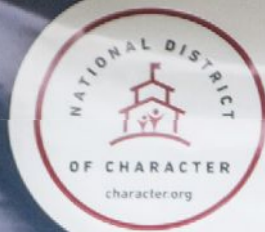


THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*
Volume 56, Issue 2



Eastern Christian School

2015 NATIONAL
**DISTRICT of
CHARACTER**

character.org

GRADUATION ISSUE

GRADUATION
GRADS,
AWARDS &
MUCH MORE!

FALL 2015



CHARACTER & COMPETENCE

Late last year, I had the wonderful opportunity to teach a segment of our high school's Career and Technical Education class on the subject of leadership. Leadership is a topic that is much dissected and discussed in our society. It is particularly important to Eastern Christian School because we exist to prepare the next generation of Christian leaders who are being called and equipped to become agents of transformation in the service of God's Kingdom.

In talking to our 9th graders about leadership, I focused on two essential attributes of "good" leaders – character and competence. Leaders without large measures of both of these attributes are truly dangerous to the people and institutions that they are called to lead. Leaders of competence who lack character may knowingly manipulate the people and institutions that they lead for their own purposes without regard to the welfare of those they lead. Likewise, leaders of character who lack competence in the tasks that they undertake may unknowingly expose the people and institutions that they lead to great harm because of their lack of expertise.

This issue of ***The Herald*** celebrates the high points of our spring semester with numerous confirmations of our students becoming young men and women of character and competence. From our recent designation as a National School District of Character to our students' receipt of multiple academic, artistic, and athletic awards, the Eastern Christian School community has genuinely lived out its core values of seeking truth, serving others, embracing community, exhibiting compassion, developing responsibility, and striving for excellence. Throughout this issue, you will read stories of the Eastern Christian School students who are already transformational agents in the service of the Kingdom!

We hope that you enjoy this issue of ***The Herald*** as we celebrate the great things that God is doing in the life of Eastern Christian School!

Thomas G. Dykhousé '76
Executive Director & Head of School



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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SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

National Award for Eastern Christian

In May, Eastern Christian School was designated a National School of Character, awarded by Character.org in Washington, D.C. It was only one of three districts in the United States to receive the distinction and joins 64 other schools that have been recognized as individual schools of character.



Character in Action: The Puerto Rico team walks through an aisle of parents and supporters as part of the missions trip commissioning chapel in March.

The Schools of Character application process includes a rigorous examination revolving around the organization's 11 *Principles of Character Education* framework. Among other ideals, the organization states on its website that it looks for schools that foster a "caring community," provide "students opportunities for moral action" and ensure a "meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed."

In March and April, 104 National School of Character finalists underwent an intensive screening process that included site visits, conference calls and an analysis

of the impact that their character related efforts had on academics, student behavior and school culture. In the case of EC, representatives visited all three campuses to observe and interview students and teachers.

"Being designated a National School of Character recognizes the hard work these schools put in to develop strong character education programs. They have created caring school climates and prepare

students to be future leaders who care about their communities," says Becky Sipos, Character.org's president and CEO. "This award recognizes the dedication and strong efforts of EC's faculty, staff and administrators. We are especially thankful to our loving God for his incredible blessing on our school for the last 123 years. The Lord is good...his faithfulness continues through all generations," adds **Tom Dykhouse**, executive director and head of school.

“

BEING DESIGNATED A NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER RECOGNIZES THE HARD WORK THESE SCHOOLS PUT IN TO DEVELOP STRONG CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.” - *Becky Sipos, Character.org*

MALICE IN THE PALACE

For Such a Time As This

Poised and ready, characters in shiny wardrobes prepared for just another performance on their four-city tour. The lights dimmed on stage and the chairs of the auditorium began filling in with high school students. The seasoned performers weren't phased by the clamor, even though their audience was nearly ten years older than they were. After all, they knew what they were doing. It was just another day—another stop—in the life of the Fourth Grade Chorus performers.

This spring, the fourth graders performed *Malice in the Palace*, a musical written by Tom Long and Allan Pote, at four different locations: the elementary school, the high school, a local church, and the Holland Home. The play was a sometimes humorous, sometimes poignant retelling of the biblical story of Esther.

“Doing a musical as a grade has many benefits. It promotes unity within the grade, allowing the class to work together to create a musical drama of a biblical character,” says **Rob Flim**, music instructor. “It also allows students to display both their musical and acting abilities which, for many of them, will carry into the middle school and high school.”

In order to prepare for the performances, the entire grade came together once a week beginning in January. After the musical ended in April, the chorus shifted attention toward a singing performance at the Midland

Park Memorial Day Celebration, as well as a recorder recital during the fourth grade promotion chapel.

As for *Malice in the Palace*, students also learned that just like Esther, “God places each one of us where we are for a reason,” says Flim.

Michelle Vriesema, who played the part of Esther, said she enjoyed being in a performance and acting. She adds, “My favorite part was when we said, ‘God is our God!’”



1. Anneke Reitsma, Jaclyn Steenstra, Nick Hagedoorn and Aaron Robinson, who played Mordecai; 2. Matt Vander Wall, the play's narrator; 3. Nick Hagedoorn, the king, and Christopher DeRooy as Haman; 4. Queen Esther, played by Michelle Vriesema, with the Keeper of the Harem, Lydia Rossi; 5. Members of the chorus from left to right: Kelly Jeon, Raquel Saharig, Riley Gallagher, Jenny Braunius, Gabby Rinaldi and Christopher DeRooy.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

An International Destination



1



2



3



4

1. Amanda Faber; 2. Brayden Vogel, Morry Mu, Justin Kuiphoff; 3. Jared Silverstein, Ben Postma and Evan-Dean Howes play Mancala; 4. Principal Dan Lazor, flanked by students, engage in Chinese Checkers.

On April 10, middle school students participated in the Fifth Annual International Day, a celebration of foods, activities and cultures from around the world.

More than 35 families contributed to the buffet, with most serving up food from their own family's heritage. The afternoon continued with games and crafts played and made by children across all major continents.

The luncheon included food from the Dominican Republic, Portugal, Poland, Ukraine, Mexico, Indonesia and many more. Middle school students were served an eclectic group of dishes ranging from empanadas, fish cakes, and crepes, as well as four different versions of almond tarts.

"Many parents were available to help set, serve and clean-up the tables—they were amazing," says Lynda Vincenti, coordinator of the event. Commenting that the students enjoyed the food, she added, "After filling

their plates, many came back for second helpings as they enjoyed the afternoon's activities."

Not surprisingly, the sweets were a fan favorite, with many students mentioning the chocolate gelato from Italy. "It was better than chocolate ice cream. It was creamier," commented student Janelle Baldwin.

After the luncheon, students received a passport and an itinerary that directed them to four "countries" they had previously indicated they would like to learn more about. There were twelve "countries" set up throughout the school, and activities ranged from Escatumbararibe, a cup

game from Brazil, to Tinkinkling, the national dance of the Philippines.

Student Faith Moy's favorite room of the day was the Japan room, where she learned about the history of origami and folded paper to make various shapes. She said she enjoyed the day because, "there's a lot of food and different activities. I also learned that only rich people could pay for origami paper when it first came out."

The event is in its fifth year and is largely supported by parent volunteers. Vincenti, a volunteer herself, says the purpose is to, "celebrate the diversity that exists within the middle school."



5



6

5. Timothy Kim, Ethan Issac;
6. Bethany Moy

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Two Groups, One Purpose



Girls SOAR

It's Monday morning at 9:45 a.m. Several young women sit in the hallway, chatting. Rather than discussing boys or fashion, their conversation revolves around the book of Philippians. Conversation flows over the next half hour as the girls discuss a whirlwind of Philippians-related topics, including anxiety, prayer and guarding hearts.

Meeting during Student Opted Academic Resource (SOAR) time, the newly formed girls Bible study is led by seniors **Taylor Faber** and **Aleah Nieshalla**. The group continues to grow, with more than 25 girls attending over the course of the semester; an average

of 15-20 girls come every week.

The two leaders take turns deciding upon the week's discussion topic, aiming to find topics that are especially relevant to the girls who attend. "It is a very relaxed atmosphere, where the agenda is not the priority. I believe there is value in having an open discussion, and letting the Holy Spirit take it where it is supposed to go that day. As a leader, I feel that my job is to guide the discussion and let the Holy Spirit do the rest of the job—ultimately, it is not anything that I do as a leader—all the credit goes to The Father and His Spirit working through his daughters," says Taylor.

