They Will Soar on Wings Like Eagles...

With this issue of The Herald we are happy to introduce Eastern Christian's new logo as depicted on the front cover.

The new logo, our first in more than twenty five years, is based upon three themes that tell of God's faithfulness to our school throughout its 122 year history.

The eagle at the center of the shield refers to the words of Isaiah 40:31, recounting Isaiah's message that “...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

The shield refers to the words of Psalm 91:4 which remind us that “...under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”

Finally, the logo includes the year of Eastern Christian’s founding, 1892, reminding us yet again of God's faithfulness to a little Christian school founded by an immigrant community in the heart of Paterson and sustained through two world wars, the Great Depression, and subsequent decades of upheaval and social change.

Great is his faithfulness!

The new logo is the first step in a broader re-branding strategy that will also include a newly developed website designed to be easier to navigate and more user friendly for members of the Eastern Christian community and for those searching for a high quality, Christ-centered education for their children. Be on the lookout for the next phase of our re-branding effort later this spring as we continue to reflect upon our Lord's great faithfulness in the past and look forward to the bright future that he has prepared for us.

As this issue of The Herald is going to print, Eastern Christian School is also celebrating its designation by the Character Education Partnership as a State School District of Character. Our school is one of only forty-four schools and four school districts nationwide to receive this honor. Eastern Christian’s receipt of this honor is the culmination of a more than two year process of documenting the teaching that takes place in our school each day about the role that Christians are called to play in addressing the world’s big challenges as we seek to lead transformational lives of service to the Kingdom!

We hope that you enjoy this issue of The Herald as we mark the start of a new year of engaging the mind, nurturing the spirit, and transforming the world!

Thomas G. Dykhouse ('76)
Executive Director & Head of School
The Herald is the magazine for alumni, parents, and friends of Eastern Christian School published twice a year. It is a publication of the Eastern Christian School Association’s Foundation Board. Letters, articles, artwork and photography are welcome for possible inclusion in The Herald. Art and photos will be returned when a SASE is included. Send all correspondence regarding feedback and publication to the address above. E-mail is welcomed and encouraged.

Eastern Christian School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools and is a member of Christian Schools International.

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About the Cover

Eastern Christian School’s new logo was unveiled at the Annual Association meeting on February 26, 2014. It was developed in conjunction with Dr. Rick Newberry of Enrollment Catalyst in St. Petersburg, FL and North Star Marketing in Burlington, NC, two firms that specialize in working with faith-based schools throughout the United States.
Breaking News: EC Selected as a 2014 New Jersey District of Character

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN

Eastern Christian has been selected as a 2014 New Jersey District of Character by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development (NJASECD). The state recognized eight schools and two districts, choosing schools after a comprehensive application and evaluation process.

Across the country, 44 schools and four school districts were recognized for excellence in character education. Due to the state recognition, Eastern Christian School Association’s application has now been forwarded to the Character Education Partnership (CEP) in Washington, D.C. for consideration in the National Schools of Character Program. If Eastern Christian is determined to meet national standards, it will receive a five-year National School of Character award and join a network of schools to serve as a model for other educators, according to CEP.

In a letter dated January 22, 2014, William Trusheim Dachnowicz, president of NJASECD, wrote, “Congratulations! Because of the high quality of work represented in your State/National Schools of Character application, the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development has selected Eastern Christian School Association as a 2014 New Jersey District of Character. Your district will maintain this status for a period of three years.”

Spearheaded by ECMS Dean of Students Mary Faber, ECHS Art Teacher Jesse Wright, and ECES Kindergarten Teacher Donna Holly, the school’s portfolio application demonstrated excellence in eleven principles of effective character education. The team began gathering evidence more than two years ago in order to effectively prove a culture that offers an engaging, nurturing and transforming education.
ECHS National Honor Society

BY JAEWOO PARK, ’14

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, Eastern Christian welcomed 30 incoming juniors and seniors into the school’s chapter of the National Honor Society during a ceremony held in the high school auditorium, representing nearly 20 percent of the two classes.

At Eastern Christian, only juniors and seniors are admitted into the society. Students must obtain at least a 3.5 GPA and must take at least two upper-level honors courses before consideration. Faculty members submit evaluations on each candidate and a five-person faculty council makes the final decision, basing admission on the four tenants of the society: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Throughout the year, members of the National Honor Society work to support the school community in a variety of ways. This fall, it spearheaded the annual Christmas Festival. In addition, NHS is in charge of planning and implementing other service projects, such as the all-school service day and a field day for elementary school students. The organization also partners with other groups at Eastern Christian, such as Student Senate and Micah Challenge.

Night at Jacksonville Chapel

BY BRIANA RUMSEY ’14 AND JAEWOO PARK ’14

On Friday, Nov. 8, Eastern Christian’s honors choir and concert choir teamed with the New Jersey Homeschoolers Association Choir in an adoption awareness concert at Jacksonville Chapel in Lincoln Park, NJ. The evening benefited Bethany Christian Services, a non-profit adoption and family service agency.

Each choir performed its own songs, and then two songs together: Come to the Music and the Hallelujah Chorus. EC’s concert choir followed another director for one song. “Participating in this concert gave the choir an opportunity to not only see how another choir operates, but also to share our gifts in our community,” said senior Jesse Ojeda.

One highlight of the night included a performance from senior Kathryn Mae Post, who shared an original piece with the audience titled Time is New. “It was inspired by the idea that we are reborn after accepting Christ into our lives. It reflected on events of the past year that have forced me to turn away from my own selfish desires and focus instead on the unending love of Christ. If we pursue Him and make Him the focal point of our lives, then for us, time will truly be made new,” she said. “I was definitely shaking a bit before I first started playing, but once I remembered what I was singing about and who I was singing to, I relaxed because I was singing not for myself or for the audience, but for God.”
After-School Revamped

COLLABORATIVE ARTICLE BY THE FALL JOURNALISM CLASS

School. The place where kids learn new concepts, form relationships and prepare for life as an adult. But where can a child go after school to get extra help and nurturing to excel in this environment? Eastern Christian’s after-school program is the answer.

The after-school program runs daily from 3-6 p.m. Students may attend on a regular, scheduled basis or as a drop-in as the need arises. The after-school program is divided up into half-hour segments, which includes outdoor or gymnasium activities; snack and homework help; and free choice and group activities. This program also now offers professional tennis and chess instruction, an art club, as well as weekly piano and violin lessons from qualified instructors for $40.

“We have some awesome staff – and they are both EC teachers, which makes a huge difference. Kids are getting some great tutoring opportunities during the homework time,” said James Anderson, Eagles Extended Learning Programs director. He added, “I believe it’s both a service and an extension of Christian education. After-school programs provide a structured, safe, supervised place to be after school, with learning, fun and friendship. I think that after-school programs improve social skills, increase self-confidence and self-esteem, provide stronger relationships with peers and improve academic scores. It also teaches kids responsibility when it comes to their homework.”

EC’s after-school program averages anywhere between 15 and 25 kids per day and is for students aged preschool through sixth grade. Run by director Michael McKinney and an aid, Kelly Breur, the program is overseen by Anderson and takes place at the elementary school.

When asked what part of the program the parents enjoy the most, Breur said, “The parents are always thrilled to pick up their children with the homework completely finished. They know they can go home and just enjoy the night together as a family.”
College Comes to High School

BY LEAH GENUARIO ’97

Eastern Christian ninth graders hosted a college fair at the high school on Thursday, Dec. 12 as part of their College and Technical Education (CTE) class requirement. Students in the class found a partner and the partners chose a school to research and promote. A variety of colleges were represented, including Christian schools, such as Messiah and Calvin; Ivy League Universities like Princeton and Harvard; and local campuses such as William Paterson.

“There are a couple of reasons for hosting this fair. We want freshmen to begin to think about how their choices now have implications regarding their college options later. For the sophomores through seniors who visited the fair, we believe the event is an opportunity to support freshmen while gaining exposure to schools,” said College and Career Counselor Jesse Struck, a guest lecturer to the class and organizer of the event.

Among the many displays, freshmen Trystian Sullivan and Stacy Kim showcased information from SUNY Geneseo in Geneseo, NY. Trystian said that many students asked what the school was known for. “It’s known as New York’s public honors college,” said Trystian, adding, “It also has strong math and sports programs.”

Aside from the information gleaned on the college, the duo said the project was a good reminder to focus on grades and activities during the high school years. Trystian also remarked that he was surprised by the interest in outside-of-school activities. “I am currently playing piano. I am surprised a college would ask about this,” he said.

The college fair is just one project accomplished during the school’s CTE class. The class, taught by Rebekah Sankey, often includes guest lecturers. Meant to aid freshmen in their transition from middle school to high school, and then prepare them for life beyond school doors, the multi-faceted course also touches on technology skills, time management, presentation and study skills, resume writing and beyond.
Winter Concert and Art Show

BY LEAH GENUARIO '97

Eastern Christian High School’s music and art departments presented its winter concert and art show on Thursday, Jan. 9.

