



SPRING 2002

# THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



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*“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.” – 2 Corinthians 5:16-20a*

# United in Modeling God’s Grace

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN | ECES PRINCIPAL

Sometimes when I look in the mirror I am shocked that I see my father before I see myself. Other times my wife tells me that I sound like my father. I remember when I was a teen resolving not to be like my father, thinking I had the power to become whomever I wanted to be. Now, looking at my three adult children, I see some of my own shortcomings in them. It’s scary!

## RECOGNIZING FOUR INFLUENCES

It certainly is sobering to realize that we are a sum of powerful influences from the past. Praise God that in His wisdom, He has elected us to participate in His divine nature. Nevertheless, on this side of heaven, each of us struggles with the other influences that have shaped character traits. Consequently, as parents and educators, we recognize the powerful influence that **family, church, school, and culture** have on our own children in shaping their character. These four key influences on our children have in common the concept of modeling. Children watch adults and peers closely, and then imitate behavior modeled for them. Because we know that children love to imitate adults, what a responsibility we have to genuinely model Godly character traits of mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation!

## COUNTERING CULTURE’S INFLUENCE

Would you agree that, despite our best efforts at influencing our children at home, at church, and at school, culture is a powerful fourth influence on our children? In fact, sometimes it seems that our materialistic “me first” culture at least temporarily trumps the other three influences. So what can we do?

The good news is that there is no stronger influence on children than their parents’ influence. Furthermore, when parents team with church and school to communicate a Christian worldview, secular cultural influences ultimately lose much of their power. But let’s also recognize that the pulls of materialism and selfishness perpetuated by our culture quite naturally appeal to our sinful nature. Sometimes we find it is just easier to choose the influences of popular culture.

If modeling is a powerful teaching tool, but we know we are affected by our own sins and inconsistencies, is our

potential for influence lost? No, but we should not try to model perfection, because our children will eventually see through our hypocrisy. Instead, as Christians **we are called to model grace—the overpowering influence of Christ-centered unconditional love, which offers forgiveness and reconciliation.** When we ask for and offer forgiveness, and when we seek to be reconciled to God and our fellow believers, we live out the life-changing power of the Gospel. (*Reread the verse above*)

As educators and parents, we do great harm if we communicate that conformity to an implied religious perfection in word and deed is the goal of one’s life. That message will make the pull of our culture so much more attractive to our young people, because the false message of our culture promises freedom from confining morality and restrictive rules. Our children, seeing in us the impossibility of attaining perfection, will become vulnerable to the glossy images of material and physical pleasures portrayed in our media and our entertainment.

## BEING “SALT AND LIGHT”

What chance do we have against the powerful and attractive lies of our culture, which our children see daily? Authentically living as “salt and light” can make the difference. Being “light” for our children in a dark world that is inundated with hatred, bitterness, resentment and retaliation means being prepared to

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*After School Care children join Teacher Wendy Post and Aide Jen Faasse for a group photo before plunging into their special spring activities. (See article in this issue)*





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Beth Milkamp

**DESIGN**

Yellow House Graphic Design

David & Laura Luyendyk

www.yellowhousedesign.com

**PRINTER**

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**ABOUT THE COVER**

**Diverse In Culture** Pictured are some of this year's High School students recreating a 1955 photo of the 1st students to walk into the High School building. The student population is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, with approximately 18% of the EC student population coming from Asian, African-American, and Hispanic backgrounds. Many students enter EC for the first time at the high school level, but others have attended EC since their preschool or elementary school years. We hope you enjoy the articles featuring our unity and our diversity in this issue.

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# How & Why International Students Come to EC

BY JANYCE BANDSTRA | ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

**A LITTLE BACKGROUND:** In September 1997 Grace (Eun-Hae) Kim began Eastern Christian High School as a sophomore. She lived with EC English teacher, Jane Okma and her family and quickly became acclimated to life in New Jersey. Although other international students may have attended EC before 1997, Grace was the first student admitted within the current Federal government regulations. (See also the related article.)



Grace Kim with Michelle and Peter Okma enjoying Korean cotton candy.

**HOW DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BECOME EC STUDENTS?** Each year since 1997 we have added more international students to our EC community. A few agencies placing international student in the U.S. work with us, including EDU-LINK. Other parents have discovered us via our web site. Recently, one Korean mother e-mailed us, stating: “As I have carefully considered my children studying in the USA for a long time, I have now made a final decision to let them go to the USA in preparation for their university or other high-level studies in their interest field.” So far, almost all of our international students are from Korea. Many come to the U.S. with little English-speaking ability, and they live with family friends or relatives. Sometimes the student’s mother lives in the United States while the father goes back to Korea. A few board with Eastern Christian teachers or families, who serve as host families.

## WHY DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COME TO EASTERN CHRISTIAN?

**1** Eastern Christian has been approved by the U.S Department of Justice to issue a “Certificate of Eligibility,” which gives an international family the paperwork necessary to apply for a visa. (In order to study in the United States, international students must receive a visa.) ECHS Principal Jan Lucas worked with Congresswoman Marge Roukema in order to get the necessary approval for our school. **2** Many Christians in South Korea come from the Presbyterian and Methodist traditions. They are seeking a quality, Christian education for their children. They want their children to grow in their faith. **3** English is the language of business, and one of the best places to learn English is in U.S. schools. Knowing the English language well is an important asset in preparing for a career within our global economy, especially since English is also the language of computers.

## Grace’s Host Reminisces

BY JANE OKMA | ECHS TEACHER

It has been almost five years since I first met the young woman who has since become a friend/daughter/sister to me. EunHae Grace Kim pulled into New Jersey in August of 1997. Although we have shared numerous experiences, a few stand out in my mind:

### 1. MY CHILDREN’S RESPONSE TO A NEW PERSON IN THE HOUSE

–My son Peter was 8 and my daughter Michelle was 6 when Grace moved in. When asked by their teacher to write a journal entry about what was happening in their lives, my daughter said: “I have a new sister.” My son was a bit more blunt: “There is a girl at our house.” Michelle and Grace continue to be like sisters. The love and respect they have for each other enriches both their lives.

### 2. SEARCHING FOR A COLLEGE

–Because Grace graduated from EC and wanted to attend an American music school, we became quite involved in the application and audition process. I gained a new respect for my friends who have gone through this complex process. I also feel like I have had a dress rehearsal for my children’s senior years!

### 3. MEETING GRACE’S MOM

–Because of visa complications, Grace’s mother had not come to the US for several years, and I had never met the woman with whom I “shared” a daughter. So, in December 2000 we went to Pusan, Korea to spend Christmas with Grace’s family. Her mother Suki and I just embraced at first. Then we cried. We had an immediate bond. I have incredible respect for her as a mother, and she is grateful to our family for the love we share with Grace.

UNITED continued from Inside Front Cover



ECES Physical Education teacher Debi Veenstra uses “parachute games” to emphasize cooperative physical fitness with her students.

repent and receive forgiveness, as well as to offer forgiveness in all our relationships. But we also have to confront evil by actively addressing the decay of moral values in our culture. This means we have to initiate conversations with our children about TV and magazine advertisements, music lyrics and a host of other images our children experience daily. Being “salt” means that Moms and Dads, as well as teachers, should initiate conversations about the lies of culture and the truth of God’s Word. If we desire for our children to “soar like eagles,” we have to teach them to see that staying on the ground with the “turkeys” may look promising, but it can’t compare to spreading the wings of faith and seeking heaven.