The mission of the group encompasses more than Bible study and discussion, which is likely part of the reason for consistent attendance. There is also a strong sense of camaraderie between the young women, despite coming from different grades and backgrounds. "We emphasize the sense of community," shares Taylor. "It is so important as Christians for us to have a community of people in our lives that we can openly share our struggles, prayer requests, questions and advice regarding our relationship with the Lord."

Man Up

By Taylor Faber, '15

Boys playing Nerf wars, pulling all nighters, and studying the Bible—these are a few components of the largest-ever SOAR group in Eastern Christian history: Man Up.

Man Up is a young men's group started by three juniors: David Hefty, Evan Quintero, and Carter Heerema. The boys wanted to create a relaxed community where young men in high school could feel open to talk about where they are with their faith. Ultimately, the goal or slogan of Man Up is "becoming godly men in an ungodly world."

Man Up meets during SOAR every Friday. A typical meeting begins with prayer and then breaks up into small-group Bible study.

Since the start of the SOAR group in the fall, the group has grown significantly in size. One event in particular that brought about many new members was the "lock-in" the group hosted, which included 'Nerf wars'. There are now about 40 young men who are a part of the Bible Study.

Evan Quintero explains, "We have seen a lot of new relationships form through this group, and ultimately more and more, high school guys are beginning to feel more supported and open [about] their relationship with God."



MISSIONS TRIPS

On a mission



COSTA RICA: 1. Taylor Faber working hard; 2 & 3. Maggie Albies and Jae Young Park helping children at the daycare make fruit loop necklaces, representing how each child is made different in the eyes of God. **LYNN, MA:** 4. Michelle Touvar and Will Fan assist in a food pantry hosted by the East Coast International Church; 5. The Lynn team picks up a shipment at The Greater Boston Food Bank. **PUERTO RICO:** 6. Aleah Nieshalla, chaperone Dave Figuaroa, Lauren Choi, Breanna Ricketts, Sarah Vincent; 7. Nate Kuiphoff takes a break to pose.



This year, in partnership with Touch the World Ministries, 33 students traveled to three different locations—Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Lynn, Massachusetts—to spend their spring breaks serving others. Depending upon location, students engaged in a variety of activities, ranging from community outreach, to construction to child care.

Like others, freshman Rebekah Parker brought lessons back home with her. “God has called me and taught me through this trip [to Puerto Rico] that I can minister and be an example of Him anywhere and anytime,” she says, adding, “I will now try to live my life in a way that I find joy in the simple things and moments in life. Real joy does not come from material objects, but real joy is found in the Lord.”

The Experiencing Missions program at EC has been around for seven years and continues to challenge students to live lives in service to God and others. “Experiencing Missions has allowed EC students to transform the world both locally and globally. When students are exposed to the many levels of poverty, their worldview widens and they are challenged to live a life that seeks to make a difference in the lives of the people around them,” says Debbie Herbst, missions and FIA coordinator.

“

...I CAN MINISTER AND BE AN EXAMPLE OF HIM ANYWHERE AND ANYTIME.”

FIELD DAY & MUSEUM NIGHT

NNJCSA Field Day Contest

Twenty-four elementary and middle school students participated in the NNJCSA Field Day contest in May, a meet held in Brookdale Park, Bloomfield, NJ, that brings together athletes from area Christian schools.

Students participated in six events: 4X100 relay, 100/50 yard dash, broad jump, soccer obstacle course, softball throw and a shuttle run. EC took home third place in the grade six through eight category, and first place in the grade three through five category.

Prior to the event, gym teachers Marc Spoelstra and Debra Veenstra selected four students per grade. “I stressed with the students our Eagles Athletic Pillars,” says Veenstra. “Participants were not only picked based on their competitive excellence, but also on how they glorify God with their gifts while exemplifying Christian character.”



Eastern Christian athletes pose inside the Brookdale Park track.

EC student-athletes enjoyed the day of camaraderie and competition. As third grader Sebastian Castro put it: “Everyone was cheering, even for the other teams. I liked that we cheered for others, no matter how they did.”

Supporting Missions

By Justin Davis, 15

On a chilly winter night, parents and friends walked through the front door of the Eastern Christian Elementary School and into the heart of Africa.

The elementary school’s African life museum was held in February. It not only gave the children a learning experience and taught them more

about Africa, but proceeds from the event were given to the Steen family, short-term missionaries to Tanzania who are coming back to Eastern Christian this fall.

The museum was categorized by grade level. For example, third graders focused more heavily on African community. Lucas Genuario says, “My favorite part of it was building the projects.”

The third graders created models of various African communities, with projects that ran the gamut from rural abodes

to modern cities. “I learned that in Africa, there are rich cities like New York City,” Lucas says.

The fourth graders learned about the national parks throughout Africa. “My favorite part was the decorating,” says fourth grader Nicholas Hagedoorn. “I learned a lot about the animals there and the landforms in the national parks.”

In addition to parks and communities, younger students looked at various other aspects of life, including music, textiles and games.

The event raised over \$3,300 for the Steen family.



Fourth Grader Louis Garcia stops by Ellen Ritsma’s first grade room to look at homemade musical instruments and Kente cloth, a material worn in Ghana.

TRIKE-A-THON

Pedaling Toward a Goal

The parking lot of the elementary school was a bit more crowded than usual on this chilly, cloudy day in late April. But no one was talking about the weather. There was some serious business to attend to. Fifth graders, away from their normal campus, were hard at work—blowing up balloons, decorating tunnels and checking in bikes. The preschool students were coming in droves, excited for a morning to ride their two-wheelers, scooters or anything else with wheels.



The third annual Trike-a-thon took place on April 28 at the Midland Park campus. The event pairs fifth graders with preschoolers in an effort to raise money for St. Jude Hospital. In addition to the fundraising aspect, it is also a chance to apply math, science and faith in a real-world scenario.

“We started three years ago when we connected the fifth grade science curriculum’s study of cells to St. Jude Hospital’s cancer research, which is all performed on cells. We thought this would be a perfect way to put our learning into service,” says **Deb Vandenberg**, fifth grade teacher and coordinator of the event.

Fifth grader **Matthew Soder** said he used “lots of math” before the event. He and his father created a bike tunnel and he decided on the

six-foot height after considering the height of adults pushing their children on bikes.

As for preschoolers, **Kathy Faasse**, preschool teacher, says, “We as preschool teachers love to get our kids involved in a service project at such an early age and know it will continue as they grow and participate in the Math-A-Thon project for St. Jude [an elementary school project]. It was wonderful this year to have a certain child to pray for, although we pray daily for all the children at St. Jude. The little girl’s name is Reese and we continue to pray for her.”

This year’s event included three stations: a bike wash, riding course and safety session, where kids got an up-close view of Midland Park emergency vehicles. Preparation began about six weeks prior in March, when fifth graders planned four bicycle safety lessons, as well as the Trike-a-thon event.

Over the past three years, the event has raised more than \$8000 for cancer research.

FILM FESTIVAL

Film Award Without a Film Class

Eastern Christian School clinched grand prize in the tenth annual Passaic County Film Festival for its short film entitled, “Discover, Learn, Live.” Students and independent filmmakers who live, work or attend school in Passaic County were eligible to enter. The grand prize awarded also came with a \$1,000 scholarship, provided by the North Jersey Federal Credit Union.

The nearly five-minute film, set to the songs “Take Heart” and “Desert Song” from Hillsong United, tells the story of a girl who is ultimately called to serve in missions. It features many special effects, including creating the illusion that students are jumping in and out of a painting. The video also incorporates photos of EC students serving during recent missions trips.

Remarkably, the project was completed despite the lack of a film class. Seniors Caitlin Duffy, Evan Quintero, Brianne Remy and Erin Van Lenten led the creation of the video during Student Opted Academic Resources, a daily activity period at the high school.

“Our film submission to the Passaic County Film Festival featured missions as its subject matter while



Film festival: Jesse Kroeze of Touch the World, students Erin Van Lenten, Evan Quintero, Brianne Remy, Passaic County Freehold Director Hector Lora, and teacher Jesse Wright kneeling.

making a bold and obvious declaration of our faith,” says Jesse Wright, art teacher and adviser over the project. “God has done a wonder through these students. He does it everyday in the big and small moments.”

The video can be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/110183611>.



OUR FILM SUBMISSION TO THE PASSAIC COUNTY FILM FESTIVAL FEATURED MISSIONS AS ITS SUBJECT MATTER WHILE MAKING A BOLD AND OBVIOUS DECLARATION OF OUR FAITH.”

