



THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

FALL 2004
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EC'S GOAL FOR 2004-2005: BUILDING A GRACE-FILLED COMMUNITY

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Grace

EASTERN CHRISTIAN'S

CURRICULUM

By ECHS Principal Jan Lucas & Former Superintendent Dr. Bruce Hekman

A significant component of the opening of school each year is an In-service Day for the faculty designed to create a vision for the new school year and to generate enthusiasm to pursue it. The start of each school year provides a promise of expectation similar to looking ahead to a new year on the eve of December 31st. In both situations, one feels an urge to set goals for the future which will bring positive results. ✝

The challenge for EC's administrative team is to design in-service experiences that will encourage goals and commitments. Brainstorming the focus of this fall's in-service came rather easily. The administrators recognized a common theme at the heart of many issues needing their attention — **that resolution is very often hindered by complications which arise from a lack of grace.** Author Phillip Yancey, not able to find a word which effectively communicates a lack of *grace*, describes it as *ungrace*. Surrounded by a culture which promotes *ungrace* in so many dimensions, members of the EC community can find it difficult to practice grace. Responding with grace is usually not our first reaction when we have an issue with someone.

Therefore, it seemed logical to spend time just before the start of the new school year to brainstorm a *Curriculum of Grace*. Interestingly, the challenge to help students learn about grace is that **grace needs to be modeled rather than taught.** Grace is best demonstrated when logic of our culture says it is OK to show *ungrace*. Often when nothing is at issue, grace seems to be a good thing. But when feelings are hurt and tempers flair, grace seems to be a very unnatural reaction!

Since all school personnel who interact with students have the opportunity to model grace for them, all were invited to attend the instructional part of the in-service program. **Dr. Bruce Hekman**, former ECHS Principal and former EC Superintendent, was engaged as a "Grace Consultant." What follows is a synopsis of his presentation. [continued on page 2](#)



A Short Bio from Bruce Hekman: "I'm a child of God, who desires to be faithful to my calling to leadership in Christian education. In the process, I've served schools in Chattanooga, TN (principal), Eastern Christian (as high school principal and superintendent), Christian Academy in Japan (Headmaster), and Kalamazoo Christian Schools (superintendent). Now I find myself back in the classroom, teaching graduate students on topics related to their calling to school leadership positions. I am supported in my work by my wife, Ruth, our two sons, Kevin and Brian, their wives, and our five grandchildren."





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ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

Janyce Bandstra

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Lucas

WRITER/EDITOR'S ASSISTANT

Beth Milkamp

DESIGN

Yellow House Graphic Design
www.yellowhousedesign.com

PRINTER

Lont & Overkamp
Prospect Park, NJ

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ABOUT THE COVER

Pictured is the EC All-day Kindergarten class surrounded by books in the ECES Media Center. Teacher **Donna Holly** is on the left and **Lynn Veenstra**, who works as the teacher's aide is on the right.

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GRACE *continued from Inside Cover*

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITIES OF GRACE

Important points to remember:

- ✦ God has designed us to live in community, and when we don't, we suffer from all kinds of "social pathologies."
- ✦ The context of schooling is an important part of the content. In other words, relationships in school matter deeply, and we need to be as intentional about relationships as we are about curriculum and other important school matters.
- ✦ Christian schools should be communities of grace, where every member feels the presence of God through other people every day.

Some characteristics of schools that are communities:

- ✦ Christ is the head, the center – everything we do in schools flows out from that central relationship.
- ✦ Therefore, schools of grace are grateful, inviting, respectful of others, slow to judge, patient and persistent, loving in the I Corinthians 13 manner, and they model these norms and expectations.

SOURCE OF GRACE – "LIVING WATER"

In "Schools of Grace" the members receive the *living water* from God and are *living water* to each other. (Note: See www.followtherabbi.com for former EC teacher Ray Vander Laan's exploration of this concept.)

Water is a prominent Biblical image, which fits the cultural and geographical context of the land in which God's people lived. As those who travel there today quickly discover, water is scarce. Over the centuries of life in that region, water held the key to all life. Water running from a spring or river came to be known as "living water," in contrast to the stagnant water of wells and cisterns. God is described in scripture as "living water." (Psalm 107:9; Isaiah 35:6-7; Jeremiah 2:13) Jesus describes himself as "living water" in John 7:37-38 when



Teacher Saribel Aquirre and media specialist Damaris Nyganga with Dr. Bruce Hekman

he stood and said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Christian teachers and administrators continue to find their strength in a relationship with Jesus Christ, renewed daily through their personal devotions and corporate worship. As Spirit-filled, redeemed people, they in turn can be "living water" to their students, especially when those students find themselves struggling in a wilderness of doubt, low self-esteem, ill health, conflict, or other trouble. As these students come to believe in Jesus, they in turn can become "living water" to their classmates, their parents and other family members.

In a community of grace, living water flows every day, and hope is born and nurtured in the souls of every member. I encourage my colleagues in Christian schools to be thoughtfully intentional in creating schools that are communities of grace, where the hands, head, heart, and feet of God are experienced by all members, every day.

Introduction to the All-Staff In-service Meeting

BY ECES PRINCIPAL DICK VAN YPEREN

"What a privilege it is to come together in common purpose. God has placed each one of us strategically to model Christ and the hope of the Kingdom. We all have an equal share, with each role equally important. So we are here together:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Maintenance staff | Instructional aides |
| Office staff | Administrators |
| Bus drivers | Board members |
| Teachers from all grade levels | PTO leaders |

Can you imagine any more opportune time to serve Christ in our community? We are here today to prepare our hearts and minds for a unified approach to the great challenges and unprecedented opportunities of this school year. Just as one comment, one kindness, one act of love has power to influence one person and one another, so too living that puts the Kingdom first has power to supernaturally change many lives."

IN-SERVICE – PART II: LANGUAGE OF GRACE

Dr. Hekman returned to Eastern Christian for a second in-service day on October 29 to challenge the entire EC staff to consider the *language of grace*. The morning began with devotions at each school and at the administrative offices. Building principals led the devotions for the faculty and support staff at each campus while the executive assistant did the same for the administrative office staff. In addition, the head of transportation guided the bus drivers through the devotion time, and one of the custodians volunteered to lead the other custodians in this time of Bible study and prayer. All used a devotional written by Dr. Hekman based on Colossians 3. Each group was challenged to consider how "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience," defined the language of grace.

By mid-morning everyone moved to the high school cafeteria to post large sheets of paper listing words of grace and also words of

GRACE *continued from page 2*

ungrace that were generated by each devotion group. Dr. Hekman divided the staff into small groups, which consisted of employees from all facets of the EC staff, to role-play scenarios that demonstrated employing the language of grace in situations that required confrontation. Then each group performed their role-play for the entire gathering. Amid humorous and spirited exchanges, the challenge of this morning's in-service became evident to all.

One example of a scenario that teachers role-played was the issue of a student being chronically late to school. Two or three teachers from their small group acted out the following responses:

Demonstrating *ungrace*:

- "Late again! Can't you get up on time?"
- "I'm tired of you interrupting my devotions with the class, again!"
- "Did you miss the bus again today?"
- "Why can't you be on time like everyone else?"

Demonstrating *grace*:

- "I'm glad you are here. Let's talk about your lateness after class."
- "We missed your input during devotions; you always have good ideas."
- "Is there a problem with your ride to school that I could help solve?"
- "Let's talk at lunch about how to help you get to class on time."

With the invitation to the in-service day's activities, each employee was given an assignment to bring along a hand-sized rock. Just before lunch Dr. Hekman led the group in worship using Jesus' confrontation of the Pharisees over their challenge to stone a woman caught in adultery. **Dr Hekman implored each person to seek God's help in choosing words of grace when immediate reactions to follow the norms of our culture results in responses of ungrace.** During the singing of "Amazing Grace" led by high school teacher and gospel vocalist Jena Cooksey, the participants were invited to come forward and lay down their stones



High School Staff explore the concept of grace with Dr. Hekman.

Store Up a Good Foundation

"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NKJV

Teacher Mentoring at ECHS

BY ECHS PRINCIPAL JAN LUCAS

Have you ever had the opportunity to observe a new mother attempting to be the caretaker and provider for a brand new baby? Words like "overwhelmed" and "frantic" only begin to describe the feelings of inadequacy that some new mothers have when they find themselves in this role. There seem to be so many new responsibilities, and they all become apparent at once.

Now imagine that same experience multiplied by a factor of 20 or 25 times, and you will get a glimpse into the first days of class for a new teacher. Granted, even preschoolers can describe their most basic needs in distinguishable words rather than using differentiated cries. But it is not just a matter of providing care for one communicative child, but for a whole room full! High school students know lots of words, have a plethora of very complicated needs and can collectively leave a room so full of words that the oxygen begins to get scarce! Some new teachers feel fully prepared for this experience, but others feel inadequate or overwhelmed.

Next think back to the "new mom experience" to consider the strategies you have observed being employed to help meet the needs of a brand new baby. Invariably those solutions include experienced caregivers—adults who have successfully learned this art, modeling and explaining a path to success. Caring for children can be effectively modeled by wise mentors.

This year six new teachers joined the Eastern Christian faculty, and several were confronted with the diverse needs of 20-25 students in a class for the first time. Even for those teachers new to EC who come with some teaching experience, the challenge of understanding the role of an EC teacher can be daunting. Following the example of the wise caregivers, experienced EC teachers volunteered to be the mentors for the new arrivals. On occasion during the summer and especially during the week prior to the start of school, mentors worked with the new teachers to prepare them for the first day of class with their students. Mentoring support will be available to the new teachers until they are able to care successfully and comfortably for their students' spiritual and academic needs. Hopefully, their experiences will lead them to be confident mentors of other teachers who come to EC in the future.

Welcoming New Staff Members into the EC Community

Editor's Note: Our new teachers were asked on a questionnaire to share some facts about themselves. Here is a summary of their answers:



New ECHS Spanish Teacher **Sabriel Aguirre** and mentor **Claudia Freire**

Saribel Aguirre

ECHS Psychology, Spanish 2

Educational Background:
Rutgers University,
BA in Psychology and Education

What brought you to EC? "I wanted the opportunity to work with young adults in a Christian environment. I had asked God for such a job and he opened the doors at ECHS."

What do you like most about working with EC students? "I believe it's fun working with high school students especially when they know the Lord. I have the opportunity of influencing their identity – to turn them into God-fearing and productive adults."

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? "1. Reach out to the lives of my students not only academically but also spiritually. 2. Challenge students to excel in all they do and not fear working hard."

Favorite Bible Verse: "Proverbs 1:6: 'The beginning of wisdom is the fear of God.' It's not enough to have knowledge, we must learn how to use it."



New ECSA Maintenance man **Mike Auteri**

Michael Auteri

Maintenance Staff

What brought you to EC? "I have a business which involves office cleaning/maintenance and floor care. My new position at EC replaces a warehouse job that I had for 24 years. I am thankful to God for leading me to this new job."

Favorite Bible Verse: "Lamentations 3:23: 'Great is thy faithfulness,' because I have seen God at work in my life, helping me through many situations. He is always faithful."



New ECES 1st Gr. Teacher **Karyn Baitzel** and mentor **Ellen Ritsma**

Karyn Baitzel

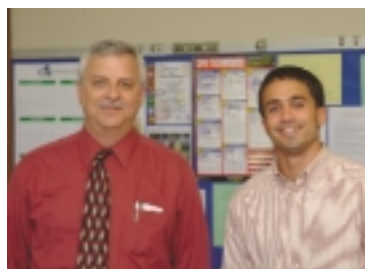
ECES Grade 1

Educational Background:
Eastern College, BA in Elem Ed;
Dallas Theological Seminary –
12 credits

What brought you to EC? "I have enjoyed teaching in a Christian school, and I was excited about the resources at Eastern Christian."

