



THE *Herald*

A PUBLICATION OF EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2010
VOL. 50 - ISSUE 1

EC High School Celebrates 90 Years



ALSO INSIDE:

- Strategic Plans Put Into Action
- X-Country Runner Wins State Championship
- The Latest News and Events





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

THE SURVEY SAYS...

Eastern Christian School strives to provide the students that we serve with an education that is academically excellent, spiritually nurturing, and, ultimately, world transforming! We are thrilled to report that the families that we serve enthusiastically agree that an Eastern Christian education is an investment worth making in the future of their children!



Eastern Christian's Board of Directors recently commissioned a survey of current EC parents to help better understand their motivations for enrolling their children in EC and their views regarding our school. The survey, conducted by a noted Christian school marketing firm, asked for feedback on a broad number of issues including academics, spiritual formation, facilities, communications, cost and other topics.

"THE WAY THAT MY CHILDREN ARE GROWING, BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY, AFFIRMS THAT ...THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR US. TIME AND AGAIN WE ARE AMAZED AT HOW THEIR FAITH SHINES THROUGH..." -ECPK PARENT

Families overwhelmingly value an Eastern Christian education because of our emphasis on:

- a Christ-centered education;
- our focus on the development of the whole child – academically, spiritually and socially;
- the quality of our teachers;
- a safe, close-knit family environment;
- high educational standards and a challenging academic environment.

"EC'S FOCUS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE CHILD CANNOT BE MATCHED ANYWHERE ELSE." -ECMS PARENT

But there are some things that our families would like to see improved or expanded at Eastern Christian. Most frequently cited were an expanded world language program, greater integration of technology in the classroom, expanded services to students who learn differently, and an expanded array of high school classes for joint high school / college credit. The survey also provided a clear reminder of the significant financial challenge posed to our families in providing a Christian education to their children. This reminder only reinforced the Board's determination to continue to aggressively manage costs and to develop creative alternative revenue sources to help control tuition costs.

"I HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR THE CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION THAT MY CHILDREN HAVE RECEIVED. MY OLDEST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE HUMANITIES PROGRAM AND ENTERED COLLEGE WITH 19 CREDITS!" -ECHS PARENT

The survey provided fantastic insight into the reasons that families choose to send their children to Eastern Christian. 58% of the families surveyed learned of Eastern Christian through an alumni connection, while another 26% learned of the school through a friend or neighbor and another 10% through their churches. Word of mouth communication with trusted friends and family members is clearly the most effective means of introducing families to our school.

"THIS IS MY THIRD CHILD AND I WOULDN'T SEND THEM ANYWHERE ELSE. IT IS WORTH EVERY PENNY!" -ECES PARENT

It is with great thanksgiving that we note that well over 90% of our families believe that their children are being intentionally well-prepared to live lives of service – one of our core strategic objectives. We are particularly grateful that a near unanimous 98% of our families would recommend Eastern Christian to other families!

Eastern Christian School: Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, and Transforming the World!

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



THE Herald

SPRING 2010
VOLUME 50 ISSUE 1

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Sam Braen, junior

ABOUT THE COVER

Eastern Academy in the 1950s and
Eastern Christian High School in 2009.

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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CAMPUS NEWS

At the time this issue is being written, in January, Eastern Christian High School's new Experiencing Missions class is taking one very long field trip. From January 15 to 25, eight students and teachers Ms. Debbie Ayars and Mr. Jesse Wright went to Uganda to combine real life experience with their semester-long class learning.



Senior Kaitlyn Spagnolo leaving the commissioning service at ECHS and on her way to Uganda.

Building Hope for Uganda

During the preparations for the Uganda trip, the Experiencing Missions class inspired many other projects and learning opportunities at the High School. As they planned for the trip, the students video conferenced over the Internet with Jesse and Andrea Kroeze, missionaries from Touch the World Uganda, on what objects to bring and what work they would be doing. The class made plans to visit St. Mary's Orphanage in Kampala, and an IDP (internally displaced people) camp in Gulu. At the IDP camp, they planned to break ground for a new water filtration system and medical center. **Mr. Jesse Wright's** Design Tech class, while learning the skills of drafting and architecture with AutoCAD, cleaned up rough plans of the medical center and submitted them to the architect working on the project. The architect worked with the class via video conference on the specifications of the medical center, and creating the the blueprints of the center.

Working with Saint Peter's Prep School in Jersey City, Mr. Wright's class has collaborated on other aspects of the medical center as well. Specifically, they have designed and physically built a symbolic model of the medical center. Originally planned to be a small scale project, Principal **Jan Lucas** encouraged the class to think larger. A few weeks later, a 6' x 8' wooden structure was built in the school basement. Saint Peter's Prep School, meanwhile, is designing other structures for the medical center, and the two schools will come together for a culminating project.

After Mr. Wright's class built the model building, they let his Art AP class at it. They painted the symbolic structure with images that represent the culture and political issues facing Uganda. The class hopes to bring the model to art shows to be judged, as well as build miniature works that can be sold to raise money for the EC Missions Fund.

During the entire process of the design, building, and painting, a video camera documented the work. Visitors to the EC web site (www.easternchristian.org) will be able to see a time-lapse video of the entire project.

The model is to inspire the mission team and get them excited for the trip. "I am excited seeing three classes coming together and working for one good cause," Mr. Wright said.

Eastern Christian High School is planning other trips as well this year. During the March spring break, students will have the opportunity for service projects in Newark, NJ and Belize. In April, another group of students from the Experiencing Missions class will visit Honduras and work with missionaries and an orphanage there.



Seniors Jin Pak and Isabella Aguilera

Pro Football Player Encourages Students to Exercise

BY CHELSEA NOYES, SENIOR

“**E**at healthy, get active, make a difference.” On December 8, NY Jets player and EC parent **Jay Feeley** and his wife **Rebecca** came to Eastern Christian Elementary School to talk about a new NFL campaign called Play 60. Play 60 is a program for kids, encouraging them to be active for 60 minutes a day to keep their bodies healthy.

To help explain the importance of being healthy, Rebecca talked about the kinds of foods kids should eat. Rebecca told the students she has her kids eat a rainbow everyday. She showed the kids different fruits that were the colors of the rainbow, such as green broccoli, blueberries, and purple grapes.

Rebecca told the children that it is important to make the right choices health wise. “It is not always easy to like something that is good for you, but you never know, you might like it!” she said. “Fruit is God’s candy,



Jay and Rebecca Feeley with Ben Maura, Julianne Curtis, Christina Piluso, Brandon Sanders, Angelo Sanchez and Cassidy Martin.

it’s about as good as it gets. If you don’t know what ingredients are on the back of a package, it’s probably not something you want to be putting in your body.”

Jay spoke about the importance of being active and exercising. He quoted 1 Corinthians 9:24, which says to “run [a race] in such a way to win the prize.” Jay said it is important to use your gifts every day to be your best. “You can practice with your mind and body, but you also have to give yourself the right fuels, such as fruits and veggies.”

Jay and Rebecca ended their discussion with some interactive ways to be active, such as sports, tag, obstacle courses, or doing sit-ups or pushups.

Middle School Students Learn Languages

BY LIZ CLARKIN, JUNIOR

This year, our Middle School has started a new foreign language program. The 5th and 6th graders meet two days a week for Spanish classes. One day is in the classroom, using new laptop computers, learning the language on Rosetta Stone, a popular software program. On the other day, students meet in the Media Center, where the class is taught by Media Specialist **Mrs. Ruth Rudd**.

“In the Media Center, we will be doing other Spanish activities, like singing in Spanish, making slideshows of vocabulary and grammar, or studying culture or cooking,” said Mrs. Rudd. The 7th and 8th graders get to choose to study one of the three languages also taught at the High School: German, French, or Spanish.

Mrs. Rudd said, “The unique thing about the MS Rosetta Stone program is that it is web-based and students can continue their learning at home. So all middle school grades are learning a foreign language at home and at school!”



7th grader Blair Bohuny using Rosetta Stone.



The Preschool

Extreme Makeover: Preschool Edition

By Mackenzie Lewis, junior

Over the summer, Eastern Christian had the opportunity to redecorate and make a few improvements in the Preschool classrooms, thanks to a crew of EC alumni and employees who worked there throughout the summer. According to Director of Operations **Mr. John Belanus**, these improvements included new custom carpet, new tile on the upper floor, new tapestries, and fresh paint with two wall murals.

When Eastern Christian purchased the building for the Preschool, it was originally a church, and the colors were dull and didn't present a good learning environment, according to Mr. Belanus. On the upper floor, the workers re-carpeted an area with customized color squares in the carpet, so the kids would know just where to go for each activity. They also repainted each classroom and added two large wall murals. These murals were done by Eastern Christian Art teacher, **Mrs. Brenda Leentjes**; upstairs she painted butterflies all over the room, and downstairs she painted dolphins and other sea creatures. These improvements not only make the Preschool look better, but they also enhance the learning experience for the kids.

The Longer Day

2nd graders Josh Borduin, Wangare Njuguna, Leah Boonstra, Ryan Carey

BY MEGHAN VANDER PLAAT, JUNIOR

This fall, 10 minutes were added to the end of the Eastern Christian school day. Each school used the extra 10 minutes in a different way.

At the Elementary School, students are actually in school for 20 extra minutes – 10 minutes earlier in the morning and 10 more in the afternoon. According to Principal **Sandra Bottge**, the extra time was needed for their new literacy program and for math. “We have 90 minutes of language and 60 minutes of math every day. In order to fit that in, we needed more time,” said Mrs. Bottge. The Elementary School is using a new phonics-based literacy curriculum for kindergarten through 3rd-grade called “Imagine It.” Literacy Coach **Alisa Engelhard** said that the new curriculum was chosen after a teacher committee studied many programs and piloted the course in 2nd grade last year.

Middle School Principal **Dick Van Yperen** said, “We are using the 10 minutes to make the classes more uniform. We also want to add a block schedule to Tuesday and Thursday during the week.”

