one of these blessings. For as Deuteronomy 6 reminds us, we have drunk from wells that we did not dig, and eaten the fruit from vineyards that we did not plant.

We have been the beneficiaries of the Lord's blessing in the form of the hard work and incredible generosity of the generations that have gone before us. Our predecessors were stubbornly audacious in their determination to build and develop our school into the institution that it is today.

They had no business starting a school. But they did it anyway! They were a group of immigrant industrial workers who wanted a distinctively Christian education for their children to help them become men and women of Christian character and vision who would transform the world around them in the service of God's Kingdom.

They had no business in building schools throughout Bergen and Passaic Counties. But they did it anyway! Building our first school in the midst of one of the nation's worst economic panics in 1893. Starting a second school in Paterson in 1899 and a building to house it in 1901. Building North 4th Street School in 1908, Midland Park Christian School in 1913, Passaic Christian School in 1916, and our first high school, Eastern Academy, in 1919.

They had no business in acquiring land and building three brand new campuses, our current three schools, in just 12 years in the 1950s and 1960s. But they did it anyway!

We have had the tremendous blessing of drinking from wells that we did not dig, eating the fruit from vineyards that we did not plant, and educating our kids in schools that we did not build.

We look forward with great anticipation to the Lord's continued blessing on our school as we continue to fulfill what I believe is the most important of all missions, the education of the children and young people who have been entrusted to our care. It is our turn to dig the wells, plant the vineyards, and build the programs and facilities that will prepare the next generations of Eastern Christian students for their lives of service to the Kingdom!

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

**On the cover:** Graduates Scott Steenstra,  
Rachel Schultz, Mathew Matthias, Clair  
Schwartz and Seung Bum (Steve) Choi.



EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

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

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

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# CAMPAIGN 125

Celebrating 125 years of God's faithfulness



## On September 1, 2017 we officially kick-off Campaign 125, The Faithful Pursuit of Excellence.

One hundred and twenty five years ago, a group of Dutch immigrants opened a Christian school for their children. For the most part, these immigrants were not very well educated. We don't know exactly what their motives were but it is likely some simply wanted to preserve their Dutch heritage. Others were dissatisfied with the local public schools. Many desired a way to provide their children and the children of the Christian community with an education that would provide those children with a reformed worldview, although they likely didn't use that term.

One year later, they had the first school building on Amity Street in Paterson. Other Christian schools began to open in Passaic, Prospect Park, and Midland Park. Between 1954 and 1965 three new campuses were purchased and buildings constructed. These are our current campuses in Midland Park, Wyckoff, and North Haledon. Sacrifices were made, funds were raised and buildings were constructed. The generations that came before us laid a foundation and built a Christian school that all of us are benefiting from today. What an amazing heritage we have at Eastern Christian School.

Three years ago, we began to consider what Eastern Christian School's most significant capital needs were. The Board and Administration prayed that God would clearly reveal his will for EC's future. In late 2015, a feasibility

study focused on capital needs was conducted. Nearly 150 of our community members participated in one-on-one interviews or online surveys.

Along with many other questions, our respondents were asked to rank the most significant capital needs that Eastern Christian School was facing. The responses were overwhelmingly focused in three areas: Security, Classroom Renovations, and Outdoor Athletic Facilities. With the

feasibility study in hand, EC's leadership now felt there was a clear mandate to move forward and plans were set in motion.

### SECURITY:

Student safety and security have long been a priority at Eastern Christian School. In 2015 EC hired a Director of Security. Part of his responsibility was assessing the security needs on our campuses. This was accomplished through both self assessment and outside review by local and county law enforcement agencies. Based on these assessments, a plan for security upgrades was developed.

*Campaign 125 will commit significant dollars to the completion of our current security upgrade plan. In addition to funds raised by Campaign 125, we have received*





1. A field rendering of the proposed track and field.; 2. A renovated classroom rendering

a \$75,000.00 grant from the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Prevention. Work on our planned security upgrades began in 2015 and Campaign 125 will allow us to complete our current upgrades over the summer of 2017.

## CLASSROOMS:

There is nothing more critical to accomplishing our mission, than what takes place in the classroom. The means of engaging today's students have changed dramatically and Eastern Christian School needs classrooms that reflect these changes. For a number of years, major classroom renovations have been underway. In 2012 the pre-K wing of the elementary school was renovated. In 2013 the balance of the elementary school was completely renovated, including new windows, floor covering, painting, lighting and heating. The next year, in 2014, renovations began in the high school where a number of classrooms were upgraded and the hallways were painted. Last year, renovations began in the middle school.

*Campaign 125 will complete our current cycle of classroom renovations. Forty-seven classrooms will receive renovations. Some of those will include complete*

*renovations with painting, ceilings, lighting, and new furniture. Others, like the elementary school rooms that have already been renovated, will receive new furniture and technology upgrades. EVERY classroom, on all three campuses, will be air conditioned for September 2017.*

## ATHLETICS:

Exterior athletic facilities is an area where Eastern Christian School has "dropped the ball." While sports have grown in importance in our culture and in educational systems, our facilities are frozen in the 1960s. We have state championship track teams that practice their sprints and hurdles on asphalt driveways. We have lacrosse teams that have never had a home game. Our current soccer field is poorly drained leading to cancelled events. And the soccer field plays over the baseball infield creating a less than desirable, if not dangerous, condition for the players. And while community is very important to EC, we are unable to hold community events on our campus due to inadequate facilities.

*Campaign 125 addresses each of these deficiencies. Our plans call for the construction of a regulation size, well drained combination soccer and lacrosse field. In addition, we*

*will construct an 8 lane regulation track along with designated areas for other track and field events such as long jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, and javelin. The field will be handicap accessible and there will be spectator areas.*

With enrollment rising (for the fourth consecutive year) and academic programs such as S.T.E.A.M., Project Acceleration, and Extended Learning growing; NOW is the time for Campaign 125. We challenge our students to pursue excellence and now is the time for us to provide them with the facilities, both in the classroom and on the athletic field to achieve excellence.

We have an incredible heritage at Eastern Christian School thanks to those who came before us. Now, it is our turn. With the help of our community and the Lord's continued blessing, we have an amazing future ahead of us.

— GOAL —  
\$4.5 MILLION



\$1,383,000.00  
raised to date

# ECHS WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

## David Intlekofer Shares His Story



**He was young and supposed to be sleeping. Instead, he was hovering over the stairwell, spying on his parents.**

His parents, had you asked them, were not doing anything

particularly spy-worthy. It was the 80s. For a Christian family, that meant it was not out-of-the ordinary to play Steve Green on the stereo. But in this home, on this particular night, the song took on a significance that his parents couldn't have guessed.

As *People Need the Lord* wafted through the downstairs, up the stairwell and into the ears of the little boy, the sneaky lad suddenly realized something: "I was the 'people' the song was talking about," shares **David Intlekofer**, new principal at ECHS.

He adds, "Although I considered myself a Christian from that moment onward, it wasn't really until high school that I realized the difference between Jesus being a part of my life versus Jesus being Lord of my life."

Along with his parents, David sees the role of teachers in his walk toward spiritual maturity. He can recall their names...names like Mr. D, Mr. Hansen, Mrs Nebbia...names that are unknown to many, but who represent people that "profoundly influenced" Dave's life, both academically and spiritually. They are also the people who helped solidify his own desire to work in Christian education.

And it doesn't take long to realize how much David values Christian education. He explains: "During the course of a typical school week, students will spend more waking hours with their teachers than they will spend with their parents. The influence that teachers

have over their students is therefore incalculable, especially during the formative years up to the age of 18."

Driven by this passion, Christian education is a career pathway he's been on for quite some time, although it has taken different forms throughout the years. For the first ten years, he served as a Bible and language arts teacher at Annapolis Area Christian School. After receiving his Masters degree in Educational Leadership at Loyola University Maryland, he took on increasingly responsible roles, ranging from Dean to K-12 Director of Professional Development at Annapolis Area Christian Schools, and most recently, working as Principal of San Jose Christian School. In his latest endeavor, "I have found the most joy in creating programs that broaden or deepen the students' learning experience at school," he shares.

A self-described "learner" and an administrator passionate about collaboration, he says he's excited to jump into the community. "But what excites me most are the students—at all three campuses, the students I had the privilege to meet repeatedly impressed me. After visiting EC and going through the interview process, the overwhelming feeling I had was, "this is a community worth pouring my life into."

His service to Eastern Christian started July 1. EC welcomes him, along with his wife Kristen and son Joel. In lieu of a housewarming gift, he makes one request: "I'm a little nervous about learning 1000 new names, so please be patient with me! The best gift you can give me during this first year is a little reminder of who you are."

“

**AFTER VISITING EC AND GOING THROUGH THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, THE OVERWHELMING FEELING I HAD WAS, 'THIS IS A COMMUNITY WORTH POURING MY LIFE INTO.'"**





*Deb Andrews, Belen Araneda, Eric Boonstra, Kristen Rudd, Ian Zacharias, Tina Bucci, Petra van't Slot*

# MATH MINDSET

## A Look at Math Across Campuses

### 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34...

This list of numbers, which stretches to infinity, is coined the Fibonacci Sequence. At first glance, it may seem like a random list. However, the pattern it represents shows up throughout nature—from the design of delicate flowers, to human faces, to powerful galaxies.

In addition to it being interesting trivia, the Fibonacci Sequence is one more reminder of the greatness of God. It is also one more reason to celebrate the faith-based integration of all subjects at Eastern Christian School, including math.

“I think learning math is learning about God. I love teaching that to students! To show them that God is a God of order and patterns, exactness and infinity, is to share with them God’s characteristics,” says **Carol Byma**, fourth grade teacher.