In the auditorium, a large crowd gathered to hear songs from five music groups. Chamber Orchestra and String Orchestra began and ended the event, with both groups directed by Cathy Clark. Pieces included selections by W.A. Mozart, as well as the familiar Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah, by G.F. Handel and arranged by R. Meyer.

Concert Choir and Honors Choir, directed by Suzanne Kraai with musical accompanist Sharon Van Der Heide, sang a wide range of songs, from Francesco Gasparini’s Adoramus Te to the light-hearted Sleigh Ride, arranged by Hawley Ades.

Student artwork from the fall semester

Erdong Shang ’16
Anchoring the night, Concert Band, directed by Robert Flim, performed four pieces, including International Bridge March, arranged by Lloyd Conley, and Stargazer by David Shaffer.

"The concert went very well," said Flim. "The students enjoyed the evening and gave it their best to a very full and appreciative audience."

Across the hallway in the cafeteria, a winter art show highlighted a number of art pieces. The works represented the best of the fall semester for students in Art 1, ceramics, painting and graphic arts design classes. An outside judge was called upon to rate art in eight different categories, with three winners chosen per category.

"At the end of each semester, the students choose several pieces they are the most proud of to bring to the art show," explained Donna Aceino, art teacher. "The competition is to honor their hard work. It’s a celebration of their accomplishments."

Barnes & Noble Concert

BY CHELSEA CAMPBELL ’16

The Eastern Christian High School Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Middle School Band and Choir, performed Dec. 4 at the Barnes & Noble in Paramus. A percentage of purchases from the event were donated back to the school.

Kaily Campbell, a fifth grade student, is the only one in her grade to play in the middle school band. Kaily played the cornet in the band and also sang along with her fifth and sixth grade classmates in the fifth and sixth grade choir.

"The concert went really well. People really enjoyed it," Kaily said. One of the songs they played in band was Deck the Halls.

Approximately a hundred people turned out for the event, including many family members and friends.

"I liked performing at a store more than performing at school because more people from the community could hear us, not just parents or family members and friends," added Kaily.
Fall Play: All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

BY ROBYN STEGINK '14

On Nov. 14, 15 and 16, Eastern Christian High School’s drama cast took the stage as they made the characters of the fall drama, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," come alive. The play, based on a popular book from 1988 by Robert Fulghum, highlights many short vignettes with valuable life lessons.

"The book and the play contain several short stories illustrating the idea that fundamental life lessons (playing fair, cleaning up after yourself, holding hands while crossing the street) are just as important – sometimes more important – in adulthood as they are in childhood," said Jane Okma, high school teacher and the director of the play.

The cast itself had 15 members, each playing a variety of characters. "It was a great mixture of experienced senior actors and underclassmen; great senior leadership and talented underclassmen. Who could ask for more?" added Okma.

Cast member senior Megan Hickey said the play was "very cute and entertaining. Because the scenes were really short, there was a wide range of many characters. There were also changes in emotion through the scenes that allow you to see the connection between childhood and adult life."

The play was not only a way to share these stories and lessons with the audience, but also a chance for cast members to grow. "My favorite aspect of doing the play is getting to know some of the people I would never have talked to otherwise and I like becoming closer to the people I already know. I also just love to act," said cast member, senior Briana Rumsey.

See You at the Pole

BY LEAH GENUARO ’97

On the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 25, several dozen Eastern Christian High School students woke up to alarms set 40 minutes early. At 7:30 a.m., they gathered around the flagpole at the North Haledon campus to pray for family and friends, the school, the neighborhood, and the world.

"The SOAR looked interesting to me. On the first day, I was the only student there and I was a bit overwhelmed, but I knew it was good for the school to participate. After one or two meetings with just me and Mr. Uitermarkt, I gathered a small group of friends to work out the details," said Stephanie.

Stephanie and her friends planned the event, which included orchestrating a time of singing and small group prayer. They also advertised throughout the school.

Turnout was estimated at 40 students and staff members. "It was more than expected. Hopefully next year, it will gain more momentum," said Stephanie.

"The primary goal was to have community fellowship, singing and prayer. We were very pleased with the event and hope to continue it in future years," added James Uitermarkt, the teacher moderating the event.
Schools Bond Over Bugs

BY ABBY KUDER '14

Last year in Liesl Botbyl’s science class, seventh grade students came up with the idea to teach younger students. They were challenged to pick something first graders were learning about and prepare science-related lessons to use the following school year.

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, their hard work paid off, as the now-eighth graders hopped on a bus bound for the elementary school. Armed with books, games, magnifying glasses and other educational materials, they came well prepared to teach younger students about the six-legged creatures commonly referred to as bugs.

“This activity was a great opportunity for my students to plan a variety of lessons that would be exciting to first graders while at the same time teaching them concepts about bugs. They were slightly nervous about teaching kids they didn’t even know, but within minutes, many of them formed special friendships with their buddies and are begging to go back again in the spring,” said Botbyl.

While the day was valuable for the students-turned-teachers, the first graders also walked away with a fun learning experience. Regarding the day, first grade teacher Ellen Ritsma saw merit beyond educational pursuits. “I love it when two schools come together like this,” she said. “It brings a better sense of community to the schools and it joins the schools into one body.”

EC Students Take on Math

BY JAMES CHOI '14

A world without math class may sound appealing to many people, but some students at Eastern Christian High School voluntarily sign up for extra math work.

Math Club completes a competition every month during Student Opted Academic Resources (SOAR) activity period. This monthly competition at school prepared club members to complete a greater challenge in November. The group traveled to Seton Hall University to participate in its Joseph W. Andrushkiw Competition on Nov. 23, 2013, an annual event named after a former professor at the university.

The Joseph W. Andrushkiw Competition is a 90-minute test drawing nearly 200 high school students across the state. There are 16 questions that cover topics including Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Theory of Equations, Combinatory and Probability. During the test, participants must solve these questions solely from their knowledge. There are no calculators allowed.

Cash prizes were awarded for first place through fifth place, though EC students did not place in the top five. It was a different kind of competition compared to the monthly competition. Senior Jeremiah Castro said, “It was very interesting to compete with students from all over New Jersey.”

To help students practice, Seton Hall University posted questions and answers from previous competitions. Here is an example from the 2007 exam: "The angles of a (convex) quadrilateral are in the ratio 4:5:7:8. Find the degree measure of the largest angle of the quadrilateral." (The answer, for those who are trying to figure this out sans calculator, is 120 degrees).
Training a child in the way they should go is not a solo endeavor. Undergirding the mission of Eastern Christian is a simple philosophy: Christian education works best when in partnership with parents and the church. This belief spurred two high school faculty members on a trip to Korea and China in November. Despite the original intentions, however, the duo said the Lord added to their agenda.

"The reason we went is because of the belief that the church, family and school are working together. Families couldn’t believe we came all the way to China and Korea to see them. It had an impact on their friends. Their friends couldn’t believe we came just for the families. All of a sudden, everyone wanted to meet us," said Kathy Kim, international student advisor.

EC faculty met with 20 current student families and 27 prospective students. Ruth Kuder, international student program director, said the number of prospective meetings was a surprise. "It happened in a variety of ways," she explained. "Sometimes another family would tag along on a current meeting; sometimes a current parent would ask if we could come back the next day to meet a friend; and occasionally, parents would set up meetings with prospective families in other cities along our travel route."

"In one case, a prospective family took a 5-hour train ride to Beijing to meet us," added Kuder. "In another, a current parent meeting led to four additional meetings with prospective students."

Over the course of two and a half weeks, the pair visited five cities in China, with an itinerary based upon where current student families live: Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, Chengdu, and Kunming. In a country historically known to restrict religious activity, Kim and Kuder were bolstered by the Christian community they discovered and the enthusiasm for a Christian education.
“People in China were excited for the opportunity for Christian education. They were overwhelmed to hear about schools who intentionally work to develop the whole person,” said Kuder.

The trip continued outside of mainland China, with stops in Taipei, Taiwan; and Seoul and Busan, South Korea.

Although not intentionally a trip to strengthen international enrollment numbers, traveling to these destinations resulted in a minimum of 10 new students enrolled in the middle school and high school starting in January, according to Kuder.

“Our vision for Christian education needs to reflect the kingdom of God. His kingdom extends far beyond northern New Jersey, and it is our privilege to welcome brothers and sisters from across the world. While we have much to offer them, they have much to offer us, and God is using us all to be transformed in the service of his kingdom.”

From India to EC

BY LEAH GENUARIO ’97

Christians account for a mere 2.3 percent of the Indian population, according to the most recent census data published by the Government of India in 2001. Despite the small overall percentage, several northeastern states within the nation are currently home to large Christian populations. The rich Christian heritage in these states can be traced back to the work of missionaries, arriving as early as the late 1800s.

A new freshmen enrolled at Eastern Christian, Tekmatei Shimpauri was born in a small village within the state of Manipur, a northeast region with a 34 percent Christian population, according to census data. Like many men and women of faith before her, Tekmatei hopes to one day return to her village and tell others about the love of Jesus Christ.