Our faith is in our perfect Savior, not in our perfect actions. When we model an authentic hope in God, our children will not settle for the lies of our culture which promise everything, but deliver death. Then, no sitcom, or the best beer commercials, or even the coolest pop star will stand a chance at being a winning influence over our children.

STUDENT VIEWPOINT *continued from page 3*

We also asked our ECHS international students for a glimpse into their experience at EC. This exercise was a challenge for many who are still learning English, so we appreciate their willingness to share their insights. Their responses are published as written, with the understanding that our readers will understand what they are stating, in spite of the English grammar they are trying to master.

**Q** *What specific experiences have been memorable so far?*

**A** **Tae Eun Park** exclaimed, *"I remember when I got off the plane. I kept saying to myself, 'This is it. I finally came here.'...I was pretty much excited."* **Taehyung (Chris) Kim** stated, *"Going to Harvey Cedars [EC Convention] was great. I enjoyed so much at there and I want to have many favorite memories with friends later."* **Eun Bee (Sylvia) Cho** expressed her excitement about learning English: *"I've improved tremendously in the language. I made many friends, and I've been more social with the American kids."* **Joohee Park** admitted, *"I have faced that I have to be used to be American culture. I still do not understand why students say 'Hi' to their teachers instead of bowing."*

## Becoming Engaged in Culture

BY MANUELA LINDEMULDER  
ECHS FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER

Teaching foreign languages involves more than demonstrating grammatical mechanics of the language. However vital this instruction is, it cannot be taught apart from the culture of the people to whom it belongs. Words by themselves are functional yet empty if they lack an *engaging spirit*. I want my students to become engaged in the culture of the people and to use the language as a means to make that connection. This involves dispelling stereotypes, becoming receptive and most certainly leaving your personal comfort zone!

If I want to be a credible teacher, then it follows that I must *model* that behavior to my students. So, last April, we welcomed the opportunity to serve as a host family for a Korean exchange student, **JooHee Park**. It has definitely been a remarkable experience. We have learned so much about his culture and perspective on life. There are wonderful similarities and equally wonderful differences. We have grown from this experience, and so has he. But perhaps best of all is finding in each other a uniting bond of Christian love because we serve and love the same Savior.

**Q** *What classes in school do you enjoy?*

**A** **Ka-young Kim** enjoys Typing Class *"because Mr. Steen is kind and I recorded a new record (speed),"* and Bible class because *"watching Biblical video help me (easy to understand)."* Senior **Kevin Lee** listed Economics and Accounting because he likes *"learning things about money."* **Tae Eun Park** focused his response on the ESL class by saying, *"I feel like I'm back home. I think this class makes the bond among the Koreans so strongly."* For Faith-in-Action credit, **Jeeho (Brian) Kim** stated, *"I'm teaching Korean and some Japanese at my church, and taped the basketball games in EC."*

**Q** *How is life similar or different for you in the U.S.? What challenges have you faced?*

**A** Students mentioned the weather, the type of government system, the way people treat each other, and the fact that stress is a part of everyone's life as being the same in both countries. Life is different, in their eyes, especially in the foods we eat, the traditions, and, obviously, the use of the English language. **Ka-young Kim** stated, *"[In the U.S.] I can't move without car. Korea is a small country so many buildings crowd in town, so we can get something easily. In Korea, we walk but here is not. Also, Korean student go to school on Saturday, but here is not."* The major challenges listed were to master the English language and to make friends in America. **Taehyung (Chris) Kim** said: *"A challenge that I have face is only a language problem, but I will try more and more to speak English well."* Having lived here for 5 years, **Rafael Moon** concluded, *"The biggest challenge I had to face was to live away from my parents, but after a while I've learned to be more depended on my own abilities."*

UNITED *continued from page 3*

Of course, we know that parents are and should be the primary teachers in a child's life. Furthermore, it probably is true that parents teach more inadvertently than intentionally. Being a parent is a "24/7" job, making it virtually impossible to plan a curriculum like a school-teacher would. Certainly, parents are always teaching because children are always watching, listening, modeling, and imitating. Necessarily, then, it follows that it is important to examine what is being taught and whether our words are consistent with God's Word.

### SETTING THE HEART

Does this sound discouraging? It can be, if we forget that it is not about perfection, but rather about setting the heart. When a parent sets his/her heart on God's kingdom, asking God to rule in everything, something

supernatural happens. On the other hand, when we fail to put Him first, the natural world prevails despite our best efforts and, too late, we may find out that it is a matter of life and death for our children.

*"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."* – Luke 6:43-45

Much of scripture seems to be addressing the following question: Where's your heart? Jesus said it this way: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Luke records Jesus' words

# Diversity: An Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

BY ECHS PRINCIPAL | JAN LUCAS

One of my favorite assignments as building principal is to interview new students and teachers who wish to be part of our high school community. I am often amazed that even though I have no previous knowledge of the person who just walked into my office, after a short conversation I feel like I have met an old friend. I have observed that this experience of feeling connected to a stranger arises from sharing the significance of our mutual faith in Christ Jesus.

Occasionally in the past and much more frequently at present, this experience has been stretched to include interviews with students and teachers who are quite different from me. The connections that arise from our faith, however, continue to form even though we share some very different faith experiences. It is fascinating to see that the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as our center makes us authentic brothers and sisters without regard to differences in our color, nationality or ethnic backgrounds.

During an admissions interview, a board member and I marveled at a passionate prayer of thanksgiving spoken in Japanese by a father. The prayer was offered in deep appreciation for God's providence and joyful thanksgiving that his son was accepted for admission. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as his prayer was spoken, but an interpreter was needed to translate in order for us to understand the thoughts expressed. I marvel at the diversity that exists within the body of Christ and the faith nurture I receive through people who are so different from me.

With worship at the core of education here at Eastern Christian, it follows naturally that the increasingly diverse mix of cultures provides a wonderful opportunity for all of our students and faculty to learn more about The Creator of our world together. However, the visible impact often occurs in more practical ways. Allow me to offer an example from a recent experience in conflict resolution that involved a different culture's viewpoint:

A very serious conflict between two students resulted in a meeting with those students, their parents, and friends who had served as the instigators in this situation. After asking for God's help in healing broken relationships, I tried to direct the discussion by speaking in my principal's voice. I was interrupted by one of the parents who emphatically insisted that we work together to settle the problem right then and there! During the hour that followed, issues were confronted, perspectives were clarified, sincere apologies expressed, hugs were given in all directions (even to the administrators), and a solemn warning was given to the two students that we will never need to do this again! I left absolutely amazed by the process these parents' culture uses to respond to a significant issue. And, it all had transpired without my saying a word as principal. Here were parents working with us – although in a very different way – to direct students in the path of Christian behavior.

The addition of students from a variety of cultures expands the breadth of our vision of the Kingdom of God and provides lots of opportunities to learn from one another. What blessings are hidden in variety!

## Another Host Family Speaks:

The Avanzato family is another EC family that is hosting an international student this year. Father John Avanzato summarized the experience this way: *"It has been a pleasure having Rafael Moon with us. My wife Elizabeth said he adds 'flavor' to our*



Rafael Moon walking into ECHS.