Eastern Christian takes its math programming seriously, always striving to raise the bar. At the high school and middle school campuses, the school continues to invest in additional courses to support all levels of learning. These courses include Geometry at the middle school, as well as Math Analysis, Statistics and Calculus 2 at the high school.

For students who need challenge, in lieu of AP courses, the high school offers a better alternative—college-accredited courses. “This allows us to teach the subject, rather than the test. Also, because of our block

scheduling, students aren’t restricted by the math class they take freshman year. They can double-up to reach higher levels of math,” says **Eric Boonstra**, high school math teacher. He adds, “I [also] think our teachers at Eastern Christian are more invested in students as individuals. We go above and beyond to help students before and after school, and are constantly investigating ways to improve and diversify our curriculum.”

Byma says that math “is and should remain” a strong area for EC, stressing that “numeracy is important across the board, pre-k through 12. With this goal in mind, for the past two years, the elementary school has transitioned into a new curriculum called enVision math.

“The benefit [of the new curriculum] is that the students are being taught the correct standards for their grade levels in a more updated and current manner,” says Byma. “Consistent teaching of the same curriculum is beneficial as the curriculum targets the grade-level standards and spirals to review previously taught subjects.”

The high school is in the process of switching out old textbooks with a similar mindset: “streamlining the curriculum by using books that align well with each other,” says Boonstra. Cutting-edge technology resources are also employed throughout the grade levels.

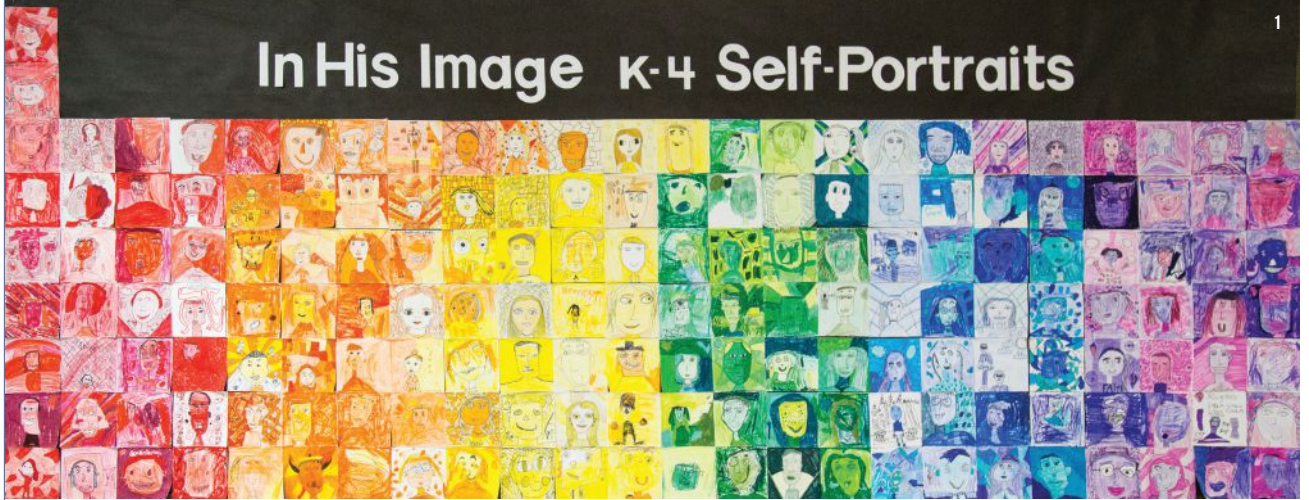
Outside of the traditional classroom, students are further encouraged to use their God-given talents. Every year, younger grades participate in St. Jude’s Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. All campuses also participate in math competitions, including the NNJCSA math contest and Continental Math League in younger grades, as well as the Trig\*Star Math Competition, ASMA Competition, the AMC Competition, and Joseph W. Andrushkiw Mathematics Competition at the high school level.

Eastern Christian School has had some notable successes this year, even in international and national competitions. However, win or lose, math department chair and recent retiree **Deb Andrews** sees the importance of continually challenging the students in their math gifting: “At Eastern Christian School, we want to provide challenges for them to grow mathematically. As a school, we always strive for excellence.”

# CULTIVATING EMPATHY

Elementary School PBL

## In His Image K-4 Self-Portraits



1. An art project related to this year's spiritual theme; 2. Sia Sung, Jessica Russo, Nora Lazor and Luke Minnaar

**Visitors to the elementary school may notice hand-drawn hearts on the blacktop. At first glance, it looks like a fun way to pass the time at recess. But it's actually a creative solution to the essential question posed at the elementary schools this year: Since we are all created in God's image, how can we show empathy to our fellow students at ECES?**

Every grade worked collaboratively to come up with a concrete way to show empathy. Second graders, for example, advertised chalk hearts. "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," explains **Sandy Bottge**, principal of ECES.



Other grades also came up with creative solutions, ranging from classroom devotional aids, to prayer boxes, to participation in a St. Jude Children's Research hospital fundraiser.

The essential question for 2016-2017 is based upon the spiritual theme, In His Image, and is created in conjunction with the school-wide Problem-Based Learning unit done every year. "There are several benefits to PBLs. A typical PBL is student-based. We've traditionally explored our theme for the year through our PBL, which brings the theme into our thoughts and hearts," explains **Carol Byma**, fourth grade teacher and orchestrator of the PBL program.

She discusses some of the benefits: "Creating an action plan is essential for life skills, and collaborating with their peers helps guide the students into understanding how to work together, listen to other ideas, compromise and find common ground, respect each other's thoughts, and find solutions that will benefit the majority."

The chapel unveiling student projects occurred on May 9. As a visual representation of the concept of empathy, sneakers with student and teacher names lined the hallway to show that "everyone is worthy of us 'walking a mile in their shoes,'" says Byma.



# BUMP. SET. SPIKE. SCORE!

## Middle School Debuts Volleyball Team

By Christian Nigro '17



1. Capri Kuiken and Katie Liao jump up to block Brookside's spike attempt; 2. Vesti Graine and Cassidy Abma ready themselves to get into position; 3. Abbagayle Kovac and Rachel Baker await the opponent's serve; 4. Anya Veinberg gets ready to serve.

**Last summer, a sand volleyball court was installed at the middle school. This spring, in yet another volleyball first, the school added a team.**

The Eastern Christian Middle School's girls volleyball team had an exciting inaugural year, playing five other middle schools in a 10-game season during the month of March.

Players picked up the skills quickly, even practicing during recess. With strong interest from students, the school was able to compete with a full roster of 18 athletes.

Sharing the responsibilities with **Jayna Van Buiten**, JV volleyball coach, coach **Aaron Goldstein**

has been very supportive of his team from the get-go. Goldstein adds, "I really thought it would benefit the students. What [has happened in the past] is that girls will go into high school knowing how to play soccer or basketball because of teams in middle school, but there wasn't anything like that for volleyball."

Despite a 2-8 record, there were a lot of close games, and Goldstein is proud of the exceptional progress they've made as a rookie team. He has plenty of confidence looking forward to next season, and encourages more girls to give the sport a try. "I would say some students in the middle school are nervous about trying out for sports because sometimes there are people that don't make the team, but I definitely want to encourage everyone to try out. You grow from putting yourself out there and going for something. Even if you don't make it, you're no worse off than you were before."





1. Michael Mulder, Kayleigh Marshall, Alex Galupo as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; Sadie Vander Pyl wearing white. Charlie Denekamp and Kendra Heerema in the back row. 2. Theo Douma and Kirsten Braunius

## COOL IN THE FURNACE

### Fourth Graders Take the Stage

**Dressed in crisp, white shirts and armed with kazoos, a squadron of fourth graders marched into the elementary school gym with a simple mission: share the story of God's power and provision through drama.**

This year's fourth grade musical was called, "It's Cool in the Furnace," written by Grace Hawthorne and Buryl Red in 1973. Based on the biblical account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, it's an oldie but goodie, and music teacher **Rob Flim** shares, "several people remembered doing this play during their years at EC, however, it's been several years since it was last performed."

Narrated by Daniel, portrayed by **Rebekah Jung**, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were played by **Alex Galupo**, **Kayleigh Marshall**, and **Michael Mulder**, respectively. The antagonist of the story, King Nebuchadnezzar, was acted out by **Kirsten Braunius**.

"The fourth grade musical is one of the main 'rites of passage' for the students. After practicing a few months, the students perform the play for a few audiences, including chapel, EC high school, a community performance and a local church worship service," adds Flim.

"Doing a play like this introduces the kids to drama

and what is involved in putting together a musical," says Flim. "Students learn how to work with each other and how each part is important in the play. Students learn more about Old Testament Bible stories and God's plans for his people. We want the audience to experience the message of the play, but also to see what their child is exposed to in school."

“ [THROUGH DRAMA WE CAN] SHARE THE STORY OF GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION.



3. Amelia Ortiz; 4. Rebekah Jung in front of the furnace



# STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

Series of Student Worship Nights Organized by EC Junior

By Christina Tartini '19



*Orchestrated by an EC junior, students from around the area attend a worship night at Powerhouse Christian Church in Wyckoff.*

**For several months, Eastern Christian junior Sona Borekjian searched for a teen worship night. She couldn't find one. Then one Sunday, while sitting at Powerhouse Christian Church, an idea came to her head—start one.**

Sona adds, "I was trying to listen, but I couldn't. I heard a voice saying, 'start it here' so that pushed me to do it."

After the service, she emailed a pastor at Powerhouse about her idea of having a worship night. The pastoral staff was willing to listen.

"When Sona approached us with the idea, we saw the passion in her heart for the Lord and her desire to see her fellow classmates worship together. We knew God was moving, and we, at Powerhouse Church, wanted to be part of that," says Pastor Rob Schwinge.