“I want to be a missionary because I was taken care of by a missionary,” she said. “I also hope to teach English at the school in my village. God knows what is going on with society, and with India. I believe he wants to change it. I especially know He loves me very much.”

Tekmatei’s road to Eastern Christian is an unusual one. The youngest of seven children and born to a family of modest means, she was invited by her uncle at age nine to live at Precious Children Home. Three days away by train, the Christian hostel was connected to her uncle’s seminary and located in southern India. “My uncle took some of the villagers to have a better education. Seven of us went,” she explained.

It was at this hostel that Tekmatei first met Laura. Laura was a young missionary commissioned by a Baptist church in Virginia for a one-year stay. Among her other duties, she orchestrated chapel at Precious Children Home. Many of the other students did not know English, but Tekmatei, having learned it from her village school, could translate Laura’s services.

“We formed a great relationship,” said Tekmatei. “One day she asked me if I wanted to come over to the United States and study here. I didn’t have any idea how it would go, but I said okay, fine. I will go because I love you and trust you.”

Laura has since relocated to New Jersey, and in September, Tekmatei started as a new student at Eastern Christian — currently the only international student from India. Her first impressions have been stellar. “I never thought it would be like this. It’s amazing. I never dreamed I would be coming here and meeting lots of American friends and international students. I’ve never met as many great teachers as I have met here. It’s been a great blessing.”
Eastern Christian offers a unique program that provides the opportunity for domestic and international students to understand each other’s worlds more and develop relationships with teenagers from different cultures. This is accomplished through various events and community-building activities.

“Making friends can be hard in school because you are going from class to class. These events give domestic and international students an opportunity to do something fun together, open up and share experiences, so they can develop friendships. That way, when they see each other in school they are more comfortable with each other,” said Kathy International Student.

BY SEBASTIAN PIERRE ’16, HYUN JIN REE ’14 AND CHLOE KIM ’14
Kim, international student advisor. Several trips took place during the fall and winter.

Students set out on Oct. 21 to Koreatown in Palisades Park, with 80 high school and middle school students in attendance. One of the highlights was the food. For example, seniors Joshua Ashkinazi and Nick Steiginga enjoyed Galbi and Bulgogi. Both entrees consist of grilled, marinated beef.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, 44 international students and student ambassadors traveled to Bryant Park, NYC for another adventure, this time, to ice skate. A final trip of the year culminated on December 29, when students left on a three-day trip to Stowe, VT for skiing.

Ye ji Lee Profile

BY LEAH GENUARIO ’97

On most Sunday mornings, you can find senior Ye ji Lee leading praise and worship time at her church. But it wasn’t always that way. Ye ji’s journey to Christ included a trip halfway around the world.

Ye ji enrolled at Eastern Christian in January of her freshmen year. As a younger child, she went to church in South Korea, but by her admission, “it was only because of my friends.” She was mostly interested in the church’s flea market nights for children, where kids could ‘purchase’ small trinkets with fake money. “I went to the services too, but I never listened to the sermon, because I didn’t get it,” she added.

Her family heard about the school system from her mother’s co-worker. The co-worker knew a Korean family from Paramus, NJ, and she relayed information about Eastern Christian. Because the school’s tuition was more affordable than other private schools the family was considering, her parents decided to enroll her here.

Eventually, Ye ji moved in with the same family who had first spoken about Eastern Christian and they became her guardians. “My guardian was praying for me before I was a Christian. She always made me memorize Bible verses every morning. I really didn’t want to do it because I was not a Christian. I didn’t understand what God has done for us, so first, I was a little annoyed.”

Besides teaching Ye ji to learn Bible verses, her guardian also invited her to the youth group at church. She resisted at first. Eventually though, Ye ji said loneliness and an uncertainty about who she was and what her future held propelled her to try it. “So I went there. That first time changed my life,” Ye ji said.

Ye ji dedicated her life to following Jesus in the winter of her sophomore year. The following year, she assumed leadership over her church’s praise team. She also sings in the school’s choir.

Out of all the things she notices about Eastern Christian, she is most grateful for her teachers. “They have a deep faith that I don’t have, because I just became a Christian two years ago.”

She added that a recent fundraising event for Bethany Christian Services she attended with the school choir had a major impact in her walk with Christ. “I learned that for Christians, the family is one of the most important things. Families are important. It had a huge impact on me and I repented myself. I felt really thankful that Eastern Christian offered that opportunity to support them.”
Students Fight Against Human Trafficking

BY EMMA HAGEDOORN, ’16

The number of human trafficking victims at any one time is conservatively estimated at 2.5 million people, according to data published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Considered modern-day slavery, the agency reports that sexual exploitation is the most common form of human trafficking, capturing an estimated 79 percent of the market.

Though the concept seems a world away to most Eastern Christian families, the trade is practiced even in the United States. With the support and guidance of high school dean Christina Bucci, two seniors – Jennifer Tartini and Bethany Kuiken – are raising awareness and funds to fight human trafficking.

Bethany’s interest in the cause was sparked by a Christian documentary she saw with her brother titled Nefarious: Merchant of Souls. “After the video, I just went up to my room and cried in my bed. I mourned for all the girls that were trapped in the trafficking industry, and grieved for all the spiritually-lost traffickers that were taking advantage of literally millions of girls,” said Bethany. “The Lord put a passion in my heart to fight against it.”

Her friend, Jennifer, also felt a need to fight against the worldwide phenomena. “I really feel that it’s God’s calling for me to help these girls. We could have the power to stop it,” she added.

This fall, a number of initiatives were set into motion. To raise awareness, the school hosted a chapel addressing human trafficking and also prepared an all-school devotional read in each classroom at the start of the day. For those students particularly passionate about doing more, a group regularly met during Student Opted Academic Resource time (SOAR) to brainstorm further ways to get involved.

Putting passion into practice, change jars were set up throughout the high school as part of a "Loose Change to Loosen Chains" fundraiser. Bethany and Jennifer have also spearheaded additional fundraisers, including a clothing drive in November and baked good sales during sporting events. The fall initiatives netted nearly $1000 toward the cause.

The girls plan on continuing their fight throughout the school year. Recently, they organized a Human Trafficking Awareness night on Feb. 8, which included speakers, performance and art. The event was free, but the students sold t-shirts and jewelry to raise funds.
Collecting for Operation Christmas Child

LEAH GENUARIO ’97

Driven in by trucks, delivered via boats, and sometimes even carried on the backs of animals, Operation Christmas Child has traveled to more than 130 countries delivering goody-laden shoeboxes to children since 1993. Among the estimated 100 million boxes delivered this year, more than 40 are thanks to the in-school efforts of Eastern Christian students.

At the middle school, students and families were encouraged to bring in items that could be placed in a shoebox. These included hygiene items, school supplies, and toys. On Tuesday, Nov. 19, ECMS small group leaders coordinated a shoebox building and wrapping time. In the end, 36 shoeboxes were completed and students took the time to pray for the eventual recipients of the boxes.

“It was a way for student small group leaders to mobilize the resources of the entire student body and in a small way live out our mission of transforming the world. It cultivates the idea of doing small things that make a big difference,” said Andrew Culp, middle school principal.

Jenna Beverly’s second graders also worked together to create shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child as a closing project to their unit about kindness. Over several weeks, students brought in items for either a boy or a girl and families made contributions that completely covered the shipping costs of $7 per box. The class finished with seven completed boxes, which were delivered to the local drop-off site at Hawthorne Gospel Church.

Along with a shoebox, recipients receive Bible-related books in their own language, coupled with an invitation to join a class at a local church. The goal of the project is simple. According to Samaritan’s Purse, the ministry which orchestrates the global project, it’s to “experience God’s love through the power of simple shoebox gifts.”
Ho-Ho-Hosting Paterson Youth At The Annual Christmas Festival

BY LEAH GENUARIO ’97

A second grader from PS#24 in Paterson and a second-year attendee, Evan was a veteran to the Christmas Festival. His buddy this year was Eastern Christian High School junior, David Dolfi. As they worked together to slather icing on a cookie and overload its circumference with marshmallows, sprinkles and Gummy Bears, Evan reflected on his favorite part of the event.

“I like to see Santa,” he replied, stuffing another marshmallow into the white icing as the antlers of his handmade Rudolf hat bounced along. And then the moment got better. As if on cue, Santa and Mrs. Claus – high school students Luke Pecoraro and Angie Varney – made their debut. Evan first had to work out a little matter of business with the jolly man in the red suit. It seems his request for an iPad had been ignored last year. Santa’s excuse seemed to suffice, however, and Evan bid farewell warmly: “Bye Santa, see you next year!”

Like his child Evan, David Dolfi is also a veteran to the annual event. His favorite part? "Just going around with the kids. Every kid, every year, has been awesome.”

On Friday, Dec. 6, Eastern Christian High School played host to approximately 240 first and second graders from PS#24 in Paterson. Overseen by James Uitermarkt and orchestrated by members of the National Honor Society, the event provides a way for high school students to serve and minister to younger children. There are plenty of opportunities for fun, food and games, but most importantly, the event provides an opening to share the real gift of Christmas: Jesus Christ.