What do you like most about working with EC students? "I am greatly enjoying working with my students this year. They are eager to learn and well-behaved."

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? "I hope God will use me to help my students grow spiritually and academically."



Mentor **Paul Beverly** with New ECHS History Teacher **Josh Egedy**

Joshua Egedy

ECHS 10th & 11th Grade History
Educational Background: Hope
College, Social Studies Composite;
University College Dublin, Sociology

What brought you to EC? "The desire for a personalized, quality educational system with a strong sense of community."

What do you like most about working with EC students? "[They are] very hard working and demonstrate a high level of creativity and interest."

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? "Make learning interesting and engaging. Find connections between past and present, while incorporating Biblical concepts."

Favorite Bible Verse: "Matthew 5:9 – I believe those who search for peace are essential throughout history."



Pictured are new ECMS Science Teacher **Allison Faasse** and mentor **Everett Henderson**. Each week 5th and 6th Grade Science teacher **Everett Henderson** meets with **Allison**. She has reported that Everett answers all of her questions and that the time spent together is very profitable.

Allison Faasse

ECMS 7th & 8th Grade Science

Educational Background:
William Paterson College,
BA in Psychology with Elem Ed
concentration

What brought you to EC? "I grew up going through the EC school system and decided to come back once my son Jacob was born."

What do you like most about working with EC students? "So far I enjoy being able to have fun with students and focus on the task at hand. EC students are very respectful."

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? "To model Christ as best I can in my classroom and to help the students become closer with Him in their daily walk."

Favorite Bible Verse: "I Cor. 13:1 – Because I believe that with God's love and the love of others anything is possible."



New ECHS Math Teacher **Nathan Minchen** (center) with mentors **Deb Andrews** (left) and **Paola Morici** (right)

Nathan Minchen

ECCHS 10th–12th Grade Algebra 2

Educational Background:
University of Buffalo,
BA in Mathematics

What brought you to EC? “ACSI website, personal phone calls with Math Teacher Marilyn Bryslawskyj and Principal Jan Lucas, and a desire to be in a Christian atmosphere.”

What do you like most about working with EC students? “They are respectful in general, many are passionate about their beliefs, and can talk about God in the classroom!”

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? “To help my kids strive for excellence as Christ has called us, and to be an example of Christian love.”

Favorite Bible Verse: “John 3:16 – because it sums up the concept of Christ as our Savior.”



New ECES 2nd Gr. Teacher **Rachelle Scarpa** (left) and mentor **Kathy Kooistra**

Rachelle Scarpa

ECES Grade 2

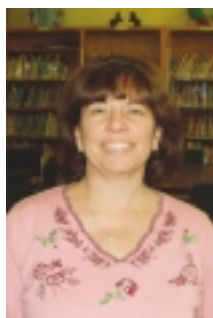
Educational Background:
Messiah College, BS in Elem Ed

What brought you to EC? “I went to EC from Preschool – 12th grade so I was familiar with the school’s environment.”

What do you like most about working with EC students? “Supportive parents. Very few discipline problems.”

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? “1. To help my students develop a Christian worldview. 2. To display my own Christian worldview and incorporate Bible teaching in all subject areas.”

Favorite Bible Verse: “Philippians 1:6 – Gives me great encouragement for my life.”



New 3rd & 4th Gr. Aide
Janet Stadtmueller

Janet Stadtmueller

ECES 3rd & 4th Grade Aide

Educational Background:
Rutgers College, BS in Elem Ed
Fairleigh Dickenson University, MBA

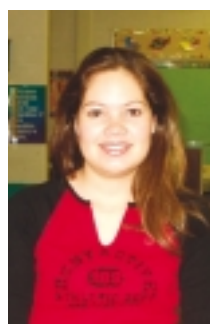
What brought you to EC? “My two children have attended EC since Preschool. Geoffrey is now in 6th grade and Amanda is in 4th grade. Being offered this position is such an answer to prayer. I needed to go back to work and having the same

schedule as my children is perfect! I’m thrilled to be part of the EC community.”

What do you like most about working with EC students? “I enjoy their enthusiasm and I am especially moved when I attend chapel. Our children are so blessed being taught in such a loving, Christ-centered environment. I feel privileged and blessed to be a small part of it.”

What are your important goals for you as a Christian teacher? “My goals are to be as helpful and useful to the 3rd and 4th grade teachers as possible. (They are great to work with!) And to get to know the students and encourage them. I especially enjoy teaching Alpha Smarts.”

Favorite Bible Verse: “Philippians 1:27 – No matter what, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”



New ECES Custodian
Andrea Zuniga

Andrea Zuniga

ECES Custodian

What brought you to EC? Andrea shared with ECES office manager Gloria Tenewitz that she was introduced to EC by a relative who worked at ECES during the summer. She was born in Costa Rica and came to the US three years ago, not knowing any English. She went to college in Costa Rica and hopes to enter college here in the US in January to finish her degree. She likes working at a Christian school very much.

Favorite Bible Verse: Matthew 19:14

Mentoring for New Teachers

BY ECES PRINCIPAL RICHARD VAN YPEREN

An important ECES initiative for the 2003-2004 school year involved the creation of a mentoring program for new teachers. We paired an experienced teacher with a new teacher and asked them to produce a mentoring checklist by month for an entire school year. The collaborative efforts of three senior teachers and three new teachers produced our *ECES Mentoring Guide*, which is now the protocol for our two new teachers this year.

For the 2004 – 2005 school year, **Rachelle Scarpa** has paired with **Kathy Kooistra** and **Karyn Baitzel** has paired with **Ellen Ritsma** to follow the *Mentoring Guide* and to meet weekly. Our goals are to assist our new teachers in the assimilation process, to open and maintain communication, and to form a lasting prayer partnership.

Our mentors met with a new colleague beginning in July to establish rapport, tour the building, explain the master schedule, and assist in writing the new teacher’s welcome letter to students. The mentoring relationship is then designed to continue month by month until the last day of school in June.

Back to School Night Photo Gallery

The “Back to School Nights” held every year at each of the EC School campuses is a time to get acquainted, to become informed and to choose how to be involved in Christian education. ECES Principal **Dick Van Yperen** offered this summary: “For us [staff members] the experience of meeting parents is an energizing and inspiring reminder of the importance of our common calling to educate children in the way they should go.” The gallery of photos below shows some of the community spirit demonstrated throughout our schools’ series of special nights.



ECES Computer Teacher **Tim Steen** shares a demonstration in the Computer Lab.



ECES 4th Grade Teacher **Kristin Vander Pyl** with the Kim family.



ECMS Bible Teacher **Betsy Tyvoll** outlines the Bible curriculum for visitors.



Science Teacher **Jeff Smidt** and an ECMS parent in conversation.



ECMS Social Studies/History Teacher **Terry Allen** listens to a visiting parent's comments.



ECES 3rd Gr. Teacher **Donna Hoogerhyde** helps a student share what he's learned.

We Receive “True Treasure” by Serving

BY ECHS SENIOR KATIE RATCLIFFE-LEE



Katie Ratcliffe-Lee (left) with friend Jessica on the roof they worked to reshingle.

This past summer I spent a week re-roofing a home in Hammondsport, New York with an organization called Risingville Intercommunity Service Effort (*R.I.S.E.*), which was founded by the Chatham Methodist Church. Members of my church, Preakness Reformed Church in Wayne, and several other New Jersey churches work with *R.I.S.E.* every summer repairing houses for the less fortunate. This summer we stayed at the Hammondsport High School near the work sites, sleeping on the floor in the classrooms. Thankfully we had access to the locker room showers which we all sorely needed after long days on the our work sites! Our church was the largest group participating this year, so we needed to be divided up into three work groups consisting of about seven students and two adult leaders from our church in each group.

On the first night the leaders went out to pick which work site we were going to work on. My group leaders chose a house with a leaky roof that needed to be re-shingled. At first it was a little intimidating, since none of us had done roof work before. But the leaders reassured us that we could do it. They told us that we had the best site, right across from a vineyard, high up on a hill overlooking a beautiful lake, and that we had a host family who were the nicest people with two young boys and an adorable puppy. The next morning we drove out to the site to meet the family and get to work on the roof. The materials we needed were delivered every morning, along with an experienced staff member who gave us directions on what to do and how to do it. The first workday was fun! We got to tear up the old shingles, pry out nails, and spend a little extra time getting to know the family. During our breaks we would chat with them, play with the children, and relax sore muscles that weren't used to construction work. As the week went on, we

learned how to spread the tar neatly enough without getting it all over ourselves, how to hit the nails and not our thumbs, as well as how to handle a power saw when cutting plywood. We not only had to reflash and reshingle the roof, we also had to replace large sections of the plywood roofing that had rotted and inside we had to install new sheetrock in the ceiling. We also had to have one group member assigned to watching the two-year-old and his little dog, who were allowed to “help” us all day every day. It was a great way to learn some basic repair skills, but the whole experience of working with a family and their house meant more than that.

At the end of the week *R.I.S.E.* held a “Love Feast” in the evening in the high school cafeteria. *The Love Feast*, or the *Agape Meal*, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the community, sharing, and fellowship (*koinonia*) enjoyed by the family of Christ. All of the churches that participated in *R.I.S.E.* spent the evening together enjoying food, fun, and most of all, sharing. For the *Love Feast* the work groups were asked to bring a “treasure” from their worksite. The leaders told us early in the week about the treasure offering that was required, but it took us a while to figure out what to bring back. We couldn't take a part of the roof we had all worked on, or the adorable puppy that ran out of the house every morning to greet us. Instead, we clipped off a piece of

a grapevine from the vineyard across the road. I was selected to present our group's offering, and at first the vine was just a piece of a plant that we had taken to fulfill the requirement for the Love Feast offering.

Later, as I was planning what I would say, I realized the connection of the vine to the true treasure that we received from the site and host family. In John 15:5, the Lord tells us, “*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*” He continues on in verse 9 to say, “*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*” **Love is the true treasure that we found at the work site.** We came to love our host family as they loved and appreciated us. We also learned to love each other within our work group. So at the Love Feast, we offered the Lord's love, as shown in the grapevine. As the Lord, the true vine, shared His love with us, we remained in Him and shared the love with our fellow workers and host family. My week with the people at *R.I.S.E.* has made me realize how important love is to us, and how it's important to share that love through Christ with others.

“Love is the true treasure that we found at the work site.”

Annual Harvey Cedars Retreat

In early September, the High School PTO once again sponsored the Harvey Cedars Convention on Long Beach Island. God's blessings were felt throughout the weekend at this 11th annual retreat. The students enjoyed great beach weather, a tremendous speaker in **Doug Hutchcraft** and fantastic music provided by the band, "*Least of These*."



Teacher chaperones **Ji Young Kim, Adam Culp, Paola Morici and Kate Schuurman** enjoying a special treat.



Many students had fun getting to know new students as well as enjoying time with their friends at the beach. Pictured are: **Back Row:** Sawyer Maneri, Megan Biswurm, Alyssa Steinginga, Taylor Vooyes and Esther Tuit; **Front Row:** Brooke Veenstra, Kristen Groenewal, Bridget Soodisma, and Erin Groenewal.



Award Winners: **Chelsea Vierling, Amanda Van Duyne and Cara Poolillo** performed their award-winning sign language song for parents in attendance at the ECHS Back-to-School Night this year. Under the direction of Denise Jonas of Wyckoff Assemblies of God Church, this group, called "*Signs of Love*," participated in a competition in Austin, Texas during the summer. They placed fourth in the nation out of a total of 95 groups with their signing to the song "*Who am I?*" written by Casting Crowns. Over 10,00 people were in attendance at this Fine Arts Festival competition.