Sona mentioned, "I felt called to do it for a really long time, but just didn't know how to pursue it."

However, once she talked to the pastor at Powerhouse, things began to fall into place.

Upon figuring out logistics, she began to put up flyers around the school. In addition, "I thought it would be a really good idea to invite EC and Hawthorne Christian Academy and some of the youth groups around the area."

On Feb. 28, about 40 people from all over North Jersey gathered to worship Jesus at Powerhouse Church. **Siobhan Hunziker**, a junior attendee, mentioned, "It's cool to be a part of another group, as well as incorporating many youth groups as one."

Around the church, there were a couple different stations for people to go to. One of the stations enabled students to write down prayer requests. At the end of the worship night, Siobhan noticed that many students stuck around to

pray for all the prayer requests that were placed on the wall.

After the response from the first worship night, the students organized a second event, held in April, and then a third, held in May.

Regarding the first evening, Schwinge adds, "God's presence was tangible in this place that night, and we are so thankful that God allowed us to be a part of all of it. We look forward to hosting many more worship nights."



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS  
EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2017

**Although many people are familiar with Eastern Christian's mission—engaging the mind, nurturing the spirit, transforming the world—less are aware that the school also has a graduate profile.**

Here's an excerpt: *"The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence and seeks to contribute cooperatively and responsibly to God's mission of renewing all creation."*

This profile is something the high school teachers emphasize throughout the year, and it is always a joy to celebrate with—as well as commission—the young men and women as they leave the halls of EC.

This year's graduation took place on June 14 in the high school gym, where 77 students graduated as the Class of 2017. The class represented a wide variety of talent, ranging from the academic success of Valedictorian **Kyle Streelman** to the Christ-like service of students like **Scott Steenstra**, who was awarded with the 2017 Faculty Award.

The class verses aptly put the grade in perspective: "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:4-5). Steenstra, speaking to his peers during commencement on account of Streelman's unexpected illness that week, also reminded the class "the challenge for each and every one of us is to use our gifts to transform the world for the Glory of God."

Similarly, commencement speaker and faculty member **Suzanne Kraai** focused on the unique and individual giftedness of each person and exhorted the graduates to submit those gifts under the Lordship of Christ.

“

THE CHALLENGE FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IS TO USE OUR GIFTS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.” - *Scott Steenstra*



## GRADUATIONS



1. Kyle Streelman and Abigail Johnson; 2. Suzanne Kraai; 3. Alexia Webster; 4. Mathew Matthias and Kristen Casey; 5. Senior class music ensemble

Sharing from her life, she said, “Most importantly, I had no idea how powerful experiences with the Lord would continue to shape my life’s work and how as I drew closer to Him and learned to use my gifts in the ways HE defined, it would be the most gratifying experience of deep-seeded joy.”

She urged students to let “God mold the direction of that gift—whether it be Broadway or your high school classroom,” reminding them that to fulfill those gifts “passionately is the task.”

Circling back to concepts in the graduate profile, Kraai ended with a final thought: “EC, in partnership with your parents, families, friends and loved ones, those present today and those who have gone before you to meet the Lord, have tirelessly prayed and worked to support you to hear your calling, to root your foundation in becoming a leader with purpose. Now it is your turn to decide—is your identity about you, or is it defined by Christ’s gift through the passion you show?”





# THE CLASS OF 2017

**THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN GRADUATE IS PREPARED TO BE A PERSON OF CHRISTIAN VISION AND INFLUENCE AND SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE COOPERATIVELY AND RESPONSIBLY TO GOD'S MISSION OF RENEWING ALL CREATION.** - *excerpt from EC's graduate profile*



Morgan Abma



Ethan Agnello



Brianna Altamuro



Eliese Boodaghian



Benjamin Boonstra



Jesse Boonstra



Kelly Bosloper



Alyssa Botbyl



Alondra Brancato



Andrew Brooks



Adrian Brown



Skylar Brown



Gabrielle Buccola



Stephanie Cabral



Eleni Callahan



Yaddier Cardona



Kristen Casey



Carina Castagna



Melanie Castro-Bedoya



Hsien-Yu Chen



Seung Bum Choi



Esther Chow



Matthieu Davis



Francesca DeParis



Brenna Duffy



Adam Faber



Qichen Fan



Michael Ghinelli



Shiqi Gong



Luis Grande Garcia



Kristina Hajhassan



Tianyu Han



Sergio Harris



Chunliang He



Hope Hennessy



## GRADUATIONS



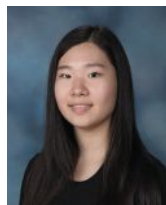
Lindsay Hope



Paul Howes



Abigail Johnson



Sarah Kang



Daniel Kuder



Samuel Kuder



Elisabeth Kuipers



Eric Lee



Nicole Martin



Mathew Matthias



Christian Nigro



Oreoluwa Odusanya



Joshua Onufer



Tao Pen



Christina Poliandro



Stephen Raman



Breanna Ricketts



Abigail Rodriguez



Gabrielle Rodriguez



Melanie Romero



AnnMarie Ronquillo



Quincy Rutherford



Alyssa Schoener



Rachel Schultz



Clairia Schwartz



Tekmatei Shimphui



Ashley Silva



Scott Steenstra



Kyle Streelman



Alexis Struck



Caitlyn Taylor



Brittany Van Harken



Connor Van Hoff



Brooke Van Lenten



Ethan Vander Molen



Erin Vander Plaats



YaLong Wang



Ziyue Wang



Alexis Webster



Jianglai Zhang



Ke Zhang



Xiaoyu Zhang

*“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” - Romans 12:4-5*

# CLASS OF 2017 AWARDS



*Brenna Duffy, recipient of the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship, flanked by Dean of Students Phil Verrengia, Mrs. Janet Braen, and College and Career Counselor Jesse Struck*

## Department Awards

**Art Department Award**  
Stephanie Cabral

**Bible and Life Award**  
Abigail Johnson

**English Department Excellence in Writing Award**  
Abigail Johnson

**Eastern Christian Scholastic Writing Award**  
Stephanie Cabral

**Drama Award**  
Scott Steenstra

**Journalism Award**  
Rachel Schultz  
Alondra Brancato

**Technology Department Award**  
Luis Grande Garcia

**Foreign Language Award**  
Kyle Streelman

**Mathematics Award**  
Ziyue Wang (Selena)

**John Philip Sousa Award (Band Award)**  
Stephen Raman  
Matthieu Davis

**Orchestra Award**  
Adrian Brown  
Skylar Brown

**Choral Award**  
Mathew Matthias

**Overall Musical Achievement - Arion Award**  
Elisabeth Kuipers

**Faculty Award**  
Scott Steenstra

**Valedictorian**  
Kyle Streelman

## Athletic Department Awards

**ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award**  
Ben Boonstra  
Brooke Van Lenten

**NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award**  
Stephanie Cabral

**Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award**  
Brooke Van Lenten  
Kelly Bosloper  
Dan Kuder

**Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete**  
Ben Boonstra  
Erin Vander Plaat

**New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day**  
Brooke Van Lenten

**North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award**  
Ethan Vander Molen  
Brooke Van Lenten

## School and Community Awards

**Lakeland Bank Scholarship**  
Mathew Matthias

**Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship**  
Brenna Duffy

**R Bruce Van Hine First Responders Award**  
Carina Castagna

**Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship**  
Rachel Schultz

**Smith-Shute Nursing Scholarship**  
Rachel Schultz

**Henriette & Kathyne Houseward Vocational Scholarship**  
Rachel Schultz

**Richard J Vander Plaat Service Award**  
Adrian Brown  
Skylar Brown

## State and National Award Winners

### President's Education Award - Gold Certificate

Stephanie Cabral  
Kyle Streelman  
Scott Steenstra  
Abigail Johnson  
Ziyue (Selena) Wang  
Eric Lee  
Erin Vander Plaat  
Mathew Matthias  
Shiqi (Sharon) Gong  
Kristen Casey  
Rachel Schultz  
Skylar Brown  
Qichen (Will) Fan  
Jianglai (Lavender) Zhang  
Tao (Peter) Peng  
Alexis Struck  
Yaddier Cardona  
Alondra Brancato  
Joshua Onufer  
Elisabeth Kuipers  
Claira Schwartz  
Oreoluwa Odusanya  
Alyssa Botbyl  
Tianyu (Avril) Han  
Brenna Duffy  
Adrian Brown  
Stephen Raman  
Esther Chow  
Benjamin Boonstra  
Morgan Abma

### New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipient

Stephanie Cabral  
Kyle Streelman  
Scott Steenstra  
Abigail Johnson  
Eric Lee  
Erin Vander Plaat  
Mathew Matthias  
Kristen Casey  
Rachel Schultz

**Congrats 2017 EC award winners!**



# CLASS OF 2017 COLLEGES

**The Class of 2017 reported their college acceptances and post-graduate plans to the College and Career Office. Following is a list of colleges reported.**

1892  
Total Reported Amount  
of Scholarships Awarded  
to This Year's High School Graduates



**\$6,763,072**

Albany College of Pharmacy  
Albright College  
American University  
Arcadia University  
Barry University  
Baylor University  
Becker College  
Belmont University  
Bergen Community College  
Berkeley College  
Binghamton University  
Bowdoin College  
Bryant University  
Cairn University  
California State University  
Calvin College  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University  
Cedarville University  
Chapman University  
Chestnut Hill College  
Clarkson University  
Cogswell Polytechnical College  
Colorado State University  
Cornell College  
Creighton University  
Drew University  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
East Stroudsburg University  
Eastern University  
Eastwick College  
Eckerd College  
Elmira College  
Elon University  
Emory University  
Fairfield University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Florida International University  
Fordham University  
Geneva College  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Gordon College