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"The Christmas Festival is all about sharing the love of Christ to our guests. It is possible to combine fun and faith and to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Our high school students, faculty and staff love the kids from School 24," said Uitermarkt, "I am so proud with how the entire EC community – both students and teachers – embrace these children and make this truly a memorable day for all."

This year, the Christmas festival began around 11 a.m., as the elementary-aged students shuffled off the buses. Once matched with an ECHS buddy, they enjoyed a program in the auditorium, which included familiar Christmas songs, a skit and a dance. The excitement was palpable; pockets of red and green danced in the aisles while others stood in place and clapped to the tunes. After lunch, small groups of children congregated in classrooms to complete a host of Christmas-themed activities. These included things such as craft-making, cookie decorating and games. Before the children hopped back on the bus, their ECHS match-ups presented them with a present valued at approximately $10-$15.

What part of the day was most enjoyable? Well, that depended on the child. For example, first grader Andrea, who toured the activities with sophomore Sarah Martin for the day, decided toys were her favorite part. Another child at the table felt differently, stating it was definitely eating the Gummy Bears. Or, on second thought, maybe decorating the cookies. Or actually, maybe it was everything.

No matter what activity was most popular, it was a fun day for all ages. As the school bell rang, signaling the end of the final activity, second grader Santiago jumped to his feet and summed it all up: "It was the best day ever!"

Warm Clothing Drive

By Leah Genuario ’97

Formed in 1998 as an extension of Paterson-based Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Madison Avenue Crossroads Community Ministries states its mission is: "Meeting needs...transforming lives...by the power of Jesus." The organization accomplishes this in a variety of ways, ranging from food pantries, to ESL classes, to childcare.

For a second year in a row, Eastern Christian Elementary School has partnered with this ministry to provide new and gently used outerwear – hats, mittens, scarves, coats and ear muffs. This year’s donation drive spanned from early December through mid-January and was initially rolled out during a chapel service.

"Last year, we tied it into our theme of One Body in Christ, and asked students to bring in outerwear based on their class’ assigned body part. This year, our theme was Spread the Warmth. It’s part of our core values of serving others and embracing community. We are helping others and showing Christian compassion. It also teaches kids that even at a young age, they can be a part of showing God’s love," said Debra Veenstra, teacher and head of the special projects committee.

At the end of the drive, a small group of children are selected to take part in delivering the clothes to the ministry headquarters in Paterson. This includes loading the clothes into garbage bags, carrying them onto boxes and hearing a presentation from Crossroad Ministry’s executive director, Thomas Henion, and secretary, Marlene Marocco.

"Students learn that they are ‘butlers’ in Christ,” said Gina Paterson, a teacher and one of the primary EC liaisons between the school and ministry. "The children serve others by folding the winter items on tables and organizing them for the children and their families. They also take time as a group to pray for those who will be blessed by this cause."

Elementary school students drop off warm clothing at Madison Avenue Crossroads Community Ministries.
Bracelets for a Good Cause

Like many elementary-aged children today, fourth grader Matthew Soder enjoys weaving rubber band bracelets with his Rainbow Loom. A great way to pass the time, Matthew created bracelets this summer while traveling to and attending his uncle’s wedding in Virginia. He didn’t realize, however, that this simple hobby would soon turn into a school-wide service project.

“In Virginia, I made a bracelet for this couple. The guy asked me for twenty more bracelets, so I made twenty more. Then he asked for forty more,” said Matthew.

Matthew learned the man worked every weekend from Thanksgiving through December delivering candy canes to children in an economically depressed area of New York State. He wanted to give bracelets along with the candy. Since he sometimes saw hundreds of kids in one day, Matthew realized his efforts were not going to be enough. That’s when he employed the help of his entire school.

“I was able to announce it in chapel. I said, there’s poor kids in New York [who would like bracelets],” explained Matthew.

The response was excellent, and elementary-aged students from kindergarten through fourth grade got to work. In the end, 380 bracelets were donated.

The huge outpouring wasn’t a surprise to Matthew, who expressed complete confidence in his school mates. “I knew there were a lot of people who did bracelets. They made them, and then when they saw me they would shove them into my pockets for the boxes.”

Rubber Bands Raise Money for Charity

Making more than $300 selling rubber band bracelets doesn’t seem like an easy thing to do. Yet two eighth graders at Eastern Christian Middle School, Addie Peretti and Christina Pilusso, have managed to do so for a good cause.

At ECMS, all students are required to participate in the MAD project, an acronym for Make A Difference. From November to May, each grade finds different ways to raise money for different organizations. Fifth and sixth grades raise money for Habitat for Humanity, seventh grade people with disabilities, and eighth grade to fight against poverty. This is a project done every year, yet this year these two girls – Addie and Christina – have managed to raise a good sum of money selling Rainbow Loom bracelets.

Rainbow Loom bracelets are easy-to-make, colorful, rubber band bracelets that have recently been all the rage. Addie and Christina had the smart idea of using this fad as a way to raise money for New Hope Community Ministries.

They’ve sold bracelets for $2 each at multiple school functions, such as the middle school concert and the high school play. They’ve also sold Rainbow Loom bracelets door-to-door at school, encouraging teachers and students to support the cause.

Christina and Addie have also found other ways to raise money, like having bake sales during recess. These two girls aren’t the only ones involved; they have had an abundant amount of help from their friends. Their friend Clara in particular has been a huge help, they said. She helps to make and sell bracelets. Their efforts have totaled more than $300 and the girls plan on continuing to raise funds.

Both girls were excited about the progress they have made and could not wait to keep up the hard work. When asked why this fundraiser has been such a success, Addie said, “It’s hard to say no to two adorable girls raising money for a good cause.”
Art Students Raise $2000

BY JAMES CHOI

Five Eastern Christian High School students—seniors Justin Miller, Jordan Pellegrino, Jenna Struyk, Matt Van Eck, and junior Hana Schwartz—were invited to a Touch the World fundraiser banquet on Oct. 22 to create a painting on stage. A sixth participant, Beth Wright, the wife of EC art teacher Jesse Wright, completed the group.

The purpose of the performance, initially, was to serve as a transition to bridge the informal dinner portion of the night with the more structured closing program. Using six colors and a large canvas, the group began to paint an image upside down. In the end, the colors met together and the canvas was positioned upright to reveal the painting. Jordan Pellegrino concluded by sharing how Eastern Christian, through missions, seeks to transform the world.

"Because the painters were all in black for the performance, the banquet organizers asked if they could help as stage hands afterwards. I was really proud of these students because they were willing to serve in any capacity. While they were serving, excitement about the piece continued and they were eventually asked if Touch the World could auction off the piece," explained Wright.

Bidding started at $200, but quickly escalated, eventually selling for $2000. "We were extremely intimidated that the bidding opened at $200, and awestruck when it sold," added Wright.

All proceeds are split between Touch the World and ECHS short-term missions trips. On its web site, http://www.ttwbanquet.org/, the organization offers a short video of the performance and the opportunity to purchase original reproductions and note cards. Currently, three paintings have been sold for $250 each.

Food Drives on All Three Campuses

BY LEAH GENUARIO ’97

Walking down the hallways of Eastern Christian campuses, one would expect to see evidence of typical student food staples: juice boxes, snacks in baggies, and sandwiches. But what about boxes of cereal, cans of soup and pasta mixes? Depending on the time of year, those food items are equally prevalent. All three campuses have hosted food drives for various causes this year.

New Hope Community Ministries is a local non-profit whose mission reads, "through the love of Christ, we build restorative relationships with individuals and families in our community, empowering them to move from crisis to self-sufficiency." Among its programs, the organization operates a food pantry at its location in Prospect Park, NJ.

Both the middle school and high school have partnered with New Hope to help supply its food pantry. The middle school organized a food drive in January and February, while the high school completed a food drive in December.

The high school’s efforts were led by students involved in the Micah Challenge group. "The group is inspired by Micah 6:8. We focus on helping out people who are in need of mercy or bringing awareness to social issues," explained senior Rachel Campbell, a member of the group.

The elementary school, through the PTO, runs a food drive throughout the school year. "We collect food for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation in Midland Park the first week of each month, all year long. Cancer patients and their families benefit from the donation," said Sandra Bottge, elementary school principal. "Students bring their donations to school and place them in a bin in the front hallway."
Students Soar with Help from Eagles Learning Center

What was a vision for Eastern Christian School several years ago, has fast become a reality for students and staff alike at the Eagles Learning Center in North Haledon. Established in the fall of 2012 as an innovative way to serve both the families of students attending Eastern Christian as well as the broader community of all local children and their families, the Center is seeing the positive results of its efforts.

In order to support community families, the Eagles Learning Center, under the direction of Luke Van Denend, offers a wide variety of programs and activities that provide educational support for kids with unique learning needs and those who need a little help.