Pictured here are ECHS student **Jen Lynch** and her grandmother **Gladys VanderBeck**. Mrs. VanderBeck spoke to Paul Beverly's US History 2 class about growing up during the Great Depression. She recounted what it was like to grow up on a chicken farm during this difficult period in American history.



Welcome to 33 New ECHS Students

Front: Chelsea Vierling, Madisan Shattuck, Tiffany Adams, Keanna Rawlins, Lisa St. Pierre, Emily Karr, Julia Ring, Nicole MacWilliam, Brianna Palazzi, Brianna Campos, Jee Ho Choi

Middle: Amy Vormbrock, Amanda Van Duyne, Jared Van Dolan, Bruce Faulkner, Derek Jacobsen, Hyun Il Lee, David Rudd, Do Yoon Kim, Nicole Brello, David Heale

Rear: Emily Wolf, Cristen Hemstead, Alexis Jacobsen, Micah Kemp, L'Ani Edwards, Celeste Tubman, Victoria Faber, Daria Burachek, Hoychan Kim, Seo Yoon Kim, Allison McGovern, Michelle Dartee

Sports Highlights

BY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR STEVE KING



*Pictured (L-R) are members of this year's Boys Varsity Soccer Team (white uniforms): Senior Forward **Sean Tanner** (foreground), Junior Mid-fielder **Ben Kuiken** (center) and Senior **Josh Castro** (background)*

ECHS FALL ATHLETICS REPORT

At the end of the fall season, the **Boys' Varsity Soccer Team's** record was 13-10. They finished with a BPSL league record of 8-5, earning a second place finish. This was a very young team with 4 freshmen and 5 sophomores on the roster. The team experienced 3 exciting overtime wins including the opening round over Eastside in the County Tournament. Another highlight was the 4-3 victory over Midland Park with 10 seconds left in the game.

The team qualified for the State Tournament and won the first round against Morristown-Beard before they lost in the second round to Newark Academy.

Boys' JV Soccer finished at 10-4-2. The season was highlighted by a 7-game winning streak with no goals allowed. The team's defense shut out the opposition in 9 games. The team offense was extremely balanced as 12 different players scored during the season.

Girls' Varsity Soccer's record stood at 16-4-2 as November began. The team featured new uniforms, a new "zonal" defense, and more seniors (10) than any team before. The team suffered through early season injuries, but recovered as the season continued. Strong performances in 1-1 ties with Pompton Lakes and Glen Rock, as well as wins over Hawthorne, Midland Park, and Lakeland have kept the girls near the top of the League and County. The team allowed only 12 goals while offensively 12 different players scored a total of 50 goals. In State Tournament action, the team advanced to the Parochial B North Finals before losing in a penalty kick shootout to Newark Academy.

Girls' JV Soccer finished with a record of 11-2-2. This amazing team was dedicated to work together for this great season. They were unbeaten and unscored upon in the first seven games. Offensively they outscored the opponents 71-8. This included 11 shutouts. The highlight of the season was the 2-0 win over Lakeland and the 0-0 and 1-1 ties with Pompton Lakes.

Girls' Tennis finished at 2-14 for the year. This season was a difficult one with so many new and young members on the team. Though they struggled in the beginning, the team began to play better and many of the matches were closer than the first round. Each team member made individual strides in their game, and the coaches are encouraged as they look ahead to next year.

The **Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team's** final record was 2-23. The team has implemented a new offense and blocking system in the defense compared to the past years. This change has taken time for the inexperienced team to learn, but each team member has grown in their knowledge and level of play.

Girls' JV Volleyball's record stood at 3-21 at the end of the season. The team was composed primarily of freshmen who had never played the game on an organized team. Although young and inexperienced, this team proved that they were "scrappy," energetic and willing to work hard to improve their skills.

The record for **Boys' Cross Country** was 8-2 on Nov. 1st. They took 2nd in the League and 5th in the County this year. **Girls' Cross Country's** record is 10-2 and they also took 2nd in the League and 5th in the County.

FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

CROSS COUNTRY

Mary Tolsma
First Team All League
First Team All County

Dan Sietsma
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Brad Tanis
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Melissa Woudenberg
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Lauren Bruins
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Matt O'Koren
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Steve Bosloper
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Jess MacWilliam
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Kristina Barbuto
Second Team All League

Tim Rudd
Second Team All League

Patrick Hickey
Honorable Mention All League

Rachel Santhouse
Honorable Mention All League

BOYS' SOCCER

Ben Kuiken
First Team All League
First Team All County

Phil Beverly
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Jay Everett
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Daryl Leegwater
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Dominic Rivera
Second Team All League

Mike Postma
Second Team All League
Sean Tanner
Honorable Mention All League

GIRLS' SOCCER

Kelley Greenfield
First Team All League
First Team All County

Katie Donnelly
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Melanie Susen
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Suzanne Tarta
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Kristen Groenewal
Second Team All County

Bridgett Soodma
Second Team All League

Joanna Switzer
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Katelyn Brown
Second Team All League

Laura Kuiken
Honorable Mention All League

GIRLS' TENNIS

Ashley Westra
First Team All League
Second Team All County

Brielle Ocot
Honorable Mention All League

Shannon Sietsma
Honorable Mention All County

VOLLEYBALL

Annette Kuperus
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Elyse De Jong
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Nicole Breeman
Honorable Mention All League



The 2004 Varsity Volleyball Team

Middle School Sports Highlights

BY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TERRY ALLEN

This fall fifty-one students participated in our extra-mural sports programs, which included Girls and Boys 7th & 8th Grade Soccer Teams and Cross Country for 6th, 7th & 8th graders. The soccer teams had winning records with the boys finishing at 8-2-1 and the girls at 4-3-4. We are thankful for the great leadership from our coaches **Dave Stokes**, **Janessa Jeltema** and **Lauren Postma**. The players' skills improved, and they overcame some definite challenges.

Coach Terry Allen was pleased with the growth of his young Cross Country Team, which included seven 6th graders along with some experienced 7th & 8th grade runners. Two of our best meets were the Darlington Park Invitational on October 18 and our home meet at Goffle Brook Park where some of our runners recorded improvements in their times by one to two minutes over the 1.5 mile course! That is one of the great features of Cross Country – personal improvement on a course where one of your greatest competitors is yourself.

We congratulate our athletes on a fine season. They are to be commended for consistent attendance at the practices and for commitment to their teams. Good job, Eagles!



Members of the **ECMS Girls Soccer Team** working hard to regain the ball.



To introduce **Julia Quinn** and **Henry Hanse** to the ECMS student body, students in Miss Schoonejongen's homeroom interviewed them for a TV program. **Ben Stout** and **Allison Vriesema** are interviewing them at the "Living Water Stand." **Ryan Visbeen** (left side), **Geoffrey Held** and **Kevin Post** observe the interview.

"Meet the New Kids Mixer"

A FUN WAY TO WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

At the beginning of the new school year every homeroom was challenged to introduce each new student by incorporating his/her name and interests with our school's theme for the year, "Living Water," into a creative presentation that could be performed within 3 to 5 minutes.

In early October the chapel program featured this annual "Meet the New Kids Mixer" where all of the homerooms enthusiastically shared the results of their creative efforts in a competition to introduce the new students to the rest of the school community. The winning homerooms by grade were:

Overall Winner & 5th Grade Winner: Mr. Henderson's Homeroom, which presented a "Living Water" video featuring all the students in synchronized swimming and synchronized page-turning in class, ending with a question about "Living Water" answered with Jesus' words as recorded in John 7:38.

6th Grade Winner: Mrs. Braunius' Homeroom (See photos)

7th Grade Winner: Mrs. Flim's Homeroom, which featured "Extreme Makeovers." It was noted that people can change their outward appearance but only God can change the heart. The fads of outward makeovers come and go, but changes of the heart last throughout eternity.

8th Grade Winner: Mrs. Breur's Homeroom composed new lyrics to a familiar tune to welcome new students.

By the end of the program, all of the new students had experienced a big, hearty WELCOME to Eastern Christian Middle School, and all of the students had enjoyed the fun that creativity can bring.



Pictured are: **Emilee Kim**, **Kevin Hull**, **Jon Berry**, **Scott De Jong**, **Amy Ebeling**, **Matthew McGraw**. After a game of BINGO, the "elderly folk" from Mrs. Braunius' homeroom are introduced to two new "residents," students **Kevin Hull** and **Matthew McGraw**, who have brought with them the key to living a "peppy" life and a Christian life – "Living Water."



The "elderly residents" of Mrs. Braunius' homeroom take a drink from their "living water bottles," and soon after they dropped their walkers and canes and danced down the aisles, attempting to act out the idea that having the "living water" of Christ leads to an exhilarated life.

ECMS Drinks from the “Fount of Living Water”

BY VALERI SHAFER, 5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

Fountains, bubblers, springs—depending on where you are from, these are the words used to describe a device intended to hold water for refreshment of an animal or human being. Why do we need water? Why does God refer to Himself as the Living Water? We sing songs in church about “Drinking at the Springs of Living Water,” and “As the Deer,” but, what does it mean to say that Christ is as “living water” to us? What does water mean to us or do for us that makes this simile so relevant to God? One thing we know for sure: God uses water throughout the Bible to get our attention.

Water is essential to our very lives; it is at the core of our physical being and also all around us. In order to fully grasp this concept, a science lesson may be in order. Mr. Henderson, 5th & 6th Grade Science teacher, says that 60-70% of our bodies are made up of water, with the brain having a 80% water composition. For our geography lesson, Mrs. Braunius, 5th & 6th Grade Social Studies teacher, agrees with Mr. Henderson that 75% of the Earth’s surface is made up of water. But, I’m sure if we asked Mrs. Everett or Mrs. Tyvoll, Bible teachers at ECMS, to give us a Biblical lesson about what references they knew from the Bible that had to do with water, some of the stories they might tell would be...

- 1 One of the ten plagues was turning WATER into blood.
- 2 Moses raised his rod and the WATERS separated to lead the Israelites out of bondage.
- 3 The earth was flooded with WATER in the account of Noah and the Ark.
- 4 Gideon’s army showed their preparedness by how they drank WATER.
- 5 Israelites crossed a body of WATER, the Jordan River, in order to enter the Promised Land.
- 6 Jonah was cast into the WATER when he refused to go to Nineveh.
- 7 Jesus’ first miracle was turning WATER into wine.
- 8 Jesus was baptized into the Holy Spirit with WATER.
- 9 The majority of the time that Jesus spoke, He was in WATER, near the WATER, and, once, He was walking ON WATER!
- 10 Jesus tells the woman at the well that if she were to drink the water He offered, she would have LIVING WATER so that she would never thirst again.

Do you get the message? In situations that are both good and bad, God wants His children to be ready and willing to serve Him, and has often used the concept of WATER to get our attention. Simply put, WATER is used throughout history in the Bible to represent a fulfilled longing for peace and freedom, as a powerful force to change the course of mankind, to represent the beginning and end of journeys, and as a source for spiritual washing and purification for God’s children. Why? So that we may be equipped to do His will here on earth, to share about God and to glorify Him, and to make us ready for the day when we meet Him face to face.

In just the same way that “H₂O” meets our physical needs and is vital to our life, so God’s “Living Water” sustains our souls and is at the heart of our spiritual lives. Are you ready to be quenched by the Living Water and to serve him? We at the Middle School are learning and experiencing this truth, and each week we are ready to “dive in” as we worship in weekly chapels, share in classroom devotions, travel the hallways, perform music, participate on a sports team, or stop to help to a fellow student. *[Editor’s Note: See also the article on the “Meet the New Kids Mixer” for another example of the way students are encountering this theme for the year.]*

ECMS Theme of the Year: Living Water

Students were welcomed to the new school year at ECMS by **Principal Florence Nieuwenhuis** and introduced to our theme, Living Water, with a story and a PowerPoint presentation. The challenge for everyone this year is to come to Jesus, the source of *Living Water*, by believing and trusting in Him for nourishment that lasts. Jesus said, “*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.*” –John 7:38

“The NED Show” Comes to ECMS

At a recent ECMS chapel, Yo-Yo professional **Aaron Gruber** of “All for KIDZ” presented the “The NED Show” to our students. Aaron has presented this show at the White House in Washington D.C., all across America, in Europe and even in Australia.