*family. Daughters Tracey and Liz also enjoy his humor. He is well behaved and listens to instructions as well as criticism. He is very independent. He includes our son John in some of the things he does."* Son John, an EC sophomore, added: *"It has been fun and exciting having Rafael live with us. It took a little while getting used to him staying with us. I've been able to learn things from him, such as cultural differences and sharing his interests."*

on this subject: *"For out of the overflow of his [Man's] heart his mouth speaks."* (Luke 6:45) Therefore, it is absolutely essential that parents and educators set their hearts on God's kingdom first, if we seek to influence our children for the Kingdom.

### REFLECTING GLORY BACK TO GOD

God has made us in His image, but our sins have distorted that image. Nevertheless, the original imprint is there, and He continually desires to redeem that imprint to reflect glory back to Him. The natural principle that says I can't escape looking like my earthly father because I come from his genetics parallels a spiritual truth – we are designed to mature into resemblances of our Heavenly Father. This happens as we set our hearts on Him, seeking first His kingdom.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us our spiritual model for Godliness. He tells us not to be anxious about anything. We are not to worry about or pursue earthly treasures and needs. Without the words of Matt.6:33, we might be tempted to say, *"Yeah, sure! That's easy for Him to say. He's the Son of God."* However, Jesus is not asking the impossible of us. Perfection is not the goal. God is setting kingdom priorities saying, *"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,"* and then *"all these things will be given to you as well."*

When we live out this spiritual principle – choosing Godliness in the midst of life's circumstances – our children and others may still see an outward physical resemblance to our earthly fathers. More importantly, the Christ-like character God designed for us and for His glory will influence them.

# International Students – Growing Educationally & Socially

BY ESL TEACHERS HENRY LOOTSMA & PAT WISPELWEY



*Sei Yun Noah listens intently in class.*

Attendance by international students at ECMS is growing! There are 13 Korean students and 1 Chilean student currently enrolled in ECMS. The English-speaking level for three of the Korean students was high enough to “test out” of the ESL (*English as a Second Language*) classes, and one has chosen to attend all classes with English-speaking students. The remaining

students are taking advantage of the ESL classes we offer.

## ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

Regular courses are a challenge for our students with limited English, even though they all come with some degree of English speaking abilities. Upon arrival, all international students take a test to determine their proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English. Depending on the results, students are placed in ESL classes, and in other classes on a pass/fail basis. Soon the students progress to being graded according to our traditional grading system.

ESL teacher **Pat Wispelwey** reports, “*We are discovering that, despite the language barrier, the students are well prepared academically, especially in math.*” Seventh grader **Eun Kyung (Kathy) Lee** writes, “*In USA we don’t have to go to school on Saturday, so I have more spare time to practice the flute.*” **Sei Yun Noah** says, “*Education is different than Korea. Korean education is very strong and stress, but U.S. is more easier and comfortable.*” **Woangkee Chae (John)** offered this summary: “*My biggest challenge is learning other language.*”

## GROWING SOCIALLY

Most of our international students are very outgoing and willing to attempt conversation. They understand that it is through the use of the English language everyday that they will quickly learn the academic as well as the social aspects of our language. Some students are understandably shy and hesitant to use their English speaking skills, making it more challenging for

the teachers to develop a relationship with them. Often the international students carry electronic translators, which prove to be extremely useful for students and teachers alike. Many students are developing friendships with the EC “regulars,” and realizing that they have many things in common, such as their faith in the Lord, musical interests, movies, shopping at the mall, and sports.

A few international students live with their parents here in the U.S., but many of them are living with guardians and experience varying degrees of homesickness. They are able to keep in touch with their families in Korea by way of e-mail, telephone and digital cameras, which help all members of the families “see” each other. Recently one Korean student, who has only been in the country several months, took a bus from Paramus to Kennedy Airport and then made the connections to her home in Korea and back again all by herself!

## CULTIVATING FELLOWSHIP

Our school family has accepted our international students with much love and warmth. **Da In Ji** writes, “*There is good, kind and friendly students and good, friendly and kind teachers.*” As evidence of this, ESL teacher **Henry Lootsma** brainstormed an idea to hold a pizza party for all the Korean students in both ECMS and ECHS in January. Approximately 30 students, some teachers and special guests, Rev. and Mrs. Chun from Covenant Chr. Ref. Church, attended the party. About 12 pizzas, soda, chips, and brownies were “inhaled” in a very short time, and soon everyone was getting to know each other. The students and faculty had such an enjoyable time that a second dinner was planned, organized by ECHS students and ESL teacher **Angela Huizenga**. The teachers were treated to Korean cuisine on March 19, and again everyone enjoyed the fellowship and a very competitive soccer game. An end-of-the-year, all-American cookout is being planned, which the students are already looking forward to attending.

We praise God for broadening our horizons by sending us students from around the world. We are thankful that EC can take part in their Christian education, training them for a lifetime of Christian service.



*October 16 was the birthday of one of the ECMS Korean students, Woang Kee Chae. Several students sang “Happy Birthday” to Woang Kee in Korean and loaned him Mrs. Tyvol’s “Birthday Chicken” for the day!*

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E C M S  
**Never Forget!**

BY NAOMI BRAUNIUS | ECMS SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

**W**orld War II, the Holocaust, Tolerance, and Survival – these topics were the focus of an exciting, interdisciplinary approach to learning for the 6th grade students in Language Arts, Social Studies and Music.

In early November, the students were asked to answer this question: *What do you know about World War II?* Some responded with things they had read; some responded with stories told to them by relatives, and some simply could not offer any response – they were not knowledgeable about this historic period at all. However, all of the 6th graders responded with this answer: *We would like to know more!*

The students' answer spurred us on to a lot more educational discovery. In Language Arts, under the direction of teacher **Mrs. De Groot**, students read and discussed the books *Number the Stars* and *Friedrich*, examining the concepts of survival and tolerance. Students used these stories to reflect on this time period through the eyes of children. Music teacher **Miss Persenaire** listened to and discussed the music of this era with the 6th graders.

In **Mrs. Braunius'** Social Studies class, students studied the historical facts spanning the years 1918 to 1947. Maps, timelines, and war bond posters were displayed and discussed. Students read historical accounts of Holocaust survivors and a speaker from the Jewish Holocaust Museum in NYC came to share a video presentation. Other special guest speakers included two 6th graders' grandparents, **Jeremy Boling's** grandfather and **Steven Horner's** grandmother, who told of their experiences in Europe during the war.

All of these activities enhanced the 6th graders' study of the factors leading up to the Depression, World War II, the rise of Hitler, the battles of WWII, Pearl Harbor, the Holocaust, life in Europe, life on the home front, and the outcomes of this war. These students were also asked to reach outside their "comfort zone" and think about a time period that was hard for them to comprehend. In their responses, they expressed a sense of thankfulness for the lives they live everyday, so unlike many of their grandparents or great-grandparents' childhood memories.

Students culminated their learning by choosing from a variety of different response projects. Interviews, timelines, maps, book reports, models and personal reflections through art or music provided a deeper understanding of this time in history. The unique response options provided students the chance to express their factual knowledge as well as the thoughts and emotional reactions they experienced throughout the study. In reflecting on their own lives and what it means to be an example of Christ, the 6th graders concluded that the events of WWII and the Holocaust must never be forgotten, so that people will work to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening again. Mrs. Braunius offered this summary: *"This is a powerful unit to teach. It is incredibly important for students to learn from the wisdom of those who experienced this pre-war and wartime era, and be able to tell these stories over and over."*



Erica Lotz and Alison Avila display their WWII project, highlighting Psalm 10:8 and Psalm 27:3 along with prominent symbols from that time period.