Principal **Jan Lucas** of the High School said that the extra 10 minutes is used differently depending on the day's schedule. “We added 10 minutes to Chapel on Wednesday, 10 minutes to Activities on Friday, and five minutes to Block 1 for devotions and five minutes to Block 3 for announcements the other days.”

Mr. Lucas doesn't plan to make these changes permanent however. “I am working to get the High School to have activities every day,” he said. The High School plans to add a 30 minute ‘enrichment time’ to every day for music rehearsals, meetings with teachers or extra work.

Mr. Lucas said, “The cool part is that students will sign up each Friday for a different activity for the upcoming week. The only thing holding us back is the software to do it. Once we have the software, we will train the students for a few weeks so they can get the hang of it.”

Shoe Drive Raises Awareness for Darfur

A pair of used shoes by themselves in a closet may be junk. But put them with 15,000 other pairs and the scene becomes a haunting metaphor of human lives lost.

Eastern Christian High School joined with over 30 churches and 20 other schools in the region to collect used shoes for a public display to bring attention to the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. Led by the Sophomore Class Council and members of the National Honor Society, the school collected about 850 pairs of shoes in two weeks.

The display, shown on Sunday, November 15 in the Westfield Garden State Plaza parking lot, was organized by **Rev. Ken Vander Wall**, campus pastor at William Paterson University. After participating in a similar project at the National Mall in Washington DC, Rev. Vander Wall was moved, and felt that the students and churches of North Jersey would also be interested in raising awareness of the Sudanese genocide. The U.N. estimates that 300,000 people have been killed in fighting there since violence began in 2003.

On November 12, students at EC held their own display, putting their collected shoes in the hallways throughout the High School. Between classes, the school witnessed a path of empty shoes that was a stark reminder of the human cost of war.

History teacher **Mr. Paul Beverly**, who helped students run the project, said that many students were moved by the display. "They told me the little kid shoes really moved them, as they realized this tragedy affected people of all ages," he said.

Due to rain, plans to join together with Manchester Regional High School in Haledon, creating a display of shoes reaching from one school to the other along the street that fronts both schools, had to be cancelled. However, the students who planned the event worked closely with students from Manchester, something that has never happened before.

"Manchester and EC are usually big competitors, so it was great to work with them," said senior **Jamie Van Buiten**, one of the student organizers of the event. "Even though we didn't get to do our project, we still met with them and worked together with them on Sunday."

On Sunday, students brought their shoes to the Garden State Plaza, and set them up with the 15,000 pairs of shoes that were collected throughout the region. After the display, the shoes were donated to the non-profit Soles4Souls in Nashville, which collects shoes for those in need in the U.S. and around the world.

Junior **Jonathan Snack**, another student organizer, said, "It was a project that worked on so many levels. We raised awareness for Darfur, we gave shoes to the homeless, and we formed bonds with Manchester. It was great."



Members of the Sophomore Class Council, with the shoes displayed in the high school hallways.

Freshmen Explore Barriers

BY DANIELLE DE BLOCK, SENIOR

Over the course of a Leadership Launch semester, the freshmen experience a plethora of things, from learning how to financially support themselves to considering how to help others. On December 8th, they underwent a real-life experiment to find out how people with handicaps experience their daily routine.

One of the purposes of the class is to understand that students need to develop not only competence, but character. To work on character-building, the class often considers what traits make for strong leaders. “This week we looked at empathy and thought about how others with handicaps—or maybe the elderly as they age—have difficulties in doing things we can do simply. The main purpose was to ‘walk in someone else’s shoes’ for a day,” said teacher **Mrs. Debbie Hammond**.

Freshman **Ryan Lorentz** said, “Even though I only had one eye taped shut, it made it hard to focus. I had my hand taped as well so I couldn’t really carry anything either. It’s hard being crippled.”

Heidi Lineweaver wore plugs in her ears. “Society thinks that the elderly are less useful because of their handicaps like blindness and hearing loss, so our class was trying to understand what they go through and how they deal with these obstacles. It was definitely a learning experience.”

“The students had to write about their experience that night. Many seemed to have more empathy for their grandparents, friends, neighbors, and people they see every day with a handicap,” said Mrs. Hammond.

Middle School Academic Team Succeeds

For the second year in a row, the Middle School Academic Team finished strong in the Seton Hall Prep Pirate Open academic competition. The team of four 8th graders took second overall on November 21.



from left to right: **Mrs. Patricia Peretti**, **Bobby Peretti**, **David Foley**, **Dan De Jong**, **Jesse Ojeda**, and a representative from Seton Hall Prep.

Spanish Students Perform Skit for Elementary Kids

BY RACHEL KEMP, JUNIOR

“**E**l Poder Viene De Dios” was performed by Eastern Christian High School’s Spanish 4 class for the Eastern Christian 3rd and 4th graders on December 10. The Spanish class had been practicing their skit for about three weeks. With lots of practice and some kicks in the face, the Spanish Four class had a successful performance!

“El Poder Viene De Dios” or “The Power Comes From God” was performed by seniors **Joe Di Giorgio**, **Rachel Greenfield**, **Dave Rainville**, **Scott Bouwense**, and junior **Sam Braen**. “The Power Comes From God” is about never giving up on God through hard times. The play taught the kids to stick it out, and to trust and rely on God. The skit was based on the story of David and Goliath. The students were given Bible verses and vocabulary to reflect on as they were watching.

Joe stated, “It was awesome to show kids how much God really loves them; we put a lot of practice and heart into it.” Joe and Scott played the



Seniors **Dave Rainville** and **Joe DiGiorgio** act out David and Goliath in their skit.

evil villains who battled against the protagonist, played by Dave, to save his dear Christian friend, while Rachel and Sam narrated. Sam said, “It gave us a chance to be creative and think outside the box.” The Spanish teacher, **Mrs. Claudia Cortes**, was very proud of the class at the end of the day for their hard work and dedication.

The class agreed that they enjoyed performing for the Elementary School, and the kids loved watching. They said it was very entertaining and funny. Sam said, “I enjoyed being able to share my Spanish knowledge with elementary schoolers through a skit that showed God’s power.”

Young Math Teachers

BY BRIANNE TRAUB, JUNIOR

On October 8, the 7th grade Horizons class from the Middle School, who had written books about geometry, visited the Elementary School during **Mrs. Holly Turner’s** 2nd grade Horizons activity. Along with reading their books, the students also organized math activities for the 2nd graders.

There were three groups of two to three 7th grade students, and each group had to have their own lesson planned out. The activities at this event were bingo, a toothpick puzzle, and matching games. Following the activities, the 2nd graders were given little prizes, like Starbursts or pencils, for their hard work.

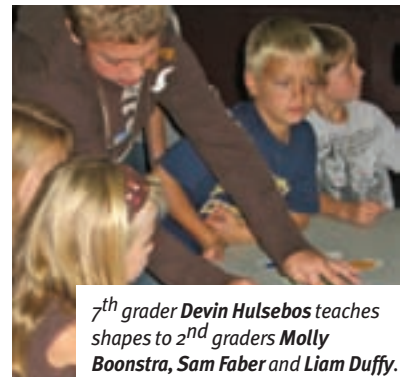
“Having these Horizons students come to read their books to 2nd graders was a good match because it was grade appropriate for them, and it was something that the whole class could participate in during their enrichment time,” said Mrs. Turner. The 2nd grade class is one of the only classes to do activities such as these as a whole class. Other grades split into smaller groups, so this was a perfect match.

Two of the 7th grade students, **Morgan Herman** and **Jayne Van Buiten** said, “It was a little awkward at first, but once we got going, it turned out good.”

To start the event, the 2nd graders all filed into the ECES

gymnasium to listen to the stories that were brought for them. Soon the gym was buzzing with energy. The most common answer among 2nd graders, such as **Leah Boonstra** and **Kara Shotmeyer**, in response to what they thought about these lessons was, “It was really fun and the best part was the prizes.”

One student had this to say, “I really like this, it’s different than what we do everyday, which is just sitting in a classroom doing boring things. This is so much more fun than that.”



7th grader **Devin Hulsebos** teaches shapes to 2nd graders **Molly Boonstra**, **Sam Faber** and **Liam Duffy**.

STRATEGIC PLAN



Elementary School students show leadership through service teams.

This spring, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools will visit the EC school system for the purpose of accrediting all three campuses. This is the first time that the Middle States organization will be accrediting the Elementary and Middle Schools. This visit gives EC an opportunity to celebrate our strengths as well as identify key areas to continue to improve upon. Last year, the Board

developed a strategic plan for making key student-focused improvements in education. The Middle States “Accreditation for Growth” program allows the school to develop specific action plans to improve student performance. The three areas EC is focusing on for the next seven years are leadership, literacy, and numeracy. Highlights from each school’s action plans are included here.

LEADERSHIP

In order for students to “buy into” their education, EC realizes they need to have a say in their education and in their school. Leadership in the classroom allows for character building and service opportunities. It’s not only an academic pursuit, but also a chance to further nurture the spirit and give opportunities for transforming the world; leadership plays a key role in our student’s lives.

Leadership development starts already in the Elementary School. Plans are developing for a student-led recycling team, a bully prevention program, and expanding peer teaching through Reading Buddies and Math Buddies. 4th graders already show servant leadership on Service Teams, and now 3rd graders will be added to the teams. Right from the start of EC students’ academic careers, leadership will be an important focus.

The Middle School has established “Core Values,” to establish the

most important characteristics of good behavior and leadership at the school. The school is exploring how web sites and other technology can help students reflect on these values both in and out of school. The school’s goal is to become certified as a National School of Character. And while every student at the Middle School already participates in volunteer activities, the administration strives to find even more opportunities and time to spend in service hours.

The High School’s Experiencing Missions and Journalism classes exemplify the leadership skills the High School is looking to foster in students: real-world projects with real meaning and consequence. High School students will be challenged to step into leadership roles of significance, including organizing spiritual retreats and leading the weekly chapels. The High School will be exploring more ways to get daily class activities and student decisions to have real-world impact.