Gwynedd Mercy University  
High Point University  
Hofstra University  
Howard University  
Hudson County Community College  
Hult International Business School  
Iona College  
James Madison University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Kean University  
Liberty University  
Long Island University  
Loyola University  
Lynchburg College  
Manhattanville College  
Marist College  
Messiah College  
Michigan State University  
Monmouth University  
Monroe College  
Montclair State University  
Moravian College  
Muskingum University  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

New York Institute of Technology  
Northwestern University - Qatar  
Nyack College  
Oregon State University  
Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pepperdine University  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
Purdue University  
Quinnipiac University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rider University  
Roger Williams University  
Rowan University  
Rutgers University  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Joseph's University  
Saint Leo University  
Saint Peter's University  
Santa Monica College  
Seton Hall University  
Siena College  
Southeastern University  
Springfield College  
St Thomas Aquinas College  
Steven's Institute of Technology  
Stevenson University  
Stony Brook University  
SUNY Buffalo State  
SUNY Delhi  
SUNY Oswego  
SUNY University at Albany  
SUNY University at Buffalo  
Temple University  
Texas Christian University  
The College of New Jersey  
The King's College

UEI College  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of Bridgeport  
University of California - Davis  
University of California - Los Angeles  
University of California - Riverside  
University of California - San Diego  
University of California - Santa Barbara  
University of California - Santa Cruz  
University of Connecticut  
University of Delaware  
University of Glasgow (Scotland)  
University of Hartford  
University of Indiana  
University of Kansas  
University of Maine  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Michigan - Flint  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of Scranton  
University of St Andrews (Scotland)  
University of Stirling (Scotland)  
University of The Pacific  
University of The Redlands  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Waynesburg University  
Westmont College  
Wilkes University  
William Paterson University  
Wingate University

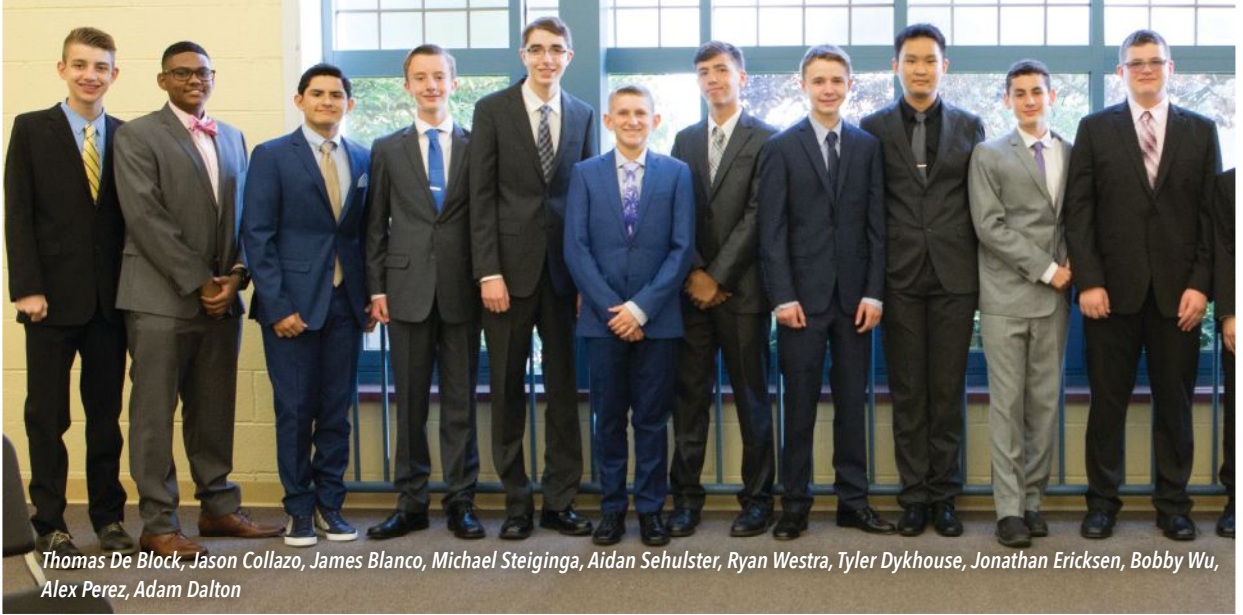


*The Class of 2017 wearing college attire for EC's annual "Pledge your Collegiance Day".*

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION

## Knowing the King's Song

The middle school gym was packed with smiling faces as 63 eighth graders walked down the aisle in anticipation of a new chapter: high school.



Thomas De Block, Jason Collazo, James Blanco, Michael Steiging, Aidan Sehulster, Ryan Westra, Tyler Dykhouse, Jonathan Ericksen, Bobby Wu, Alex Perez, Adam Dalton

Principal **Dan Lazor** delivered the commencement address, centering his speech on a foundational doctrine of faith, as well as the school's theme for the year: Made in His image.

Genesis 1:27 records, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them." Lazor brought this message to life by incorporating two familiar books: Eric Carle's *The Mixed Up Chameleon*, and Max Lucado's *The Song of the King*. In the first, he demonstrated the confusion that can arise when we fail to realize our own uniqueness. The latter book stressed the importance of knowing "the king's song" despite false songs that play at the same time.

“

MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU IS TO SEE THAT IMAGE IN YOURSELF. BUT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT

YOU SEE THAT IMAGE OF GOD IN OTHERS.” - Principal Dan Lazor

“Regardless of how long you have attended the middle school, there is one, constant theme that has been repeated to you by our staff—one song that has been played over and over again. It is a truth that comes directly from the pages of Scripture—that you are God’s image bearers and possess immeasurable worth, regardless of the messages that may come to you from the world,” shared Lazor.



Naol Tulu and Katie Kuiken



He ended with a challenge based on an iconic scene in the movie, *Dead Poet's Society*. "Your teachers have not been whispering 'Carpe Diem,' as Mr. Keating did. No, they have been whispering another Latin phrase – 'Image Dei', 'Image of God,' 'Image Bearer.' Even more than the challenge to seize the day is the challenge to hear this foundational truth—that you are made in the image of God."



"My encouragement to you is to see that image in yourself. But it is equally important that you see that image of God in others. It is the basis for philanthropy and benevolence; the reason one might sacrifice time, or energy, or resources for the sake of another—they are fellow image bearers—and in being so, they possess worth and value beyond measure," Lazor ended.

The platform was also shared by a variety of eighth grade students. Salutatorians **Kelly Steenstra** and **Michael Steiginga** both delivered moving prayers, one to open the ceremony, and the other after the commencement address.

Valedictorian **Aidan Schulster** also spoke on the school theme, as well as reflecting on the leadership and maturity of those in his class. He added, "This grade has been a blessing to all of us. All these graduates

have been given the opportunity to be leaders in this school, to learn under our teachers, and to grow in our faith."



1. 8th Grade Chorus Members led by Mrs. L. Kuipers; 2. Kelly Steenstra; 3. The Steiginga Family; 4. Aidan Schulster

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Fourth Grade Promotion Chapel



**For the parents and extended family assembled in the elementary school gym, it was evident this year's fourth grade class had accomplished a great deal.**

As they sat in neatly lined rows, proudly wearing their navy blue shirts with "Class of 2017" emblazoned in the front, **Sandy Bottge** shared how the class had actively participated in the life of the school through service, leadership, reading, music and more.

"I am so proud of each one of you. It's been a wonderful year working and playing together," she said.

The ceremony opened with Ode to Joy, played by the 36 fourth graders on the recorder, as well as a welcome and prayer from **Tom Dykhouse**, head of school. Fourth grade teachers **Carol Byma** and **Donna Hoogerhyde** introduced the school theme to the audience, which was the same for all campuses: In His Image.

At the elementary school, students had considered four essential questions for the year related to the theme: Who is God? Who am I in His image? How should I relate to others? What is my responsibility in God's kingdom?



**YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD  
AND YOU WERE MADE  
FOR A PURPOSE."**

*- Sandy Bottge*



1. Fourth Grade Class of 2017;  
2. Ortiz Family; 3. Teddy Jasper  
with Donna Hoogerhyde

creation to think, plan, understand, make decisions and build relationships.

As the speech closed, Bottge reminded the students seated before her of one last truth before they left elementary school and headed off to middle school: "You are a child of God and you were made for a purpose."



# PRESCHOOL

## Graduation and Special Memories



**As family and friends took their seats inside Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church on June 13, a slideshow of pictures flashed across the screens, reminding everyone of a special year.**

The photos included snapshots of the preschool Trike-a-thon, a St. Jude Fundraiser held in tandem with the fifth graders; arts and crafts; face painting; and even a picture of a child in a homemade, construction paper, “Happy Birthday” crown.

**Tom Dykhouse**, head of schools, opened the night with a reminder.

“This really is a time of celebration. Your children are precious to you, precious to us, and precious to our entire school community.”

As part of their song repertoire—a focal point of the night—the preschool class of 2017 debuted *This is the Day* with a special twist based on the school theme: “I am a child in the image of God. I will rejoice and be glad in it.”

The night’s graduation songs also included other familiar favorites, like *Jesus Loves Me* and *My God is So Big*. The group of 44 students rolled through the list of songs they had learned under the direction of music teacher **Rebecca Karle**, performing with gusto.

After the presentation of diplomas, the short ceremony ended with a closing prayer by Preschool Director **Karyn Baitzel**, as well as a closing song. But it wasn’t time to go home



1. Graduates sing at the front of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church; 2. Kayla Byrne; 3. Isabelle Zimmerman with parents Julissa and Nathanael; 4. Avery Mulder congratulated by big brother Michael Mulder

“**YOUR CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS... TO OUR ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY”**  
- Tom Dykhouse

just yet—after a job well done, the kids bounded into the fellowship hall for one last graduation ritual: lots of treats.