Spring 2015 Academic Honors and Awards

FIRST PLACE

American Scholastic Mathematics Association
Math Competition
SOAR: Math Club
Top scorers: Will Fan and Lavender Zhang
Adviser: Deborah Andrews

STATE WINNERS

National History Day Competition
American Studies Class
State Winners: Jeanae Dedio and Henry Ruitenber
State Qualifiers (Regional

Winners): Hannah Campbell, Rebekah Jarvis, Sebastian Pierre
Teachers: Jane Okma and James Uitermarkt

FIRST PLACE

American Scholastic Press Association
Class: Journalism
Teacher: Leah Genuario

HONORABLE MENTION

Ball State University J-Day
Class: Journalism
Students: Kristen Casey and

Abigail Johnson
Teacher: Leah Genuario

SUPERIOR RATING/FIRST PLACE/BEST OVERALL STRINGS

Music in the Parks
Ensemble: ECHS Chamber Orchestra
Teacher: Cathy Clark

EXCELLENT RATING

Music in the Parks
Ensemble: ECHS String Orchestra (Second Place)
Teacher: Cathy Clark

EXCELLENT RATING/BEST OVERALL

Music in the Parks
Ensemble: Concert Band
Teacher: Rob Flim

EXCELLENT RATING

Music in the Parks
Ensembles: Concert Choir (Third Place) and Honors Choir (Second Place)
Best overall vocalist award: Mat Matthias
Teacher: Suzanne Kraai

SPRING MUSICAL

The Wizard of Oz

By Dan Rief, '15



The auditorium lights flicker. Audience members still not in their seats rush to sit down and a hush comes over the room. The stage lights turn on, and sophomore **Skylar Brown** comes on stage in full costume to introduce the Spring 2015 musical.

EC students performed *The Wizard of Oz* at the high school from March 11 through March 14. Junior **Amanda Vincenti** played the part of Dorothy, with sophomore **Scott Steenstra**, junior **Jeanae Dedio** and sophomore **Mathew Mathias** assuming the supporting roles of the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion. Junior **Jane Bond** starred as the wicked witch and junior **Hannah Furman** as the Sorceress of the North. In total, 65 actors and actresses took the stage, including two sets of elementary school students who played as munchkins, as well as one first



grader—**Zoe Dunwoody**—playing the “half-shrunken witch”.



1. The high school student cast of *Wizard of Oz*; 2. The Tin Man, Dorothy, the Lion and the Scarecrow continue on the yellow brick road.; 3. Munchkins (L to R): Lydia Rossi, Alyssa Baitzel, Lydia Johnson

There are challenges that come along with performing any musical, and *The Wizard of Oz* was no exception. The selection process involves careful planning and decision-making. According to Director **Jane Okma**, the faculty advisers—which also included **Rob Flim** and **Suzanne Kraai**—were “looking for a show with a big chorus, [and] a show that had a lot of supporting lead parts because we knew we had a lot of depth to our talent.” The choice also represented something lighter and more geared toward children since last year’s musical, *Fiddler On the Roof*, had a much heavier storyline.

Senior **Stephanie Avila**, who played the Munchkin farmer, enjoyed the light-hearted tone of her final EC show. “I think we did a great job bringing it to life. It remained very charming and classic, and a lot of that had to do with the cast,” Avila said. She added that the night was, “amazing, magical, and exciting.”

STEAM

Full STEAM ahead for accelerated math, science and technology education

Reporting by Justin Davis, '15

Imagine creating a gadget that will make life easier for someone with a debilitating illness. Or discovering a solution that will mitigate global energy concerns. Or, perhaps, pioneering a process that will preserve the local eco-system for generations to come. Now, imagine if these innovations came from Eastern Christian high school students. This could become reality very soon, thanks to a new initiative at the High School.

“We want students to be able to research solutions that effect people’s everyday life or society in general,” says **Phil Verrengia**, dean of students and STEAM director. “The ideas are limitless.”

This spring, the high school announced its launch of the STEAM program, an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Intended for students gifted in



Kelsey Veenstra, Carlin Sietsma, Nicole Tartini and Kelly Dykman on a field trip to the NYU chemistry department.

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 OR RENEWING ALL OF CREATION. - *excerpt from EC’s graduate profile*

science and math, the rigorous program will include after-school curriculum, summer workshops and regular course offerings that follow a specific academic path. Enrolled students can choose to focus on physical science, biological science, computer science or earth and environmental science during the four-year program.

In addition to the program, EC has also announced new classes to maintain a high level of academic

scholarship within this sector. New classes include Robotics and Microelectronics, Statistics, Anatomy and Physiology, and Honors Physics.

Verrengia explains that “STEAM students will receive academic credit for their integrated STEAM courses, and these credits will be recorded on their transcripts. STEAM students can request letters of recommendation from their mentors, and the

[mandatory] research project and its accompanying work portfolio can become part of their college application.”

Eastern Christian School constantly strives to graduate individuals who, operating with a Christian worldview, are ready to excel in the world. In regard to STEAM students, specifically, “The goal is for our students to insert Christian vision and principles into the world of technology,” says Verrengia.



The Class of 2015

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

On Wed., June 17, the Class of 2015 walked proudly down the aisles of their graduation ceremony amidst the adoration of parents, friends and supporters. It was a night of celebration, recognizing student excellence in all areas of life.

The tone of the evening focused on emulating Christ and striving to be his hands and feet on earth. **Paul Beverly**, history teacher and commencement speaker, opened with a series of questions that challenged students and faculty alike. “What does it really mean when you say “we are the light of the world?” he

questioned, referring to the class song, *We Are* by Kari Jobe, sung moments earlier.

Beverly expounded on the Eastern Christian graduate profile, more specifically looking deeper at, “Recognizing and responding to the will of God, and seeing in humanity the image of God, the graduate...exhibits compassion.” He closed with an excerpt from *Just Mercy*, a book written by Christian attorney Bryan Stevenson, who has devoted his life pursuing justice for individuals who have been falsely imprisoned.

“I decided that I was supposed to be here to catch some of the stones people cast at each other,” he quoted





“

WE ARE A CLASS NOT ONLY OF STUDENTS, BUT ALSO OF GIFTED MUSICIANS, TALENTED ARTISTS AND INCREDIBLE ATHLETES. WE ARE A CLASS GIFTED WITH COMPASSION, CREATIVITY, ENCOURAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP.”



1. Valedictorian Devin Hulsebos; 2. Emily Maura and Jason Van Goor; 3. Joshua Haddad and Tong Zhang; 4. Angely Montilla with Paul Beverly. BOTTOM LEFT: Seniors sing We Are.

from the book. The speech ended with a challenge: “Look at your hands,” Beverly said. “Have you learned to be a stone catcher?”

Valedictorian **Devin Hulsebos**, in his address, challenged the crowd to live above average. “I don’t think God created us to be merely average,” he said. “We are a class not only of students, but also of gifted musicians, talented artists and incredible athletes.

We are a class gifted with compassion, creativity, encouragement and leadership...we are not just average.”

Urging his classmates to live in such a way that God is glorified, he added an exhortation from Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”



THE CLASS OF 2015

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO THE WILL OF GOD, AND SEEING IN HUMANITY THE IMAGE OF GOD, THE GRADUATE EMBRACES DIVERSITY, EXHIBITS COMPASSION, OFFERS RESPECT, AND IS FORGIVING AND OPEN TO OTHERS. - *excerpt from EC's graduate profile*



Corey Thomas Abma*



Tanner Stone Allen



Stephanie Avila



Emily Kaitlyn Boasorte



Blair Frances Bohuny*



Seth Anton Brown



Richard Thomas Bruffy



Keith Allen Campbell II



Yannan Chen



Nicole Rose Cielo



Justin Douglas Davis



Tiara Jasmin Imogene Dawkins



Andrew James De Block



Kerri Joan De Rosa



Tyler Carl Doehler



David Joseph Dolfi Jr.