While demonstrating some yo-yo tricks and secrets of how to yo-yo, Aaron shared the following important steps to becoming a **champion for Christ**:

- N** Never give up (*persistence as in Galatians 6:9*) – Practice makes perfect and never tire of doing good!
- E** Encourage others (*kindness as in 1 Thessalonians 5:11*) – Be a servant to others.
- D** Do your best (*diligence, excellence as in 2 Timothy 2:15*) – Serve the Lord and do all you do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Gruber spoke about becoming part of God’s family, living our lives in God’s will, and making a commitment to the Lord. The students were challenged with the words from Proverbs 16:3: “*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*”



“Yo-Yo Man” Aaron Gruber

8th Grader Travels with People to People International

"I have long believed, as have many before me, that peaceful relations between nations requires understanding and mutual respect between individuals" – President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Founder of People to People International

BACKGROUND & PREPARATIONS

People to People International was established by President Eisenhower on September 11, 1956, with the goal of increasing international understanding and friendship through educational and cultural experiences. Professionals, college-age, secondary, and middle school students alike are brought together for face-to-face contact in worldwide volunteer communities. They believe that if people better understand each other's cultures, they will be more tolerant and accepting of each other's differences.

Zachary Westra, an eighth grade student at ECMS, was introduced to **People to People International** by mail when a letter came addressed to him from the organization. Zach showed his parents the invitation and they agreed that it looked like an interesting option. After some investigating, the decision was made that he should go, but Zach needed to raise the money to participate in his adventure. Zach and his parents decided that, rather than ask people to contribute, he would work off the cost of the trip by doing chores and jobs around the house.

Zach packed a large red suitcase with enough clothes to last three weeks and three climates. On July 5, 2004, he left for what was probably to be the most exciting experience he has ever had. His enjoyable experiences with approximately 40 people of various ages from New Jersey, as well as Illinois, would become great memories when he returned home.



Zach Westra holding a souvenir boomerang from Australia.

ZACH'S JOURNEY

The first leg of the journey began in Sydney, Australia. The group stayed in hotels and visited a number of familiar attractions including Manly Beach, which at one time was open only to men. Another highlight was the Featherdale Zoo, an open zoo which allows animals such as kangaroos, emus, koalas, and wombats to walk up to the visitors and receive attention. The group stayed in Sydney for approximately four days.

The group's second stop was in New Zealand where they had "home stays." Zach stayed approximately one week with a family with two boys and one girl. It was in this home that Zach had a real opportunity to live the New Zealand life. He became part of the family life and structure. He spoke of the crazy weather—it was wintertime in July! The group visited volcanoes and their many beautiful lakes. One lake, however, had posters warning against touching the water because it was so hot it would burn the skin. The Americans were taught some New Zealand history, part of which tells of the Maori people who traveled in the 800's A.D. by kayak from Hawaii to New Zealand where they settled.

The final destination for Zach and his travel partners was the island of Fiji where the movie **Castaway** was filmed. They stayed in hotels on the island and enjoyed a centuries-old welcoming ceremony which is enacted for guests of honor. The Americans were invited to take part in the ceremony and discovered that Fiji's culture is based on the well-being of the extended family

and what is best for them as a group. Zach enjoyed rafting in the clean warm waters of Fiji. He also learned that Fiji is considered a Christian country and was able to take advantage of a visit to one of their Christian schools. It was an open-air school with a beautiful view of the ocean.

SUMMARY

Overall, Zachary could not pinpoint his most favorite part of the trip. However, he recalls the enjoyable food and the experience of tasting some different types of meat such as kangaroo and emu (although he missed the French fries from back home). When asked about why he took the trip, he said that it was because of the contents and challenge in the letter that came in the mail, and because he and his parents agreed it would be a wonderful experience. Zach said he would love to go back again if he were ever given the opportunity.



ECMS NEW STUDENTS IN 2004

Front Row: Benjamin Melendez, Nicholas Gallo, Douglas Norkett, Kevin Hull, Meghan Jensen, Andrea La Corte, Cory Whited, Julia Quinn, and Christyna Gordon; Back Row: So Young Lee, Ji Min Park, Joon Ho Hwang, Ryan Hah, Brian Jang, Tyler Westra, Peter Rudd, and Jesse Vallaro

“Gossip Never” Chapel at ECES

INTRODUCTION

You are invited to “attend” Chapel at the Elementary School as you read this article. Principal Van Yperen’s chapel talks in the fall centered around this poem, which the students and staff are all learning this year:

**Good Thought ~ Hurt You Not ~ Gossip Never ~
Friends Forever** (from Peacemaker Ministries)

The focus of one of his chapel talks was the line “**Gossip Never.**” Feel free to “listen” and join the students and staff in their commitment to act out these lines as well as to memorize them. The main points of the chapel talk are reprinted below:

IMPORTANT WORDS

Did you have a chance to talk about last week’s chapel?

- Do you remember that I suggested at least three ways we can hurt each other at ECES?
Name calling ~ Excluding ~ Teasing
- Did you think of some other examples?
- I was thinking about teasing. Teasing comes when one person asks another to stop and the other person continues. At ECES we want to stop joking or fooling around the first time someone asks us to stop. This is where the Golden Rule applies: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*

This week I want to highlight 2 words. Can you guess them?
(Give Block Letters to Fourth Graders. Have the students create two words.)

- **GOSSIP** – VERB – To use words to damage and hurt someone.
- **EDIFY** – VERB – To use words to help someone improve and be built up.

“GOSSIP NEVER”

This week I would like teachers and students to take some time to talk about how we might use words to hurt others.

- By sharing negative words about someone
- By telling stories that are untrue
- By talking about someone’s mistakes
- By sharing negative names of someone

Read Ephesians 4: 29:

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Challenge for ECES: Stop talking against others; begin to say words that build others up!

TALK WITH OTHERS, NOT AGAINST THEM.

For All Students: We want ECES to be a place of joy because we refuse to use words to hurt others, and we look for every opportunity to use words to build each other up. We don’t do this because we are nice people; we do it because we want to please God our Father.

FOR PARENTS – A FINAL THOUGHT

From that week’s ECES Home Bulletin: “We are committed as a school to be a place of joy, and joy begins with good thoughts. Using biblical “one another” principles, we will be emphasizing how thinking good thoughts about ourselves and each other will influence how we treat each other. We know that when we think on God’s Word, we influence our thought life to be about good thoughts. That is why we place God’s Word at the core of everything we do.”



4th Graders spell out the word “GOSSIP”



Principal Richard Van Yperen demonstrates that gossip is like stomping on someone to keep them down. In front of fourth grade students who have spelled out **GOSSIP**, kindergarten student **Nick Rosendale** bravely volunteered to act out what it may feel like to be victimized by gossip. In another scene not pictured, other grade four students spelled out the word **EDIFY**, and kindergarten student **Ethan Vander Molen** volunteered to be lifted up by encouragement.



On October 28 the 3rd and 4th graders participated in a “National Mock Election.” Students learned that the best way to vote is to research the candidates and to pray for wisdom and discernment. Ninety-nine students voted in this “election,” and the results showed 89 votes for George W. Bush and 10 votes for John Kerry. Our students were among 2.5 million student voters across the U.S. who logged on to www.nationalmockelection.org to cast their vote.

Time To Fly



First grade teacher **Alice Koster** shows Librarian **Sandy Bottge** and first grade students a newly emerged monarch butterfly. Students had witnessed the stages of metamorphoses that led to the emerging of a beautiful butterfly from a chrysalis.



Later that day Miss Koster's students joined her in releasing the butterfly for its migration to Mexico. They sang to the butterfly as they released it: "I'm a little Monarch. Come, let's go. It's time to fly to Mexico."

Wednesday Collaborative Hour

BY ECES PRINCIPAL DICK VAN YPEREN

"At ECES we will create a collaborative culture designed to evaluate and address student learning at each grade level." – One of five commitment statements on which ECES staff will focus this school year.

As a parent-run Christian school, we have the blessing of working in true partnership with our PTO. Through our PTO, parents are full partners with our dedicated professional staff in our education goals. This year the PTO has agreed to help us each Wednesday to chaperone lunch and recess time so that our professional staff may dedicate an hour to collaboration.

Each Wednesday in the middle of the day our professional staff is meeting in various work groups during lunch to work together on the following strategic planning:

- Grade-level instruction and integration with Art, Music, Library/Computers, P.E., Owl's Nest, and Horizons.
- Completion of a three-year study of our Social Studies curriculum.
- Cross grade-levels collaboration designed to improve scope and sequence of curriculum and instruction.
- Analysis of standardized test scores, writing of instructional goals based on the analysis, and creation of assessments to measure improved learning through the goals.

The Wednesday Collaborative Hour (WCH) will add 38 planning hours to our school year. Our partnership with parents through the PTO enables us to creatively and efficiently redeem precious school day time. Did you know that, on average, our teachers have only one 30 minutes break of non-contact time for planning each day? WCH allows for an additional concentrated common planning time each week. We think this initiative will bring added value to our learning environment. Without our PTO this initiative would not be possible.



Volunteer **Caryn Ojeda** supervises Mrs. Hoogerhyde's 3rd Grade class.

Fire Safety Week



In early October the Midland Park Fire Department came to ECES for "Fire Safety Week." After a practice fire drill, students gathered around the fire truck to listen to firefighter **Rich Klas**. The information included demonstrating the equipment a volunteer firefighter wears and uses.



EC parent **Rich Klas** (pictured with preschool son **Richard Klas**) told students what to expect if a firefighter comes to help them. Students loved learning about the contribution these volunteers make to their surrounding community of Midland Park.

Welcome To ECES!



Pictured are new 3rd and 4th Graders (L to R): David Marcin, Rachel Barrett, Abraham Kang, Ana Melendez, Jonathan Veenstra, Ned Hull



Pictured are new 1st and 2nd Graders (L to R): **Front Row:** Mary Raso, Ryan Campos, Joshua Rizzo; **Back Row:** Jake Veenstra, Charlie Rizzo, Sam Veenstra, Jonathan Capiro (Absent: Victoria Levine)



ECSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2004-05 SCHOOL YEAR

Seated (L-R): Karen Nelson (Recording Sec'y), Richard Kuder (President), Thomas Henion (Vice President), Jackie Streelman (Treasurer); Standing: Roger Steiginga, Gerald Veenstra, Glenn Sietsma, Ken de Waal Malefyt, Bruce Jacobs, David Visbeen, Thomas Dykhous, Douglas Bushoven (Corresponding Sec'y), Sharon Visbeen (Not pictured: Jeffrey Botbyl)

2004 – 2005 Committee Assignments

ECSA Board Of Directors

| EDUCATION | FINANCE | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rich Kuder - 2005 (Chair) | Jackie Streelman - 2005 (Chair) | Roger Steiginga - 2006 |
| Tom Henion - 2007 | | Jeff Botbyl - 2007 |
| Doug Bushoven - 2007 | Tom Dykhous - 2005 | Jerry Veenstra - 2007 |
| Sharon Visbeen - 2006 | David Visbeen - 2005 | |
| FACILITIES | Sharon Visbeen - 2006 | NOMINATING |
| Glenn Sietsma - 2005 (Chair) | Doug Bushoven - 2007 | Glenn Sietsma - 2005 (Chair) |
| Ken de Waal Malefyt - 2005 | | Ken de Waal Malefyt - 2005 |
| Bruce Jacobs - 2005 | FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT | |
| David Visbeen - 2005 | Bruce Jacobs - 2005 (Chair) | PERSONNEL |
| Jerry Veenstra - 2007 | Tom Henion - 2007 | Tom Henion - 2007 (Chair) |
| | Karen Nelson - 2006 | Karen Nelson - 2006 |
| | | Roger Steiginga - 2006 |
| | | Jeff Botbyl - 2007 |



Enjoying a beautiful evening and great desserts at "Dining With Friends" are: Ethel De See, Jane Malefyt, Phyllis Klampust, and Joyce Schoonejongen

"Dining with Friends" Builds EC Community Spirit

Saturday, September 25th turned out to be a spectacular evening for Eastern Christian School. Our 3rd "Dining with Friends" took place with dinner parties all over northern New Jersey. Volunteers hosted a dinner party, and their guests brought a donation to EC as their "hostess gift." All parties combined under a tent at Eastern Christian High School for a time of fellowship and delicious desserts at the end of the evening. We shared stories of a Mexican fiesta, a Kenyan dinner, a dinner party that included all parents of students at the same bus stop, and another party that included all EC families within the same church. One hostess commented, "Our party consisted of a group of former deacons who have become very good friends. We had a great time, and now everyone wants to go on vacation together next summer!"