PUT INTO ACTION

LITERACY

Improving in literacy means improving in reading skills, oral communication, and in writing. All three schools have plans for stressing literacy throughout their curriculum. Highlights of the plans under development include:



4th graders in a reading group.

NUMERACY

Numeracy is “literacy in math.” In other words, improving not just knowledge of math facts and skills, but improving the understanding of how math impacts us every day, from reading and understanding charts to the skills of creating budgets. Numeracy focuses on taking math from an abstract idea to a practical solution to daily problems. Each school is developing plans, such as:



Learning math skills in the High School

Elementary School:

- » Continuing to develop and improve the new “Imagine It” literacy curriculum;
- » A summer reading program;
- » Aligning the literacy program closely to state standards;
- » Increasing opportunities in all grades for oral presentations.

Middle School:

- » Creating school-wide rubrics for writing and oral presentations;
- » A summer reading program for all grades;
- » Promoting oral reading strategies.

High School:

- » Creating a reading “for fun” program;
- » Creating intentional reading rubrics and plans;
- » Continuing to work on oral and written communication in every class.

Elementary School:

- » Creating a summer math packet;
- » New math activities such as family math night, math buddies, and extra help times;
- » Professional development for teachers.

Middle School:

- » Family math nights, math fairs, and math buddies;
- » Creating interdisciplinary units that make numeracy connections;
- » Mapping, analyzing and evaluating the scope and sequence of math instruction from K-8.

High School:

- » Professional development for teachers;
- » Creating interdisciplinary units that make numeracy connections;
- » Creating a “numeracy handbook” for teacher reference.



Group activities at the Middle School foster teamwork and leadership skills.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF CHRIS

The article below was received from Peter De Boer '47 as a result of reading an article regarding the 90th birthday of Eastern Christian High School in the Fall 2009 issue of The Herald.

Peter attended both North 4th Street Christian School and Eastern Academy, graduating in 1947. He attended Calvin College where he majored in history. At Calvin, he enjoyed a series of classes with Professor William Spoelhof, and Spoelhof became De Boer's favorite college teacher.

Peter married Joy Kusters from Sioux Center, Iowa and taught in northwest Iowa for 10 years, nearly 5 of them at Western Christian (formerly Western Academy) and 5 years at Dorset College, after which he joined the Calvin faculty in 1962. While teaching at Western he taught under the leadership of William Rozeboom's younger brother Gerrit, and came to know other members of the Rozeboom family through church connections.

Knowing both East by birth and West by adoption, he wrote this essay about how, nearly 90 years ago, East and West did indeed meet at Eastern Academy.

Remembering William Rozeboom, Principal

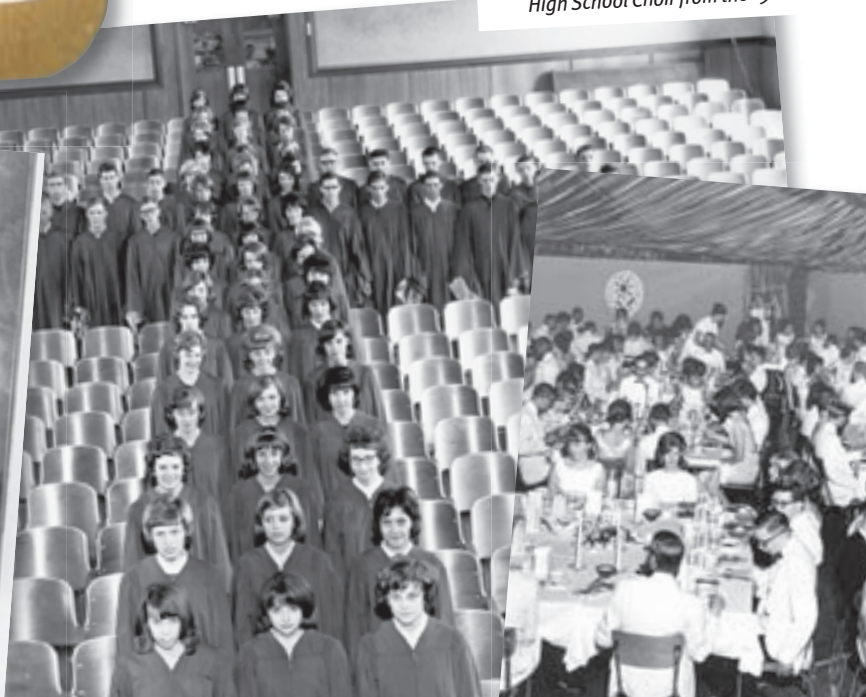
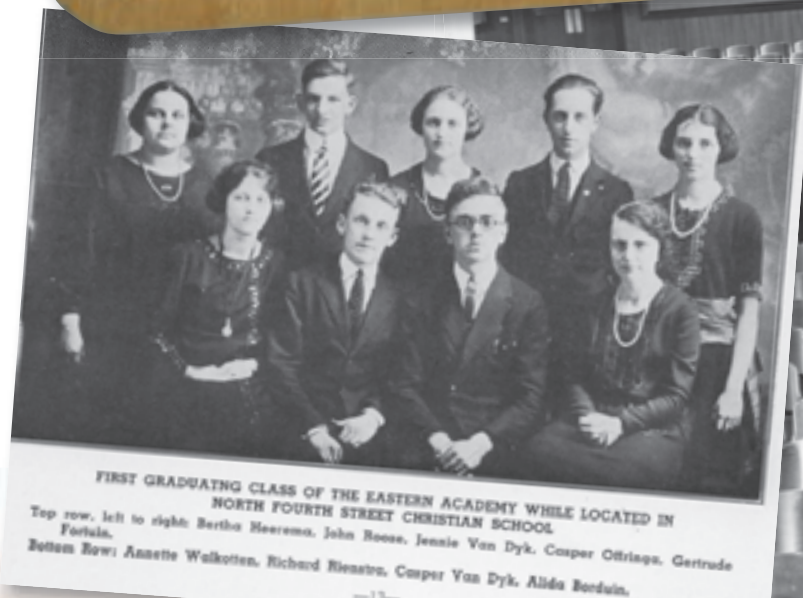
BY PETER DE BOER

I remember it clearly. William Spoelhof, "Mr. President" to me for he held the reins at Calvin College for twenty-five years, was then, about ten years ago, in his early nineties and not well. He was confined to a comfortable room at Breton Manor here in Grand Rapids. And I, his former student and later a member of his faculty, went for a visit.

Both of us products of the "East," we found pleasure in reminiscing about Paterson, the Riverside section of town where he grew up, and Prospect Park, my home base. He was eager, though he had told me all this before, to remind me of his student days at Eastern Academy and his particular fondness for William Rozeboom. "He was our baseball coach," he said, "and a great motivator. 'A buck for a homerun,' he'd promise." That first year the team won five of nine games.

But Rozeboom was more than a baseball coach. Besides being the principal, he taught all the history classes. He was Spoelhof's favorite teacher, not to be superseded by anyone else, though Spoelhof was in academia all the way to a Ph.D in history at the University of Michigan.

High School Choir from the 1960s



TIAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION



Buses in the 1950s

William Gerard Rozeboom was officially the second principal of the new high school. First named (in Dutch) the Christian Secondary School for Paterson and Vicinity, it was lodged within the confines of the North 4th Street Christian School building. The word “vicinity” in its title was fairly grandiose, for it included in its sweep not only Midland Park and Clifton-Passaic, but was intended to reach all the way to Rochester, New York. **Mr. Gerhardus Bos**, already responsible for a sizable school of eight grades, took on the additional duties. As the high school grew it soon occupied the entire upper floor of the North 4th St. building. Mr. Bos was an excellent choice in at least this sense: the growing Christian school movement needed elementary school teachers, to be supplied not just by the graduates of the elementary school, but better, from the ranks of students who would have had some high school education. Bos had the recognized ability to mold and shape future teachers.

The board, however, soon sensed that the high school needed a home of its own. They bought a large house on North 7th St. in Prospect Park, remodeled it into at least five rooms, and engaged Bill Rozeboom as its new principal.

Rozeboom grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa, near Orange City and Sioux Center. He graduated from Calvin College in 1921 in secondary education, one of nine young men in that historic first class of four-year graduates. He was promptly hired by Western Academy in Hull, Iowa, organized like Paterson Christian in 1919. After only three years there he seized the opportunity to come east and head this high school newly named “Eastern Academy.”