**Participating in The World Games** BY JOE EVERETT AND JEREMY BOLING | GRADE 6



A.J. Panzica (Gr. 5) and Joe Everett (Gr. 6) working together to help their group find solutions to problems facing their area of the world.

The fifth and sixth grade students in the Horizons program at the Middle School recently participated in the **World Games** with students from other schools in North Jersey. When we arrived at Dwight-Englewood School, where the games were held, we registered, received our instructions and took off our shoes for what was to come next. We walked to a huge map on the floor. The games took place on this map of the world. The students were divided into groups. Each group was assigned an area of the earth, such as North America or Asia. Our objective was to work together as nations to solve problems while maintaining world peace. We were given cards that provided facts about the energy, food, technology, and resources of our particular area. We were required to get what our area needed by importing, exporting or purchasing. After a hard day's work, almost everyone had the needed number of cards for their given area.

The World Games were really fun, but they were also difficult. We learned a lot and had fun working with many students from other schools. We learned that world peace and an inviting future can be achieved if we all contribute a little bit. By participating in the World Games, we now understand how important it is to have organizations, such as the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, who are willing to help countries that are in need by providing instruction, support and care.

## Enjoying a Medieval Feast

BY BARBARA DYKHOUSE  
LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER



Pictured in medieval costume are (L to R): Alyssa Vanden Berg (monk), David Brower (executioner), Dominic Rivera (jester), and Danielle Auteri (queen).

Enjoying a "Medieval Feast" was the culminating activity for a 7th grade language arts and social studies interdisciplinary unit. Teacher **Terry Allen** covered the time period in social studies classes, and in language arts we did literature circles (similar in format to an adult book club) on five different books that covered the period from 1290 to 1310: *\*Adam of the Road* by Elizabeth Janet Gray, *\*The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman, *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman, *\*The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli, and *The Ramsay Scallop* by Frances Temple. (*\* Newbery Medal Books*)

Groups worked on projects and shared interesting information about life in The Middle Ages with the class. Together we learned about minstrels, the Crusades, pilgrimages, lords and ladies, knights, as well as education and the role of the Church. After a planning session as a class, students were asked to wear appropriate costumes on our special day. Simple costuming ideas were provided, and the students' creativity made their costumes turn out great!

For our Feast Day, we had trenchers (hard rolls served as a bowl) full of beef stew, fruit, cheese, hard-boiled eggs, mead and pudding - traditional foods for the times. We also enjoyed watching jugglers, games, skits and a puppet show!

Educationally, this unit immersed our students into the culture of The Middle Ages. It allowed students with different talents and learning styles to create a memorable experience together.



E C M S

## Math is Everywhere!

BY JOYCE SCHOONEJONGEN | MATH TEACHER



**6th Grade Math Projects:** Holding their final reports are (L to R): Rachel Augsberger, Randi Lynn Veenstra, Gregory Dunlap, Kristina Winters, Jeremy Boling, and Peter Okma

The students at ECMS are being taught to see God's world with "mathematical eyes." Looking at math from a new perspective shows us that God has created a mathematical world all around us.

When the 5th graders completed the unit on multiplication of whole numbers and decimals, they wrote and illustrated their ideas about where they had found examples of multiplication. The project was called "Multiplication Madness," to emphasize the concept that the more we look for multiplication, the more we will find it! *The Math Curse* by Jon

Sieszka and Lane Smith was one of our favorite books, and many response ideas came from that story. Here's one example:

### MULTIPLICATION MADNESS ON THE BUS | BY ZACH VEENSTRA

*When I was on the bus today, I looked at the seats on the bus to see how many seats I could count. I figured out that there were 12 seats in each row, and there were 2 rows of seats. How many seats were there in all on the bus? 24 seats. Then I looked out of the window and I saw three buses passing by. If there were the same number of seats on those three buses, how many seats are on four buses? 96 seats. How many windows are on the bus? How many windows are on four buses? How many tires are on one bus? On four buses? This could go on forever. I was relieved to get to school. It was a "gold day," and I did not have math class. I did enough math for one day.*

The 6th graders, in the meantime, finished their study of the four mathematical operations using whole numbers and decimals. As we do at the end of each unit, the students were asked to respond in different ways to what they have learned. Some students taught a math lesson or interviewed family members to determine the many ways they use math everyday. Other projects shared and enjoyed were student-made games, collages, mathematical stories, plays and poems. Kristi Winters contributed the following humorous poem:

### A MATH POEM | BY KRISTI WINTERS

*Math, math  
It's everywhere!  
You look up in the sky  
And it's up there.*

*You look at the ground  
And it's there, too!  
One worm, two snails,  
Five beetles, and even  
some nails*

*You look at your house  
What do you see...*

*Three TVs and one  
mouse  
Five people and one  
couch.*

*You look at your room  
And there you see  
One lamp, one broom,  
One bed and one key.*

*You grab the key and  
lock the door  
You begin to think...*

*How many people plus  
the TVs  
Add the mouse and  
minus the key...*

*You ask, "When will all  
this math stop?"  
All of a sudden you  
wake up!  
You go to school and  
there you hear,  
"Science, science, it's  
everywhere."*



*"We decided to throw ourselves into the experience, put on latex gloves and '5B Catering' was born."*

## Canapés, Anyone?

BY LINDA BRUINS | LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

The students in Mrs. Bruins 5th grade Literature class became caterers for a day! The students were reading *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary. In this book, the main character's mother worked for a catering company. Vocabulary words were associated with catering terms. Mrs. Bruins stated, "We decided to throw ourselves into the experience, put on latex gloves and 5B Catering was born."

"5B Catering" had 20 employees, some of whom were canapé preparers, quiche cutters, beverage personnel, table setters, delivery personnel and of course a clean up crew. The delivery personnel carried trays of juice, canapés and quiche to the ECMS office staff. Workers cheered when CEO Mrs. Bruins reported that she was so pleased with the cooperative effort that they deserved a raise!



**7th Graders Justin Van Dyke & Dominic Rivera were First Place Winners at the Dwight-Englewood Engineering Challenge!** All Northern NJ area middle school students were invited to undertake this challenge: Create a device, using any raw materials that are not prefabricated. Power it by up to 3 #64 rubber bands so that the device will move and stop as close as possible to exactly 4 ft. up a sheet of plywood inclined at 20 degrees. Justin concluded: "We spent a lot of hours on our car, but it was worth the work!" Other 7th & 8th grade participants included: Kieran Fleming, Dan Hook, Da In Ji, Kirstin Lane, Helen Lee, Eric Boonstra, Harrison Bruining, Lauren Bruins, Josh Bushman, Angela Chang, Mike Darmstatter, Jay Everett, Patrick Hickey, Steve Silbermagel, Brian Tanis, Janelle Torbet, Keith Tripi & Megan Van Schepen.



In February, eight ECMS students competed in a **Bible Competition** of the Northern NJ Christian School Association held at the Brookdale Christian School. The purpose of the competition is to provide an annual event for area Christian school students and teachers to get to know each other socially and to challenge each other in Bible knowledge. Students were advised that the competition would consist of three parts: a Bible sword drill, general Bible knowledge and specific knowledge of the book of I Samuel. ECMS students returned home with two medals. **Joseph Dickey** earned 3rd place in the 7th grade competition, and **Jay Everett** placed 2nd at the 8th grade level. The Bible Bee participants were (L to R): Front Row: Michael Dykhouse (6th Gr.), Justin Tyvoll (5th Gr.), Taylor Ocot (5th Gr.); Back Row: Joseph Dickey (7th Gr.), Christina Johnston (6th Gr.), Jay Everett (8th Gr.), Brielle Ocot (8th Gr.), Dominic Rivera (7th Gr.)