## SPECIAL MOMENTS

From the 2017 Graduations



1. Sarah Kang and Seung Bum (Steve) Choi; 2. Schultz Family; 3. Fourth grade students play Ode to Joy; 4. Mulder Family; 5. De Block Family; 6. Tyler Dykhouse and Elizabeth Botbyl; 7. Ross Family; 8. Troupos Family; 9. The Pierce Family; 10. Pastor Family; 11. Sergio Harris with his aunt, uncle and cousins; 12. Yalong (Tom) Wang; 13. Aaron Peters

***Congratulations to all of our  
2017 EC Graduates!***



## GRADUATIONS



6



7

"GOD CREATED MAN  
IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN  
THE IMAGE OF GOD HE  
CREATED THEM."



8



9



10



11



12



13

## \$1 MILLION AND COUNTING!

### ditto Volunteer Celebration

**On a Wednesday evening in May, we honored volunteers at the Annual ditto Volunteer Celebration.**

Our loyal band of volunteers donate thousands of hours each year to make ditto of North Jersey a success. ditto (lower case “d” is intentional) measures success in two ways: First, the upscale-resale shop was established to bless Eastern Christian financially with regular contributions of “profits” earned by the store. Each donation to EC adds to ditto’s success; the second measure of success is seeing how ditto ministers to and blesses the community. By all accounts, ditto of North Jersey is a smashing success! At this year’s dinner the theme was celebration. We celebrated our

volunteers and the amazing way they serve both EC and the community. And, we celebrated ditto’s success. This year, **ditto surpassed the \$1 million mark** in donations made to Eastern Christian School. That’s right, \$1 million dollars donated to Eastern Christian School to reduce the tuition of every single student since the store opened just seven years ago.

When ditto opened its doors the Board of Directors hoped that this nice little thrift shop would turn a profit and benefit the school. God has

overwhelmed us by using ditto in an amazing way to bless EC and to minister to the community. ditto is always looking for new volunteers and there are many many ways for you to serve. Stop by and speak with Tim Maggiore, our general manager, and see how you can help ditto donate the next million dollars.



*Store managers Lynda Spyckaboer, Deb Tanis, Dee Anderson, and Betsy Kelly present Tom Dykhouse with a check representing donations to Eastern Christian from September 1, 2010 through July 1, 2017.*

## EC SEEKS GRANTS

### Help Fund Our School

**One important part of The Foundation’s responsibility that you don’t hear much about is finding and applying for grants to help fund our programs and projects at Eastern Christian School.**

Many organizations have full-time grant writers, professionals, who do nothing but search for appropriate grants and then apply to the foundations that are awarding those grants. Here at The Foundation for ECSA, grant applications are something that we handle in-house.

Despite our inability to dedicate more time to grant writing, we have done pretty well the last few years. We have received grants from:

- Bergen County Utilities Authority
- The Bolger Foundation
- The Fred J. Brotherton Charitable Foundation
- The Hamstra Charitable Foundation
- CDW Government
- New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Prevention
- Non-Public School Grants

We have applied for many other grants and continue to do so. Grants are a tremendous way for us to provide funds for specific programs without going back to our regular donors. Being awarded a grant is a difficult process, but finding foundations that will consider our applications is the hardest part of the process. You can help. Do you have a connection to a granting foundation that we might not be aware of? Are you familiar with any granting foundations that you know will support Christian education? Do you have grant writing experience and an interest in completing an application or two for EC? If so, please contact The Foundation office and share the leads with us. You can email [davidvisbeen@easternchristian.org](mailto:davidvisbeen@easternchristian.org) or call 973-427-9294.





**ASB Contribution** | On Wednesday morning, May 25th, (L to R) Michael Westra, Director and Mary Beth Steinginga, VP at Atlantic Stewardship Bank presented Tom Dykhouse, Head of School at Eastern Christian School with a check in the amount of \$16,000.00. ASB has made annual contributions to EC through the bank's tithing program since its inception. To date, ASB has donated more than \$9 million to local charitable organizations.

# ANNUAL FUND

**You Can Make a Difference**

**Eastern Christian has an incredible heritage and, with God's provision and blessing, an amazing future.**

We are celebrating our 125th Anniversary as a school and, at the same time, kicking off a major capital campaign that will assure the faithful pursuit of excellence in the future. While we celebrate the past and dream about the future, we must not lose sight of the present.

Each year, The Annual Fund for Eastern Christian School provides

more than \$1 million to the current school budget. As a result, no student pays more than 78% of the actual cost of the excellent, Christ-centered education they receive at EC. The Annual Fund dollars come from events (Spring Auction Gala, Golf, etc), from supporting activities (Eagle Solar, ditto of North Jersey, Eagle Camps, etc), from The Endowment, from business supporters, from churches, and most importantly from you.

Your participation in The Annual Fund makes a critical difference to

each and every student at EC. Will you please join us in this important fundraising program this year? Your gift of any size is welcome. Last year, 64% of our gifts were under \$250.00. You can make a difference!

Use the enclosed envelope to reply or go to [easternchristian.org](http://easternchristian.org) and click on the Donate Now button to use your credit card. Your early reply reduces our need to follow-up with correspondence and phone calls. If you have questions regarding the Annual Fund, please contact The Foundation for ECSA at 973-427-9294.

## 2017 Service Awards

### 5 years

Sharon Spoelstra  
Michael Mckinney  
Dawn Heerema  
Rebekah Sankey  
Ian Zacharias  
Jesse Struck  
Diane De Rooy

### 10 years

Laura Gorter  
Thomas Dykhouse  
Sarah Vander Wall  
Sandy De Marco

### 15 years

Liesl Botbyl  
Ruth Kuder  
Geraldine Gallagher

### 20 years

Laurie Genzink  
Donna Holly  
Mildred Cameron

### 25 years

Jane Okma

### 30 years

Janyce Bandstra  
Barry Veenstra

### 40 years

Raymond Roberts

### Retiring

Deb Andrews  
Wilma Bogertman  
Jack Wilson

# EPIC EVENTS

By Katie Tarta

**Goals were smashed, records were re-written and enthusiasm went viral! This year we broke every record set at an EC event—from the Fashion Show and Beefsteak straight through spring's Auction Gala, Touch A Truck and Golf Outing. Not one event disappointed, and each served to advance Christian education.**

The Fashion Show brought in numbers never seen with proceeds close to \$20,000 and attendance over 200! New donors like Emme, Super Model, La Force, PR and LT Apparel provided Silent Auction items with a variety appealing to every attendee. The Beefsteak emerged with over 270 attendees and broke \$25,000 in donations. But the highlight event was the Auction Gala, bringing in 356 guests and over \$100,000 for the first time in the history of any EC events.



## Auction Gala

Our Auctioneer Sponsor, **Wayne Tile**, brought us Auctioneer, Chris Ward. He helped increase our live donations and drove the Fund-A-Need campaign to over \$15,000 in 15 minutes! Attendees participated in mobile bidding during the Silent Auction, enabling on and off site bidding. Winners were those who bid high and often! This year's Gala Sponsors were **Martin Orthodontics** and **Visbeen Construction**. Quality packages increased and serious bidders arrived with a plan. For example, sold by individual slot, a painting party package filled up in a matter of minutes. A Disney Vacation was won and proceeds exploded once again as more attendees participated in more ways than ever! In addition, thanks to new activities, like the heads or tails game and the wine pull, all players left with a prize!



1. Craig Hoogstra and Harold Post; 2. Auction event gala tables;  
3. Laura Steenstra, Katie Tarta and Sue Leegwater

“

**[AUCTIONEER CHRIS WARD] HELPED INCREASE OUR LIVE DONATIONS AND DROVE THE FUND-A-NEED CAMPAIGN TO OVER \$15,000 IN 15 MINUTES!**





4



5



6



7

THIS YEAR WE BROKE EVERY  
RECORD SET AT AN EC EVENT!



8

## Touch A Truck

Hot on the heels of the Auction was Touch A Truck, a newer event geared toward reaching the community and introducing younger families to our campuses. With attendance hovering around 700 people, proceeds doubled from the previous year, largely because of the ECES PTO Committee. Sponsors enthusiastically supported a multi-level platform with **Russo Development** and **Visbeen Construction** once again leading the charge.

## Golf Outing

The Golf Outing sold out for the second consecutive year with over 125 golfers. It drove past previous records, bringing in over \$42,000. Platinum Sponsor, **Atlantic Stewardship Bank**, enabled the foundation to grow the event to include lunch, dinner and an

4. EC supporters in the golf outing; 5. Brielle Tanis; 6. Julia and Amar Patel; 7. Adam Peters; 8. Michael and Kenn Visbeen

18-hole course. Every player wore an EC golf wind shirt compliments of **Visbeen Construction**. A huge thanks to **Jeff Vander Molen/Terrie O'Connor Realtors** for providing the beverage cart to all players at the Golf Outing. The Golf Committee did not let us down and donated prizes were awarded to nearly half the attendees.

It was a banner year for events and guests. The pressure is on to keep it up and bring in the crowds. Expect to see more attractions, exciting upgrades and new events as we ride this wave of revival right into the 2020s! Hold fast, but enjoy the ride, donors. We're about to hit our stride.

## ALUMNI

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

**Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema '78** writes, "In my 50's I decided to go back to school to become a medical assistant. My position is in a clinic in downtown Grand Rapids, MI, working with the underserved and underinsured at Saint Mary's Hospital/Mercy Health."