Girls' basketball from the 1940s



MEMORIES OF 1892 - 1962

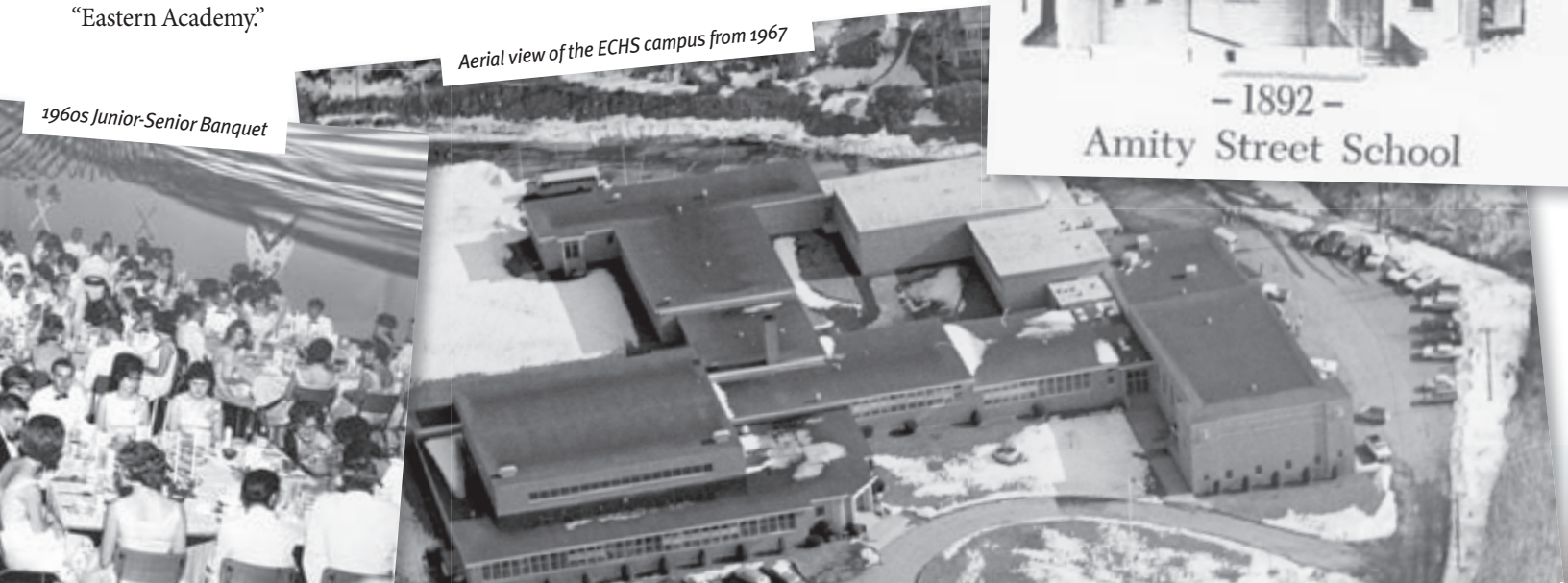


- 1892 -

Amity Street School

Aerial view of the ECHS campus from 1967

1960s Junior-Senior Banquet



According to **Cornelius Bontekoe** (see his “Historic Review,” 47 ff.), Rozeboom had an “inspiring and influential personality” and left his imprint on this fledgling institution. In the community he was best known for his musical talent. He organized and directed the school’s first Glee Club which sang often in the area churches and helped gain respect for and allegiance to the new school. Under his administrative leadership the faculty began the Forum Club (for debate and oratory), an orchestra, and a commercial course of study. Not content, Rozeboom recommended offering adult evening classes, including free courses in citizenship and music for those already members of the Eastern Academy Association (my father, **Walter DeBoer**, proudly claimed to have sung in a male quartet with Rozeboom)-and a variety of other courses, for a reasonable fee, aimed at increasing membership in the association. Bontekoe-one of my favorite teachers in the 1940’s— pays Rozeboom this high praise: “here too Mr. Rozeboom was giving general educational leadership by trying to broaden the cultural appreciation of the Dutch community in the East” (S4).

But like a shooting star streaking across the night sky, Rozeboom’s star shined with bright radiance and then quickly flamed out. The community was baffled and confused, hurt and chagrined when he abruptly

resigned from his post in mid-year 1927-28, for reasons that are still not perfectly clear. He and his young wife soon parted ways. He went off to the University of Michigan for graduate studies in history, and eventually settled in northeastern Iowa, at Dubuque University, where he served for many years as Registrar. He maintained his interest in choral music, however, serving as an adjudicator of high school competitions in Iowa and neighboring states.

A year or so before his death, my wife and I visited Bill Rozeboom, his younger brother Gerrit, and Gerrit’s wife Elsie, all three patients at the Health Center in Rock Rapids, Iowa. There I had the pleasure of telling a fully-alert William Rozeboom what high regard William Spoelhof had for him. He kindly accepted the praise and asked me to convey his mutual regard for his former pupil.

Rozeboom and Spoelhof were soon asleep in the Lord, Rozeboom in Rock Rapids, Spoelhof a few years later in Grand Rapids, each able to live productively by God’s grace, for nearly a hundred years.

A high school committee meeting in the 1970s



1970s High School exterior



Steve King coaches basketball in the 1970s



1956 High School exterior



Sports Awards in 1964



Memories of Eastern Academy

Richard (Dick) Jeffer 1913 – 2009

Dick Jeffer, a lifelong resident of Midland Park, died on October 18, 2009, at the age of 96. Dick was a businessman, church organist and sports enthusiast his entire adult life. He was a coal and heating fuel dealer in the Midland Park area as well as the church organist for the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church for over 25 years. An avid sportsman, he organized hunting clubs, raised hunting dogs and was the founder of the Midland Park Rangers, a semi-pro baseball team.

Dick did not graduate from Eastern Academy due to the Depression, which required him to go to work to help support his family. Dick was the oldest of seven children and the only boy who did not graduate from Eastern Academy. In spite of this, he was a strong advocate for education all his life and made sure all his children received a Christian education.

Dick was best friends with the famous **Johnny Vander Meer**, who pitched two consecutive no-hitters for the Cincinnati Reds in 1938. Dick and Johnny were classmates at Eastern Academy, now Eastern Christian High School, and were battery mates on the Midland

Park Rangers. Vander Meer's wicked fastball took him to the major leagues, where on June 11, 1938, he no-hit the Boston Bees (now Atlanta Braves) and four days later he duplicated the feat by beating the Brooklyn Dodgers in Brooklyn in front of ten busloads of people from the Midland Park area, including some of his friends who even cut short their honeymoon to attend that game. Dick and Johnny remained best friends for the rest of their lives with Dick promoting the memory of his friend as often as he could.

Until he died, Dick Jeffer remained an avid fan of the sport of baseball. His son **Peter '64**, a Midland Park attorney, said that he was sure that his father watched the Yankees play on TV as often as he could. His father said to Peter, "You have to root for somebody, so I rooted for the Yankees."

Dick is survived by his brothers **Herman '43** and **Donald '48**, as well as a sister, **Henrietta Bender**. He leaves behind three sons, Peter, **Richard '54** and **Robert '55**, 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandson.



BUSINESS DRIVE

Thank You to Our 2009 Business Sponsors!

BUSINESS SUPPORTER PROFILE: **SCOTT E. MARTIN DMD**

“My family and I have been supporters of Eastern Christian School Association for three generations. I am an alumnus of the school and proud parent of our two daughters in middle school. I am also currently serving as a school board member. Since opening my practice in 1999, I have had the privilege to be able to help ECSA through my business. Having experienced the value of a Christ-centered education myself, I feel that my business should support ECSA.

“I feel very strongly about the mission and vision here at Eastern Christian. The mission statement of Eastern Christian School Association states that there is a partnership between school, parents and church. I believe a larger Christian business community partnership is also important. It is important for our students, as they become successful men and women themselves, to see that good Christian principles should extend into the business world. Eastern Christian equips our students to develop the Christ-centered world view that is necessary to face the moral and ethical challenges of the business world.”



Donors to our Business Drive

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EVENTS

Fall Fundraisers

HARVESTFEST

On Thursday evening, October 15, nearly 600 friends and supporters of Eastern Christian School and the Christian Health Care Center of Wyckoff, NJ, gathered to celebrate Harvestfest 2009. Neither the rain, nor sleet nor snow of that evening could dampen the enthusiasm for this annual event which the Christian Health Care Center graciously invited Eastern Christian School to partner in this year.

The large tent was beautifully decorated in a fall theme, adding to the ambiance of the evening. Following a delicious dinner, compliments of the Market Basket, the audience was treated to a musical extravaganza performed by Broadway actors J. Mark McVey, Christy Tarr-McVey and Laurie Gayle Stevenson. The one hour performance of memorable Broadway tunes was clearly one of the highlights of a beautiful evening for the attendees.



Christy Tarr-McVey and J. Mark McVey.



The fall themed HarvestFest.

FASHION SHOW

Saturday, October 17, EC's 2nd Fashion Show fundraiser took place at The Bethwood, Totowa, NJ.

Fashions from a variety of local boutiques were modeled by EC students, staff and moms (and dad). EC parent **Patti Peretti** narrated an informative show. Guests enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship, food and fashions while supporting Eastern Christian School.



2nd graders Hope Urdang and Cara Shotmeyer.



Mrs. Sandra Dyer, parent of Emmanuel Dyer, Grade 1.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

EC's annual event took place on Saturday, December 5. A variety of crafters – some new, some annual favorites – displayed their merchandise in the gym and hallway. A Food Court sponsored by Sixth Reformed Church Booster Club gave attendees a place to sit and enjoy home-made soups and sandwiches.



a.j.e.less designs (Jenna Hulsebos '05, Elyse De Jong '05 and Annette Kuperus '05) displaying their creative handiwork.

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIR

EC supporters filled Barnes and Noble located in Paramus, NJ on December 10. A percentage of all sales that day which were accompanied with the appropriate voucher form was donated to EC. A number of EC events took place in the store. EC Elementary School Principal **Sandra Bottge** and ECES Media Specialist **Mary-Kate Hagedorn** participated in StoryTime. The EC High School Band and String Orchestra, along with EC Middle School Junior Chamber Singers and String Quartet performed throughout the evening.

EC alumna **Melanie Simcox Tabakin '97** signed copies of her new book, *Adventures Abroad: The Pearl of Africa*. New this year, Barnes and Noble honored voucher forms presented at other locations nationwide! Sales attributed to EC were \$6726.03, resulting in a donation of \$1345.21.

SPRING EVENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY—APRIL 25

Eastern Christian School will be celebrating Christian Education Sunday on April 25. Please consider supporting Eastern Christian's efforts to enable our students to make the choices that will Transform the World for Jesus Christ.

Please use the envelope in this issue of *The Herald* for your Christian Education Sunday offering at your own church or mail your donation to us now.

Educating students is expensive, but there can be no greater return on your investment than the World Transforming lives of adults who were given the opportunity of a Christian Education at Eastern Christian School. Thank you for your support.

AUCTION ELEGANCE—THURSDAY, APRIL 22

The Tides, North Haledon, NJ

Enjoy a fun night out! Good food, fellowship and lots of bidding activity! Tickets are \$60 each. To order, call the Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 or visit www.easternchristian.org.

GOLF OUTING – MONDAY, MAY 24

Black Bear Golf Club, Franklin, NJ

Participate in an afternoon of golf, followed by a delicious buffet dinner. Match your skills against one of ECHS's golf-team members. Why not get together with former classmates – and have a mini-reunion, a round of golf and support EC at the same time!