**5th Grade Engineering Challenge winners were Keith Van Dyke & Kelly Ten Eyck, who took 3rd place.** Also participating from the 5th & 6th grades were: Josh Abma, Sean Hagedoom, Michelle Okma, AJ Panzica, Justin Van Grouw, Ben Beny, Anthony Cirino, Vincent Criscenzo, Peter Okma, and Nicole Struyk.

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# Sports Highlights

## ECHS WINTER AWARDS

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

**Erin Veenstra**

First Team All League Basketball  
First Team All County Basketball  
First Team All Area Basketball

**Mandy Kuiken**

First Team All League Basketball  
Second Team All County Basketball

**Greta Kuiken**

Second Team All League Basketball  
Honorable Mention All County Basketball

**Kelly Fischer**

Second Team All League Basketball  
Honorable Mention All County Basketball

**Christine Byma**

Honorable Mention All League Basketball

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

**Steve King**

First Team All League Basketball  
First Team All County Basketball  
First Team All Area Basketball

**Tom Johnson**

First Team All League Basketball  
Honorable Mention All County Basketball

**Scott Bushoven**

Second Team All League Basketball  
Honorable Mention All County Basketball

**Dave Riley**

Honorable Mention All League Basketball

### BOWLING

**Steve Rudd**

Second Team All League Bowling  
Honorable Mention All County Bowling

**Brett Algera**

Honorable Mention All League Bowling  
Honorable Mention All County Bowling

## WINTER SPORTS TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

### High School

**Boys' Varsity Basketball** finished the season at 17-9, taking 2nd Place in the League. The team also took 2nd Place in the Garfield Christmas Tournament and won their first County Tournament game in more than 6 years with an exciting 1-point victory over Passaic County Tech! The team also advanced to the second round of the State Tournament for the second year in a row.

**Girls' Varsity Basketball** finished with a 14-11 record. The team experienced many close games in both wins and losses. Highlights of the year included wins over Hawthorne Christian, Pompton Lakes, West Milford in the County Tournament, as well as an exciting loss to De Paul in the County Quarterfinals.

**Girls' JV Basketball** ended their season with 11 wins and 5 losses. The team's exciting games included a 1-point buzzer win over Hawthorne Christian, and the victory over Immaculate, a team which had previously beaten us.

**Boys' JV Basketball** finished at 11-6 for the season. The team played many close games and enjoyed wins over Midland Park, Hawthorne Christian, and Waldwick.

**Boys' Freshmen Basketball's** record was 11 wins and 6 losses. Beside the exciting wins over Midland Park and PCT, the freshmen experienced their biggest win in their second game against Paterson Catholic. In the first game, PC won convincingly. However, our freshmen played a spectacular second game and won by over 30 points!

**The Bowling Team** finished third in the league and had their biggest win over Pompton Lakes. Team members **Steve Rudd** and **Brett Algera** earned All League and All County status this year.

### Middle School

**Middle School Boys' Basketball** had a very successful season, finishing at 14-3. Their season was marked by two six-game winning streaks. They also had five games where they scored over 70 points!

**Middle School Girls' Basketball** finished at 8-9 by winning five of their last six games. The team showed noticeable improvement over last year's record.

*Thanks to both the High School and Middle School Cheerleading squads for their great display of school spirit and their work to encourage support at the home games!*

## Two Students Make EC Sports History

Congratulations to **Erin Veenstra** and **Steve King Jr.** on being chosen to play in the Bergen Passaic All Star Basketball Classic! These games featured the top seniors of Passaic County versus those in Bergen County. This was the *first time* in EC history that EC had an athlete playing in both the boys' and girls' games. Congratulations also to **Coach Steve King** in being chosen to serve as one of the coaches in the Girls' game.

Congratulations to **Steve King Jr.** on setting a new Boys' Basketball career scoring record! During a home game vs. Oratory Prep in the State Tournament, Steve finished his career with 1,678 points, surpassing **Roberto Howell's** record of 1,642 points. After the game, Roberto presented Steve with the game ball. Steve also ranked 7th All-Time in Passaic County scoring when the season ended. In recognition for his many accomplishments, Steve received the *McDonald's All American* nomination, a first for the Eastern Christian basketball program.

Congratulations to **Erin Veenstra** on becoming the 3rd All Time Career Scoring Leader for Girls' Basketball. Erin finished her career with 1,293 points, trailing only **Sandi King** (1,886) and **Linda Mabie** (1,338). Erin also set a new single-game scoring record this year, scoring 34 points vs. DePaul in the County Tournament.



Former record holders (Cl. of '75) **Paul Siljee** (L) and (Cl. of '96) **Roberto Howell** (R) joined **Steve King Jr.** (center) to celebrate his achievement.

E C E S

## Honoree at the Recognition Chapel: Nurse Wilma Bogertman

**C**an 250 children, ages five to ten years old, keep a secret

for a week? Yes, they can, if they are elementary school children at Eastern Christian! To the 250 children who participated in the Recognition Chapel on April 17, there was no question about who should be honored! Their hearts, voices and faces expressed unquestionable love and gratitude to Mrs.

**Wilma Bogertman**, our school nurse. She was genuinely surprised to be honoree of the Elementary School Recognition Chapel this year.

As part of the celebration, the All Day and Afternoon Kindergartens joined together to perform their version of the fairy tale favorite, *Chicken Little*. The common refrain echoed in the gym, "We'd better take you to Mrs. Bogertman!" until 40 children appeared before Mrs. Bogertman with "Chicken Little" and said in unison, "The sky is falling, a piece of it fell on Chicken Little's head!"

All of the other grades participated in a creative way to honor our school nurse as well:

First graders recited the poems: *It's Just Not Funny When Your Nose is Runny* and *My Wiggly, Jiggly, Loose Tooth*. They presented Mrs. Bogertman with a huge band-aid



ECES nurse Wilma Bogertman was showered with love during this year's Recognition Chapel.

inscribed with, "Mrs. Bogertman is the best school nurse in the world!"

The second graders entered the gym to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching" while singing lyrics that described various common ailments among elementary school children. They presented Mrs. Bogertman with their personal thanks, bound into books.

Third graders wrote original lyrics to the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy." They sang out, "We love her like our mother."

And finally the fourth grade sang a rendition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas" called the "Twelve Weeks of School."

The Elementary School is truly blessed to have Wilma Bogertman as school nurse! We hope that our Recognition Chapel was able to convey our feelings to her in a memorable way.

### "Hassam" Visits ECES Chapel

**David Parshall**, now a missionary to China, grew up just two blocks from ECES. On March 13, David visited ECES first as *Hassam*, a Uyger Moslem man who talked about his home and life in China, and then as himself, *David Parshall*, an American who told Hassam about Jesus Christ.

In full Uyger garb, Hassam talked about what it had been like to be a Moslem who had never heard of Jesus. He shared objects from his culture and told about the difference Jesus had made in his life. Then, Hassam went out looking for David Parshall who, he heard, had grown up in this neighborhood. David walked into our chapel just as ECES students were singing about how Jesus loves the children of the world and about the commission Jesus has given for us to tell the world about that love. He challenged us all to think about God's plans for each of us in the future. He predicted that someday God might call some students to be missionaries to far places for the sake of God's kingdom.