**Dr. Julie (Dykhous) Tokarski '01** has passed the examination in pediatric emergency medicine given by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is now Board-certified in that subspecialty as well as in general pediatrics. Julie is an attending physician in the pediatric ER of Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan.

**Rebecca Flim '07** graduated from DeSales University in November 2016. She is currently working as a pediatric and trauma orthopedic physician assistant at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, PA.

## Births & Marriages

**Mark Reitsma '91 & Pamela (Smid) Reitsma '90** adopted a son, Ryan Jonathan (born 11/11/2015) on 12/22/16.

**Andrew '95 & Rachelle (Scarpa) Steen '99** welcomed Amelia Rose on 3/29/17.

**Tom '97 & Christine (Schreck) Laauwe '97** welcomed Elena Grace on 1/8/17.

**Jim '99 & Lauren (Decker) Unrath '03** welcomed Carson James on 12/22/16.

**Ben & Sarah (Steenstra) Ashby '00** welcomed Jonah Michael on 12/16/16.

**Rebekah & Stephen McHugh '00** welcomed David Joel on 2/24/17.

**Emily & Michael Dyer '02** welcomed Kelsey Mae on 6/28/16.

**Dana & Kyle Swensen '02** welcomed Milan Evee Belle on 1/1/2017.

**Erik & Kim (Lindsay) '03 Brown** welcomed Evelyn Noelle on 12/30/16.

**Michael '03 & Kelly (Fischer) Rainville '03** welcomed Mack Austin on 2/25/17.

**Alex Noyes '04 & Molly Tarlov** were married on 3/4/17.

**Dan '04 & Kelley (Greenfield) Westra '05** welcomed Avery Jule on 4/19/17.

**Phil '05 & Jenna (Hulsebos) Beverly '05** welcomed Caleb Paul on 4/25/17.

**Kristine & Taylor Maneri '05** welcomed Luca Andrew on 1/12/17.

**Levi & Kristen (Groenewal) Kool '05** welcomed Preston Levi on 3/24/17.

**Pamela & John Nyman '05** welcomed Killian Alexander on 3/2/17.

**Kyle & Meghan (Van Hine) Sensenig '05** welcomed Wyatt Lance on 3/30/17.

**Sean '05 & Sara (Davidson) Tanner '05** welcomed Declan Davidson on 5/24/17.

**John '05 & Alyssa (Smith) '06 Van Buiten** welcomed Hallie Grace on 1/10/2017.

**David Henion '06 & Emily Gerritsen '08** were married on 6/2/17.

**Andrew & Mary (Tolsma) van der Meer '06** welcomed Elsie Grace on 2/22/17.

**Michael & Janelle (Torbet) Westerveld '06** welcomed Olivia Marie on 6/10/17.

**Jonathan & Kristen (Tanis) Cawood '07** welcomed Tyler James on 5/24/2017.

**Benny '07 & Sara (Troast) Spoelstra '08** welcomed Bernhard David on 4/16/17.

**Dan '07 & Bridget (Soodsma) Rainville '07** welcomed Thomas Daniel on 4/19/17.

**Chip & Emily (Vriesema) Cathey '08** welcomed Luke William on 2/23/17.

**Tom & Jenna (Greenfield) '08 Johnston** welcomed Isla Sage on 1/3/17.

**Eric & Nicole (Struyk) Krzyzanowski '08** welcomed Violet Skye on 4/26/17.

**Joe Pellegrino '08 & Laura Christison** were married on 7/1/17.

**Lisa St. Pierre '08 & Steve Rozgonyi** were married on 5/13/17.

**Amy & Kendall Everett '09** welcomed Aubrey Rae on 4/7/17.

**Andrew & Stephanie (Boonstra) Honore '09** welcomed Natalie Jill on 4/23/17.

**Tim & Emily (Brotherton) Milazzo '09** welcomed Micah Nathan on 4/3/17.



## ALUMNI NEWS

**Alexa Lewis '09** & Johnathan Miller were married on 6/11/17.

**Lauren Spoelstra '09** & Kurtis Paquin were married on 4/29/17.

**Amy Rice '10** & Jamie Craib were married on 7/1/17.

**Mark Tirondola '10** & Leah Groenewal '11 were married on 6/30/17.

**Jeremy Braunius '11** & Hanna Cho were married on 6/17/17.

**Travis & Courtney (Martin) Dedrick '11** welcomed Gavin Anthony on 2/15/17.

**MacKenzie Lewis '11** & Teddy Bresson were married on 4/8/17.

Elizabeth & **Adam Struyk '11** welcomed Landon Tyler on 2/27/17.

**Victoria Westra '11** & Andrew Dodson were married on 7/1/17.

**SEND US YOUR BABY ANNOUNCEMENT TO RECEIVE AN EC ONESIE!**



Amelia Steen



Averly Westra



Ben Spoelstra



Preston Kool



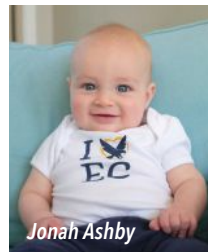
Natalie Honore



Landon Struyk



Malachi Hulsebos



Jonah Ashby



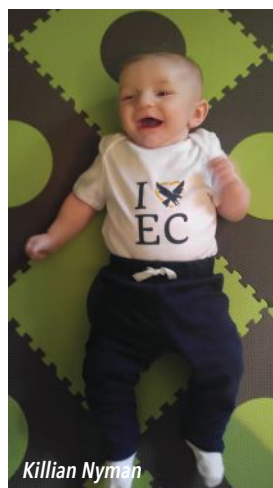
Aubrey Everett



Hallie Van Buiten



Carson Unrath



Killian Nyman



Cousins Caleb Beverly and Elsie van der Meer



Isla Johnston

**Thank you to the many alumni who submitted photos of your EC babies in their onesies!**

# REMEMBERING

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

## Former Faculty & Board

**Dr. Charles Adams, age 70** of Sioux Center, Iowa went home to be with the Lord on 2/24/17. He graduated from Newark College of Engineering, and received two Masters Degrees, one from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Engineering and one from Montclair State in teaching. He began his engineering career working for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. According to an online tribute,

*“Charley was an engineer, a scientist, a technician, who quit the lab because he felt a call to teach, not just anywhere either, but at a place where faith took in every class, a place where teachers didn’t just sit comfortably on their faith fannies but worked hard to try to know what God wanted of them in every last area of life.”*

*Eastern Christian High School was blessed to have him as a science, physics and chemistry teacher from 1971-1979. He left EC to start an engineering program at Dordt College, and years later, his contribution was acknowledged by naming the new engineering wing “The Charles Adams Engineering Center.”*

“Mr. Adams” as he was known then, is fondly remembered by his former students and colleagues.

## Alumni

**Bertha (Bruins) Jacobs ’37** of North Haledon, NJ on 4/20/17.

**Dorothy Dansen ’38** of Wyckoff, NJ on 2/16/17.

**Samuel E. Greydanus ’41** of Saugatuck, Michigan on 2/14/17.

**Ellen (Riemersma) Terpstra ’44** of Midland Park, NJ on 5/2/17.

**Frederick Sikkema ’45** of Lakewood Ranch, Florida on 1/13/17.

**Elizabeth “Bette”**

**(Sikkema) King ’48** of Wyckoff, NJ on 1/3/17.

**C. Edward Van Schepen ’49** of Boynton Beach, FL on 5/24/17.

**Alena (Huizing) Sietsma**

**Kuiphoff ’51** of North Haledon, NJ on 3/27/17.

**Garret “Bud” Ruit ’51** of Hawthorne, NJ on 5/13/17.

**Robert W. Zuidema ’51** of North Haledon, NJ on 2/19/17.

**James Last ’54** of Ada, Michigan on 4/7/17.

**Daniel Englishman ’66** of Hawthorne, NJ on 5/4/17.

**Kevin Cooper ’70** of Clifton, NJ on 3/2/17.

**Linda (Wiegers) Sajban ’71** of North Haledon, NJ on 1/12/17.

**Arthur De Boer ’76** of Hopedale, Mass on 2/23/17.

**Steven Van Der Weert ’98** of Stockholm, NJ on 3/9/17.

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THE COOK FAMILY, CLASS OF '51, '59, '82, '87, '94, '20, '23, '26, '29



*As this issue of The Herald was being readied for print, the Eastern Christian community learned of the passing of EC's beloved faculty member Paul Beverly on August 1, 2017. We will honor his life and contributions in the next edition of the publication.*





### 1990 EC grads with their 2017 EC grads!

Erin Vander Plaat, Kris (Joustra) Vander Plaat, Ben Boonstra, Krystyn (Kooima) Alessandrello, Amy (Douma) Brooks, Andrew Brooks, Sarah (Everett) Vander Molen and Ethan Vander Molen.



For his service during WWII, Herbert Soodsma '40 was recently honored during a game at Yankee Stadium as 'Veteran of the Game'. Pictured with him are his children, Beverly Soodsma Ten Kate '70, Bill Soodsma '80, Herb, Cathy Soodsma Lagerveld '74 and Debbie Soodsma Veenstra '72.

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Class of 2007 – 10 Year Reunion

This reunion is in the planning stage. If you would like to help, contact Joan Hoogerhyde at Joaniehoog@gmail.com or Alyssa (Vandenberg) Johnston at alyssj@gmail.com. Please be sure to join our class facebook group: Eastern Christian Class of 2007 Reunion.

### Class of 2008 – 10 Year Reunion

A committee is in the process of forming. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please email Shaun at shaun.patterson@nyack.edu

### Class of 1998 – 20 Year Reunion

Any interest in planning a reunion? Please contact Joel Spoelstra at jspoelstra82@hotmail.com to help.