Caitlin Leigh Duffy



Taylor Joy Faber*



Daniel Jacob Figueroa



Esther Christiana Galo*



Joshua Fred Haddad*



Ryongsuk Heo



Morgan Cheyenne Herman*



Taylor Noel Herman



Devin Jay Hulsebos*



Sandra Ibrahim*



JinYoung Je*



Dakyung Jung



Anita Grace Karr



Victoria Rose Kasper



Timothy James Keavney



Min Hyeok Kim



Erin Riley Klingler



Kate Mackenzie Klingler



Youri Ko

GRADUATIONS



Jeonghyun Lee*



Rachel Nicole Lee*



Sooji Lee



Robert Samuel Leghorn*



Kerong Li*



Shuangchang Li*



Rebecca Leigh Martin*



Emily Sutton Maura*



Angely Esther Montilla



Christiana Leigh Mooers



Jungeun Moon



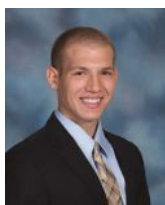
Aleah Abigail Nieshalla



Ryan Michael Onove*



John Frederick Onufer*



Luke James Pecoraro*



Hannah Morrow Postma*



Alvaro Jose Puente



Andy Jhon Puente



Daniel Adam Rief*



Justin Michael Rozema*



Hana Elizabeth Schwartz



Jaclyn Paige Scott*



Ming-Long Sie



Cameron Alexander Silverstein



Michelle Marie Silvestri*



Ricardo Isaiah Smalls



Lyndsey Renee Smith*



Matthew Glenn Sorrentino*



Guangyi Su



Valentina Sarah Suizzo



Amber Nicole Taylor



Joshua Adam Touw



Jayna Michelle Van Buiten*



Jason Matthew Van Goor



Erin Nicole Van Lenten



Jeffrey Paul Versnel



Marion-Victoria Wairimu



Samuel Louis Westra



Tyler Benjamin Wilson



Patricia Nichelle Wolyniec



Tianqi Xie*



Mengying Xing*



Tong Zhang

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

- Ephesians 2:10

Asterisk indicates National Honor Society

CLASS OF 2015 AWARDS

Department Awards

Art Department Award

Taylor Noel Herman

Bible and Life Award

Stephanie Avila

English Department Excellence in Writing Award

Stephanie Avila

English Department Scholastic Writing Award

Devin Jay Hulsebos

Journalism Award

Stephanie Avila

Technology Award

Justin Michael Rozema

Foreign Language Spanish Award

Justin Michael Rozema

Mathematics Award

Kerong Li

Arion Award (overall musical achievement)

Amber Nicole Taylor

John Philip Sousa Award (band)

Emily Kaitlyn Boasorte

Orchestra Award

Rebecca Leigh Martin

Tianqi Xie

Choral Award

Jason Matthew Van Goor

Athletic Department Awards

North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award

Richard Thomas Bruffy

Lyndsey Renee Smith

Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete

Devin Jay Hulsebos

Lyndsey Renee Smith

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Jayna Michelle Van Buiten

ECBS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Devin Jay Hulsebos

Erin Nicole Van Lenten

ECBS Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award

Hana Elizabeth Schwartz

Erin Nicole Van Lenten

School and Community Awards

ECBS Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award

Corey Thomas Abma

The Martha Van Hoff Educational Scholarship

Stephanie Avila

Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Morgan Cheyenne Herman

ECBS Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Sandra Ibrahim

ECBS Smith-Shute Nursing Scholarship

Sandra Ibrahim

Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Robert Samuel Leghorn

ECBS Henriette & Kathryn Houseward Vocational Scholarship

Luke James Pecoraro

Christine H. White Memorial Scholarship

Hana Elizabeth Schwartz

ECBS Richard J. Vander Plaats Service Award

Tianqi Xie

High School Faculty Award

Taylor Joy Faber

State and National Award Winners

President's Education Award

Corey Thomas Abma

Blair Frances Bohuny

Esther Christiana Galo

Morgan Cheyenne Herman

Devin Jay Hulsebos

Sandra Ibrahim

Jin Young Je

Dakyung Jung

Jeonghyun Lee

Rachel Nicole Lee

Robert Samuel Leghorn

Kerong Li

Shuangchang Li

Rebecca Leigh Martin

Emily Sutton Maura

Ryan Michael Onove

John Frederick Onufer

Luke James Pecoraro

Hannah Morrow Postma

Andy Jhon Puente

Daniel Adam Rief

Justin Michael Rozema

Jaclyn Paige Scott

Michelle Marie Silvestri

Lyndsey Renee Smith

Matthew Glenn Sorrentino

Jayna Michelle Van Buiten

Tianqi Xie

Mengying Xing

New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipient

Devin Jay Hulsebos

Rachel Nicole Lee

Rebecca Leigh Martin

Ryan Michael Onove

John Frederick Onufer

Luke James Pecoraro

Daniel Adam Rief

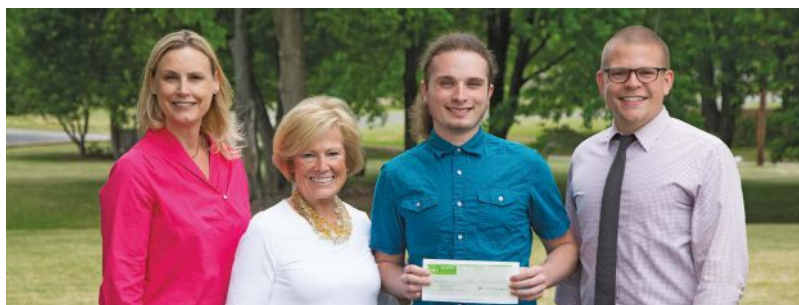
Justin Michael Rozema

Matthew Glenn Sorrentino

Herff Jones Principal's Leadership Award

Stephanie Avila

Robert Leghorn, recipient of the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship, flanked by Principal Ruth Kuder, Janet Braen and College and Career Counselor Jesse Struck.



CLASS OF 2015 COLLEGES

The Class of 2015 reported their college acceptances and post-graduate plans to the College and Career Office. Following is a list of colleges and U.S. Military services reported.

Total Reported Amount of Scholarships Awarded

to This Year's High School Graduates



\$3,389,400

Albright University	Fordham University
Anderson University	Geneva College
Appalachian State University	George Mason University
Arcadia University	Georgian Court University
Azusa Pacific University	Gordon College
Belmont University	High Point University
Bemidji State University	Hofstra University
Berea College	Houghton College
Bergen Community College	Iona College
Berkeley College	Johnson & Wales University
Berry College	Kean University
Cairn University	Liberty University
Caldwell University	Loyola University
Calvin College	Mansfield University
Cedarville University	Messiah College
Centenary College of New Jersey	Minot State University
College of Saint Rose	Monmouth University
Columbus College of Art & Design	Montclair University
Concord University	Mount Vernon Nazarene University
Connecticut College	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Drew University	New York Institute of Technology
Drexel University	New York University
D'Youville College	Polytechnic School of Engineering
Eastern University	Newmann University
Elizabethtown College	Northern Virginia Community College
Fairfield University	Nyack College
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Parsons, The New School
Felician College	
Florida Southern University	

Paul Smith's College	Syracuse University
Pepperdine University	Temple University
Philadelphia University	Texas Christian College
Purdue University	The College of New Jersey
Quinnipiac University	The Pennsylvania State University
Ramapo College of New Jersey	United States Army
Rider University	United States Marine Corps
Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Boulder Colorado
Roger Williams University	University of California Davis
Rosemont College	University of California Irvine
Rowan University	University of California San Diego
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	University of California Santa Barbara
Samford University	University of Connecticut
Santa Barbara City College	University of Hartford
Savannah College of Art & Design	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Seattle Pacific University	University of Mississippi
Seton Hall University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
St. Thomas Aquinas College	University of Rochester
State University of New York at Cobleskill	Virginia Technical Institute College of Engineering
State University of New York at New Paltz	Westmont College
State University of New York at Oswego	Widner University
Stevens Institute of Technology	William Paterson University
Stockton University	



Seniors John Onufer, Victoria Kasper, Justin Davis and Erin Van Lenten decked out in college gear.



*The eighth grade
graduating Class of 2015*

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION

Starting a New Chapter

The weather may have been dreary the evening of June 18, but nothing could stop the palpable energy in the middle school gym as the 2015 eighth grade graduates entered.

As always, the night signaled the end of an era and looked with anticipation toward the next phase: high school. The ceremony contained a bevy of remarks, challenges and prayers offered by numerous ceremony participants, including students, teachers and administrators.

Three students—**Cassidy Langenfeld**, valedictorian; **Jax Revfi**, co-salutatorian; and **Jaclyn Vincenti**, co-salutatorian—took turns speaking about faith, hope and love.

“Fear, with its potential to erase faith from our lives, is dangerous. It’s self-centered. It’s all-consuming. On the other hand, faith is able to erase fear, if only you will allow it,” said Langenfeld. “A life of faith is one that believes that God knows more than we do.”

Dick Van Yperen, outgoing director of curriculum and instruction, addressed the students based upon John 15:4-5: “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (NIV).”