The Eagles Learning Center’s (ELC) doors are open to anyone in kindergarten through 12th grade who has questions about essentially any subject covered in school. The tutors who work at ELC are concerned with more than just a student’s success; they also work to instill self-confidence in every person who attends the learning center.

In addition to helping students gain a better understanding of subjects continued on page 21
such as math, science and English, the ELC tutors host specialized workshops throughout the year, focusing on areas that a typical school day may not cover. ELC has hosted creative writing, Spanish conversation and college application workshops throughout the year. Many of these ideas came from individuals with a passion for either teaching or learning more about a topic.

Also offered is test prep, including courses revolving around the SAT and ACT, TOEFL—the most popular examination for North American English—and the COOP exam—the most popular examination for North American English. We are excited by the widespread success of the students who have been involved in the SAT program thus far, as witnessed by the significant score increases to date.

ELC has also launched the Intensive English Institute which offers a three-week English studies program for students preparing to enter the American education system.

Located in North Haledon, NJ, the ELC is headed up by Luke Van Denend, a Calvin College graduate and a resident of Hawthorne. Luke and his wife Alison, an EC graduate, attend Covenant Christian Reformed Church. Luke has a staff of 11 tutors who all hold a bachelor’s degree and are specialized in the field he or she teaches. Currently there are 31 active students attending ELC with daily inquiries for admission to the program.

For more information about the Eagles Learning Center, contact Luke Van Denend, Director, at info@eagleslearningcenter.org or call 973-310-3205.

School Unveils New Boarding Program

BY ABBY KUDER ’14

Eastern Christian is always looking for new opportunities to expand the scope of its education, whether it be exploring new countries or seeking partnerships 45 minutes over the Hudson River. Guided by EC’s mission statement—engaging the mind, nurturing the spirit, transforming the world—the school has unveiled a new program. With a booming international student program and many host families, EC has launched a program where students from the Metro-New York area can enroll in the school.

EC has developed a great host family program as part of the International program and there are enough families willing to host more local students as well. It is a short trip across the river to NYC and it’s possible to schedule a bus or van twice a week to shuttle the students back and forth from the city area. Students would stay with their hosts four nights a week. Then on Friday night, they would travel home to spend the weekend with their family.

Vice-Principal and International Student Director, Ruth Kuder, said “This is a great opportunity to provide Christian education to a new large group of people.”

There are few private, Christian schools in New York and its surrounding area. The ones that do exist are very expensive. The schools cost up to tens of thousands of dollars more than EC’s tuition. Kuder also said that she is “excited to provide this opportunity to a whole new group of students.”

We have started to advertise the program in churches in NYC and the surrounding area. The program is open for enrollment starting in January of 2014, but the program expects to be fully up and running with students in September 2014.
ditto completes Successful Third Year

 ditto of North Jersey LLC completed its third year of operation in September 2013 with very positive results. We are excited to announce that our sales for the past year exceeded $472,000 from the sale of over 200,000 individual items ranging from books to clothing, toys, furniture and many other miscellaneous items. As a result of this incredible activity, ditto was able to cover all of its operating expenses for the year, put some funds in reserve for future expansion and make a donation of $125,000 to Eastern Christian School for the 2012-2013 school budget.

According to the bylaws, ditto is also to share a portion of its annual profits with local organizations who partner with ditto in supporting community needs. Based on the operating results of the past year, an amount of $13,000 was allocated to the following organizations: North Haledon Fire Department, North Haledon Ambulance, North Haledon Public Library, Paterson Habitat for Humanity, Jericho Road Men’s Shelter, New Hope Ministries and the ECSA Angel Fund.

We are indebted to the many volunteers who daily commit their valuable time to this ministry. Without their dedicated support, we would not be able provide the financial support for our school and the other ministries. We thank God for His blessing on this ministry from the very first day of operation by providing the leadership, volunteer staff, donors and shoppers who make this all possible. We pray that ditto will continue to thrive in 2014 and beyond to provide valuable support for His Kingdom work in our area.

The Foundation Office recently held a Dining With Friends fundraiser. On and around October 26, 2013 groups of individuals gathered together for delicious food and wonderful fellowship in support of Eastern Christian School.

Dinner hosts invited guests who in lieu of a hostess gift brought monetary donations for EC. The menu and style of the parties varied and hosts were very creative with the guest lists as well. There were parties of past parents whose children played on the same sports team years earlier, parents from a current sports team, members of a baseball league and their spouses, and a party inviting parents whose children share a common bus route, just to name a few.

In total over 100 people participated in a Dining With Friends event as a host or guest and the event raised over $6,800.00 for Eastern Christian. Thank you to all the wonderful hosts and guests who made Dining With Friends a success!
2013 Capital Campaign Update

As we complete the first year of the campaign, we are pleased to report that the generosity of our donors has enabled us to complete Phase I of our planned projects and to plan for the Phase II projects in the summer of 2014.

Our campaign receipts and pledges are approaching $1,000,000 of which $421,000 has been spent for the work completed under Phase I of the campaign. During the summer of 2013 we completely renovated the student bathrooms in both wings of the elementary school as well as the faculty bathroom and renovated the boys’ and girls’ bathrooms in the original wing of the middle school. In the high school we also renovated the girls’ and boys’ rooms near the faculty room as well as the faculty bathrooms. In total, we renovated 13 bathrooms with tile and grout generously donated by Wayne Tile Co.

Among the other significant improvements made were the replacement of lockers in the media center hallway of the high school, new air handler units on the roof of the auditorium, new roof and doors for the maintenance garage, new windows in the Administrative offices, improved security systems at all three schools and other miscellaneous items at all three campuses. All of this work has been completed and paid for from the donated funds.

We are now planning for Phase II which will take place during the summer of 2014 almost exclusively at the elementary school building. Plans call for the replacement of all entrance doors to the building and classroom windows in the original wing, as well as new ceilings, floors and lighting in each of the classrooms in that wing. A new heating system will be installed along with duct work for air conditioning. If funding permits, we will install the air conditioning units this summer as well. The main hallway in the original wing of the school will also be upgraded with a new ceiling, painting of the walls and new lighting.

We estimate that the cost for these Phase II improvements will be in the $500,000 range. With the funds remaining in the Capital Campaign account and the anticipation of some additional donations and pledges, we are confident that we will have the funds necessary to complete the Phase II items.

We are very pleased with the results of the work to date and are looking forward to completing the next phase. We hope that in September of 2014 our elementary students will be welcomed into newly renovated, energy efficient classrooms that will serve our community for many years to come.

Athletic Boosters Beefsteak Dinner

The 5th Annual Athletic Boosters Beefsteak Dinner was held on Wednesday evening January 29, 2014 at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ. It was a wonderful evening with over 300 athletes and supporters in attendance. This year’s honoree was Coach Joel Apol, ECHS Cross Country and Track Coach. High School Athletic Director Steve King along with current and former track and cross country athletes shared pictures and stories to honor Coach Apol for his outstanding commitment and accomplishments. Thank you to Roger Steiginga and Ben Spoelstra, Athletic Booster Co-chairs and to everyone who came out to support the EC Athletic Program. The evening was a great success raising $14,000.00 for EC Athletics.

Seniors Matt Van Eck and Kayla Van Lenten spoke to the audience about their experiences and gave a heartwarming tribute to Coach Apol.

Coach Joel Apol with current and former EC Track and Cross Country Athletes.
2013-2014 Annual Fund Business Drive Exceeds Its Goal!

BY: GARRET G. NIEUWENHUIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION FOR EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

As part of our Annual Fund appeal, we make a special effort to involve our business partners each year. This group of supporters has been among the most consistent with their faithful support of Eastern Christian each year. We are most appreciative of their generous support once again.

EC parent and member of the EC Foundation Board of Trustees, Bruce Bohuny, headed the recently completed Business Drive. Bruce is the President of Brooks Builders LLC in Franklin Lakes.

In his appeal letter to the business community, Bruce stressed not only the value but also the importance of a holistic, faith-based education such as his children, and other students receive each day at Eastern Christian School. This education will be used as a stepping-stone to becoming tomorrow’s leaders in industry, government and in our communities.