FOUNDATION NEWS



As part of their Tithing Program, Atlantic Stewardship Bank presented a giant \$40,000.00 check to Eastern Christian at the January meeting of the ECSA Board. Pictured L to R, ECSA Board Directors Cheryl Schipper, Ben Spoelstra, Krystyn Boonstra, Scott Martin; ASB Directors Michael Westra, John Steen; ECSA Foundation Executive Director Garret Nieuwenhuis, Head of School Thomas Dykhouse; ASB Board Chairman William Hanse; ECSA Board Chairman Nicholas Kuiken, ECSA Board Directors Richard Kuder, Roy Bushoven, George Schaaf, Mark Wisse.

Wish List Program Off to a Great Start!

In order to address a potential budget crisis for the current school year, the Administration, at the beginning of this school year, encouraged all departments to consider creative ways that the budget could be reduced while at the same time not adversely affecting the educational focus of the school. It was a difficult assignment for many to undertake; however, out of that assignment came some very creative suggestions. One of those suggestions was to create a wish list of items that the schools could really use but could not be included in the bare bones budget that we have to operate under during these difficult days of economic stress, low employment and stagnant incomes.

Ground rules were established that required that the suggested items had to be approved as a qualifying item by a building principal or Administrator and could not be valued at more than \$2500 per item. To be a qualifying item, it would have to be an item that would enhance the educational process and programs at the school. It was also required that the purchase of the items would be handled through our normal purchasing procedures in order to obtain the best possible price for the items.

Once the Wish List program was in place and the information disseminated to our employees, we immediately received requests for technology items such as Smart Boards, LCD screens, laptop computers, GPS units and cameras. We immediately began to list these items in our regular publications to our parents and supporters for their consideration. We soon received inquiries about the program and how one goes about getting involved. Commitments were made and the program was off and running. As items were purchased, other items soon took their place on the list, and the program continued to grow. In fact, at one point the dollar value of all of the items on this list exceeded \$52,000.

This program and its potential caught the attention of one of our supporting parents, who challenged us to get financial commitments for



A new HDTV in Mr. Everett Henderson's Middle School classroom, purchased with funds from the Wish List.

one-half of the total value of \$52,000. He and his wife would match the balance. With this generous offer in mind, we continued to promote the program and encourage participation by those who were able to do so. We are very pleased to note that the challenge was met and the technical items that were on the list are being purchased and delivered to the various schools. We fully expect to see the direct benefits of this program in the classrooms during the second half of this school year, thanks to a wonderful, supporting community. The program will continue to run with new items being added to the list each month.

Even though this program was developed out of a financial necessity, we see God's guiding hand each step of the way by fulfilling our needs beyond what we anticipated. We are truly grateful for the commitment and strong support of so many of our constituency each and every day!

For more information on this program, please visit our web site at www.easternchristian.org.

Find EC on

There are a number of ways you can stay in touch with EC, as well as your classmates and other EC alumni by using the popular social networking site. Here are some tips to help you stay connected with Eastern Christian on Facebook:

- Join the **Eastern Christian School Association** group and have EC news sent directly to your news feed.
- **Eastern Christian Alumni Page:** Become a member and you can search through the 600+ members and perhaps find an old friend! You will occasionally receive emails on alumni-related matters.
- **Class Groups:**

The following classes have started groups. If your class is not listed, start one yourself and tell us about it! There are several groups on Facebook with the same EC abbreviation. Therefore, we recommend that you start your group name as: Eastern Christian Class of _____. Use the EC logo from EC's website to help further identify your class.

- Eastern Christian High School Class of 1973
- Eastern Christian Class of 1979 Reunion (fan page)
- Eastern Christian Class of 1980
- Eastern Christian Class of 81
- Eastern Christian High School Class of 1986
- Eastern Christian Class of 89 Reunion
- Eastern Christian HS Class of 1990
- Eastern Christian High School Class of 1999
- Eastern Christian High School Class of 2000
- Eastern Christian HS Class of 2001

October 1, 2009

Eastern Christian School Association
c/o Foundation Office
50 Oakwood Ave.
North Haledon, NJ 07508

Enclosed please find a check for the Endowment Fund in memory of our parents Bill & Jeannette Faber. Eastern Christian was always close to my parents' hearts and always a priority for giving to. My parents sent five children to Eastern Christian and also opened their home on Oakwood Ave. next to the High School for two to four students to live from outside of the area so they could attend Eastern Christian. I don't know how my mother did it—getting nine kids ready for school in the morning. They were firm believers in a Christian education and sacrificed greatly to send all five of us to EC. I thank the Lord for their sacrifice and that all my siblings walk with the Lord in their daily lives and are greatly influenced by their education at Eastern Christian. I pray that the Endowment Fund will continue to assist Eastern Christian to provide a quality Christian education for northern New Jersey.

God Bless,
Pete and Donna Faber



Corner Closet volunteers at last year's dinner.

Eastern Christian Honors Volunteers

Of all the blessings that come our way at Eastern Christian on a regular basis, our dedicated core of volunteers would have to be at the top of the list. Each and every day during the school year and beyond, volunteers make themselves available somewhere in our school system. Their unpaid service is a major financial benefit to Eastern Christian while at the same time providing an opportunity for service which strengthens relationships between our parents, grandparents and the school. Not only do the volunteers look forward to their regular time of service, but so do the staff and students who benefit from this generosity.

Each year the Association takes time to honor these dedicated people for their service at a celebration dinner. This past year we recognized volunteers for their service in

the classrooms, fund raising events, TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) and the Corner Closet. We honored a total of 327 volunteers, ranging in age from 25 to 89, who faithfully served in the Preschool (11), Elementary School (136), Middle School (53), High School (31) TRIP Office (17) Fundraising Events (48) and the Corner Closet (76).

Corner Closet volunteers and staff were particularly thanked for their many years of dedicated service in light of the fact that we are unable to continue this program at the present site beyond the end of the last school year.

The light sandwich supper was augmented by honoring the volunteers with a gift as well as being entertained by the High School Orchestra under the direction of **Cathy Clark**.

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI PROFILE

Nicole Hadley '04

REACHING OUR FUTURE LEADERS FOR JESUS

Why am I here? This question has (at least once) probed the hearts and minds of students on our college campuses. Most college students come to college with the purpose of discovering their identity, while trying to figure out their purpose in life. As for myself, when I was a student at St. John's University I sought out my purpose in the wrong places. I thought I would find it in what I was good at, friends, my major, in the organizations I joined, and eventually my career. However, I found by searching through those outlets I was not seeing the big picture of what God was calling me to do! Instead I was settling to the ways and mindsets of others.

Then God led me to the campus ministry organization, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) during my freshman year at St. John's. It was there that my relationship with God continued to grow. It was there where God made it clear that my identity rests only in Him; that I am a child of God. "For in him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) It was there my relationship with God became even more evident and began to grow. I learned more about the importance of worship, fellowship with other believers, quiet time, prayer, etc. It was through campus ministry I learned how to grow in my relationship with Jesus as a young adult. It was campus ministers and leaders who trained me and encouraged me to see the gifts and the person that God created me to be, that I had not seen before.

My name is Nicole Hadley and I am an alumna of Eastern Christian High School (Class of 2004). I graduated from St. John's University in Queens, NY (Class of 2008). Currently I am a campus missionary in New York City with Every Nation Ministries. My passion as a campus missionary is for students to know there is a God that loves them, cares for them, died for them and has a purpose for them! It was through campus ministry God showed me my purpose! I want to impact the lives of college students in the New York City area, while fulfilling the Great Commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

As a campus missionary with Every Nation Ministries, I'm reminded that "... the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Luke 9:38). The college campus is also a harvest field. It is filled with students who may or may not know about Jesus Christ. My passion and desire is to see students on campus be reconciled to Christ, train students for leadership, and send students to impact the world. As of now we're reaching

out to ten campuses in New York City: St. John's University, NYU, Columbia, Fashion Institute of Technology, American Music and Drama Academy, Julliard, Hunter College, Parsons School of Design (New School University), Manass (New School University), and Pace University.

Some of the ways I hope to fulfill this goal are to continue leading and co-leading Bible studies/small groups on campus and off campus; spreading the Gospel on campus; and later, implementing new ideas using technology to reach out to students on the campuses. **Bible Studies/Small groups:** Bible studies are vital for the spiritual and personal growth of students. It provides a time for students to gather together to fellowship, learn about God's Word, and receive God's answers to life's questions. Also through Bible studies, students get plugged into a local church while they are at school, where their faith in Christ can be nurtured and encouraged. **Spreading the Gospel:** The goal is to see students accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior and be saved, as well as making sure that they are involved in a small group and being equipped and encouraged in their walk with God. **Further Goals:** As the ministry continues to grow I hope to later start an online magazine that will focus on equipping and building up students on the college campuses we'll be reaching out to. The magazine is meant to spread God's Love and the Gospel to young adults, especially college students by encouraging, equipping, teaching, uplifting, informing, supporting, promoting, and sharing life. And to help answer life's questions with the Word of God!

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15).

How Can I Get Involved?

I would love to share with you about the great and exciting things I will be doing as a campus missionary in New York City through Every Nation Ministries. If you are interested in hearing more about my ministry and possibly getting involved with what I'm doing, please feel free to contact me:

Nicole Hadley
201-953-5424
nicole.hadley@everynation.org
www.everynation.org



Alumni News

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

FORMER STAFF

DEATH:

Dr. James Warden passed away on November 13, 2009. He began at EC teaching Bible at the Junior High in 1956 and later at ECHS through 1967. His son adds, "He enjoyed his years at both schools and had fond memories of the submarine sandwich fundraisers, the senior trip to Washington DC, and decorating the gym for the Junior-Senior Banquet. In 1967, he left EC to take a position in the Education Department at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. He remained at Geneva until his retirement in 1993." Anyone wishing to share thoughts and memories are invited to e-mail them to janwarden@yahoo.com.

HERITAGE YEARS

Jacob Vander Meulen '36 of North Haledon, NJ passed away on August 12, 2009. Jake was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church of Wyckoff where he served as an elder and deacon. He served his country during World War II in the United States Air Force.