Cassidy Langenfeld



1. Abby Wang and Daniel Sie;
2. Jax Revfi;
3. Anna Kinz;
4. Keith, Betty, Claire, Justin and Matthieu Davis

Van Yperen closed with a challenge. “Daily recharge by focusing on the joy that comes from knowing God has a purpose and destination for you that includes doing amazing things; patiently waiting on God to power you through hard times and hard things in your life; and faithfully talking to God each and every day.”

“A LIFE OF FAITH IS ONE THAT BELIEVES THAT GOD KNOWS MORE THAN WE DO.”

ECMS Class of 2015

Anarisbel Arcay	Bethany Moy
Angelica Castro	Yu Yang Mu
Kristin Amber Cruz	Jessica Mun
Claire Jeannine Davis	Henry Samuel Poliandro
Christian James De Block +*	Jared Post
Marco De la cruz	Benjamin David Postma +*
Victoria Ghinelli	Emily Grace Raisner +
Alexandra Ashlyn Grande	Jax F. Revfi +*
Ethan David Green	Morgan Elizabeth Ritsema
Evan-Dean William Howes	Daniel (Ming-Jia) Sie
Aidan Michael Johnson *	Jared David Silverstein
Chan Gyu Jung	Jacob Martin Struck
Kristen C. Kim	Christina Rose Tartini +*
Anna Catherine Kinz	Andrew R. Van Boerum
Matthew James Kuiken	Gwen Van Goor
Justin R. Kuiphoff +*	Madeleine Van Goor
Cassidy Langenfeld *	Cassidy Gwendolyn Vander Eems*
Choong Nyeong (Sean) Lee	Jaclyn Ilyse Vincenti +*
Tiantian Lin	YiQing Wang
Connor McDonough	Madison Elise Wynbeek +*
Aidan Cole Miller +*	Grace Xinyu Wi
Angela Mo +*	Mike Yu+

+ Small Group Leader

* Presidential Award Recipient

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fourth Grade Promotion



The sound of recorders playing *Ode to Joy* signaled the start of an important day at the elementary school: the fourth grade promotion chapel, held the morning of June 16. Students, in their white T-shirts with the number “15” emblazoned on their backs, played proudly as they celebrated the accomplishments of their early school years.



1. Introducing the graduating fourth grade class; 2. Matthew Vander Wall; 3. Tom Dykhous addressing the graduates

Fourth grade teacher **Carol Byma** read Jeremiah 29:11-13, while also sharing that this year the students learned “nothing is hopeless when our hope is in the Lord.”

Fourth grade teacher **Donna Hoogerhyde** shared 1 Peter 5:6-11, which includes the exhortation to, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God.”



Michael Cook

The event also included prayers and brief speeches from several administrators. Principal **Sandy Bottge** reminded the audience of the spiritual themes for the past several years. This year’s theme, “Hope, renew, soar,” rooted in Isaiah 40:28-32, was woven throughout the ceremony. Students sang *Like Eagles*, as well as *Isaiah Hallelujah*.

“When we soar, our vision is no longer blocked by our problems,” said Bottge. “When an eagle soars, it stretches out its wings and uses air currents. We need to utilize the power of the Holy Spirit, and continually hope in the Lord so we can soar like eagles.”

The ceremony ended with a benediction and prayer from Middle School Principal **Dan Lazor**.

PRESCHOOL

Graduation

On June 16, children in new haircuts, freshly ironed clothes and big smiles, walked—and sometimes skipped—down the aisles to celebrate their preschool graduation. There were unrehearsed waves, some impromptu dancing and a couple of extemporaneous lines spoken from the platform—a departure from the formal program that made the ceremony a bit more special.

The 4- and 5-year-olds certainly were cute, and at times adorably entertaining, but underscoring this was the knowledge of how important these early years are in building an eternal foundation. “They are a precious resource and we take very seriously the responsibility we have to them and to you,” said Executive Director **Tom Dykhouse** during his welcome and prayer.

A large portion of the program included a medley of songs sung by the youngest members of Eastern Christian School, and directed by **Nancy Martin**. Songs ran the gamut, from *SOAR*, inspired by this year’s theme verse, Isaiah 40:31, to the perennial children’s favorite, *Jesus Loves Me*.



The preschool program leading praise and worship.

The children sang with gusto—some a little louder than others—and every song included hand motions, delivered with equal enthusiasm and energy. The word “strength” for example, was punctuated with flexed arm muscles; the word “eagle” was represented by flapping wings.

Preschool director and teacher **Kathy Faasse** shared that the students have learned to “Hope, renew, soar” throughout the year. “Our prayer for these children is that they have learned to hope in the Lord,” she said, adding, “We love them very, very much.”



1. Gretchen Lapinsky; 2. Sean Leegwater

MOMENTS

The 2015 Graduations



1. Erin Klingler; 2. Ryan Shepperd, flanked by parents Michael and Elizabeth;
3. Tom Dykhouse; 4. Everett Denekamp; 5. Coren, Tanner and Terry Allen



6

“OUR PRAYER FOR THESE CHILDREN IS THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED TO HOPE IN THE LORD.” - Kathy Faasse



7



8



9



10



11



12



13

6. Keith Campbell; 7. Fourth Grade recorders - front row (L-R): Lydia Johnson, Louis Garcia, Nicholas Hagedoorn; Second Row: Laurel Vander Pyl, Ariyana Lazer (hidden), Yanay Pope; Back Row: Katherine Marshall, Aaron Robinson (hidden), Anaiya Jones; 8. Mia Foster and Tori La Sala; 9. The class listens to commencement speaker Dick Van Yperen; 10. Jaclyn Vincenti; 11. Raquel Saharig; 12. Matthew Kuiken; 13. Stephanie Avila and Dan Rief

ANNUAL GIFT

The Bank That Makes a Difference

Eastern Christian School is grateful for the committed support of Atlantic Stewardship Bank.

Each year since 1988 ASB has blessed Eastern Christian School with generous support through their tithing program. Over \$8.2 million has been given to numerous charities through this unique tithing program since the bank was founded in 1985. Be sure to check out www.asbnow.com for more information about ASB, the bank that makes a difference.



Atlantic Stewardship Board of Trustees Chairman Richard W. Culp and Vice President and Regional Branch Administrator Ray Santhouse present Atlantic Stewardship Bank's annual tithe to David A. Visbeen, Executive Director of The Foundation for ECSA.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Adrian “Bud” Visbeen Scholarship

The Adrian “Bud” Visbeen Scholarship was established by friends and family to honor the memory of Bud Visbeen who died suddenly on April 29, 2005. Bud had many great attributes, but is remembered by many for the way he served others. Bud served as far away as Honduras but more often, right where he lived. He served with joy, caring for those around him often using his considerable skills as a master carpenter.

The Adrian “Bud” Visbeen Scholarship was established to help the families of Bud’s fellow tradesmen meet their tuition payments at Eastern Christian School. Scholarship(s) are provided each year to current Juniors and are applied directly to their Senior year tuition. The only requirements for the recipients is that one of their parents work in the trades and that the students themselves demonstrate a commitment to serving others.



On June 5, 2015 Kathy Visbeen presented scholarships to this year's recipients. Pictured from left to right are Bradley Schipper, Rachael Tanis, Kathy Visbeen and Aaron DeRosa.

“

EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU

HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.

- I Peter 4:10

ANNUAL FUND

How Can I Make a Difference?

How can I make a difference? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Sometimes, we just aren't sure our gifts are enough to make a difference. But each year, hundreds of members of the Eastern Christian School community come together and make a huge difference. Your contributions to the Annual Fund for Eastern Christian School will combine to raise almost \$1 million. Still think you can't make a difference? Think again!

Be watching your in-box and your mailbox over the next several weeks as we kick-off the 2015-2016 Annual Fund for Eastern Christian School. Check out our new brochure to learn more about where your dollars go and the difference each gift, small or large, can make.

You are making a difference! If you have given before, thank you for your continued generous support. If you haven't given, will you please consider a first time gift to the Annual Fund? You will make a difference.

HOMEcoming

Coming Home

Graduation is a time to look back and celebrate all that you have accomplished but as every graduate knows, this is also a time for looking forward. There is so much ahead!

The Foundation office is also looking ahead. Even before the lockers are emptied and the exams are graded, we are actively planning for the next school year, planning and organizing the events and activities that will contribute close to \$1 million to the Eastern Christian School budget.

We are very excited to be inviting our alumni and friends back to campus this year for the 1st Annual Eastern Christian School Homecoming on October 23-25, 2015. Members of multiple teams

have already been working for months planning this weekend which will be anchored by the EC5K. Our USATF Certified Course will begin and end at the Eastern Christian High School and we are anticipating more than 200 runners.