### Class of 1977 – 40 Year Reunion

**When:** Saturday, October 7, 2017

**Where:** Portobello Restaurant, Oakland

**Facebook page:** "Eastern Christian High School 1977"

**Contact:** Don Aupperlee at daupperlee@comcast.net.

### Class of 1967 – 50 Year Reunion

**When:** Saturday, September 30, 2017

**Where:** Portobello Restaurant, Oakland, NJ

**Contact:** Georgia (Faber) Meeter at gmeeter@gmail.com

### Class of 1968 – 50 Year Reunion

A committee is in the process of planning. Please be sure your contact information is up-to-date. Email and address updates can be sent to alumni@easternchristian.org. For more information, call Pat (Borduin) Steiging at 973-337-0928 or John Belanus at johncbelanus@gmail.com.

### Heritage Years

**When:** Friday, October 20

**Where:** 5:30pm at Eastern Christian High School

**Highlighting:** Class of 1962, Class of 1957 and Class of 1952

All Alumni who have graduated 50 years or more are welcome to attend!

# SUPPORTING HEAVY HANDS

Carolyn (Kuiken) Johnson, '92

**In Exodus 17, in an account detailing the battle of the Amalekites and Israelites, the Bible records that Moses' hands got heavy. Knowing the Israelites only won when his hands were held high, Aaron and Hur came alongside their leader to raise his tired arms.**



*Carrie Johnson with her family*

This biblical story serves as a good visual picture for the purpose of East Mountain, which essentially endeavors to do the same: support churches and local ministries by training and spiritually developing its leaders in an area of increasing spiritual darkness—Europe.

“East Mountain hopes to be a place where leaders, both in the local area and from across Europe, can encounter Christ in deep and life-changing ways, be trained and resourced for their work, and receive mentoring, theological training and spiritual care,” shares Carrie Johnson.

Carrie, together with her husband Michael and their family, will soon travel from New Jersey to serve as missionaries with East Mountain in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is a

dramatic shift from their most recent vocation, working on staff at Living Word Church in North Haledon, where Michael was senior pastor and Carrie the director of spiritual formation. Yet the family sees the move as a direct calling.

The seeds for the move were sown in Carrie's heart starting in 2012, when she took a spiritual formation class at Alliance Theological Seminary. “This class tipped me into a life-changing spiritual awakening,” she shares. “This is how Jesus did ministry-investing deeply in the lives of twelve and then sending them out to do the same for others. Since we have experienced firsthand the power of spiritual formation to change our own hearts, we are so eager to

invite other people in ministry who are living out of spiritual dryness into a fresh encounter with Jesus.”

Members of Carrie's family have been in the EC community for four generations and Carrie credits the school with having a “profound impact in the spiritual development of my family.” For her personally, she believes EC played a crucial role in shaping who she became. In particular, “I remember Mr. Beverly challenging me to find my voice. I was so shy in high school and afraid to share my opinion. But he wouldn't let me hide in the shadows and I'm grateful that he saw beneath the surface,” she shares.

As Carrie and her family transition out of the area, she says she very much appreciates the community of believers who have supported and continue to support the family. For more information about their work with East Mountain or for updates on their ministry, write her at [carrie.johnson@uwm.org](mailto:carrie.johnson@uwm.org).

“WE ARE SO EAGER TO INVITE OTHER PEOPLE IN MINISTRY WHO ARE LIVING OUT OF SPIRITUAL DRYNESS INTO A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS.”



# TRAINED IN THE WAY

L. Joan Rypkema '49

Many years ago, Joan Rypkema secured a sticker to the back of a journal. It read: “Will it matter that I have been?” As she looks back over the unexpected journey of her life, she is grateful, she says, that “in many ways, the answer [is] yes.”

Despite all the ups and downs that mark her career and life, one guiding principle, she says, has held firm. The lesson is from Proverbs 22:6: “Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”

True to this principle, her connection to Christian education began early. In 1938, Joan attended Pine Street Christian School in Passaic for the first eight years of her formal education. She remembers having a comfortable childhood, despite financial hardship that resulted in her transferring to Lodi High School. Yet this was not the only major change in her young life. Shortly thereafter, her father suddenly passed away. Her mother, recognizing the terrible impact on her family, asked Joan what she wanted. Joan was resolute: She wanted to go to Eastern Academy. And by the grace of God, she went. “That private education was a gift from God at a time when it was sorely needed,” says Joan.

Joan graduated from Eastern Academy at 16 years old in 1949. She would go on to earn an undergraduate liberal arts degree from Seton Hall, and then a Master’s at Purdue. Eventually, she became a writing teacher at the university. That chapter of her life all changed in 1969, however, when she helped a friend move to Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

Joan wasn’t fond of the state initially, but was drawn to a teaching opportunity she found, working as an English teacher at North Junior High School in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Soon, she accepted a different position as language arts teacher of Berkeley Springs High School.



**CONTRARY TO THE WORLD’S GOALS, JOAN VALUES STRONG FAITH, A SENSE OF CALLING, COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY. HER REWARD IS NOT MEASURED IN DOLLAR FIGURES, BUT IN THE LIVES SHE WAS ABLE TO TOUCH.**

Joan encouraged her students to think for themselves beyond the confines of a classroom. Prompted by seeing sexually graphic graffiti on the walls and desks of the school, she talked to students using correct terms. She wanted her students to understand the power of words and to never abuse or misuse them.

As a result, her journey in Berkeley Springs wasn’t an easy one—it involved a four-year legal battle with the school board regarding unfair dismissal that was eventually retracted. Joan is proud of her call to teach and thankful she had the strength to fulfill that calling for more than 20 years. Contrary to the world’s goals, Joan values strong faith, a sense of calling, commitment and integrity.

Her reward is not measured in dollar figures, but in the lives she was able to touch. Many of her former students are parents and grandparents today, and many of them stay in touch. She is gratified when she hears them say, “Ms. Ryp was the best.”

Alongside the cherished words from Proverbs 22:6, one other principle is dear to her heart. She carries a card in her wallet with words from Psalm 59:9: “God is my defense.” She shares, “I think of these two guiding principles as bookends of my life. They have carefully and with firmness held me throughout my life and indeed, God is and has been my life from the very beginning.”

**“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.” - Proverbs 22:6**

# 50+ YEARS AT HARVARD

Joseph Brain '57



**In 1953, Joseph Brain was one of many freshmen starting off at Eastern Academy. Short, skinny—and by his own admission, a little nerdy—people likely wouldn't have predicted what he would grow up to be.**

Yet despite his unassuming, adolescent characteristics, one teacher—Mr. Sidney Bangma—saw something more. Perhaps without even realizing it, the extra investment would set the direction for this young man's entire life.

"Every high school student should have the opportunity to be mentored by someone like Sidney Bangma. He awakened in me a passion for scientific discovery and teaching—his vision still guides me after 60 years," states Brain. "Sidney Bangma was a great teacher in the classroom, and he taught me physics and chemistry.

But more than that, Sidney Bangma was a friend for me and other students...I will forever be grateful to him for his interest in me and his catalytic role in starting me on a scientific career."

After Eastern Academy, Brain went on to Taylor University, where he met his wife. The two would move on to Harvard—she to Harvard Divinity School and he to pursue two master's degrees and one doctoral degree with a specialty in environmental health. He would later serve more than 50 years at Harvard, currently working as the Cecil K. and Philip Drinker Professor of Environmental Physiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He also chaired the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard for 15 years.

"My subspecialty is lung biology and inhalation toxicology. I am particularly interested in the air we breathe and in pollutants caused by fossil fuel combustion or occupational exposures. I am also interested in drug delivery to and through the lungs," he shares. "Guiding my work has been the conviction that it is far better to prevent disease than it is to diagnose and treat it."

Although his bio includes more than 200 published papers on respiratory defense mechanisms in the lungs, as well as the effect of pollution on public health, he says his "most enduring contributions

“

**WITHOUT A DOUBT, THOSE FOUR YEARS IN THE ECHS SYSTEM**

**LAUNCHED MY ENTIRE LIFE AND ESTABLISHED PERSISTENT ATTITUDES AND OPPORTUNITIES.”**

are probably former students where, like Mr. B did for me, I might have pointed them in the right direction.”

Brain remembers other high school teachers who played a role in shaping his worldview, including Sidney Van Til and Frances Greydanus. He also recalls talented fellow students who enriched his experience. As he reflects back on the role of the school, he shares, “without a doubt, those four years in the ECHS system launched my entire life and established persistent attitudes and opportunities.”

Today, “as I read the frequent communications from EC, I am profoundly grateful for how it has changed while maintaining Christian values. The intentional policy to increase ethnic diversity broadens the school's educational and cultural environment. My faith emphasizes less what we believe and focuses more on how we behave so I am heartened by the passion of ECHS students to make the world a better place.”