As of year-end 2013, we received donations totaling $62,450.00 from the following business partners:

**2013-2014 Business Drive Donors**

**Gold Sponsors**
- Abbey Carpet & Floor of Hawthorne
- Ashley Furniture HomeStore
- Atlantic Stewardship Bank
- Beyond All Maintenance
- Borduin Paving
- Brooks Builders
- Bushoven & Company
- C S Stucco & Plaster
- Dykhouse Construction Company
- JP Morgan
- JC Global Inc
- Kuiken Brothers Company
- Martin Orthodontics
- Reiner Group
- Regency Wealth Management
- Search Consultants of Northern Jersey
- Searchpath New York Metro
- Stone Industries
- Vander Plaat - Vermeulen
- Visbeen Construction Company
- Wayne Tile Company
- Wiegers, Inc
- Shotmeyer Brothers Fuel Company
- William Sytsma Landscaping
- V & S Floor Covering
- Wilson Coal & Supply

**Sponsors**
- Baker & Hoogerhyde LLC, CPA’s
- Browning-Forshay Funeral Home
- David Zuidema, Inc
- Dr. Jennifer Bushman, DMD
- Chris Fix Tree Care
- Cipriano Landscape Design
- Complete Systems Integration Inc
- Matt Braunius Lawn & Landscape

**Silver Sponsors**
- De Jong Iron Works
- Paramus Chevrolet Auto Mall
- ServiceMaster

**Donors**
- Joseph L. Papola
- Waldwick Printing Company
- Dr. John Wispelwey, DMD

Framed Image Art Gallery
- Gensinger Motors Inc
- R & R Truck Maintenance
- Tanis Hardware Corp

The next time you are in contact with any of these business entities, thank them for their strong and faithful support of Eastern Christian School!
Fred Lanting '54: "I continue to travel the world lecturing on canine orthopedics and judging dog shows. I just got back from Trinidad, and before the year is out I will be in China, Hong Kong, England and India ‘doing my thing.’ When I am at home in Alabama, I try to find enough time to continue writing. I think the spark was lit by EA teachers such as Miss Greydanus and Mr. Van Til, because all during my career as a scientist, I continued to do occasional creative writing. In fact, it was my first orthopedics text that started my world-wide lecture-&-judging invitations. I’ve done this on all continents except Antarctica (there are no dogs there anymore)."

Jeanne (Steenstra) Bushoven '76 wrote a children’s book, *Mr. Wilson the Worm*, inspired by the love of her grandchildren and her God. It is a charming book blending facts and fiction about the daily life of an earthworm. The book can be purchased on Amazon.com.

Tim DeBlaeyp’86 is an electrician living in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his wife Heather, and two daughters.

Tina Arnoldi ’90 is now offering internet marketing consulting and training services through her company, 360 Internet Strategy LLC. She previously worked as the IT Director for Coastal Community Foundation from 2006-2013. Tina was recognized in 2007 by the Charleston Business Journal with a Forty Under 40 award and again in 2011 as an Influential Woman in Business.

Matthew Struyk ’94 is pursuing a graphic design position while currently working at Discover Financial Services for the past 8 years. He is currently a Specialist in corporate card, international, power of attorney, subpoenas and other specialized tasks.

Stephen Borst ’96: “After graduating from Cornell University, I spent eight years living in New York City, during which time I worked for Nickelodeon, writing promos and commercials. In 2008, I decided to move out to California to pursue my dream of writing for shows... and maybe one day even having my own show. As it turned out, I’m now one of the creators and executive producers of a new cartoon coming to Nickelodeon early next year. The show is called *Breadwinners*, and it’s about two ducks who deliver bread in a rocket van. I hope everyone at EC will check it out!”

Jesse Negretti ’99 is currently on leave of absence from Boeing, in Seattle, WA. His family has moved to Amberley, New Zealand (45 minutes north of Christchurch) for the year. His wife, Melissa, is a GP at the local medical clinic and Jesse is staying home taking care of their children Sophia (3) and Isaac (1). Jesse adds, “Melissa is getting a chance to practice rural medicine while we all get an international experience, a rural experience, and some spectacular scenery rolled into one.”

Michael Conlon ’99 works in equity research covering aerospace and defense companies at Wells Fargo in New York City. He lives in Chatham, New Jersey with his wife Jillian and their two children, Aubrey (5) and Ethan (2).

BIRTHS:
Sarah and Matthew Struyk ’94 announce the birth of a son, Samuel Percy, on 8/1/13. Samuel joins Jacob (8), Andrew (6) and Sophia (3).
Mandi and Keith Post ’95 announce the birth of a daughter, Laura Jane on 7/26/13. She joins big sisters Hannah & Erin.
Laura and Paul Lauwe ’95 announce the birth of a daughter, Amelia Linn, on 9/19/13. Amelia joins big brother, Nicholas (3).
Tim & Erin Smeedey-Atherton ’97 announce the birth of a son, Caleb Charles, on 6/12/13. Caleb joins big brother Benjamin.

MARRIAGES:
Eric Veenstra ’99 and Kimberly Bernard were married on 7/12/13. They reside in North Haledon, NJ.

Jeffrey Bruins ’02 graduated from New Jersey Institute of Technology and is a Cyber Security Engineer for NSSPlus in Falls Church, VA.
Benjamin Bruins ’04 acquired a new position and is practicing law with the firm, Rowe, Weinstein & Sohn which is located in Rockville, MD. He resides in Baltimore, Maryland.
Deanna Cirino ’06 graduated in 2010 with a BFA degree in Theatre Arts Management from Boston University. She currently works at Pixar Animation Studios in San Francisco, CA. She writes, “I enjoy working so closely with different teams and getting to see the films at their different stages, whether they are 4 days from hitting the theaters, or 4 long years away. As a lifelong Disney fan, I love being a part of the iconic American company, and feel fortunate every time I walk into the Pixar building!”
Andrew Davidson ’08: "I have worked for the NBC Sports Group in Stamford, Connecticut since January 2013, a month after finishing my degree in Broadcasting at Montclair State University. At NBC Sports, I support live broadcasts of shows like F1 Racing,
Herman Minnema ’39
Dorothy (Huizing) Gnade ’30
Sarah Gabriele ’12
Scott Veenema ’02

Living Word Reformed Church in North Haledon, NJ. She was a member of Grace Church, Ridgewood, NJ on 8/2/2013. She was a member of Lodi Christian Reformed Church. Sarah is attending Houghton College in Western New York.

MARRIAGES:
Scott Van Genderen ’02 and Lauren Enos were married on 7/6/13. Scott & Lauren live in Brooklyn, NY.
Scott Veenema ’02 and Lisa Breur ’05 were married on 5/3/13. They reside in North Haledon, NJ.
Stacey Foschini ’07 and Steven Battaglia were married on 11/8/13. They reside in Fair Lawn, NJ.
Emily Vriesema ’08 and Carl “Chip” Cathey were married on 8/2/13. Emily and Chip live in Palm City, FL.
Nicole Struyk ’08 and Eric Krzyzanowski were married on 8/23/13.
Steffanie Boonstra ’09 and Andrew Honore were married on 7/26/13. They reside in North Haledon, NJ.

Sarah Gabriele ’12 was named the Women’s Soccer Defensive Player of the Week this past September by the Empire 8 Athletic Conference. Sarah is attending Houghton College in Western New York.

Remembering . . .

Dorothy (Huizing) Gnade ’30, of North Haledon, NJ on 8/2/2013. A long-time member of Grace Church, Ridgewood, Dorothy sang in the choir and was a participant in the activities of the church.
Johanna (Huizer) Shortway ’32, of Oakland, NJ on 8/14/2013. She was a member of the Living Word Reformed Church in North Haledon, NJ.
Herman Minnema ’39 of Centennial, CO on 6/26/2013. He was born in Paterson, New Jersey on December 9, 1921, the 7th child in the family. He attended Calvin College and Seminary and Westminster Seminary. He served churches as a parish pastor in Terra Ceia, NC; Worthington, MN; Comstock and Battle Creek, MI. He also served as Bible teacher and Chaplain at Kalamazoo Christian High School.

Elizabeth (DeLeeuw) Bruining ’41 of Little Compton, RI on 10/24/2013. She and her husband were longtime residents of Maywood, NJ before retiring to Little Compton in 1974. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Newport, and former member of Lodi Christian Reformed Church.


Anna Jean (Teitsma) Taylor ’43 of Titusville, TX on 6/21/2013.

John (Jack) Vander Plaat ’44 of Wyckoff, NJ on 12/18/2013. He served his country in the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet during World War II. Following his service, he received his NJ state license as a Funeral Director and Embalmer. Jack also served his community in various ways including a life member of Wyckoff Protection Fire Co. #1, and member of Wyckoff Exempt Firemen’s Assoc. Jack was a member and former president of the The Cathedral Choir. He was extremely active in the Bergen-Hudson Chapter of the American Red Cross where he served the congregation as a member of the Choir, a Sunday school teacher, a Deacon and Elder on the Church Council.

Winifred (Martin) Youlios ’45 of Pueblo, CO on 9/24/2013. She was a longtime member of Irving Park CRC, and upon retirement, moved to Pueblo and became a member of Beulah United Methodist Church.

Arthur De Boer ’47 of Grand Haven, MI on 9/25/2013. Art served his country in the U.S. Army as a Captain and Doctor. In addition, he worked as a Doctor and Surgeon for over 41 years in Takum, Nigeria, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. Art was an active and longtime member of Second Christian Reformed Church in Grand Haven. He also served on the Christian Reformed World Relief Board.

Florence (Van Harken) Sanders ’47 of Wayne, NJ on 12/25/13. She was a member of the 1st Christian Reformed Church in Haledon and later of Preakness Valley URC in Wayne. She served as organist in both churches for more than 50 years. Florence taught for Eastern Christian Elementary School for over 35 years.