In addition to "Dining with Friends," a first-ever "Dining with Classmates" for graduates of the Class of 1934, 1944, 1964, and 1974 took place. Classmates from these classes gathered in the High School cafeteria for a tasty catered buffet dinner and reminisced about their "EA or EC days." "Dining with Classmates" guests joined "Dining with Friends" partygoers for dessert. The weather cooperated this year, and many guests lingered over dessert until it was time to fold up the chairs and tables and go home. [Editor's Note: See the Alumni News section for more on "Dining with Classmates."]

Planning for Your Future – With Your Extended Family in Mind



BARNABAS
FOUNDATION

INTRODUCING THE BARNABAS FOUNDATION AS EC'S PLANNING PARTNER

SUBMITTED BY CRAIG HOOGSTRA, ECSA ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE MEMBER

Many of you have supported Eastern Christian School for your entire lives. You have entrusted your children and grandchildren to our care. You have given sacrificially of your time and talent to make this School thrive. You have supported us with your finances. We are a family of believers centered on the mission of raising, training and equipping the next generation of believers. It is exciting to be part of that mission. It is also an awesome responsibility.

Have you ever wondered what your family will be like in 20 or 30 years? It is natural to contemplate such things. Many of you have probably planned and set strategies so that there will be finances available for you and your loved ones at your retirement or after you are gone. We as members of your Eastern Christian School family have also wondered what our School family will look like in 10, 20, or 30 years. Just as you have begun to make plans for your family, so has your Christian School family. We want to make provision so that in future years Christian Schooling will not be priced out of the reach of the members of this our spiritual family. *That, in essence, is the purpose of the Eastern Christian Endowment Fund.*

You may have made provision for your family in your will or financial instruments. **Have you remembered your school family?** As the cost of providing quality, God-centered education rises from year to year, your planning may be essential for the continued viability and availability of this blessing to your Spiritual family. Offering individuals and families the opportunity to discuss estate planning from a Christian perspective is important to Eastern Christian School. *That is why we are members of the Barnabas Foundation.*

Did You Know?

T.R.I.P. (EC's Tuition Reduction Incentive Plan) sold a total of **\$1,876,437** in gift certificates between Sept. 2003 and Sept. 2004? The previous school year's total sales were \$1,808,209, so the increase for this past year was \$68,228! Have YOU signed up for a T.R.I.P. account yet? Contact our coordinator **Faye Dyksen** at 973-427-9294 for more information.

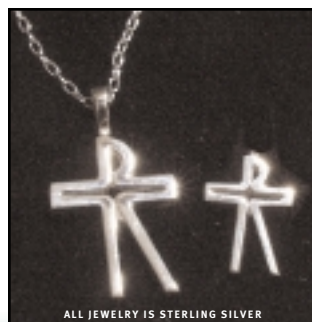
SchoolPop contributions to EC have totaled more than **\$4,600** to date. Thank you to all of our on-line shoppers! Our policy is to send an acknowledgement to you the first time Schoolpop makes a contribution attributable to your purchases (unless you shop anonymously), and every time thereafter when the credits total \$25 or more. Check out www.schoolpop.com for your holiday and other gift purchases and help EC this year.

You can E-mail our School anytime using the Contact E-mail Addresses on our website's home-page at www.easternchristian.org. **Note: One of our E-mail Addresses (ecdev@juno.com) will be phased out in December, 2004.** Instead, you can use development@easternchristian.org as the contact e-mail address for all alumni, public relations, general questions and fundraising matters.

As Christians, each of us is a steward of whatever God has entrusted to us. In essence, that perspective distinguishes Barnabas from others. Barnabas urges people to develop an estate plan which meets their individual and family needs and reflects their values, including the support of Christian ministries that are important to them. **In the final distribution of their assets, Christians can share a powerful testimony to their heirs about the importance of stewardship.** Through proper planning, they may also provide the largest contribution of their lives to a worthy cause like the Eastern Christian School Endowment Fund. Your bequest to the Endowment Fund, joined with others, will allow us to care for your Spiritual family at Eastern Christian School for many years to come. It literally is a gift that will live on as a testimony to your love for this School and your commitment to providing a Christian education to the youth of this community.

A fellow Christian from Barnabas Foundation will provide confidential, objective estate planning advice at no cost to you. They will be happy to visit with you in the privacy of your home and provide professional guidance on specific concerns and answer your planning questions. You can also ask about their new e-mail newsletter Gift Legacy, which contains valuable up-to-date information on estate options, trends in stocks and bonds, summaries of government proposals and tax tips.

With your input, they will help you develop a plan that helps you meet your responsibilities while reflecting your Christian values. To find out more or to schedule your visit, please call Barnabas directly at 1-888-448-3040 or contact the EC Development Office at 973-427-9294. You may also contact Barnabas Foundation by e-mail at info@barnabasfoundation.com or visit their web site at www.BarnabasFoundation.com.



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Marjorie A. Sietsma, 717 Kennedy Ct., Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Make all checks payable to: ECHS-PTO
Proceeds benefit Harvey Cedars Annual Weekend Retreat for ECHS students.

Alumni News

Looking for Classmates Online? You need a password to the *EC Alumni Directory* located on our affiliated website, www.theclasslist.com/ecsa. To get one is simple. The first step is to identify yourself as a valid alumnus by e-mailing us your mailing address and an e-mail address for us to use. Once we verify the information, a password will be e-mailed back to you. You can search for classmates, get their e-mail addresses and also decide which e-mail calendar you wish to receive.

CLASS OF 1926 AND 1927

Louise Schoonejongen ('26), **Dorothy Sweetman** ('26) and **Bill Spoelhof** ('27) all celebrated their 95th birthdays in 2004. Congratulations!

CLASS OF 1930

Class Rep Needed

Elmer De Jong was featured in a recent article in Reformed Bible College's publication "RBC News" which included the following information: After graduating with a two-year commercial course from Eastern Academy, he took evening courses through Drake Business College and Eastern Reformed Bible Institute and National Bible Institute while working full-time in New York. "Elmer was recruited to attend Reformed Bible Institute by Johanna Timmer, RBI Administrator, who told Elmer of a new Bible Institute that was starting in Grand Rapids, MI. . . . In 1940, Elmer moved to Michigan and began classes. During his three years at RBI, Elmer lived at the YMCA and worked full-time at Herpolsheimer's Department Store. In addition to

studying and working, he took a two-year training class and received his certificate in merchandising. Just before graduating in 1942, he enlisted in the Navy, hoping to become a Chaplain's Assistant. After the Navy officials looked at Elmer's experience, they gave him the responsibility of storekeeper. . . ." While Elmer was stationed in Oklahoma, he met his wife Naomi. They have made many moves in their married life and currently live in York, Maine. Elmer has held positions at many businesses during these moves, but the article concludes by stating that he continues to teach in churches and organizations, sharing his Bible knowledge.

CLASS OF 1936

Class Rep: Jewel (Belanus) Snyder

151 Graham Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508

Nellie (Haagsma) Venhuis answered our "Christian Education Survey," by mentioning that she worked for 35 years as a medical technologist. She retired and enjoyed being home with her husband who



"DINING WITH CLASSMATES" – CLASS OF 1944

Pictured (L to R): Seated: Charlotte (Verburgt) Gudel, Betty (Tanis) Vander Plaats, Millie (Wisse) Link, Claire (Spyksma) Schutt, Violet (Dykstra) Reitsma; Standing: Dena (Minnema) Unrath, John "Jack" Vander Plaats, Elsie Wispelwey, Raeann (Dyksen) Dykhous, Edward Hoogstra

passed away in 1985. She writes, "One year later, I started volunteering at the local Christian School. At first I helped students with reading. I was also asked to help in the library. At present, I'm the Head Librarian Volunteer! I've been going to school the last 15 years! You are never too old to learn to do something new."

CLASS OF 1944

Class Rep: Raeanne (Dyksen) Dykhous

241 Eastview Terr, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-2603

E-Mail: gdykhous@bellatlantic.net

Thank you to **Raeanne Dykhous** for agreeing to be the new class rep for this class. She shared the following summary: "The Class of 1944 would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to you for arranging the Reunion night for our class as part of "Dining with Classmates" event. It was great seeing our former classmates, some whom we had not seen since we graduated 60 years ago! We had lots of laughs reminiscing about our school days, remembering not only our classmates but also our teachers. Of course, during the night we spoke of our families, i.e. how many children each of us had, and also grandchildren and now great grandchildren. We could sum it up by saying 'we all had a wonderful time – thanks from us all.'"

Stanley (Bob) van Reken writes, "There is a huge need for the children of Christian missionaries to attend a Christian college. About 15 years ago I started the Christian Missionary Scholarship Foundation intending to help a few MKs to go to Calvin, Hope or Wheaton. It is hard to imagine the growth that we have had. This year, there are over 150 MKs sponsored by this Foundation and there are five graduate MDs and five more in Med



Graduates of the June Class of '44 were among the alumni invited to a "mini-reunion" – Dining with Classmates on Sept. 25, 2004. Listed left to right by row are: **Row 1:** Franklin Zeeuw, Mildred Wisse, Marilyn Eelman, Charlotte Verburgt, Mae Van Ostenbridge, Ruth Lamring, Elizabeth Tanis, Jeanette Dykstra, Helen Kamp, John Houskamp; **Row 2:** Aaron Malefyt, Clarence De Ruiter, Harriet Hagedorn, Ellen Riemersma, Raeanna Dyksen, Eleanor Kuiken, Helen Jaarsma, Stanley Robert van Reken; **Row 3:** Lee Vanden Handel, Doris Dittich, Hildred Houseman, Dena Minnema, Minnie De Korte, Elsie Wispelwey; **Row 4:** Miss Frances Greydanus, Bernice Van Halsema, Marion Van Genderen, Lois Hoitsma, Claire Spyksma, Violet Dykstra, John Vander Plaats, Mr. Harvey Brasser; **Row 5:** Edward Hoogstra, Jacob Boonstra, Wilmer Witte, Lester Oostdyk, William Fridsma, Peter Troast.

ALUMNI NEWS continued from page 17



Miss Helen Sikkema's Class in 1955: (L to R) **Row 1** (by windows): John Breur, Shawn (Lois) Vernon, ?, Marion Last, Dennis Vogel, Betty Keutgen; **Row 2:** Elaine Kuiphoff, David Bandstra, Margaret Netz, Ronnie Hook, Bob De Meester; **Row 3:** John ?, Chuck Pulis, John Hartog, Ruth ?, Ken Hoogerhyde, Helen Breen, Linda Walkotten; **Row 4:** Bill Beversluis, Robert Kuiken, Warren Pruiksmas, Bernice Luyten, Linda Beversluis, David Vander Goot, Linda Bradford; **Row 5:** Judy Veenstra, George Anema, Laura Egedy, Ed Nawyn, Laura Huizing, Ken Meyer. A special "thank you" to **Shawn (Lois) Vernon** for identifying all of the student names.