The EC5K is just a small part of the weekend's activities. We have scheduled a Girls' Varsity Volleyball game, a Girls' Varsity Soccer game (under the lights at Willow field), and A Battle of the Decades band competition for Friday; the EC5K and Boys' Varsity Soccer game, campus tours, a Family Fun BBQ, and class reunions for Saturday; and a brunch on Sunday at noon. Something for everyone!

So, we encourage you to "come back home" to EC.

2015 Service Awards

5 years

Suzanne Kraai
Benjamin Kuiken
Laurie Kuipers
George Lindemulder
Gina Marocco
James Uitermarkt

10 years

Lisa Dykstra
Stephanie Tanis
Paul Versnel

15 years

Naomi Braunius
Judy Bruinooge
Cathy Clark
Nancy Johnston
Richard Van Yperen

20 years

Jean Huntington
David Joustra
Janet Santhouse
Jack Wilson

25 years

Cynthia Adair
Terry Allen
Sandra Bottge
Nancy Hemrick

30 years

Manuela Lindemulder

35 years

Philip Verrengia

Retiring

Rhonda Klein
Richard Van Yperen

Renew friendships, cheer on a team, see some of the amazing transformations since you have been here, be reminded of the strong foundation Eastern Christian School is built on, and just have some fun. There will be something for everyone, so be sure not to miss this great weekend event.

AUCTION GALA

Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala



The Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala was held on April 9, 2015 and raised \$58,000.00 for Eastern Christian School.

The evening featured a wonderful display of silent auction items including gift baskets and exclusive one-of-a-kind items. After a delicious dinner buffet, the live auction was held with spirited bidding on exciting items including a catered cocktail party for ten with Chef Christine Nunn from the innovative restaurant Picnic on the Square in Ridgewood, NJ and a NASCAR driving experience on a premier speedway. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, guests, auction committee, and the many volunteers who made the evening a fantastic success!

Next year's event promises to be a brand new experience with many exciting changes including



1. Thank you to our EC student volunteers, Gabriella Alicea, Shannon Leentjes, Rachael Tanis, Carlin Sietsma, Rachel Schultz, and Maggie Albies; 2. Auction guests examine the selection of gift certificates available during the silent auction.

moving to the newly renovated Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, NJ. Mark your calendars now for April 21, 2016! If you would like to make a donation of an item or offering for the auction, or would like more information on how to get involved with the planning of this major fundraiser email events@easternchristian.org or call the Foundation Office at 973-427-9294.

GOLF OUTING

The 2015 Eastern Christian Golf Outing



First Place Foursome, Steve Lagerveld, Ross Selby, Pete Ten Kate, and David Ten Kate.

The 2015 Eastern Christian Golf Outing was held on May 18, 2015 at Black Bear Golf Club in Franklin, NJ.

Golfers enjoyed a wonderful day of golf and friendly competitions. The event also featured a buffet dinner along with drawings for golf outings and other exciting prizes. The Golf Outing raised over \$35,000 for Eastern Christian School. To view a list of contest winners and additional pictures of this year's outing visit www.easternchristian.org/support-ec-2/fundraisers/golf-outing.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Honoring Alumni

The Office of Alumni Relations is interested to learn more about our distinguished/accomplished alumni. Please submit the names of those you consider Distinguished Alumni to alumni@easternchristian.org.

Honoring Legacy

The 1892 Society has been established by The Foundation for ECSA to recognize and thank those who have chosen to support Eastern Christian School with a planned gift. Please contact The Foundation if you wish to be recognized as a member of The 1892 Society in the upcoming Annual Report.

Donations in Honor/Memory

Gifts given in honor and in memory of loved ones, will now be listed annually in The Foundation's Annual Report.

DINING WITH FRIENDS

Save The Date

Dining with Friends is a delicious and entertaining way of supporting Eastern Christian School.

As a dinner host you will invite guests for dinner and your guests will be asked to bring a donation for EC. The menu, location, and style of dinner party you wish to have is your choice – anything goes, black tie to barbeque. Dinner parties in the past have included a

group of EC grandparents, parents from a student's sports team, bus stop/route families – the possibilities are endless.

Please mark your calendars for November 13 or 14 to host or attend a dinner party in support of Eastern Christian. If you have any questions please contact the Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 or email events@easternchristian.org

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.

William Hagedorn '66 had his first book, *The On-Base Specialist: A New Model for Baseball Offense*, published by McFarland. This non-fiction book is about a new type of baseball player who will get on base more frequently than any other player past or present. In doing so, he will help his team score more runs and win more games. This book is the first to explore this concept. It is available on Amazon.com. He adds, "My wife, Linda, and I have recently retired and moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan."

Bob Adams '70 retired after 38 years at Oostburg Christian in Oostburg, Wisconsin. According to the Sheboygan Press, "Bob Adams was the first male teacher the class ever had...added to that...he came from the 'exotic land' of New Jersey, and his shoulder-length hairstyle only heightened students' fascination of him...It didn't take [them] long to figure out there was more than just a funny accent to their new teacher. He also had a genuine concern for students' learning and well-being." Almost four decades later, Adams retired in May 2015 from his role as administrator and teacher. "He no longer has the hairdo...but he has maintained the same care for students throughout his career at the school."

Beth (Abma) Fylstra '80 graduated with a PhD in Public Policy & Administration, Not for Profit Leadership & Management in May, 2015, from Walden University, Minneapolis, MN. Beth is self-employed as a consultant, coach & trainer in the areas of Not for Profit Leadership, Management, Finance, & Organizational Development.

Joshua Christoffels '98 graduated with an M.Div degree from Westminster Seminary in California

in May 2014 and is currently serving as an interim pastor at the Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, MN.

Brandi Bushman '11 graduated Cum Laude from College of Charleston with a BA in Accounting. She is employed by Bank of America as a Commercial Lending Analyst.

Katie Streelman '11 graduated from Calvin College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She currently holds a teaching certificate from the state of Michigan which enables her to teach infants-5th grade. During her time at Calvin, she student taught in several classrooms, including 1st grade at Grand Rapids Christian. She is currently living in Grand Rapids.

Marriages & Births

Andrew '95 & Rachelle (Scarpa) Steen '99 welcomed twins Samuel Philip and Ivy Elisabeth on 4/30/15. They join siblings Asher (4) and Hazel (2).

Kevin '96 & Tara (Smith) Breur '98 welcomed Ethan Luke on 4/2/15. Ethan joins Jared (7) and Colin (4).

RJ & Kelly (Groenewal) Chua '98 welcomed James Robert on 3/30/15.

Derek & Julie (Heerema) Ferwerda '00 welcomed twins, William Dutch and Jude Atticus on 5/1/15. They join siblings Mackenzie and Abram.

Ryan & Renee (Bogertman) Texer '00 welcomed Josie Ann on 11/3/14. She joins Emma (4) and Kayla (2).

Russell Unrath '02 and Rebecca Ruiz '02 were married on 6/29/14. They have two children, twins, Arabella and Nathaniel.

Brian '03 & Melissa (Pruiksma) Visbeen '05 welcomed Kaylie Rose on 5/14/15.

Kevin '03 & Rebecca (Santhouse) Vriesema '03 welcomed Abigail Cara on 2/11/15.

Derek Jacobsen '06 & Michelle Sisco were married on 6/27/15.

David Kuperus '06 & Alexandra Van Buiten '09 were married on 6/26/15.

Erin Groenewal '07 and Jonathan Gorter '08 were married on 6/12/15. They are living in Hawthorne, NJ.

Brian & Meghan (Visbeen) Vis '07 welcomed Raegan Grace on 3/13/15. She joins Brantley John (2).

Victoria Faber '08 & Joseph Macalus were married on 7/31/15. They reside in Wayne, NJ.

Kyle Klingler '08 & Kathryn Sisco were married on 5/23/15. They reside in Wantage, NJ.

Christopher Milkamp '08 & Sara Schipper '10 were married on 6/19/15. They are living in Fair Lawn, NJ.

Brian Sietsma '09 & Gabrielle Giordano were married on 6/27/15.

Brian Van Der Heide '09 & Kelli Van Wyk were married on 5/30/15 in Ada, Michigan.

Joy Abma '10 & Dan Charnesky were married on 5/2/15. They are living in Oakland, NJ.

James Ainsworth '10 & Kaitlyn McHugh '10 were married on 5/23/15.

Victoria Leonardo '10 & Jesse Hewitt were married on 6/6/15. They reside in Riverdale, NJ.

Ryan Visbeen '11 & Paige Rainville '11 were married on 8/6/2015.