Esther Marie (Kruizinga) Vander Wiele ’47 of New Holland, PA on 5/20/2013. She taught Sunday school at Hawthorne Gospel Church and was a teacher’s aide for Mountainside Christian Academy upon moving to Schroone Lake, NY. Esther was a current member of Coatsville Bible Fellowship in Coatsville, PA.

Leonora “Lee” (Reynierse) Groendyk ’52 of Matthews, NC on 12/28/13. Lee was a member of Christ Covenant Church.

Joyce (Vander Weert) Kastelein ’53 of Southampton, NJ, on 8/2/2013.

Henry Amos ’55 of Midland Park NJ on 10/19/2013. A life long resident of Midland Park, Henry owned and operated the Hen’s Roost in Oakland for 38 years. He was also a life member of the Midland Park Fire Department where he served as Chief, and a life long member of Faith Reformed Church, Midland Park, NJ.

Joan (Hommes) Zuidema ’55 of Lincoln Park, NJ on 6/22/2013. She was a faithful member of Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church in Pequannock for over thirty years.

Stuart D. Struck ’59 of Battle Creek, MI and formerly of New Jersey, on 7/17/2013. Stuart was the business manager for Eastern Christian Schools, retiring in 2009. He was a member of Riverwalk Christian Reformed Church.

James A. Greydanus ’71 of West Palm Beach, FL on 12/27/13. After EC, Jim graduated from William Paterson University with a degree in music. He played the trumpet and performed professionally with the Gloria Concert Band. Jim owned his family business, Van Buiten Auto in Prospect Park, New Jersey, until his retirement.

James A. De Jong ’81 of Butler, NJ on 1/12/14. During his years at EC, Jim was an avid track and field athlete and competed in numerous championship meets. He was employed by Dente Trading Co., Inc., in Cedar Grove, NJ, where he worked as a draftsman and salesman.
**In Memorium**

Florence (Van Harken) Sanders ’47

Former EC Kindergarten teacher Florence Sanders went home to be with the Lord on Christmas Day, 2013. Florence taught Kindergarten for 35 years – teaching both morning and afternoon classes. Florence taught and touched the lives of over 1,400 students!

We thank the Lord for her life and faithfulness. She is remembered by her students, friends, 2 sisters, 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

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**Reunion Update**

**Class of 1994: 20-YEAR REUNION**

Our 20th reunion will be on **July 12, 2014 at Pellegrino’s in North Haledon**, from 6:30pm – 10:00pm. Any questions, please contact Julie Bowers Tilson at gtilson@cox.net or Sara Sonderfan Heerema at sarita_kay@hotmail.com.

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**Class of 1964: 50-YEAR REUNION**

Plans are underway for a 50th Reunion. If you have not received an email recently, please update your contact information at alumni@easternchristian.org. Anyone interested in helping, contact Peter Jeffer at petelaw@peterajeffer.com.

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**Class of 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949 and 1954**

EC’s Foundation Office will host a luncheon for these combined years in anniversary of their graduations at **Eastern Christian High School on Wednesday, June 25, 2014**. If you have not received a Save-the-Date flyer, please contact EC’s Foundation Office at 973-427-9294.

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**EC Alumni Play in Grudge Bowl Tournament**

On a foggy, rainy Saturday in early January, the Eagles of the Eastern Christian Alumni Football Team were crowned champions of the **2013 Alumni Grudge Bowl Tournament** against other alumni from EC’s historic rival, Hawthorne Christian Academy. The final game was part of a best-of-three “rough-touch” football tournament that took place over several Saturdays in late December/early January.

The Eastern Christian Alumni Eagles soared, shutting the Hawthorne Christian Defenders out in Game 1 with a 70-0 victory and winning game 2 with a final score of 56-14. Pictured here are some of the players on EC’s roster. The Eagles were happy to reclaim the Grudge Bowl title as HCA had held it for the previous 4 Grudge Bowl games over the years. Eagles Soar Together!

On Saturday, September 28, members of the Class of 1958 gathered at the Brick House Restaurant in Wyckoff for a 55th reunion luncheon. Attending were 18 classmates, many with their spouses, who enjoyed an afternoon of good food, good fellowship and plenty of reminiscing. The Class of ’58 was one of the last classes to come from the original feeder schools (North 4th Street, Riverside, Midland Park and Passaic) and gather as a 9th grade class at the former Eastern Academy then known as the ECSA Junior High School. The final three years of education were received in the brand new Eastern Christian High School in North Haledon. The Class of ’58 was the first graduating class to hold an outdoor graduation on the front lawn of the high school.

The Class of 1958

Seated (L to R): Beth (Drukker) Schuil, Carol (Yskamp) Kuiken, Ann (Sonderfan) Muller, Kathryn (Joustra) Posthumus, Joanne (Drukker) Hartensveld, Barbara (Van Grouw) Tanis, Elaine (Smith) Hoekstra.


EC’s Class of 1978 held their 35th Reunion on Saturday, October 12. The reunion was held at The Castle in Chester, NY which is owned by classmate Brian Leentjes. Jeanne (Fabre) Piorkowski and Marieth (Van Der Plaats) Vriesema, co-chairs, report:

We had a great time reminiscing about our years at EC, looking at memorabilia, and playing trivia based on our high school years. Gay (Van Heemst) Kramm and Brian Leentjes began our evening with a welcome and prayer. Jim Bush did a great job as our MC for the evening and Donna (De Bruin) Hoogerhyde directed our trivia game. Mary Hoogenhuis came up with some great questions from our high school years such as: Who were our Class Officers? What musical did we see on our Senior Trip to Washington, DC? How many times did we have chapel per week? Janice (Elzinga) Kuiken did a fabulous job of coming up with memorabilia including a record album of the EC Handbell Choir.

In compiling our class statistics we discovered that there were 7 class couples and 35 classmates that have been married for 30 or more years. Classmates traveling the farthest were Gay Van Heemst Kramm (Plano, TX) and Sandra (Veenstra) Brauning (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic). Based on 80 biographies, we have produced 180 children and 57 grandchildren. We had 53 guests at our event including 35 classmates. Many thanks to Bill Van Dyke for taking photographs throughout the evening and to Brian and Alison (Baker) Leentjes for hosting us at The Castle. It was an enjoyable experience putting together the reunion. We hope to see more of you at our 45th!!
The Class of 1983

On Friday, December 27, EC’s Class of 1983 held its 30th Reunion at Pellegrino’s Restaurant in North Haledon, NJ. Reunion coordinator Karen (Rienstra) Borduin adds, “Our reunion was a great success! It was great seeing everyone again and meeting up with some classmates, who we have not seen since graduation. We wish everyone could have made it! We missed you! If you would like to see more pictures of the reunion and other pictures classmates have shared, please join our page on Facebook at EC REUNION CLASS 1983.”

The Class of 1993

EC’s Class of 1993 held its 20th reunion at Village Inn, in Wayne, NJ on Saturday, October 12. Reunion Coordinator Jennifer (Meyer) Ross reports, “Classmates came from as far as Argentina, California and Oregon, and as close as Prospect Park. Gifts were given to the farthest and closest traveled, the first response and the last response received. A special gift was also given to a classmate who had left EC in 1991 and has come back for both our 10 and our 20 year reunion! Former teacher Bob Reith opened in prayer for us and former teacher Joel Apol shared a few memories he had of some of our reunion attendees. The DJs kept the 1993 music low enough for us to laugh and talk all night. He even found our class song “Turn Turn Turn” by the Byrds to play while we took our group photo. Reunion attendees were asked to bring new hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens to donate to New Hope Community in Prospect Park in addition to a cash donation to EC. A special thanks to Kate (Schuurman) Culp for handling our photography. We all had a great time, staying well past the scheduled 10pm close. So be on the look-out for the 30th?”
Thank you to all who made donations to support Christian education at EC! During the time period of June 15, 2013 through January 13, 2014, gifts given in honor or in memory of a loved one totaled $33,178.75. All gifts are placed in Eastern Christian School’s Endowment Fund unless otherwise indicated.
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Amazing Four Years for Girls Cross Country Team

When seniors Kayla Van Lenten, Kathryn Post and Jennifer Tartini stepped off the cross country course for the last time in high school, the trio left behind an almost unheard-of sports legacy: A four-year record of 33 wins and 1 loss.

Along with the winning record, girls cross country has clinched four conference titles, six invitational wins, one county championship, and came in second in the county twice. Joel Apol was also awarded Coach of the Year by the Passaic County Coaches association in 2010 and 2011. The team’s sole dual meet loss was handed over by Rutherford last year – though EC came back to beat them in the conference meet.

The three graduating girls were joined by juniors Erin Van Lenten, Hannah Postma and Lianna Lee, as well as freshmen Kelly Bosloper, to round out the top seven runners on the team. This year’s dual meet record was 9-0. In addition to multiple county and conference awards (see listing on page 45), Kelly Bosloper was also awarded first place in the Doc Braver freshmen/JV invitational girls race, beating out runners from large schools, such as Ridgewood and Wayne Valley.