School. There have been no restrictions on their course of study and there are graduates in many fields. I am particularly blessed in having another EA graduate as counselor, **Dr. Wm. Spoelhof** ('27). An interesting coincidence: One student was a great grandson of [former EC principal] **Harvey Brasser**.... Anyone interested in reaching out to these very worthwhile students are invited to respond to <http://home.msen.com>."

CLASS OF 1948

Class Rep: Bette (Sikkema) King
1303 Four Seasons Dr, Wayne, NJ 07470-1953
E-Mail: ekbette@aol.com

Thanks to **Bette King** for agreeing to be the new Class Rep for the Class of 1948. E-mail her with your alumni news.

CLASS OF 1950

Reunion Contact: Carl Hoogerhyde
E-Mail: carlhoogerhydejr@msn.com

A 55th Reunion is in the planning stages. Classmates should have received a letter inquiring about interest in getting together. Assuming enough classmates are able to attend, more specific information will be forthcoming. For more



Class Sponsor Milo Okkema is pictured with the three members of the steering committee for the Cl. of '54 Reunion: **Jane (Vermaas) de Waal Malefyt, Eunice (Meyers) Broersma and Grace (Roukema) De Boer**. "Our homeroom sponsor for four years, Mr. Okkema paved the way and prepared us for the experience of life. His guidance and direction will always be remembered. When asked about what he remembers best of our class, Mr. Okkema replied, 'the wholesome respect it had for itself and for the teaching staff; and the good balance of work and play which the class demonstrated as it moved toward maturity.' " - Reprinted from the Class of '54 Reunion Booklet



EA CLASS OF 1954 REUNION – OCT 21, 2004 AT MARK'S RESTAURANT IN WAYNE, NJ

Front Row (L-R): Ethel (Tanis) Baum, Ann (Smith) Herring, Eunice (Meyers) Broersma, Julie Belanus, Jane (Vermaas) de Waal Malefyt, Irene (Venema) Groenewal, Joanna (Bruxvoort) De Ruiter, Lois (Van Althuis) Lyman; **2nd Row:** Kathryn (De Jonge) Koop, Alberta (De Leeuw) De Blaey, Lois (Brain-Turello) Ginder, Kathleen (Smid) Gorter, Charlotte (Sinke) Elzinga, Anna Jean (Cook) Leegwater, Helen (Jans) Joustra, Joyce (Dox) Faber, Carolyn (Riemersma) Joustra, Annamae (Huizing) Hulsebos, Ruthanne (Drukker) Dykstra, Grace (Roukema) De Boer, Arlene (Dobbehaar) De Vuyst; **3rd Row:** Robert Struyk, Richard Schuurman, Ken Kline, John Dyk, Richard Jeffer, Betsy (Kooy) Snope, Ryan Bysterbush, Larry Hoogerhyde, John Bushoven, Jack Hulsebos, Peter Sonderfan, Ernest Hoistma, Ronald Dapp, John Stellingwerf



CLASS OF 1964 GRADUATION PHOTO (L to R) **Row 1:** Betty Nawyn, Lois Baker, June Roukema, Judy Breen, Margie Sytsma, Stephanie Toth, Carol Van Goor, Shirley Williamson, Lynn Tanis, Joanne Smith, Barbara Anderson, Joanne Nyland, Charlotte Bilson, Judy Daviou. **Row 2:** Diane Douma, Dorothea Borst, Antonia Peters, Judy Kucharik, Helene Hieminga, Christine Eichhorn, Judy Sikkema, Mary Hasper, Betsy Wondergem, Everdien Nieuwenhuis, Ruth Dykstra, Nancy Sweetman, Nancy Graham, Sharon Bosma. **Row 3:** Karen Schaaf, Claire Garver, Sadie Schilstra, John Zuidema, Paul Prol, Keith Douma, Ken Steensma, Roger Zuidema, Dave Van Lenten, Bob Smid, Bill Teitsma, Henry Schuurman, Janet Meyer, Virginia Voorman. **Row 4:** Magda Tizzeke, Joan Borduin, Bernice Houseward, Craig Smith, James Baar, Willard Grimes, Al Post, Ken Prins, Ken Helms, Bob De Boer, Bob Steen, Ken De Boer, Alice De Ritter, Ruth Smith. **Row 5:** Marcia Heerema, Nancy Decker, Carol Wynbeek, George Heerema, Herman Schoonejongen, Richard Schaafsma, Ray Cooper, Robert Van der Molen, Dean Wiegers, Al Lindemulder, Bill De Leeuw, Dave Struck, Joyce Fylstra, Madelyn Postma. **Row 6:** Hans Van Helden, Dave Jellema, Richard Vermaas, Peter Jeffer, ?, Jack Van der Ploeg, John Brandes, Glen Sweerus, Phil Touw, Ken Oosting, Bob Schaddelee, Dave Woudenberg, Mark Lucas, Bob Van Hoff, Floyd Josten, Ralph Grimes. Thank you to **Ruth (Smith) Choka** for identifying her classmates.

information, contact **Carl Hoogerhyde, Doris (Hall) Kuiken** or **Betty (Malefyt) Almroth**.

CLASS OF 1953

Class Rep: Phyllis (De Ruiter) Schuurman
54 Park Ave, Garfield, NJ 07026-1431
E-Mail: rschuur435@cs.com

Grace (Malda) VerStrate's husband Tom passed away in August 2004 in Colorado after battling pancreatic cancer for about two months. **Tom VerStrate** was a former teacher at Eastern Christian, and also taught at Denver Christian and in the Denver Public Schools for a total of 42 years.

CLASS OF 1954

Class Rep: Larry Hoogerhyde
5845 Leisure South Dr SE, Kentwood, MI 49548
E-Mail: larryh@altelco.net

Eunice (Meyers) Broersma submitted the following reunion report: "On October 21, 2004, the 1954 graduating class, (the last class to attend EA), held its 50th reunion at Mark's Village Inn, Wayne, NJ. One word can describe the entire evening – WONDERFUL! Getting re-acquainted after 40 or 50 years with our former classmates, reminiscing about the teachers, our classes,

some hilarious antics of the fellas and just enjoying each other in a relaxed Christian atmosphere was a pleasure. We were also pleased to have one of our class sponsors, **Mr. Milo Okkema**, as our special guest. Since this evening was so successful, we are looking forward to our 55th in 2009!"

CLASS OF 1955

Class Rep: Elsie (Schwier) Golden
265 Monroe St, Wyckoff NJ 07481
E-mail: eljongolden@aol.com

The Class of '55 is in the beginning stages of planning a reunion for next year. Contact Class Rep **Elsie (Schwier) Golden** with your input. An informational letter will be sent to classmates in the near future.

CLASS OF 1964

Class Rep: Ruth Smith Choka
4804 Tudor Dr, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444-1126
E-Mail: Rchoka@aol.com

Thank you to **Ruth Choka** for agreeing to be the Class Rep for the Class of 1964. She submitted the following: "The class of 1964 enjoyed their mini reunion on September 25, 2004 in the high school as part of 'Dining with Classmates.' Attending were **Ralph Grimes** from Maine, his brother **Willard Grimes** from



"DINING WITH CLASSMATES" – CLASS OF 1964

Pictured (L to R): **Seated:** Sadie (Schilstra) Bakker, Marjorie (Sytsma) Faber, Ruth (Smith) Choka, Nancy (Decker) Van Beveren; **Standing:** Mark Lucas, Peter Jeffer, Glenn Sweerus, Ralph Grimes, Willard Grimes

Iowa, **Sadie (Schilstra) Bakker** from Canada and from the local area, **Peter Jeffer, Glenn Sweerus, Mark Lucas, Nancy (Decker) Van Beveren, Margie (Sytsma) Faber, and Ruth (Smith) Choka**. We all enjoyed remembering our Washington Trip (Ralph couldn't stop talking about it). We also wondered about our classmates that didn't attend and hope that more

continued on page 20

Alumni Birth Announcements

Congratulations to these EC alumni who have recently welcomed a new member to their family!

CLASS OF 1984 – Grace and **Tom Krug**, a daughter, Deborah Grace on 6/15/04. She joins Angela, Emily, Jennifer, Kimberly and Billy.

CLASS OF 1987 – Mary and **Steve Fridsma**, a daughter, Jordan Scout on 2/28/04

CLASS OF 1988 – Jay and **Holly (Goranson) Adair**, a daughter, Megan Sage on 6/25/04. She joins big sister Carlie.

CLASS OF 1989 – Kevin and **Kristen Chaparian-Cross**, a son, Teddy Russell on 7/14/04. Teddy joins big brother Charlie (2).

CLASS OF 1991 – Mark and Pam (Smid '90) **Reitsma**, a daughter, Anneke Maartje on 7/9/04.

Alumni are encouraged to submit birth announcements by e-mail or letter to: Editor, The Herald.

will be at the next reunion. The Class of '64 was the last to leave the 'Dining with Friends' dessert tent. The chairs were being folded and put away and we were still talking. We could have talked all night! Even though we graduated 40 years ago, many of our memories seemed like yesterday. What a great four years we had in ECHS!"

CLASS OF 1966

Class Rep: Case De Haan

243 Browning Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208-1022
E-Mail: nddehaan@aol.com

Joyce (Schuurman) Mulleedy has been selected as a 2004 New York State "Woman of Distinction." According to a local newspaper article, "This program was created in 1998 to honor New York women who exemplify personal excellence; or whose professional achievements or acts of courage, selflessness, integrity or perseverance serve as an example to all New Yorkers." The article also stated, "An R.N. and certified emergency medical technician, Joyce is the educational services coordinator for Adirondack-Appalachian Regional Emergency Medical Services. She is responsible for educating many emergency medical services providers and instructors in the area. In addition to her professional service, Joyce has been a volunteer for Speculator Volunteer Ambulance Corps for the past 32 years, holding numerous officer positions. Joyce is currently studying for a master's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management." Congratulations, Joyce!

CLASS OF 1967

Class Rep: Georgia (Faber) Meeter

3179 Co Rte 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326-4314
E-Mail: gmeeter@hotmail.com

Rick Pennings, former Deputy Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, was recently honored at a luncheon sponsored by the Great Lakes Capitol Fund Partners and Awards for Service of Excellence Rendered. While at the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for over 30 years, Rick was instrumental in initiating many programs. He is a Calvin College graduate and has an MA and a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University.

CLASS OF 1968

Class Rep: Pat (Borduin) Steiging

11 East Prospect St, Hawthorne, NJ 07506-3758
E-Mail: meamama71@aol.com

Note to all 1968 grads: A 1968 Eastern Christian class ring was found in the Wilmington, DE area several years ago. If you think this ring could be yours, please contact EC's Development Office.

Glenn Mesaros e-mailed the Development Office. He indicated that he was going to be in the NJ/NY area to visit historical sites like Paterson's Lambert Castle to do research in connection with S.U.M., the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures. Glenn lives in Minnesota.

Ron Van Der Weert e-mailed that he and his wife Linda are in the process of moving. He will be living in Bradenton, FL and will be the pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church starting in October.

CLASS OF 1969

Class Rep: Jacalyn (Borduin) Faber

47 Roe St, Haledon, NJ 07508-1536

Carl Steenstra and his wife Cynthia live in Grafton, WV. He writes, "In West Virginia you can still buy a nice house for \$50,000, property taxes run about \$500 a year, and the only terrorist is a mean dog that lives down the street. It's a great safe place to live and retire. If you want to get out of the rat race of life, write me (address available from EC's Development Office) and I will be glad to send you information on West Virginia."