"Hassam" (David Parshall) in Uyger dress captured the students' attention.



**Easter Chapel:** All First Grade students participated in a three-act Easter Pageant. It began with Palm Sunday and concluded with the scene at the tomb. The students were given the opportunity to use oral speaking skills and musical talents as they performed the play for chapel. Pictured in the role of Jesus riding the donkey is Jeffrey Hill. His disciples (L to R) Shawn Kukol, James Creange and Jay Nieuwenhuis follow as the "people" wave palm branches.

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# What's Up After School?

## *A Typical Day at EC's After School Care Program*

BY WENDY POST | DIRECTOR

*It's 3 p.m. and time for my preschool students and me to greet the "big kids" as the bus arrives at the Irving Park campus for another session at the EC After School Program. Immediately we head to the playground to use up some of our energy!*

### A FLEXIBLE ROUTINE

Our daily routine is broken up into half hour segments, which allow us to fill the afternoon with lots of fun things while creating a basic structure for our program. This structure is always flexible in order to take advantage of beautiful spring weather or a seasonal holiday. In the spring, when the playground is too muddy, we set up safety cones in the parking lot so that we can jump rope and use sidewalk chalk.



*Teacher Wendy Post climbs into the bucket attached to the fire truck's big ladder when firefighter Bill Brock visited the After School Care students.*

### SPECIAL PEOPLE & SPECIAL NAMETAGS

By 3:30 p.m. our aides from the High School, **Jen Faasse** and **Kristy Lyman**, have arrived. The students dearly love both girls and their arrivals are greatly anticipated. Once Miss Kristy or Miss Jen has had an opportunity to greet the students, it is time to line up and head inside for the next segment of our afternoon.

"Rug Time" is next on the schedule. The students sit on the big purple rug and a helper of the day is chosen. Our helper is always easy to identify because he/she is given a nametag. The other students fill the nametag with things that make that helper special. For example, someone might say that the helper is a fast runner, awesome, kind, or smart. After the helper's nametag has been labeled appropriately, the students are read a story. Then it is time to eat our snack!

### HOMEWORK & "FREE CHOICE"

Soon 4 p.m. arrives and it's time for students with homework to get started. The director or an aide takes students who need to study to a quiet classroom to complete their work. Those students who do not have homework are allowed to enjoy "free choice." That is, they can use any of the After School's games or toys. We have a great selection including play dough, computer games, Legos, board games, books and more.

### CREATIVE & VARIED DAILY ACTIVITIES

By 4:30 p.m. it is time to put away free choice items and do the daily activity together. The daily activity is always listed on our calendar. Each month is loosely organized around one theme. March's theme was "Easter," April's theme was "April Showers," and May's theme will be "Spring." Once the monthly theme is established, it is broken

down into daily plans. Monday is our day for science. Using May's theme of spring we might read a book about how plants grow, and each student would plant a bean in a styrofoam cup. On Tuesday we enjoy cooking, so the students would make 'dirt cups' using pudding, chocolate cookies and gummy worms. Wednesday is our day for arts and crafts. On that day we might use coffee filters, clothing pins, pipe cleaners, and markers to create beautiful butterflies. On Thursdays we have a special Bible lesson. Currently, the students are learning about the books of the New Testament. Friday is reserved for a theme day – a day in which we might celebrate flowers during May, for instance.

### FINISHING UP OUR TIME TOGETHER

The daily activity usually takes about half an hour and that brings us to 5 p.m. In good weather we usually go outside for another romp. In rainy weather we watch a short video, play a group game such as the parachute, or have free choice again. By 5:30 p.m. it is time to get ready to depart. After the students have helped put away all the games and toys, we finish up our time together with coloring or board games. Ending our time together with a quiet sit-down activity seems to make saying good-bye easier.

### OUR DROP-IN PROGRAM – WE'RE WAITING TO SERVE YOU

Organizing the days of the week by activity helps parents who utilize our drop-in program. If you know that you will need one afternoon next week to run some errands, you can look at our calendar and choose a day with an activity you know your child will enjoy. The drop-in program is simple and easy. First, you register your student by filling out a form (available at our site). Then, whenever your student wishes to take part in our program, you can send a note to their teacher that day, asking that your child be sent on the After School bus that comes right to our door. You can pick your child up at any time between 3 – 6 p.m. Currently the cost is only \$4.00 per hour – quite a bargain!

We would love the opportunity to spend time with your child. Stop in to check out our calendar, ask questions, and be assured that we treat all the students who attend with Christian love and care.

## Did You Know that Major Companies Give Grant Money for Volunteer Hours?

In October, 2001 EC received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation's Volunteer Involvement Program. This donation came as a result of Elizabeth (Liz) Aupperlee's work for EC and her husband Bob's ability to apply for a quarterly grant for her latest 20 hours of volunteer work. Liz commented, "It gives me particular joy in seeing \$500 come to EC as a result of my volunteering at the **Corner Closet**. I was on the original committee to brainstorm the consignment shop idea in the late 70's. I think I volunteered there approximately once a month ever since the store opened with the exception of 2 years that we lived in England. The Corner Closet certainly has been a profitable venture." If you or your spouse work for a major company, we encourage you to explore whether your company will "match" volunteer hours like ExxonMobil does. Their letter to EC ended with the statement that volunteer efforts by individuals "play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in our communities."

### THESE MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES COMBINED TO DONATE OVER \$60,000 TO EC BETWEEN 9/1/00 & 4/23/02:

|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| American Express Foundation | Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.              |
| Amersham Biosciences Corp.  | Insurance Services Office Inc.      |
| AT&T Foundation             | International Paper Co. Foundation  |
| The Bank of New York        | ITT                                 |
| Becton Dickinson Foundation | J. P. Morgan Charitable Trust       |
| Unilever Bestfoods          | Lucent Foundation                   |
| Carlson Family Foundation   | Marsh & McLennen Co., Inc           |
| Coca-Cola Company           | Merck Co. Foundation                |
| Equitable Foundation        | Phillip Morris Co./ Kraft Foods Inc |
| ExxonMobil Foundation       | Prudential Foundation               |
| Federated Department Stores | Public Service Electric & Gas       |
| Fleet Bank                  |                                     |

If your company has a matching gift program, please contact your Human Resources Dept. for the necessary forms. Often retirees and employees of affiliated companies are eligible for matches to secondary education level schools or non-profit organizations. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the EC Development Office (973-427-9294).



**Volunteers Put Together Popular Theme Baskets for Auction Elegance:** The ECES & ECMS PTO's organized the collection of items for the Silent Auction's Theme Baskets, which included: "Cheese & Crackers" (Mr. Allen's 8th Gr. Hmmm), "Dutch Treat" (Mrs. Dykhouse's 7th Gr. Hmmm), and "Mangia - (Eat & Enjoy)" (ECES 3rd Grade). Creatively working to display the elegant baskets were: **Karen Vervoordt, Debbie Shurminsky, Krystal Lassiter, Donna Hoitsma**, and basket coordinator **Lori Fylstra**. The Auction is one of EC's main fundraising events of the school year. Thank you to all who donated items or services to make this event a success again in 2002! The proceeds at this point total \$30,000. Thank you!



**T.R.I.P.'s Faithful Thursday Volunteers** work to fill an average of 150 orders per week. Pictured are: (left) Jeanette De Boer, Jeanette De Jong, Fred Sikkema, Laura Lotz; and (on the right) Carolyn Vermaas and Jane de Waal Malefyt. Faye Dyksen serves as the coordinator for filling weekly orders. The other volunteers working that day were: Jeanette Knyfd, Wilma Kohere, Edna Smith, and Howie & Kathy Steenstra.