Jenn commented on the dedication and commitment of the team. "The girls who were up at the top ran 300-400 miles over the summer," she said. "My teammates were an amazing group of people. They made the most of every meet, whether they individually won or lost."

Apol added, "They tried their best no matter what the circumstances. Not one of them bagged a race. I loved this season. I was totally proud of the girls and the boys.

EC Honored for Sportsmanship

BY LEAH GENUARIO ’97

Up the stairway and a few steps from the Eastern Christian High School gym, a new banner hangs announcing the high school’s latest athletic accomplishment: A New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletics Association (NJSIAA) Sportsmanship Award for 2012-2013. The new award is significant in and of itself, but perhaps more newsworthy is its familiarity.

The award is voted on by the league and winners must remain disqualification free and display good sportsmanship throughout all athletic contests. One to three awards are bestowed every year. Including the latest award, the school has won the honor every year since its inception in 1994, with the exception of five years. That’s 14 banners.

Perhaps even more impressive is Eastern Christian’s disqualification record. In 1991, NJSIAA started keeping statistics on sport disqualifications within high schools. Since the record-taking began, the school has remained disqualification-free every single year. There are only four other schools in the state who can claim the same distinction; the other three schools are all-girls schools.

"Sportsmanship is always a high priority and remains high," said Steve King, athletic director. "We try to establish a culture of sportsmanship. I work to create a culture amongst coaches, and they in turn create the same culture of sportsmanship with the kids."

Jenn Tartini ’14, Kathryn Post ’14, Kayla Van Lenten ’14 circled by awards won over the past four years.
Boys JV Soccer: Boys JV soccer finished the season with a record of 3-11-2. “The storyline of our season can be summarized by two very different halves,” said coach Jesse Struck. “It was incredibly encouraging to see how much we improved throughout the season. Even in the five games we lost during the second half of the season, we were much more competitive and many of our games were won or lost by narrow margins.”

Led by sophomore captain Bryan Lineweaver and junior captain Jason Van Goor, the small team of 13 played many games with only 10-12 players. “Needless to say, everyone got a lot of playing time and many of our players were forced into positions that they were unaccustomed to. I am proud of how each player stepped up and served the team ahead of himself,” said Struck. Highlights of the season include a 3-0 win over Midland Park on Oct. 18 and a 0-0 tie against top-ranking team Glen Rock on Oct. 29.

Girls Varsity Soccer: This year’s girls varsity soccer team surpassed expectations as they continued a tradition of excellence, finishing the season with a 15-6-1 record. Led by all-league, senior co-captains Bethany Kuiken on defense and Jenna Struyk (19 goals) on the attack, the girls were also recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship.

Junior sweeper Lyndsey Smith and the freshmen trio of goalkeeper Brooke Van Lenten, Alyssa Botbyl (15 assists) and leading scorer Erin VanderPlaat (31 goals) played key roles in exciting wins versus Pompton Lakes, Rutherford, Lodi, Hawthorne and Queen of Peace in the state tournament. “I am especially thankful for the seven seniors who always worked hard, won humbly, lost graciously and made everyday together fun,” said Coach Barry Veenstra.

Girls Tennis: Girls tennis ended the season with a final record of 6-11, which was an improvement from last year. Overcoming a competitive league and the injury of first-singles player Priscilla Winston-Laryea, coach Adam Culp attributes the improvement to strong leadership by Priscilla, Jen Streelman and Alyssa Shurminsky, who hosted practices with the team since May. Also notable, doubles pair Jen Streelman and Caitlyn Shurminsky were 11-3 in the league.

“The exclamation point on the season came in the second-to-last match with a win against a great Pompton Lakes team that had just played in the state section finals,” said Culp. “A number of opposing coaches commented on the quality of the character of this team.”

Midway through the season, a JV girls’ team was established. Coached by Amy Hulsebos, the girls team numbered eleven and included six who hadn’t played tennis before. There was no official record, but events often included four double matches where girls rotated in. “As a JV team, we worked on the basics of the game, skills, rules and scoring. Over the course of our short season, I could definitely see improvement in my team,” said Hulsebos.
Boys Varsity Soccer: Representing an improvement from past seasons, boys varsity soccer finished the 2013 season with a 7-15 record. "It took a lot of leadership to initiate that change," said coach Marc Spoelstra, who leaned on team captains Seth Alicea, Justin Miller and Jon Boonstra. "Our team made a choice not to follow the path of accepting what was happening in previous seasons and we tried to bring a mindset of success back to the program." Returning back to the state tournament, the team won a first-round victory. It also won three out of four games toward the end of the season, beating out Midland Park, Hasbrouck Heights and Elmwood Park.

"The night games were always exciting, particularly our overtime victory versus Manchester, where Seth Alicea scored with two minutes remaining to tie, and Jake Veenstra scored two minutes into OT for the win," said Spoelstra. He added, "I’d like to thank players, parents, and alumni for their commitment to EC soccer this year, and ask for their support again next year as we try to bring this program back to being great once again.

Boys Cross Country: Despite the loss of seniors Matt Van Eck and captain Bobby Peretti due to injury and sickness mid-season, the team clinched a record of 3-6. Coach Joel Apol said Carter Heerema and Joey Post proved most valuable players, and the team achieved several exciting victories.

"The high points were taking second in our invitational meet and beating four teams in the county meet. I think the most fun we had in the season was the weekend training trip we took to my house in Sussex. We went to a llama farm and up a mountain," said Apol.

Looking ahead, Apol commented that boys cross country "can be very good next year.

Girls Varsity Volleyball: Girls varsity volleyball completed the season with a record of 6-14, with senior captains Abby Kuder and Kendra Visbeen at the helm.

"Whether we won or lost, our team and captains made sure that Jesus got the praise and honor he deserved. The most beautiful thing a coach can experience is watching his or her girls after a terrible loss, keep their heads up, approach the other team, and ask, 'can we pray together?'. It’s beautiful and we praise Jesus for it," said co-coach AJ Santino, who coaches with this wife Larissa.

A highlight of the season was a sound victory against Hawthorne in the second half of the year, coming back to beat them after a "heart-breaker" loss earlier, said Santino. "Kendra and Abby were our leading attackers, who were set by Jayna Van Buiten. Our back court was strong, which was led by Nicole Aoki, who promises to shine in the next two years."
**Athletic Awards Night**

The High School Fall Athletic Awards’ Night was held on Wednesday, Nov. 7 in the high school auditorium. The evening began with Athletic Director Steve King welcoming the athletes and parents. Devotions included a video of Cincinnati Reds Outfielder Chris Heisey. A graduate of Messiah College, Heisey spoke of his growth in Christ at Messiah and the challenges he faces as a Christian athlete in professional baseball.

After devotions, teams were called to the front and each coach spoke concerning the season, highlighting individual and team accomplishments. The presentations provided an insight into athletics being more than just participation in a sport. The school’s Christian witness in the athletic program was evident throughout the evening. The evening helped to strengthen Eastern Christian’s mission of Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit and Transforming the World.

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**Fall Athletic Awards 2013**

**Cross Country**
- Kathryn Post  First Team All League
- Second Team All County
- Kayla Van Lenten  First Team All League
- First Team All County
- Jennifer Tartini  First Team All League
- First Team All County
- Erin Van Lenten  Second Team All League
- First Team All County
- Kelly Bosloper  Honorable Mention All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Hannah Postma  Honorable Mention All County
- Carter Heerema  Honorable Mention All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Joseph Post  Honorable Mention All County

**Boys’ Soccer**
- Seth Alicea  Second Team All League
- Second Team All County
- Justin Miller  Second Team All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Sam Veenstra  Second Team All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Jon Boonstra  Honorable Mention All League

**Girls’ Soccer**
- Jenna Struck  First Team All League
- Second Team All County
- Erin Vander Plaat  First Team All League
- First Team All County
- Lyndsey Smith  First Team All League
- Second Team All County
- Bethany Kuiken  Second Team All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Brooke Van Lenten  Second Team All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Alyssa Botbyl  Honorable Mention All League

**Volleyball**
- Jayna Van Buiten  First Team All League
- Second Team All County
- Kendra Visbeen  Honorable Mention All League
- Honorable Mention All County
- Abby Kuder  Honorable Mention All County

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**Girls JV Volleyball:** Girls JV volleyball ended the season 1-18, recording a win against Hawthorne. “We absolutely love our JV team. They did such a fantastic job becoming a coachable team,” said co-coach AJ Santino. “We started out very shaky. We were nervous and knew we had our work cut out for us. But every single one of these girls improved each day they stepped on the court and had fun. “Led by sophomores Emma Hagedoorn and Hana Schwartz, the team ended each game the same way varsity did: with prayer. “Our team was led by two wonderful young ladies. These two also stood out while they played on the court as well. Emma was a force at the net and Hana’s court awareness was awesome all around. We are very much looking forward to seeing how this young JV team will progress in the offseason and show up for the 2014 school year,” added Santino.

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**Tiara Dawkins ’15**
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