1940S

Some members of the Class of 1949, who also went to Pine Street School, continue to keep in touch regularly. They are: **Marge Van Klive Lucas** in Georgia, **Joan Rypkema** in West Virginia, **Jeanne Wattez Smith** in Mississippi, **Lorraine Locker Kossen** in eastern Florida, **Marilyn Kievit Schmit** in western Florida, and **Betty Lanting Bowers**, still in New Jersey! Betty adds, "Those with e-mail use that, then we copy a letter to those who do not have the technology. I have gone south in previous winters and hope to pick up Joan this year and make the trip to see the others. Isn't it great to have had such a long, treasured relationship? We share a lifetime of memories together!"

DEATHS:

Eleanor Prins Chambers '45 of Lake Wales, FL on 9/13/2009.

Eleanor was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Prior to her move to Florida, she taught Sunday school for many years at Richfield Christian Reformed Church in Clifton.

Hubert Borduin '45 of Hudsonville, MI, formerly of North Haledon, NJ on August 24, 2009. Hubert was a member of the Georgetown Christian Reformed Church.

Florence Riemersma Kooistra '47 of Kentwood, MI on August 18, 2009. She was a member of LaGrave Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, MI. Florence graduated from Calvin College in 1951.

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Alumni Profile: Deborah Kirsten Miner-Cucko '90

Deborah Kirsten Miner-Cucko '90 is now an aspiring children's book author with her first book *If Dinosaurs Were Around Today* printed and published by Author House Publishing.

If Dinosaurs Were Around Today takes place in a little boy's room while he is imagining his Tyrannosaurus Rex is alive. This little boy and his creative imagination take you on a beloved journey as he dreams about what it would be like if his dinosaur played on his soccer team, helped with his chores and came with him on his holiday. Come experience life through a little boy's eyes and what great adventure awaits you, if you too had a dinosaur that you could bring with you everywhere.

As a senior at EC, Deborah enjoyed writing for the school newspaper and says her true passion for literature and reading was developed primarily from her senior year English teacher **Dawn Philips**, who ignited the spark and passion in her for great works of literature and writing.

Deborah adds, "Mrs. Philips would have us read books such as *The Miracle Worker*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and my personal favorite, *Les Misérables*.

"I always enjoyed writing throughout the years, but when my son was about 2 years old I began to notice he had a hard time learning to talk and was becoming increasingly frustrated. I was inspired to write my own stories with the intent to help my son and other children alike, with the primary goal to ignite their imaginations with a book that would enhance their enthusiasm to read and enjoy literature.

"I wrote this book one day while I was driving my son back and forth from his speech class and preschool. I watched him in my rear-view mirror playing with his dinosaur. I listened very carefully and although his speech struggled, I instantly realized there was a little boy sitting in my back seat with an imagination as big as his dear heart. I wrote this story for my son with the hope to inspire parents and to brighten another child's day."

Deborah is married to Oliver Cucko and they have one son, Logan Gabriel. Her book can be purchased at amazon.com and authorhouse.com.



Deborah Kirsten Miner-Cucko

ALUMNI PROFILE

Melanie Simcox Tabakin '97



Melanie Simcox Tabakin '97 at the EC Barnes & Noble Bookfair.

When Melanie (Simcox) Tabakin graduated from Eastern Christian High School in 1997, she knew she wanted to go to college to study education and then go overseas to work with children. What she didn't know was that God had something different in store for her life, as He would combine these passions in a surprisingly unconventional way.

Over a decade later, as a certified elementary education teacher and world traveler to over 20 countries, Melanie realized that there was an absence of multicultural literature that allowed children to learn more about the world around them. Combining her love of writing with her desire to help create agents of change in the world, she wrote *Adventures Abroad*, a multicultural juvenile literature series. The first book in the series, *The Pearl of Africa*, has been published by Tate Publishing. It is an early chapter book for elementary children typically in first through third grade. The *Adventures Abroad* books

blend cultural facts with fiction, allowing young imaginations to delve into peoples' experiences around the world. Each country-specific book takes readers on an exciting yet educational journey to a new place. Readers are left guessing the location of the adventure until the end of the book, unless they piece the clues together as they read. Readers, teachers, and parents can further explore key elements from the book with the use of the "Where in the World?" and "Fast Facts" sections at the conclusion of the story.

Her desire is that children will have a hunger to explore the world beyond their doorsteps. Not to solely learn about cultures, but that their worldviews will change, increasing an appreciation for diversity starting at a young age. Hopefully, it will spark future generations to have greater involvement around the world and in their own communities, even if they never have the ability to travel.

Teachers **Alice Koster, Florence Nieuwenhuis, Joyce Schoonejongen, Kristine Opie, Faith Hinken, Marla Stout, Agnes Fisher**, and others, were instrumental through Melanie's academic years at EC, encouraging her to think outside the box and consistently challenging her to become a better writer from an early age and pursue her dreams. She is grateful for their expertise and influence on her life.

10% of all profits earned from the first book will be donated to Africa Inland Mission, a non-profit organization that seeks to help transform lives and communities on the continent of Africa. For more information about A.I.M., please visit www.aimint.org/usa.

Adventures Abroad: The Pearl of Africa by M.A. Simcox is now available for purchase at www.tatepublishing.com, www.amazon.com, www.target.com, from a bookstore near you, or by contacting Melanie directly at MA@masimcox.com.

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From 1967-1976, she served part-time as public relations director of the Christian Health Care Center, Wyckoff, NJ, preparing news releases and brochures. Florence became managing editor for the Ridgewood News, NJ, from 1978-1985. One of her many joys was writing and producing the newsletter for the Midland Park CRC for over 25 years. She also served on the Board of Publications for the Christian Reformed Church Denomination.

Robert Tanis '48 of North Haledon, NJ on September 26, 2009. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was a member of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in North Haledon, and

a long time member of the 1st Christian Reformed Church and Hawthorne Gospel Church in Hawthorne, NJ.

Beatrice Algera Rhoda '48 of Grandville, MI on December 1, 2009. She was a member of Bethany UR Church in Grandville. She was an organist for several churches, and a piano teacher for many years. Beatrice's sister, **Jessie Algera Pontier '35** of Wyoming, MI passed away in November, 2008.

1950S

Elva Craig '58 continues to work with Campus Bible Fellowship International, working with International students at the University of

Iowa. She adds, "I teach an English Class, have conversational English partners, teach small group and individual Bible studies, and plan various activities. I went to Korea in May 2009 and visited former students. In June 2010, I will go on a Reformation Tour to seven countries in Europe."

DEATHS:

Henry Hornstra '52 of Clifton, NJ died on Oct. 26, 2009. He was a member of the Northside Christian Reformed Church in Clifton.

Janet Snoop Orth '53 of Middletown, OH on July 6, 2009. Jan lived in Michigan and Wisconsin before moving to Ohio.

Everett J "EJ" Faber '53 of Wayne, NJ on

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REUNION UPDATE

Class of 1979 – 30 years



Row 1 (L to R): George Lindemulder, Alan Kooreman, Kathy Hagedorn Mindes, Bev Dyer Peene, Yvonne Sweetman Balkema, Jerrilynn Bandstra De See, Susan Necita Hoekstra, Dave Abma, Robert Tedeschi. Row 2: Rob Woudenberg, Tim Cook, Rick Hagedorn, Margie Nicolai McKeon, Frank Spoelstra, Ruth Vander Klay Huizinga, Ron De Jong, Steve De Ruiter, John Douma. Row 3: Bruce Balkema, Ken Englishman, Nora Tanis Englishman, Doug Bushoven, Judy Baum Hoekman, Sandy Borduin Martin. Row 4: Donna Vogel McCann, Kevin Leegwater, Dan Steenstra, Ken Ruit, Brenda Sweetman, Evelyn Roosma. Row 5: Darla Hagedorn Kuperus, Dan Murray, Ken Miebach, Glenn Hoogerhyde, Dan Martin, Donna De Roo Muller, Brian Hamersma.

The Class of 1979 enjoyed an evening of very lively banter at the Sheraton Mahwah Hotel on Saturday, November 28. Our group of just over 60 in total, some of whom traveled from as far as North Dakota and Washington state, really enjoyed getting to know each other again. Many of us had literally 30 years of catching up to do. We had such a great time; we are already planning our next get-together!

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September 22, 2009. He was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church serving as Elder, choir member and on the Youth Quest Board. He was also a member of the Cathedral Choir and former member of the Preakness Christian Reformed Church, where he was Superintendent of Sunday School, Elder and a choir member.

Ryan L Bysterbusch '54 of North Haledon, NJ on August 20, 2009. He served in the United States Army and was a member of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ.

1960S

Glenn Mesaros '68 has a new blog, <http://www.minnesota912.com/blog/?cat=4> where he uses the surname "Alexander Hamilton," and has named the blog "Federalist Papers." He writes about Paterson, NJ, and the Society for Useful Manufactures, established by Hamilton in 1791. Glenn is an IT professional, but has spent much time becoming an expert in early American History.

1970S

Carl "Chip" Stam (who would have graduated from EC in 1971 had his family not moved to North Carolina) is in his tenth year as a worship professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Since the summer of 2007, he has been battling Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The story of his trust in God is found in photos and journal entries at www.caringbridge.org/visit/carlstam.

Margaret DeRitter '75, is the Features Editor of the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, a daily newspaper in Kalamazoo, MI. She has been editing the weekly Faith section of the newspaper since March. She also writes occasional columns for the *Gazette* which can be found at mlive.com/kalamazoo. Look under the "Interact" portion of the home page and click on "Columnists."

Robert Van Staaldin '76 currently serves Timothy Christian Schools, Elmhurst, IL, as president of the Board of Directors. He also is President and runs the family business, Knollcrest Funeral Home in Lombard, IL. Bob and his wife, Elaine, have five children.