## Consider a Donation Before You Vacation

### ANNUAL FUND DRIVE UPDATE

As of March 31, the 2001-2002 Annual Fund Drive is about \$39,000 behind last year's receipts as of the same date. We have seen a decline in giving to our Business Drive and in general giving to the Annual Fund during this school year. As we approach the summer months – the time of year when giving traditionally declines – we especially ask for your help to close the gap between tuition receipts and the actual cost to educate the children attending Eastern Christian School. Your gift, in any amount, will assist us in meeting our Annual Fund goal of \$680,000 and help us end our fiscal year with a balanced budget. Feel free to use the enclosed business reply envelope to convey your donation before you vacation.

## How Much Does It Cost to Operate the Endowment Fund?

It is well known that only 75%-90% of the money collected by charities and foundations actually goes to the projects being funded. The rest is for expenses connected with the activity. Here at Eastern Christian, there are no such expenses in connection with the operation of the Endowment Fund. All money donated is immediately put to work in secure investments with no deductions for any expenses. Volunteers perform all of the Fund's administrative activities. Isn't it nice to know that 100% of the money you donate is used for Christian education?



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## Alumni News

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** Another **Michigan Alumni Reunion Dinner** is being planned for **Oct. 4, 2003** next year in the Calvin College Commons Dining Hall. Our event chairperson is **Larry Hoogerhyde** (Cl. of '54), and a committee of 10 additional alumni is already working with us on this event. We will include more details in the summer issue, and we will send a mailing to alumni later this year. Please reserve this date on your calendar!

### CLASS OF 1933

#### **New Class Rep Needed**

We were recently informed that **Wilhelmina (Butyn) Densel** passed away Jan. 28, 2002 in South Carolina. Our sympathies to the family.

### CLASS OF 1934

#### **Class Rep: Anna (Bos) Placek**

12316 Beaver Trail SE, Albuquerque, NM  
07123-3521

**Anna (Bos) Placek** writes, "The holidays brought greetings and letters from two of my classmates. **Wilma (Dykstra) Bokma** sent greetings from Lakeside, CA and noted that she and her husband Bert hoped to celebrate their 65th anniversary in March.

Congratulations! **Catherine (Cat Van Hoff)** and **Art Veenema** hope to celebrate their 57th anniversary in May.

Congratulations to them also. It's amazing to me that, since all of us have to be in the 85-year age range, some of us can still celebrate anniversaries."

### CLASS OF 1944

#### **Class Rep Needed**

**Jeanette Dykstra** writes, "Just a note to thank you for sending *The Herald* as I surely appreciate receiving it. I am so thankful that from

1944 to this day, not only to have had such a Christian influence, but privileged to have gotten an education that paved my way through life. May God's continued blessing be upon EC's staff and workers that have maintained such a fine school through the years."

### CLASS OF 1950

#### **Class Rep Needed**

**Jean (Youmans) Sherwood** wrote this note to the EC Staff: "My years at Eastern Academy on No. 8th St. are among my most treasured memories. I believe it's when I came to fully love the Lord. I especially loved the short hymn sing every day, and then the longer assembly every Friday morning. I can't think of a better way to start the day than by singing praises to God."

### CLASS OF 1952

#### **Reunion Rep: Chris (Tanis) Vos**

6705 North Dr., Jenison, MI 49428

Plans are underway for our 50th Class Reunion to be held at The Brownstone, Paterson, NJ on Thursday, **October 3**. We encourage you to join us. We still have room for more grads and their spouses or guests.

### CLASS OF 1954

#### **Reunion & Class Rep: Lawrence Hoogerhyde**

1960 Chateau Drive SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509-4923

E-Mail: [larryh@altelco.net](mailto:larryh@altelco.net) (NEW)

Class Rep **Larry Hoogerhyde** writes: "As of June 2002 Linda and I will be 'finally' retiring from teaching - I from Holland Christian Schools and Linda from East Martin Christian

School. What a blessed life it has been for both of us to have spent so many years involved in the lives of covenant kids in the Christian education! Thanks to Eastern Christian for the years spent there as a part of the staff and board and for the many good people who gave our children a quality, Christian education. Having gone through those years and now seeing grandchildren being educated in a Christian school is a genuine heartwarming experience. God bless you all."

### CLASS OF 1962

#### **Class Rep: Nancy (Hartog) Ruiter**

127 Howell Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728  
E-mail: [nruiter@aol.com](mailto:nruiter@aol.com)

**Ted Peters** called the Development Office to inquire about any reunion plans. Class Rep **Nancy (Hartog) Ruiter** wrote, "It's our 40th!! Anyone interested in having a 40th reunion in **October 2002**, please e-mail me at [nruiter@aol.com](mailto:nruiter@aol.com) or phone me (732-462-3770). Date and place to be determined. Suggestions welcome."

### CLASS OF 1967

#### **Class Rep: Georgia (Faber) Meeter**

3179 Co Route 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326

**Dr. Brant Tolsma** has recently released a book entitled *The Surrendered Christian Athlete*. In his book, Brant challenges Christian athletes to a higher level of performance and higher level of commitment to the Lord and His ways. The 144-page book is available at local Christian bookstores, or can be found on the web at [www.liberty.edu/athletics/track](http://www.liberty.edu/athletics/track).





**North 4th St. School - 7th Grade in 1949 (includes graduates of Cl. of '54):** **First Row** (seated L to R): John Dyk, Jim Vieldhouse, Ernie Hoitsma?, Bob De Boer, Jim Stam, Ryan Bysterbush, Fred Lanting, Bill Sikkema, Bob Struyk, Larry Hoogerhyde, Howard Vroon; **2nd Row:** Doris (Bandstra) Kreil, Elaine (Hoogstra) Freitag, Anna May Van Breda, Gertrude Boer, Charlotte (Sinke) Elzinga, Hilda (Van Der Eems) Smith, Grace (Kuiken) Thiessen, Annamae (Huizing) Hulsebos, Elaine (Gnade) Boot, Anna Jean (Cook) Leegwater; **3rd Row:** Lester Thiessen, Fred Vlietstra, Ethel (Tanis) Baum, Carolyn (Riemersma) Joustra, Irene (Venema) Groenewal, Ann (Smith) Herring, Grace (Roukema) De Boer, Earl Artsma, Teacher Radie Spoelhof; **4th Row:** Principal Gerhardus Bos, Augie Dykstra, Art Boonstra?, Ed Predmore? Contact the EC Development Office if you can identify those with a (?) behind the name. Thank you to **Carolyn (Riemersma) Joustra** for identifying her classmates.

### CLASS OF 1969

**Class Rep: Jacalyn (Borduin) Faber**  
47 Roe St, Haledon, NJ 07508-1536

**Karel Van Voorthuijsen** recently e-mailed that he is currently Media Director/Technology Coordinator at Lake Worth Christian School in Lake Worth, Florida.