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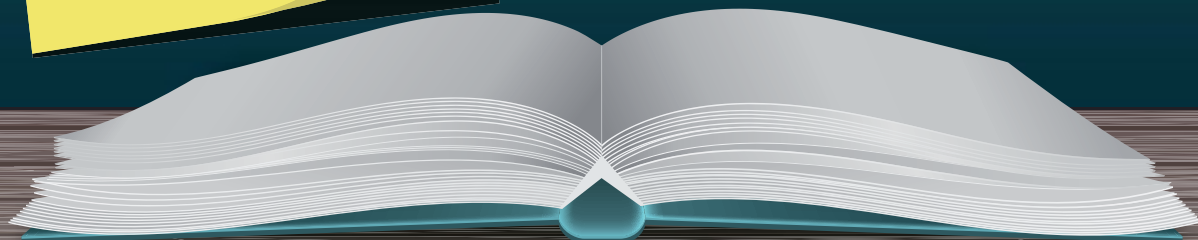


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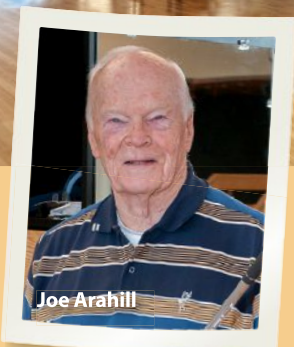
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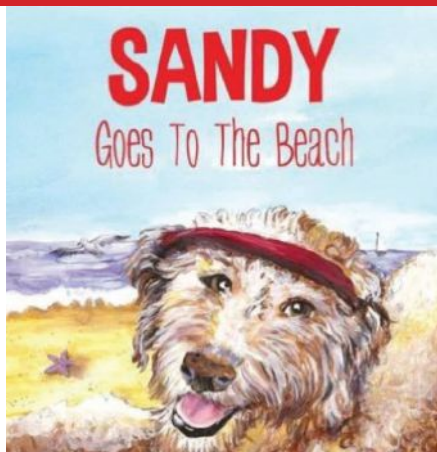
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## OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 22

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### Friday, October 20

**HERITAGE YEARS DINNER**  
5:30pm at ECHS

Highlighting:

Class of 1962's 55-Year Reunion  
Class of 1957's 60-Year Reunion  
Class of 1952's 65-Year Reunion  
Class of 1947's 70-Year Reunion

*All Alumni who have graduated 50  
years or more are welcome to attend!*

**VARSITY SOCCER**  
6:00pm at Willow

### Saturday, October 21

**EC5K**  
8:00am start at ECHS

**VARSITY SOCCER**  
12:00pm at ECHS

**ALUMNI SOCCER GAME**  
2:00pm at ECMS

**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
3:00-5:00pm at ECMS

### Sunday, October 22

**125TH ANNIVERSARY  
WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
5:30pm at ECHS

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## WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

### Basketball, Track & Bowling

#### Boys Varsity Basketball

Having graduated nine seniors from last year's team, Coach **Bill Schoener** and the boys varsity basketball team knew this would be a rebuilding year.



*Jared Post*

Starting two freshmen (**Ben Parker, Caleb Ruffin**) and two sophomores (**Henry Poliandro, Jared Post**), the team surpassed expectations with 11 wins and some great efforts in narrow losses. Highlights included a victory over Wood Ridge in the Public versus Private showcase in Englewood that saw six Eagles score in double figures, and the late season wins over teams they had lost to earlier, including Rutherford, Lodi and Elmwood Park (in front of a large Community Night crowd!) Senior **Quincy Rutherford** led the team in scoring and rebounding and was

named 1st team All County and All League. Jared Post was named 2nd team all league and Honorable Mention All County, and Ben Parker Honorable Mention All League and All County.

*Quincy Rutherford*



#### Girls Varsity Basketball

With a 19-7 record, a 2nd place finish in the league, and a visit to the NJIC tournament finals, the girls varsity basketball team put together another successful campaign.

Led by four year starters **Erin Vander Plaats** and **Brooke Van Lenten**, the girls posted several impressive wins including a 16 point victory over county finalist Lakeland, a 14 point win versus Saddle Brook in the NJIC tournament semifinals, and an exciting 63-57 win versus St. Elizabeth in the state tournament. Sophomore **Madison Wynbeek** led the league and county in scoring at 19.5 points per game and was named 1st team All League and 2nd team All County. Brooke Van Lenten's fine all around play earned her 1st team All League honors and Honorable Mention in the county along with floor leader and co-captain Erin Vander Plaats.



*Madison Wynbeek*



## Bowling

Our varsity bowling team had its most competitive season in years led by sophomore **Rylan De Waal Malefyt** who posted a 186 average and a 269 high game. Seniors **Connor Van Hoff** and **Christina Poliandro** finished solid careers and received postseason honors along with Rylan.



Hannah Salvato

## Middle School Basketball

After graduating ten 8th-graders in 2016, the 2016-2017 basketball had all the makings of a rebuilding year.

However, thanks to the hard work of a returning core in **Emmanuel Dyer**, **Jonathan Ericksen**, **Jason Collazo**, **Aiden Schulster**, **James Blanco**, **Thomas DeBlock** and the additions of 8th-graders **Jahar Pierce**, **Naol Tulu**, **Eric Lee**, and **Michael Steinginga**, the young Eagles fought hard to finish 7-9 through tough, experienced league play. Memorable games included two wins over HCA, an overtime victory against Lodi, and a come-from-behind win against Valley MS thanks to a 53 point effort from Jahar Pierce. With 6th-graders **Logan Miller**, **Avi Cardona**, **Brett Reid**, and **David Kim** returning next year, the young Eagles will look to continue to contribute to the growth of a stable program.

## Additional Recognitions

We also recognize and celebrate the contributions of our other seniors on winter athletic teams: **Dan Kuder** and **Sam Chen** (basketball), and **Matthieu Davis** (bowling), **Stephanie Cabral**, **Brittany Van Harken**, **Josh Onufer**, **Abigail Rodriguez**, and **Kelly Bosloper** (indoor track).

## Post-Season Honors

### BASKETBALL

#### Quincy Rutherford

1st team All League  
1st team All County

#### Jared Post

2nd team All League Honorable  
Mention All County

#### Ben Parker

Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

#### Madison Wynbeek

1st team All League  
2nd team All County

#### Brooke Van Lenten

1st team All League Honorable  
Mention All County

#### Erin Vander Plaat

2nd team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

#### Hanna Faber

Honorable Mention All League

### WINTER TRACK

#### Michael Ji

Honorable Mention  
Men's County

#### Gideon Engelhard

Honorable Mention  
Men's County

#### Stephanie Cabral

Honorable Mention  
Women's County

#### Abby Rodriguez

Honorable Mention  
Women's County

#### Katie Hefty

Second Team Women's County  
in 200-M Dash

### BOWLING

#### Rylan DeWaal Malefyt

1st team All League  
2nd team Men's County

#### Connor Van Hoff

Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention  
Men's County

#### Christina Poliandro

Honorable Mention  
Women's County

# SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Track, Baseball, Golf, Tennis, Lacrosse & Softball

A rainy spring did not put a damper on our athletic program as many in it exceeded expectations and enjoyed fine seasons, including some individual champions.

## Varsity Softball

The softball team finished with a winning record and 12 wins, including two in the state tournament. Junior **Tiffany Martin** led the team with a .413 batting average and 27 RBI, while senior **Carina Castagna** batted .395 and sophomore **Alex Griffin** .391 with 21 RBI.



Becky Parker

## Golf

Coach **Ben Kuiken**'s golf team had its best league tournament performance in many years, finishing second behind the strong play of juniors **Noah Hagedoorn** and **Clay Sietsma** and freshman **Judy Baiyunqi**.



Noah Hagedoorn



Brooke Van Lenten

## Girls Track

Perhaps the spring season's best performances came from the girls track team, where **Brooke Van Lenten** was crowned the league, county and state group champion in the javelin. **Madison Wynbeek** clinched the league shot put title, and **Emily Byrnes** was named the league 800 meter champion. Emily and Madison were also part of the league champion 4 x 400 relay team with **Stephanie Cabral** and **Katie Hefty**, while Brooke, Madison, Katie and **Abby Rodriguez** formed a school record-breaking 4 x 100 relay team that won the state sectional.





1. Boys Lacrosse; 2. Brenna Duffy and Lindsay Hope

## Middle School Track

The ECMS Eagles just completed a historic track and field season. Both the boys and the girls teams won The NJIC League Championship Meet and the girls also finished second in The Ridgewood Invitational. The girl's team was led by the school record-setting performances of **Madison Libby** in long jump and triple jump, and **Olivia Prescott** in discus and shot put, as well as great, all-around performances by **Kristen Ghinelli**, **Kelly Steenstra** and **Katie Liao**. The boys' team was led by the throwing duo of **Joe Hassanin** and **Tyler Dykhhouse** and sprinters **Matias Cortes** and **James Blanco**.

## Post-Season Honors

### TENNIS

**Kyle Streelman**  
2nd Team All League  
2nd Team All County

**Mathew Matthias**  
Honorable Mention All League

**Ethan Agnello**  
Honorable Mention All County

**Yutao (Terry) Wei**  
Honorable Mention All County

### TRACK & FIELD

**Emily Byrnes**  
1st Team All League (800M)  
Honorable Mention All County

**Madison Wynbeek**  
1st Team All League (SP) Honorable  
Mention All County

**Brooke Van Lenten**  
1st Team All League (JAV) Honorable  
Mention All League (PV)  
1st Team All County

**Katie Hefty**  
1st Team All League (AT LARGE), 2nd  
Team All County

### TRACK & FIELD (CONT.)

**Michael Ji**  
Honorable Mention All League  
(DISCUS)  
Honorable Mention All County

**Nico Cortes**  
1st Team All County

**Lorenzo Lugo**  
Honorable Mention All County

### GOLF

**Noah Hagedoorn,**  
1st Team All League, 2nd Team All  
County

**Judy Baiyunqiqige**  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Clay Sietsma**  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

### GIRLS LACROSSE

**Lindsay Hope**  
Honorable Mention All League

### BASEBALL

**Ben Boonstra**  
1st Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Oliver Boch**  
Honorable Mention All League

**Randal (Buddy) New**  
Honorable Mention All County

### SOFTBALL

**Becky Parker**  
2nd Team All League

**Brianna Altamuro**  
2nd Team All League

**Alex Griffin**  
2nd Team All League

**Tiffany Martin**  
2nd Team All League

**Hanna Faber**  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Carina Castagna**  
Honorable Mention All County



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