Patti Steenwyk Palmer '77 retired from the Army on July 1, 2007. Patti worked for 21 years as an optometrist. Her last assignment was as the Chief of Optometry and Specialty Services at Fox Army Health Center at Redstone Arsenal, AL in the Huntsville area. Upon graduation from EC, Patti went to Wheaton College and attained a Bachelor's Degree in Biology; she also had a two-year ROTC scholarship. On her graduation and commissioning day, Patti married **Mark Palmer '70**. Patti then went to the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and achieved a doctorate in optometry (O.D.). In 1986, Patti was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Her other assignments included clinics in Mannheim, Germany (while assigned to the 8th Infantry Division), Ft. Huachuca, AZ, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and two training tours in Ft. Sam Houston, TX. In 1990-1991, Patti deployed with the 3rd Armored Division to Desert Storm; she was the first female military optometrist to deploy to combat. Her awards include a Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Kuwaiti and Saudi Liberation

REUNION UPDATE

Class of 1984 – 25 years



Row 1(L to R): Carol Hakkenberg, Shari Struyk Miller-Alessio, Denise Harding Schmidt, Ruth Dykstra, Cheryl Mabie Bereksazi, Karen Smit Joustra, Bethanne Dyk Tanis, Dawn Sweetman Woudenberg. Row 2: Dave Ackerman, Mike De Block, Len De Block, Duane Faber, Henry Hagedoorn, Jennifer Bushman-Curreri, Wendy Van Dyk Abma, Len Wynbeek, Kim Stokes Wynbeek, Lauren Lindemulder Martin. Row 3: Nick Kuiken, Jack Boonstra, Craig Faber, Jeff Steenwyk, Jeff Miller, Todd Struyk, Josh Shute, Dave Boogertman, Jon Bushman.

Everyone had a good time and enjoyed socializing with old friends and classmates. There were 28 classmates able to attend, with some traveling from Tennessee, North Carolina and Illinois. We are all going to look forward to a 30-year reunion. Thanks to everyone that came - it was a blast!

continued from page 21

Medals. In 2000, Patti also earned fellow status in the American Academy of Optometry. Currently Patti works part-time for the AIDS Action Coalition in Huntsville, AL. She also volunteers at the Redstone Thrift Shop and teaches a ladies' Bible study at the Redstone Chapel. Patti and Mark have two sons, Benjamin and Joel, and are active members of Providence Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Feel free to look them up if you're ever in the Huntsville area.

DEATHS:

Glen E. Sonderfan '74 on July 28, 2009. He was a lifelong resident of Midland Park, NJ.
Robert C. Baker '77 of Mitchum, Victoria, Australia, formerly of North Haledon, NJ on August 13, 2009.

1980s

David Steensma '88 after 13 years in the Hematology Division of Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, has taken a position on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and the staff of the leukemia group of Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA.

BIRTHS:

Rachel and **Marc DeBlock '88**, a daughter,

Katelin Joy on 7/16/09. She joins big brothers Nicholas (age 4) and James (age 2).

DEATH:

Edward Vander Sluys '82 of Fair Lawn, NJ on October 14, 2009. He was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church, Wyckoff, NJ.

1990s

Tracy (Lyman) Werner '92 is homeschooling Jonah (age 12), Caleb (age 8), Joshua (age 5) and Joy (age 2). She and her family live near Richmond, VA where she is the Community Groups Director for their church, Clover Hill Assembly of God.

Matthew Struyk '94 writes, "My wife Sarah and I are joyfully expecting our third child sometime in May, 2010! We currently have 2 boys, Jacob (age 4) and Andrew (age 2) and reside in Midvale, UT. I have been working two jobs - f/t at Discover Card as a Senior Account Manager II (Protection Specialist) while pursuing a position as a Credit Analyst and p/t at Target as a front-end manager. I have also obtained my Associate degree in Graphic Design back in 2007 at Stevens Henager College in Murray, UT. If anyone needs any

graphic design work done please email me at mdstruyk@yahoo.com. Classmates can contact me on Facebook also."

MARRIAGES:

Jennifer Heerema '93 and Ryan Caviglia on 7/4/2009. They reside in Philadelphia, PA.

BIRTHS:

Ashwin and **Rachael Riemersma Mahajan** (left in 1991), a daughter, Anjolie Sarah on August 27, 2009.

Joel and **Bonita Van Dyke Weber '92**, a son, Levi William on September 4, 2009. He joins his older brother Mark Philip (age 6).

Ben and **Rebecca Baker Buursma '96**, a son, Theodore "Theo" David on 11/30/09. Theo joins siblings Ella (age 7) and Charlie (age 3). Xochi and **Todd Hartley '96**, a son, Zackery Tae on 4/28/09. Zackery joins big sister Niya (age 2).

Manny and **Lori Spyckaboer Intorrella '97**, a daughter, Brianna Rose on June 26, 2009.

Tim and **Erin Smeedy Atherton '97**, a son, Benjamin James on October 2, 2009.

Rachael and **Dan Klein '98**, a daughter, Robyn Grace on 3/21/09.

Jim and **Kelly McGovern Vaughn '99**, a son,

continued on page 23

REUNION UPDATE

Class of 1989 – 20 years



Front Row (L to R): Steve Abma, Michael Whitney, Jason Latona, Fred Ritsema, Tom Luinenburg, Chris Wisse, Ken Post. Back Row: Luann (VanderPlaats) Abma, Sally (Sciacca) Marshall, Martha Griswold-Quijano, Laura (Veenstra) Steenstra, Lorraine (Hagedoorn) Walther, Bill Van Hoff, Pat (Tanis) Hagedoorn, Pam (Borst) Schluter, Holly (Falkena) Reed, Christine Hendley, Dave Sytsma, Bart Leegwater.

The Class of 1989 held their 20-year class reunion on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Rivara's Taste of Broadway in Fair Lawn. Although only 19 classmates made it to the reunion, the night was a success! With the smaller crowd, everyone had a chance to thoroughly catch up with old school friends. There were school pictures and current pictures on display, making it a fantastic night of reminiscing and 20 years worth of new experiences to share. Thanks to all who attended – it was truly a wonderful night!

continued from page 22

Robbie on 2/25/09. Robbie joins big sister Grace (age 2).

2000S

John Ratcliffe-Lee '00 is now Account Supervisor - Digital for Manning Selvage & Lee. MS&L is one of the world's leading communications firms. John works in their NYC headquarters and supervises the digital communication services for several client accounts including Underwriters Laboratories.

Paul Fylstra '00 is a Lt. JG in the US Navy. He has been deployed to the Persian Gulf where he is the Weapons Officer on the USS Chinook.

Peter Sunden '01 is a Lieutenant in the US Navy. He has completed a tour in Washington DC and is currently stationed in Okinawa. He deployed to Kuwait in 2007 and is scheduled to deploy again to Afghanistan this winter.

Krista Breure '03 and Jason Rankin were engaged last November and are planning a wedding for June 19, 2010 in New Jersey. Krista is an elementary school teacher in Lancaster, PA.

John Van Buiten '05 and **Alyssa Smith '06** were recently engaged. They are planning an April 23, 2011 wedding. John is currently

working as an accountant at Van Grouw and Associates in North Haledon, NJ while Alyssa is finishing up her studies at Calvin College where she will graduate this May.

Joshua Stadlander '05 graduated summa cum laude from Liberty University, VA. He received LU's "Pilot of the Year" award. He is a pilot instructor for LU and coach of their NIFA team, which is a competition of college pilots all over the country.

Sarah Stadlander '05 graduated magna cum laude from Liberty University, VA and is working for Touch the World Ministries and Cornerstone Christian Church in NJ.

Kevin Murray '07 completed basic training this past August at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC.

BIRTHS:

Paul '00 and **Kate Sonderfan Fylstra '00**, a daughter, Miranda Jane on 3/23/09 in Norfolk, VA. Miranda joins sister Emma Grace (age 4).

Benjamin and **Karyn Roukema Hytrek '02**, a son, Josiah Benjamin on 5/11/09.

MARRIAGES:

Rachel Vriesema '00 and **Jonathan Kuperus '01** on 1/2/10. They are living in Haskell, NJ.

Jannet Chang '01 and Robert Morgan, July 2009. They reside in Westfield, NJ.

Lauren Jacobs '03 and Jonathan Harvey on 7/11/09. They reside in Hawthorne, NJ.

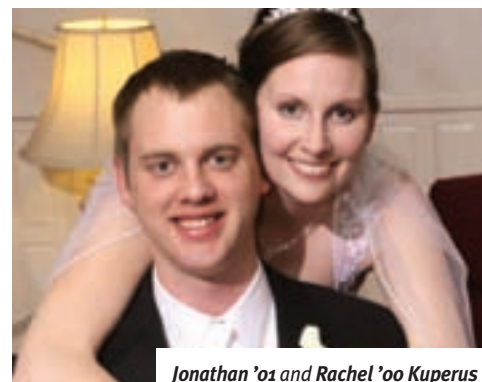
Brian Visbeen '03 and **Melissa Pruiksmas '05** on 10/17/09. They are living in Wyckoff, NJ.

Jane Fylstra '04 and Dana Gordon on 12/19/10. They live in Bardonia, NY.

Alison Troast '05 and Luke Van Denend on 7/10/09. They reside in Grand Rapids, MI.

Rebecca Rivera '05 and **Brian Knorr '05** on 8/1/09. They are both attending Lehigh University and reside in Bethlehem, PA.

Kristen Groenewal '05 and Levi Kool on 8/15/09. They are living in Hawthorne, NJ.



Jonathan '01 and Rachel '00 Kuperus

Class of 1999 – 10 years



Front row, seated (L to R): Heather Hazen, Jenny Kuiken Robeson, Melissa Bruins Macy, Debbie Lopez King, Kelly Lane, Jen Van Der Heide Rysdam. Row 2: Julie Belanus, Stacie Tanis Veenema, Allison Lindsay, Katie Kuperus, Rachelle Scarpa Steen, Sarah Breur Nell, Irving Colon, Jim Bushoven, Matt Dileo. Row 3: Ben Veenema, Eric Veenstra, Doug Jaarsma, Jesse Negretti, Jim Unrath, Mike Conlon, Kelly Brock.