CLASS OF 1972

Class Rep Needed

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Rick De Jong** who passed away in July. Rick was a self-employed steel contractor for many years and a member of Midland Park Christian Reformed Church.

CLASS OF 1973

Class Rep Needed

Jessie Mygatt answered our "Christian Education Survey," stating, "I am thankful to God for it and for the friends I still treasure as a result of my time at ECHS."

CLASS OF 1974

Class Rep: Betsy (Leesman) Ertmann

2 Erol Ct, Allendale, NJ 07401
E-Mail: ertmannbal@aol.com

Reunion Contact: Karen (Veenstra) Nelson

96 N 14th St Prospect Park, NJ 07508-1910
E-Mail: beechcrazi@aol.com

Karen Nelson reported on the Class of '74's gathering at "Dining with Classmates" by sharing, "Despite a small turnout, we had a good time. The intimacy of the group allowed everyone to talk with all and maybe even remember what information we gathered!! As a group we agreed that it is not necessary to have the expense of a big restaurant production to have a good time and hopefully that word will spread."



"DINING WITH CLASSMATES" – CLASS OF 1974

Pictured (L to R): Seated: Jill (Schuurman) Malefy, Tim Malefy, Victoria Van Den Berg; Standing: Barbara (Sankey) De Leeuw, Karen (Veenstra) Nelson, Carol (Dykstra) Rivera, Gail Sisco, Cathy (Soodma) Lagerveld

CLASS OF 1975

Class Rep: Carol (Meetsma) Elices

27 Bellevue Rd, Arlington, MA 02476-7919
E-Mail: carmarel@earthlink.net

Wayne Berliner happened to see an old issue of *The Herald* online and noticed his name on a listing of "Lost" EC alumni. He e-mailed to say "Here I am!" Wayne currently lives in Oakland, NJ.

Antique dealer **Susan Oostdyk** was recently featured in *Country Home* magazine. According to the article, "Susan, surrounded by nubby linen, classic ticking, and homespun Alsatian plaids and checks will gladly tell you the history of the fabrics and suggest ideas for using them – in English or French. It was her desire

to speak French that led her to this second career as an antiques dealer specializing in high-end French textiles and linens."

CLASS OF 1982

Class Rep: Patricia (Elzinga) Moschella
3 Mountain Ave, Byram, NJ 07874-3237
E-mail: moschella@juno.com

Alison (Tanis) Hill e-mailed to say, "I just received my Herald. I get such a kick out of reading about Eastern Christian; it always brings back the best of memories. I live in Texas now and have two daughters Cathy Jo (7) and Jessica (4). Cathy attends a public school and it will never compare to the education I received at EC. My husband Eric and I attend the First Baptist Church in Ferris, which is currently in search of a minister. Any recommendations are welcome. If anyone from the class of '82 wants to keep in touch, please do so. See ya 'll at the next reunion!"

CLASS OF 1984

Reunion Rep: Cheryl (Mabie) Bereksazi
Phone: 973-427-5767

Classmates: Reserve **Friday, Feb. 18, 2005** as our 20th Reunion date! We will get together at The Brownstone, Paterson. You should have received information in the mail. If you need more information, call Cheryl.

CLASS OF 1986

Class Rep Needed

Thanks to **Karen (Junta) Van Grouw** who is "retiring" after serving as Class Rep over the years. If any classmates are willing to take on the job of Class Rep, please contact the Development Office. (973-427-9294 or development@easternchristian.org)

CLASS OF 1987

Class Rep: Laura (Faber-Struyk) Terrizzi
40 Sicomac Rd, Hawthorne, NJ 07506-3032

Steve Fridsma, a classmate who left EC in 1985, is a project architect with the Worship Environments Studio at Progressive AE in Grand Rapids, MI. Steve is focusing his design efforts on new types of worship and ministry spaces for the emerging church. He recently earned LEED certification for environmental and sustainable design.

CLASS OF 1989

Class Rep: Laura (Braunius) Stokes
506 Hollywood Ave, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423-1129
Laura (Veenstra) Steenstra reports about the class reunion: "The Class of 1989 held an informal 15-

year reunion picnic on Saturday, August 28th at EC's Middle School. Due to vacations and many out-of-state alumni, only a few class members attended. It was fun catching up with those who were able to be there. Thank you to those who mailed in pictures - it was great to get an update even though you couldn't be there in person."

CLASS OF 1991

Class Rep: Susanne (Balkema) Wynbeek
454 Manchester Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07506
Mark Reitsma recently attained the nationally recognized CFP or (Certified Financial Planner certification) as well as the designation of CMDX or Chartered Mutual Fund Counselor. He shared, "I have been operating a financial planning practice with Waddell & Reed for the last three years and currently have an office in Midland Park." (See also Alumni Births)

CLASS OF 1992

Class Rep Needed

Thanks to **Michelle (Huizing) Boonstra** for serving as Class Rep over the years. Since she is now "retiring" from this job, other classmates are encouraged to consider taking this job. Please contact the Development Office if you are interested.

CLASS OF 1995

Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed
100 Pierson Miller Dr Unit E-24, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1050
E-Mail: ejh810@optonline.net

Reunion contact **Liz Hoogmoed** reports, "We will be having our 10-year reunion at Portobello's Restaurant, Oakland, NJ. It will be (next year) Saturday, November 26, 2005. We will hopefully come out with a mailing soon to update class members."

CLASS OF 1996

Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky
89 Struyk Ave, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-2252
E-Mail: Lapinsky@msn.com
Ted and Debbie (Lodema) Rappold were married September 25, 2004 in North Haledon, NJ. Debbie is working as a social worker in a partial hospitalization program. They reside in West Milford, NJ.



Stephanie (Micchelli) Caravella writes, "I have some alumni news! I got married in May 2003 to Tony Caravella. I am living in West Milford, NJ. I am the front office manager in an OBGYN office. I recently became a certified massage therapist this past June."

CLASS OF 1997

Class Rep: James Pyrich
Home Page: www.97cc.com

Lori Spyckaboer announced her engagement to Emanuele (Manny) Intorrella. She writes, "Our wedding is planned for September 9, 2005. I am currently working as a Medical Assistant in Ridgewood."

CLASS OF 1998

Class Rep: Sandi King Chiera
15 E Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064
E-Mail: chiera0022@aol.com

After graduating from Kean University, NJ with a degree in Meteorology, **Todd Klaassen** worked as a weather producer for the *Early Show* on CBS TV in New York City. In August he accepted a position at WSYM (Channel 47) in Lansing, Michigan as the on-camera meteorologist for their 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. broadcasts.



CLASS OF 1999

Class Rep: Jennifer (Van Der Heide) Rysdam
1111 Golfcrest Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509
E-Mail: Jteach19@aol.com

Carol (Burnham) Steyling sent an update on her son, **Tom Giacchetti**. "Tom is serving his fifth year in the United States Air Force, and was recently promoted to Staff Sergeant! He has been married for almost 2 years to Racheal. **Mike Poremba** and **Justin Guzman**, and **Matt Rohner** ('00) all made the trip out to Missouri for the wedding! Tom is stationed at Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, NC, but he is currently deployed to Iraq. This is his third deployment to the Middle East. He loves his job, but has had enough of the sand! Tom is the network administrator for the Initial Communications Element, (the ICE Team) a special

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communications squadron." Contact the Development Office to get in touch with Tom or his mom, Carol.

Class Rep Jennifer (Vander Heide) Rysdam e-mailed that she was married to husband Andy on June 26. She is in her second year of teaching 4th Grade at Calvin Christian Elementary School and is living in Wyoming, MI.

CLASS OF 2000

Class Rep Needed

Joshua De Jong has been inducted into the Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society, which recognizes excellence in engineering technologies studies.

Julie Heerema graduated in May from Calvin College with a BS in Communication Disorders.

She plans to continue her studies at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland for two years to obtain certification in Speech Pathology.

Janelle Klaassen graduated from Calvin College in May 2004 with a BS degree in Nursing. She accepted a position on the Pediatric unit of Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut.

Kate Sonderfan graduated *magna cum laude* from Ramapo College this summer with a double major in Political Science and Law & Society. Her Ramapo education included several internships, one of which was in Congresswoman Marge Roukema's local office, another with Presidential Classroom in Washington, D.C. Kate has now accepted a position as a clerk with the Maryland District Court system and has moved to Annapolis, MD.

CLASS OF 2002

Class Reps:

Peter Russo

7 Knolls Rd, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403-1511

E-Mail: Pete779@hotmail.com

Joshua Castano

E-Mail: Joshua.castano@oberlin.edu

Kassandra Haropolous who left EC in 2001 wrote, "I did not graduate, but enjoyed my years at EC and I would like to keep in contact with my peers."

Editor's Note: Classmates who attended but didn't graduate from ECHS are still considered EC alumni. You are welcome to contact us to be on The Herald mailing list and receive your online directory password.

Alumni News – Exploring EC's Roots

The roots of Eastern Christian School and how it has grown and developed is a familiar topic for many alumni, but this history is increasingly unknown to many of our current families and recent graduates. Therefore, we share this 1947 reprint from a National Union of Christian Schools' publication, *Welcome to the East*. Part IV of this recurring column focuses on Riverside Christian School, one of the schools that was eventually consolidated into the Eastern Christian School Association.

The Riverside Christian School – 146 Third Ave., Paterson, NJ

The Riverside Christian School is the second oldest of our Eastern Christian Schools. Organization took place back in 1899 in conjunction with the present North Fourth St. School Society. In 1905, however, it was felt best for all concerned to work independently of each other. School was first held in the basement of the old Fourth Chr. Reformed Church. Already in 1901 the present building on Third Ave. was erected and has been in continuous use since

then. Among the past men and women in charge of Riverside are found the following: Mr. G. Bos, Miss S. Van Vlaanderen, Miss J. Spoelhof, C. De Ruisher, S. Keizer, Dr. C. R. Jaarsma, and R. Hommes. The Fourth Christian Reformed Church has been the main support of the school throughout these many years. At present the Madison Ave. Chr. Ref. Church and the East Paterson Orthodox Presbyterian Church are also giving active support to it. At one time the enrollment of the school was up to 175. Then, however, many children came in from the vicinity of Midland Park, when they as yet had no school of their own.

Our present enrollment is 95 but by fall we expect to go well over the 100 mark. Our present teaching staff consists of Mr. G. Dykstra, the Principal; Mrs. G. Huizenga and Miss C. Pontier.



Riverside Christian School graduates, June 1934: Row 1 (L to R): Florence Dyer, Ruth Spikeboer, Mr. Hommes, Anna Mae Kole, Emma Kuiken; Row 2: Bill Postma, Richard Post, Ed Slump, Bob Jurgensen, Chris Sikkema, John Dykstra.

The fourth teacher is being sought. The Board of Directors consists of twelve men representing the three contributing churches. Mr. John Greydanus, one of the first graduates of our school is the present president. Full fledged financial and moral support is given the school by the Riverside-Fair Lawn communities. A very active group within our circles is the Willing Workers Society. These mothers and friends of the school do much to keep the institution in good shape.

Our school building is rapidly showing signs of deterioration. A new, modern edifice is needed. The supporters are aware of this also and are consequently getting a new building fund started.