Correction: Steve '02 & Kelly Van Der Heide welcomed twins Smith Hendrick and Reese Elizabeth on Dec. 3, 2014

REMEMBERING

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

Alumni

Helen (Walkotten) Van Dyke '39 of North Haledon, NJ on 1/24/15. Helen taught at North 4th St Christian School from 1942-1956. She was a member of Midland Park CRC.

Robert Baker '42 of Medford, NJ on 4/19/2015. He was a longtime member of Northside CRC in Clifton, NJ and attended Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Tabernacle, NJ.

Theodore Minnema '43 of Kentwood, MI on 1/18/15. He served four years in the military, and graduated from Calvin College, Calvin Seminary and the Free University in Amsterdam. He was a minister at South Olive CRC and a professor at Calvin College and Calvin Seminary.

Samuel Cooper '45 of Greeley, Co on 9/1/2014. After Eastern Academy, he joined the US Marine Corps and graduated from Calvin College, and received a Master's Degree in Political Science and History from Rutgers University.

Marilyn (Hagedorn) Houskamp '46 of Stuart, FL on 12/23/14. She received a BA and Master's Degree in Math from Montclair College. She was an active member of Peace Presbyterian Church in Stuart, FL and United Methodist Church in Dresden, New York.

Cornelius Tanis '46 of Flemington, NJ on 4/28/15. He was a US Army veteran having served during the Korean Conflict.

Gladys (Hamstra) Schuil '47 of Grand Rapids, MI on 2/23/15.

Joan (Van Harken) Van Dyk '53 of Charlotte, NC on 2/24/15.

Dorothy (Roukema) Doss '60 of Haledon, NJ on 5/11/15. Dorothy was a member of Covenant Christian Reformed Church.

Harold C. Kuipers '60 of Wanaque, NJ on 6/3/15. Harold served in the Army National Guard. Harold had a great heart for youth, serving for 52 years as a youth leader,

touching the lives of hundreds of Northern NJ young people. He was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church, Wyckoff, NJ.

Wesley Van Dyk '63 of Kalona, IA on 2/16/15. Wes was a graduate of Calvin College and Seminary, and a minister in the Christian Reformed Church for many years. He was the pastor of Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ for 18 years prior to his retirement.

Barbara (De Witte) Van De Ree '82 of Waldwick, NJ on 5/29/15 after a valiant battle with brain cancer. A memorial service was held at Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ.

Former Faculty

Edwin Diepenhorst passed away on 12/17/14 in Holland, Mich. He taught high school Bible and Latin from 1965-1969.

REUNIONS

Class of 1964: 50-Year Reunion

In the Spring 2015 issue, the Class of 1964 had an incorrect caption. It should have read as follows:



On June 28, 2014 EC class of 1964 held their 50th class reunion. Classmates came from as far as California, Northern Canada, Texas, Colorado, Florida, the Carolinas and Maine - and several states in between. It was an outstanding success; beginning with a Friday night get together at David Van Lenten's house; on Saturday evening, a catered barbecue, and ending Sunday with a bagel brunch at Ruth Monsma's house. A class donation was made to the EC "Angel Fund" in memory of deceased classmates.

REUNIONS

Class of 2005:

10-Year Reunion will be Homecoming Weekend - Saturday, October 24, 2015. More details to follow. Please be sure to join our Facebook group "ECHS Class of 2005 reunion." Contact Elyse (De Jong) Fritzsch at dejong.elyse@gmail.com or Jenna (Hulsebos) Beverly at jennabeverly87@gmail.com for more information.

Class of 1975:

40-Year Reunion will be on Saturday, November 28, 2015 at Portobello Restaurant, Oakland, NJ beginning at 6pm. For more information contact Nancy at njb@scnorthjersey.com or email: alumni@easternchristian.org.

Class of 1965:

The Class of 1965 is having two 50-Year Reunion events, one in NJ and one in Michigan.

NJ Reunion

Friday, 9/18/15 at The Brownstone, Paterson, NJ

Saturday, 9/19/15 gather for a tour at Eastern Christian High School at 10am.

Michigan Reunion

Friday, 10/2/15 reception and dinner in Pentwater MI.

Cost: \$10 for reception, \$10 for booklet of updates, plus cost of dinner. Send reservations and checks to Anna Mae Bush at 195 Suffolk St., Pentwater MI 49449.

We have heard from all but 30 members of the class which is great considering we have not gathered for 25 years or more. Our booklet will contain biographical updates and current photos of 50-60 classmates. For additional details contact Anna Mae (Meyer) Bush, annamaebush@gmail.com or call 231-869-3191.

Heritage Years

Class of 1945



Class of 1950



Class of 1955



Members of the Class of 1945, 1950 and 1955 gathered in Eastern Christian High School's cafeteria on Thursday, June 25 for a luncheon and time of fellowship. It was a great time of renewing old friendships and reminiscing.

Class of 1945

Front row (L to R): Herman Schipper, Ann (Vande Ree) Fisher, Alice (Kruithof) Baker, Muriel (Van Lenten) Prins. Back row: Daniel Minkema, Mae Harriet (Van Dyk) Rooy, Doris (Hofstra) Villareal, Lenora (Visbeen) Malefyt.

Class of 1950

Front row: Clara (Lucas) Hoogenhuis, Eleanor (Vander Weert) Kooreman, Elizabeth (Malefyt) Almroth, Catherine (Dykstra) Bast, Frank Snope. Back row: Carol (Fridsma) Zuidema, Carl Hoogerhyde, Elizabeth (Kuiphoff) Youngsman, William Peters, Doris (Hall) Kuiken.

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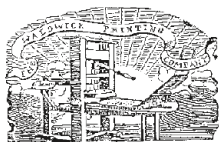
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WINTER SPORTS

Basketball, Track & Bowling

Boys Varsity Basketball

The boys finished their winter run with two great games, ending the 2015 season with a 7-15 record.

With the last game at home against Pequannock, the school rallied around the team, packing the bleachers. "I knew when the game started that the boys were on track for a great victory. The boys did not disappoint the crowd, winning 53 to 35 against a very good team. Senior **Ricardo Smalls** put up 14 points with 5 steals. Senior **Tyler Doehler** added 11 points to the win. We recognized our seniors and are sad to see Ricardo and Tyler leaving us but we look forward to next year with most of the team returning," said Coach



Ricardo Smalls

Hoffman. "Thank you for all your support at the games as it means so much to the team."

After the season, the team learned Coach Hoffman was stepping down due to health concerns. Our prayers are with Coach Hoffman and his family.

Winter Track

The EC Girls Track team scored 44 points to take second place in the Indoor State Meet. The Boys team scored ten points in their meet.

Senior **Lyndsey Smith** continued her stellar season, finishing first place in both the 400 and the 55 meter dashes. Senior **Erin Van Lenten**



placed third in the High Jump and came back from nearly falling in the start to take third in the 55 High Hurdles. Freshman **Katie Hefty** placed fifth in

Erin Van Lenten

the 400 and these three combined with sophomore **Brittany Van Harken** to win the 4X400 relay.

In the boys meet, junior **Bryan Lineweaver** took a fourth in the Hurdles and senior **Tanner Allen** jumped to a third place in the Pole Vault.

The boys and girls teams also had successful showings at the NJIC Meet at the Armory in NYC, as well as in the Passaic County Championships. The girls placed third in the NJIC Meet with 45 points, and the boys grabbed seventh place out of 17 teams with 16.5 points. In the county meet, the girls placed third with 47 points.

Girls Varsity Basketball

Featuring the youngest lineup in memory including a freshman, 3 sophomores and a junior, the Eagles reached their goal of a 10 win rebuilding season on its final day.

Seniors **Kate Klingler** and **Jayna Van Buiten** led the way with the help of 21 points from freshman **Addie Peretti** in a 37-29 defensive battle with Garfield. Junior **Kelly Tanis** and sophomore **Brooke Van Lenten** were the season's leading rebounder and scorer, respectively, and were named 2nd team all conference. Sophomore point guard **Erin Vander Plaats** battled through injuries and was an



Brooke Van Lenten

honorable mention selection. With 5 starters returning and a strong 8th grade group coming up, the future looks bright for Eagles basketball!

Bowling

This year's ECHS Eagles Bowling Team featured five seniors, one sophomore, six freshmen—and one rookie coach.

"It was a privilege to inherit such an experienced team, and also to get the chance to introduce the sport to several newcomers," said coach **Terry Allen**. Senior **Hana Schwartz** bowled every frame of the season, was second in team average, and gained honorable mention for the league and second team honors for Passaic County girls. Seniors **Robert Leghorn** and **Justin Rozema** were awarded honorable mention for boys at the county level.