Fun times were held by all at the Class of 99's 10-year reunion on Saturday, Nov. 28 at Portobello Restaurant. The class enjoyed eating delicious food, listening to music from 1999, and catching up on what's gone on in each other's lives over the past 10 years. A trivia game revealed many interesting things about the group, including the only married couple from our graduating class, a classmate who helped set a world record in *Guinness Book of World Records*, a member of the class who is helping start a medical and dental clinic in Africa, the engineer in our class who designed a 35 lb. rolling pin to make pasta, and many more exciting things. It is evident that God has done amazing things in the lives of those attending, and we even found ourselves talking about those members of the class who weren't there. We hope to see everyone at the 20-year reunion for more trivia, music, and delicious food!

Send us your news!

Return to: The Herald, Eastern Christian School,
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Upcoming Reunions

Class of 2000: Our 10-year reunion is quickly approaching! If you are part of Facebook, please join our new group "Eastern Christian High School Class of 2000." Post a message or email Janelle Klaassen Peters directly at bella8262@aol.com.

Class of 1969: Any interest for a 40 and a half year reunion this summer? Contact John Wispelway at drwisp@optonline.net or Al Faber at faber@bbnp.com.

Class of 1961: Nancy Meyer Wilkins, Lois Hulsebos Fisher, Linda Stradling Milanese, Jerry Hoogerheide and Joyce Kruithof have been discussing the possibility of a 50-year reunion. We need your email address! Please contact Joyce Kruithof at jkruithof@rockisland.com with your email address, any ideas or suggestions and if you are interested in helping.

Class of 1960: Our 50th class reunion will be held on Friday, September 17, 2010 at the Paris Inn in Wayne, NJ. A breakfast is planned for Saturday, September 18 at Eastern Christian High School. If you have not already responded and would like to attend, e-mail Len Wynbeek at: lwynbeek@aol.com or mail to: Len Wynbeek, 56 Sicomac Ave, Midland Park, NJ 07432.

ANNUAL FUND

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our 2009-2010 Annual Fund donors for their support and generosity. In spite of difficult economic times, our support base remains strong and faithful, supplying us with the resources to continue our mission of providing quality, Christ centered Christian Education at Eastern Christian School.

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JUNE 27, 2009 – JANUARY 8, 2010

*During this time period, 199 gifts were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend.
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In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we inform the Eastern Christian School community of the sudden death of our dear friend and colleague, High School Social Studies Teacher Thomas Noyes, who went home to be with his Lord February 11 at the age of 54.

Mr. Noyes leaves a wife, Sue, who formerly taught business courses at ECHS, a daughter, Chelsea, who is currently a senior at EC and a son, Alex, an EC alumnus.

The Noyes family has requested that Tom be remembered by way of contributions to the Eastern Christian School Scholarship Fund.



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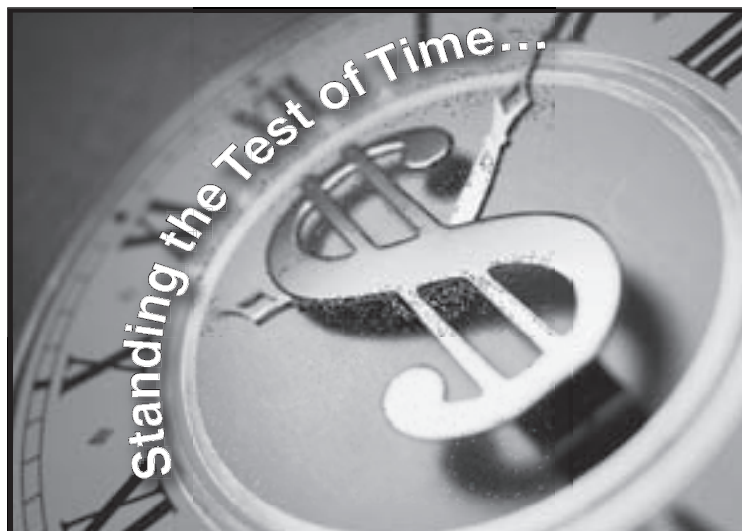


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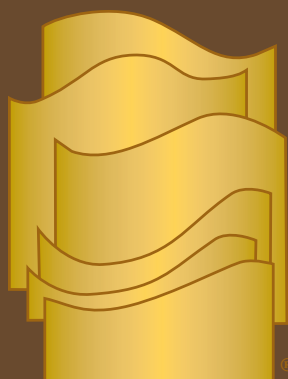


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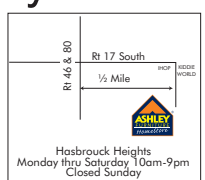
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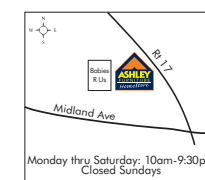
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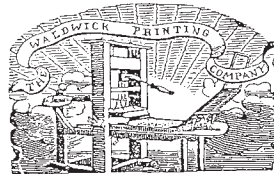
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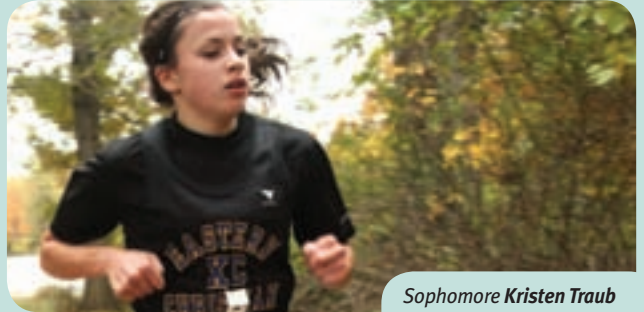
EC SPORTS



Senior **Kelsey Spoelstra**

Girls Varsity Soccer

In a hard fought game the Eagles lost to Villa Walsh 2-1 in the State Non-Public B North Sectionals Final, bringing an end to a wildly successful season. In the game, Villa Walsh grabbed the lead 1-0 on a corner kick goal 2 minutes into the game. The Eagles came back in the second half on a goal by senior **Kelsey Spoelstra**. However, Villa Walsh scored the winner a few minutes later. The team was an undefeated league champion, and Spoelstra ended her career with 81 goals, 2nd most in EC history.



Sophomore **Kristen Traub**

Cross Country

Sophomore **Kristen Traub** completed a triple crown of cross country, winning the BPS league title, the Passaic County championship, and the Non-Public B State championship. Overall, the girls team ran a dominating season, taking 5th overall in the state meet. Sophomore **Jessica Wisse** finished 6th in the state meet. The girls won the BPS-L title with a deep and young team, and finished with a meet record of 8-2.

The boys' team also won the league, and return all of their runners next year. Junior **Jeremy Braunius** was the top boy's finisher at 14th in the state meet, where the boys' team took 12th overall. Their overall record was 6-3.



Senior **Rachel Soodsma**

Girls Tennis

The Eastern Christian girls went into the last match against Midland Park playing for the Carpenter Division Title. The team match was tied 2-2 and 2nd doubles was in a close match as daylight faded. Cars lined up along the side of the court and put head-lights on so that play continued. By the end, the girls were celebrating the school's first ever division title. The Eagle's season ended 15-2. The season also included EC's first ever county championship in tennis, when the 2nd doubles team of junior **Brandi Bushman** and junior **Kathleen D'Urso** beat many powerhouse teams in the County Tournament. Senior co-captain **Rachel Soodsma** played a fantastic year at 1st singles, winning 13 of her 17 matches.



Sophomore **Gianni Gravinese**

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer

The girls were able to end their season with a record of 5-6-1. Sophomore **Morgan De Marco** said, "I felt like we started off strong, then we lost our strength in the middle of the season. At the end of the season, we brought it back together and ended strong." Along with the varsity team, the girl's played a charity "Kicks Against Cancer" game against Pompton Lakes to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Junior **Paige Rainville**

Girls Varsity Volleyball

The final record of the volleyball team was 12-12. Upon losing 7 seniors last year and returning only 1 varsity player, they went into this year building up a new team. Coach **Christina Labocki** said, "The freshmen **Michelle Van Dyke** and **Maddie Lewis** did a great job of holding their own and taking leadership roles on the court." Senior **Jamie Van Buiten**, being the team captain, took the lead in defense out on the court, helping to guide the new players into defensive strategies. Highlights of the season included wins against Elmwood Park in 3 sets and against Garfield in 2 sets. The season was topped off by a huge win at the last home game against league powerhouse Hawthorne.

Senior **James Ainsworth**

Boys Varsity Soccer

The boys' varsity soccer team finished the season with an overall record of 6-11. In league play, the team finished with a record of 5-9, and secured second place in the Carpenter Division. The team showed good spirit throughout the year despite losing 7 games by only one goal. Senior goalie **Andrew Vriesema** played every minute of every game and only allowed 35 goals in 17 games and posted 2 shutouts. The season ended on a high note with a 3-0 win over league rival Garfield.

Freshman **Heidi Lineweaver**

Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball

Junior varsity volleyball finished the season 2 – 22. Coach **Larissa Santini** said, "It was refreshing to see a lot of freshmen come out and join EC volleyball. The team improved each and every game. Junior **Meredith Wallace**, sophomore **Hailey Fritzsich**, and sophomore **Natalya Suizzo** really led the team with their improvements. Freshmen **Sarah Bruinooge** and **Heidi Lineweaver** have proved their potential this year by giving their all on both JV and helping Varsity when needed. We're looking forward to seeing what the girls have to offer next year."

Sophomore **Matt Botbyl**

Boys Junior Varsity Soccer

JV boys soccer was 5-7-2. The first game of the season garnered a win versus Saddle Brook, but then the rest of September came up winless. On October 1st, with a record of 1-3-1, the JV boys made a decision to not let this season get away from them. Fighting very hard in every minute of every game, the boys brought themselves back to 3-4-1 heading into a tough game vs. Pompton Lakes, a team that they had previously lost to 5-1. With 4 goals, all by freshmen, and solid defense, the Eagles dominated the Cardinals and won by a score of 4-2. They finished the season strong against the toughest competition.

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