Does Riverside have a future? Yes, friends, by God's grace, it does. **Our people know that this is God's work in which they are engaged and are therefore also willing to sacrifice for it.** The enrollment is increasing, interest is increasing. The conscious need for Christian instruction is spreading into homes and churches outside our Reformed sphere. This creates not only a problem for our group but also a challenge. *Shall we turn down those desiring to give to their children a Christian education or shall we cautiously, carefully, and prayerfully take them under our wing and instruct them in the way of life and truth?*



Designated Gifts

JUNE 30, 2004 – OCTOBER 15, 2004

Gifts received after October 15, 2004 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 196 gifts were received or pledged in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount of these gifts in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$101,118.23. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

ENDOWMENT FUND

~In Memory Of~

John Belanus

Edith Belanus

Aladdin (Larry) Brandes

Rev. Harry & Kathryn Arnold

Margaret De Nooy

Chester H. Broersma

Bernard Houseward

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Bernie & Helen Joustra

Grace Roskam

Walter & Deborah Donkersloot

Ed & Wilma Kohere

Genevieve Douma

Phyllis & Michael Becker

The Carlson & Lewis Families – Harriet, David,

Ann Carlson Lewis, Chris, & Melanie

The Reed Family

Renee & Charles Mondello

Township of Wyckoff Employees

Dan & Bea Minkema

John & Eleanor Kooreman

Frank & Millie Miller

Ray & Jule Martin

Geraldine Monsma

Garret & Carolyn Vermaas

Timothy & Denise De Vries

Agnes & John Kuiken

Alice & Clarence Baker

John & Barbara Belanus

Senator & Mrs. Henry P. McNamara

James & Ruth Woudenberg

Robert & Mary Magnus

Tuesday Night Canasta Club

Barbara Abney Bolger & Donald Barley

Doris & John Van Hoven

Ron & Nancy Sietsma

Jewel Belanus Snyder

Braen Stone Industries, Inc.

Friends at Pearson Education Customer Service

John & Brenda Myer

John & Janet Koningswood

Jim & Lois Belle

Marjorie De Jong

Edwin & Ruth Kroon

Jim & Cindy Mierop

Neil & Shelley Booth

Laura & David Wiseman & Family

Corner Closet Volunteers

Gladys Van Goor

John & Donna Douma

Midland Park CRC Sr. Crusaders

Richard Douglas De Jong

Marjorie De Jong

Nicholas Flaming

Linda Johnson

Walter Hoogmoed

Bernard Houseward

Albert Johnson

Linda Johnson

Charles George Krumm

John & Gladys Zuidema

John R. Meyer

Jennie K. Meye

Henry Nienhouse

Bernie & Helen Joustra

June & Ernie Nienhouse

Art & Jeanette Knyfd

Charles & Hilda Borduin

Al & Kay Algera

Don & Sinead Van Huizen

Ruth & Jim Aupperlee

Beverly Toerock

Henry & Carolyn Joustra

Ralph Nienhouse

Howard Steenstra

Carl & Cynthia Steenstra

Katherine Youngsman Steenstra

Betty & Jim Youngsman

Ruth Spikeboer

Anthony Thomas

Edna Thomas

John Van De Weert, Sr.

Toni Steenstra

Trudy Lier

Bill & Jessie Martin

Kenneth & Susan Miller

John Van Dyk

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Vander Plaats

John & Kathleen Veenstra

Miles & Ann Kuperus

Florence & Charles Sanders

Jeanette Van Dyke

Bill & Judy Van Dyke

Clara Van Lenten

John W. & Judith E. Van Dyke

Sandra Ann Veenema

Fogeline A. Veenema

James Veenstra

Kathy & Allan Jeltema

Katherine Veenstra

Margaret Schaaf Weigel

Henry & Trudy Atema

Betty & Jack Vander Plaats

Don & Joan De Bruin

Eleanor Snyder

Harry Weigel

Bill & Jo Peters

Carrie Schaaf

Jessie Brandes

Ada Pontier

Kevin & Donna Hoogerhyde

John & Elizabeth Schaaf

Ted & Nancy Faber

Jim & Sally Brandes

continued on page 24

DESIGNATED GIFTS *continued from page 23*

~In Honor Of~

Robert & Mary Ann Bakker
(50th Wedding Anniversary)

Kathy & Ed Gorter
Mel & Marilyn Veenema
Emma Schuil

Clarence Belanus
(80th Birthday)
Ken & Ruth Tanis

Sidney Bruins
(80th Birthday)
Rin & Dot Woudenberg
Adeline Leo

William R. Cook
(70th Birthday)
Ken & Ruth Tanis
Doris & Jake Kuiken
Bern & Marion Memmelaar
Milly & Garry Link
John & Kay Drukker

Kay Drukker
(70th Birthday)
Ray & Jule Martin
Len & Betty Dykman

Doris Dyk
(70th Birthday)
Gertrude & John Borst

Garry & Anna Mae Dykstra
(55th Wedding Anniversary)
Genevieve Douma

Charles E. Fisher
(80th Birthday)
Toni Steenstra

Frank Fisher
(88th Birthday)
Dennis & Lois Fisher
Joel & Jill Fisher
Kristin & John Sellers
Fisher, Holland & Ryder Sellers

Edward & Edith Fylstra
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
Jack & Doris Kuiphoff

Katherine Hall
(104th Birthday)
Doris & Jake Kuiken
Jim & Amy Kuiken & Family
David & Karen Troast & Family
Kim & Keith Torrens & Family
Harriet & Marvin Abma
Marion Walter
William & Charlene Cook

Kenneth & Dorla Hiemstra
(70th Birthdays)
Nicholas & Irene Groenewal

Adrianna Hoogerhyde
(103rd Birthday)
Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.

Henry Joustra
(70th Birthday)
Corene De Graaf

Barbara Kuipers
(Birthday)
Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.

Jack Kuiphoff
(80th Birthday)
Beth & John Milkamp
Betty & Jim Youngsman

Ray & Julia Martin
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Stanley & Barbara Vander Klay

Richard W. Pennings
(Humanitarian Award)
Margaret Pennings

Ada Marie Pontier
(80th Birthday)
William & Marcia Heerema

Garret Rozema
(80th Birthday)
Cornelia Hagedorn
Paul & Bert De Blaey
Clarence & Ruth Knyfd

Louise Schoonejongen
(95th Birthday)
Diena Unrath
John & Wilma Minnema
Marie & Elsie Wispelwey

Abe & Adele Schwier
(62nd Wedding Anniversary)
Harriet & Marv Abma
Grace Roukema De Boer

Jean Soodsma
(80th Birthday)
Edward & Wilma Kohere
Bill & Lisa Soodsma
Peter & Bev Ten Kate
Randy & Deb Veenstra
Ken & Cathy Lagerveld

Leonard Sytsma
(80th Birthday)
Wilma & Richard Tuit

Kenneth J. Tanis
(80th Birthday)
Al & Janet Visbeen

Alida Van Valkenburgh
(80th Birthday)
Gladys Tuit
Alice Borduin

Charles & Hilda Borduin
Mildred Lee
Helen & Barb Halma
Jack & Annamae Hulsebos
Bernie & Helen Joustra

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Glenn & Nancy Van Heemst
Nick, Joel & Kym Van Heemst
Gay & Bob Kramm
Bobby, Mike & Jeff Kramm

Johanna Vermeulen
(90th Birthday)
Rev. Marvin & Trena Meeter
Carol Hartog

Kenneth J. Vogel
(80th Birthday)
Garry & Net Rozema
Raeann & Garry Dykhouse

John & Doris Walkotten
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Vander Plaat

Robert & Geraldine Westra
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Robert & Charlene Westra
Martha Witte

Audrey Wispelwey
(80th Birthday)
Elsie & Marie Wispelwey

Andy & Sue Ann Woudenberg
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
John & Kay Drukker

~Direct Gifts~

Cedar Hill CRC
Estate of Marinus Ten Hoeve
Estate of Peter Roukema

**RESTRICTED
ENDOWMENT FUND**

~In Memory Of~

Peter DeKorte
(Mephiosheth Scholarship Fund)

Fellowship Homes Inc.

Elise Kathleen Gorter
(Elise Kathleen Gorter Scholarship Fund)
Carolyn & Ken Vander Wall
Henry & Trudy Atema
The Malnati Family - Francis,
Deborah, Sean, Ken, & Eric
Gerald & Janyce Bandstra

Keith & Betty Davis
Marilyn & Donald Sporn
Jeffrey & Karen Smith –
Connor, Alicia, Zachary & Parker
Bill & Lisa Soodsma & Family
Elsie & John Golden

ANNUAL FUND

~In Memory Of~

Jeanette Belanus De Jong
Susan & Kenneth Dyer

Warren & Jennie Westdyke
Naomi Westdyke

~In Honor Of~

Gilbert P. Kitchen
(*Leadership of EC*)
John & Faye Dyksen
Ellen Terpstra
William & Jean Zuidema
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Lont
William & Marcia Heerema
Henry & Lois Schuurman

Kenneth J. Vogel
(*80th Birthday*)
Gordon & Shirley Kuipers

John & Doris Walkotten
(*60th Wedding Anniversary*)
Audrey Wispelwey

THE CAMPAIGN FOR EASTERN CHRISTIAN:

Phase II: Gym Construction & Beyond

~In Honor Of~

Janet & Al Visbeen
(*Dedication to EC*)
Kathy & Ed Gorter

Kenneth J. Vogel
(*80th Birthday*)
Thomas & Linda Dykhous.

NOTE: Please mail all endowment, memorial and honor gifts to the attention of the Development Office. Each gift (not the amount) is acknowledged to the appropriate family or individual. The donor also receives an acknowledgment letter. Gifts to the Fund are eligible for matching gifts from companies with a matching gift program.

Planning for EC Class Reunions

Over the 2004 calendar year, several classes met together to renew acquaintances and reminisce. You have read about the fun times classmates have had. As a new year approaches, it is time for a new group of classmates to determine if there will be a reunion, informal gathering, etc. for their class. If a formal reunion is not possible, keep in mind that you could be part of a mini-reunion called “*Dining with Classmates*” to be held at next year’s “*Dining with Friends*” event at the end of September, 2005. This is a simple gathering for dinner in the High School cafeteria. (*Editor’s Note: Read more in the Alumni News—Class of 44, 64 and 74*) Seating would be with your class for dinner, and dessert is part of this annual fundraising event as well as a tour of the school. If you are a member of one of the classes listed below, contact the EC Development Office or your Class Rep and see what you can put together!

1935 – 70 years

1940 – 65 years

1945 – 60 years

1950 – 55 years Reunion Planned

1955 – 50 years Reunion Planned

1960 – 45 years

1965 – 40 years

1970 – 35 years

1975 – 30 years

1980 – 25 years

1985 – 20 years

1990 – 15 years

1995 – 10 years Reunion Planned

Update on Class Reps

YEARS ENDING IN “0” AND “5”

CLASS OF 1950

Reunion Contact: Carl Hoogerhyde
E-Mail: carlhoogerhydej@msn.com

CLASS OF 1955

Class Rep: Elsie (Schwier) Golden
265 Monroe St, Wyckoff, NJ 07481

CLASS OF 1960

Class Rep: Joyce (Anema) Streelman
8 Courter Rd, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
E-mail: pnjoyce@optonline.net

CLASS OF 1970

Class Rep: Nancy (Leesman) Eardley
1441 Sandy Point Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-9725
E-Mail: nanceyardley@attbi.com

CLASS OF 1975

Class Rep: Carol (Meetsma) Elices
27 Bellevue Rd, Arlington, MA 02476
E-Mail: carmarel@earthlink.net

CLASS OF 1980

Class Rep: Bill Vander Meulen
11 Hillock Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506-3441

CLASS OF 1985

Class Rep: Laura (Golden) Gorter
112 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508-2400

CLASS OF 1990

Class Rep: Julie (Frens) Stinton
2634 Almont Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3908
E-Mail: STINTMJ726@aol.com

CLASS OF 1995

Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed
100 Pierson Miller Dr Unit E-24, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1050
E-Mail: ejh810@optonline.net

The Classes with graduation years ending with “0” or “5” that are not listed below do not currently have a Class Representative or Reunion Contact. Please contact the Development Office if you are interested in serving as a representative or a reunion contact for your class.