Hana Schwartz

Winter Athletic Awards 2015

INDOOR TRACK

Lyndsey Smith

*First Team All League
First Team All County*

Erin Van Lenten

*Honorable Mention All League
First Team All County*

Michelle Silvestri

Second Team All County

Katie Hefty

Honorable Mention All County

Brittany Van Harken

Honorable Mention All County

Carter Heerema

Honorable Mention All County

Bryan Lineweaver

Honorable Mention All County

Tanner Allen

Honorable Mention All League

BOWLING

Hana Schwartz

*Honorable Mention All League
Second Team All County*

Robert Leghorn

Honorable Mention All County

Justin Rozema

Honorable Mention All County

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Brooke Van Lenten

*Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County*

Kelly Tanis

*Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County*

Erin Vanderplaats

Honorable Mention All League

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ricardo Smalls

*Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County*

Evan Quintero

Honorable Mention All League

Jon Veenstra

Honorable Mention All County

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball, Golf, Softball, Lacrosse, Tennis & Track

Baseball

The team's season was highlighted by back-to-back walk-off victories against Glen Rock and then undefeated Hawthorne in mid-April.

Post-season, the team got a much-wanted rematch against Oratory Prep in the state tournament where they avenged last year's defeat by beating Oratory 6-4, before falling in the next round 3-1 to top-seeded St. Mary's. The team was led by a strong class of seniors: infielders **Devin Hulsebos** and **John Onufer** both received honorable mentions for the all-county team, while



John Onufer

outfielder and pitcher **Josh Haddad** was awarded with second team all-league and first team all-county. **Matt Sorrentino** led the pitching staff as the team ended with a 7-14 record. Among the underclassman, catcher **Ben Boonstra** managed to drive in 13 runs and bat .317 despite breaking his wrist. He, along with first-year starters **Jon Hook** and **Adam Dykstra**, will make up the core of next year's team.

Golf

The Eagles started off the season strong by winning their first match by a difference of one stroke. What was expected to be a rebuilding year after losing a core group of seniors, turned into a momentum year for the EC golf program.

Comprised of mostly freshmen and sophomores, the Eagles finished their 2015 campaign with a 9-12 record despite the strength of their league and county schedule. Sophomores, **Sung Namgung** and **Scott Steenstra**, were forced to mature quickly, stepping into the number 1 and 2 spots respectively. Freshman newcomers, **Clay Sietsma** and **Noah Hagedoorn** provided a consistent anchor in the number 3 and 4 spots throughout the season. With experience under their belt, coupled by a passion for the game, the harvest appears plentiful for the EC golf program.



Sung Namgung

Softball

After a slow start the softball team finished strong with a 13-10 record including quality wins over Pompton Lakes and at Morris Catholic in the state tournament.

Other highlights included well played and exciting games versus Elmwood Park and Manchester in front of large crowds in the Community Night doubleheaders at North Haledon Rec. Center. Senior standouts **Anita Karr** (pitcher), **Aleah Nieshalla** (short stop), **Jolie Wolyniec** (third base) and **Jayna Van Buiten** (outfield) provided leadership and quality play. They will certainly be missed next year.



Aleah Nieshalla

Boys Lacrosse

In its inaugural season as a varsity program the boys lacrosse team knew it was in for a challenging season.

The joy and excitement of an opening day win over another new program was soon tempered by a succession of games versus established teams. Led in scoring by seniors **Cameron Silverstein**, **Andrew De Block** and **Justin Davis**, perhaps the season's best performance was turned in by junior goalie **Dan D'Urso**, who earned honorable mention all county honors along with De Block.



1

Girls Lacrosse

Heading into its first varsity season ever, the girls lacrosse team knew it wasn't going to be easy, and it wasn't.

Facing experienced, established programs from larger schools, the team took their lumps literally and figuratively. Senior **Kate Klingler** led a defense that was constantly under siege while junior **Laura Carey** and senior **Tori Kasper** made the most of their offensive opportunities. (All three were honorable mention selections.) Sophomore **Brooke Van Lenten**, a newcomer to the sport, was outstanding in midfield, along with senior **Caitlin Duffy**. The program's first-ever win came in its only home game, a decisive victory over Mary Help in Franklin Lakes.



2

In foreground: 1. Andrew De Block; 2. Laura Carey



Kyle Dykstra

Tennis

This year, with a new roster of boys and a new coach, boys tennis worked on growing as a team. The team finished its spring season at 3-11.

Coached by **Jim Uitermarkt** and assisted by **Ryan Dykstra**, the team worked hard to improve and develop skills throughout the season. Juniors **Kyle Dykstra** and **Calvin Gorter** served as co-captains and provided

excellent leadership for the team. Uitermarkt remarked how pleased he was with the efforts of all the guys and is optimistic about their potential for next year. In addition to Dykstra and Gorter, junior **Brad Schipper** earned county honors. **Luke Pecoraro**, a senior member of the team said, “We had an awesome team and Mr. U was a great coach. Tennis was by far the most fun I have ever had in any sports team.”

Girls Track

The girls completed the season with a 6-2 record, finishing third in the conference, fifth in the county and fifth in the state meet.

Top performers included senior captain **Lyndsey Smith**, who repeated as sectional state champion in the 100m, 200m, 400m, and long jump as well as winning the state championship in the 400m; senior captain **Erin Van Lenten** who took third in the high hurdles at the state meet and placed in all three jump events; senior captain **Hana Schwartz** who placed in all three weight events; and the 4 x 100 relay team—comprised of Smith, Van Lenten, freshman **Katie Hefty** and senior **Esther Galo**—who won the county meet.



Lyndsey Smith

Boys Track

The boys had a record of 2-6, but did very well in the county and state meets, taking 8th in the county and 10th in the state.

Junior **Trent Braen** set the school record in the discus and won conference, county and state sectional titles. Junior **Bryan Lineweaver** placed in conference, county and state sectional meets in the triple jump and long jump. The two-mile relay, made up of juniors **Carter Heerema**, **Jake** and **Sam Veenstra**, as well as sophomore **Will Fan**, broke the school record in the 4X800 relay four times and finished third in the state meet. In all, they took



Trent Braen

almost 30 seconds off the old record that was set two years ago. Carter and Bryan served as captains.

Spring Athletic Awards 2015

TENNIS

Kyle Dykstra

Honorable Mention All League
Second Team All County

Brad Schipper

Honorable Mention All County

Calvin Gorter

Honorable Mention All County

BASEBALL

Josh Haddad

First Team All League
Second Team All County

John Onufer

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Devin Hulsebos

Honorable Mention All County

Ben Boonstra

Honorable Mention All League

SOFTBALL

Anita Karr

First Team All League
Second Team All County

Jolie Wolyniec

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Aleah Nieshalla

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Becky Parker

Honorable Mention All League

Angelina Picciotto

Second Team All League

GIRLS TRACK

Lyndsey Smith

First Team All League
First Team All County

Erin Van Lenten

Second Team All League
First Team All County

Esther Galo

First Team All County

Katie Hefty

First Team All League
First Team All County

Nicole Aioki

First Team All League

Brittany Van Harken

First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Michelle Silvestri

Second Team All County

Hana Schwartz

Honorable Mention All County

BOYS TRACK

Trent Braen

First Team All League
First Team All County

Carter Heerema

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Richard Bruffy

Second Team All League

Tanner Allen

Second Team All League
Sam Veenstra
Honorable Mention All County

Boys Lacrosse

Andrew DeBlock

Honorable Mention All County

Dan D'Urso

Honorable Mention All County

GIRLS LACROSSE

Laura Carey

Honorable Mention All County

Kate Klinger

Honorable Mention All County

Tori Kasper

Honorable Mention All League

GOLF

Sung Namgung

First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Scott Steenstra

Honorable Mention All County



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By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents in a global society.

WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT TRADITION.

Atlantic Stewardship Bank is proud to sponsor the
First Annual Eastern Christian School Homecoming.

Why? Because we value and appreciate the values that Eastern Christian School teaches.
They are, in fact, the same values by which we run our bank.



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Please save the date: October 23rd-25th for this first and very exciting new homecoming tradition. It is sure to be a weekend filled with terrific activities for recent grads and heritage alums alike with athletic events, EC5K, Campus Tours, Family BBQs and Sunday brunch. Please come and make it the first of a tradition that will last for many generations to come.



**Atlantic
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For more information and a local Atlantic Stewardship Bank near you

CALL: 201-444-7100 OR VISIT: WWW.ASBNOW.COM