### CLASS OF 1970

**Class Rep: Nancy (Leesman) Eardley**  
6801 Tricklewood Ct SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-7200

**Frank Jager** and his wife **Kathy** recently adopted a four-year-old boy, who is part-Kazakh and part-Russian. As reported in *Main Street Magazine*, the Jagers found their son through the use of the Internet. "Kazakh adoption laws called for at least one of the adopting parents to spend 14 days with the child before being allowed to take the youngster home. Kathy began her whirlwind journey to Kazakhstan on Aug. 20. She flew from New York to Moscow and then to the Russia/Kazakhstan border. Then, what should have been a seven-hour drive to Rudny...turned

into a 17-hour odyssey by car." Frank and seven-year-old son **Bryan** were to leave Sept. 1 to join **Kathy**. "You haven't flown until you've flown *Air Kazakhstan*," said Frank. Thankfully, the family returned home safely on Sept. 17, 2002 to begin a new phase of their life together.

### CLASS OF 1973

#### Class Rep Needed

As reported in the *Kalamazoo Torch*, Principal of Kalamazoo Christian High School **Larry Baker** has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Christian Schools. The Search Committee heartily recommended him as the person to take over the reins from **Bruce Hekman** upon his retirement this summer.

### CLASS OF 1976

#### Class Rep: Tom Henion

159 Haledon Ave, Paterson NJ 07522-1271  
**Charles M. Kuperus** has been chosen by Governor James McGreevey to be Commissioner of the NJ Dept. of Agriculture. As reported in the press release,

Charles has a "long history of leadership among both the agricultural community and in his hometown." He has served on the New Jersey Farm Bureau Board of Directors and served as vice-president of the organization in addition to his membership in the American Farm Bureau Federation. He also served as president and vice president of the Sussex County Board of Agriculture and as a member of its Board of Directors.

### CLASS OF 1978

**Class Rep: Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema**  
3075 Kissing Rock Lane  
Lowell, MI, 49331-9521

**David Diaz** moved to Miami in 1979. He lives there with his wife **Marie** and daughter **Stephanie**. David has been working with

*continued on page 16*



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ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 15*

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's Information Technology Department for the past 17 years.

Bret and **Ellen (Niewenhuis) Davis** announce the birth of their son on Feb. 9, a brother to Ian (age 20), Laura (age 18) and Marc (age 16). Ellen exclaimed, "What an unexpected and yet wonderful gift from our covenant God!"

**CLASS OF 1982**

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

We received a note from **Patti (Steenstra) McDonell** to say that they recently moved to Illinois where husband Kevin has accepted a job teaching math. Patti continues to be busy at home with their four children: Kent (7), Steven (6), David (4) and Jessica (2).

**Rebecca (Kreil)** and **Gregg Kobuskie** announce the birth of their first child, Joshua Stephen on January 8, 2002; **David Cook** and his wife Cathy announce the birth of a 6 lb. 12oz. son, John Thomas on 1/1/02. Congratulations!

**Gary Sporn** was honored as the first recipient of the COMPASS Award (*Compassionate or Mentoring Physicians Applying Special Skills*) by Naples Community Hospital Healthcare System. This award recognizes physicians who go the extra mile and exemplify qualities such as compassion and approachability, or one who takes the time to mentor and foster excellence in practice. Gary is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care and has his medical practice in Naples, FL.

**CLASS OF 1983**

**New Class Rep: John Martin**  
8 Henion Place, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403  
E-mail: Jmartinclass83@aol.com

New Class Rep **John Martin** asks, "Were you tired of not seeing anything under Class of '83? Let's try to change that. Let me know what's going on out there." John is "getting the ball

rolling" for classmates interested in a reunion in 2003. Contact him to share your thoughts.

Congratulations to **Todd** and (Cl. of 85) **Brenda (Douma) De Jong** on the birth of their son Chase Allen, born on Dec. 8, 2001.



*Do you recognize this new EC Class Rep? He would like your help to plan a reunion.*

**CLASS OF 1985**

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

See Cl. of '83 for news about **Brenda (Douma) De Jong**.

**CLASS OF 1987**

**Class Rep: Laura (Faber-Struyk) Terrizzi**  
40 Sicomac Rd., Hawthorne, NJ 07506-8552

Margaret and **Russell Huizing** announce the birth of their second child, Joshua Dieter on 2/23/02. Russell was ordained to the ministry of the Gospel at the Hawthorne Gospel Church on April 7. He works at the church as the Pastor of Single Adult Ministries, which is comprised of three groups ranging in age from 18 – 50. He is currently working toward an MARS and MDIV degree with Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. If you'd like to contact Russell, he can be reached at hgcsam@earthlink.net.

**CLASS OF 1988**

**Class Rep Needed**

**Marc De Block** became engaged to Rachel Livingston of Mahwah. Marc teaches science at Eisenhower Middle School in Wyckoff. A November 23, 2002 wedding is planned.

**CLASS OF 1989**

**Class Rep: Laura (Braunius) Stokes**  
506 Hollywood Ave.  
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423-1129

Tarah and **Thomas Luinenburg** announce the birth of their first child, Grace Noelle, on 12/25/01.

**Christopher Wisse** and wife Suzanne are proud to announce the birth of their son, Eric Adrian Wisse on Feb.28, 2002. Chris is currently working as a Design Engineer for ATENA Engineering in Rocky Hill, CT.

**CLASS OF 1991**

**Class Rep: Susanne (Balkema) Wynbeek**  
454 Manchester Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508

**David Luyendyk** e-mailed to announce: "I have created a website (www.yellowhousedesign.com/reunion\_91/index.htm) with the hope that we could use this as a tool for sharing what is going on with our lives and to be a resource for contact information. I will only add information with your permission. Take a look at the Class Reunion section for photos from our recent event. If you have any trouble accessing the site or have any questions, e-mail me at studio@yellowhousedesign.com".

**Benjamin Christoffels** taught in an elementary school for two years in St. Louis and is now working in the concrete business in Hull, Iowa.

**CLASS OF 1992**

**Class Rep: Michele (Huizing) Boonstra**  
69 Walray Ave., North Haledon, NJ 07508

Plans are in the works for a reunion. The date is October 11, 2002 and the location will be the Bear Mountain Inn. Contact **Michelle**

(Huizing) Boonstra for more information.

Tracey (Ver Hage) Zbierski informed us via note that she and husband Joseph were blessed with a baby girl, Hannah Mary, on January 21, 2002. Congratulations!

### CLASS OF 1993

**Class Rep: Jennifer (Meyer) Ross**  
165 N. 12th St, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-1903  
Class Rep **Jennifer (Meyer) Ross** asks for suggestions for the upcoming 10-year reunion. Please contact her with your ideas.

**Beth (Christoffels) Kobes** is a nurse. She and her husband lived in Cambridge, MA while he completed Harvard Law School. From Sioux Falls, SD they have just recently moved to the Washington, DC area.

**Jaime (Troast)** and **Joe Raab** announce the birth of a son, Hunter James, on 1/2/02.

### CLASS OF 1994

**Class Rep: Julie (Bowers) Tilson**  
403 West Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604  
**Michael Heerema** and **Sara Sonderfan** plan to marry in June 2002 according to *The Record* newspaper. Both are graduates of Calvin College. Sara is pursuing an MSW at Kean University and is an Assistant Director at Rehabilitation Specialists in Haledon. Michael is a sprinkler mechanic for Greg Tanzer Sprinklers in Fair Lawn.

### CLASS OF 1995

**Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed**  
134 Kingston, Hawthorne NJ 07506-1106  
**Heather Unrath's** engagement was recently announced in *The Record* newspaper. She is engaged to John Moris, a 1999 graduate of the US Military Academy. He is stationed at Fort Hood, TX as an Armor Company Executive Officer. Heather is a registered nurse at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, TX. The wedding will be in July 2002.

**Hannah (Christoffels) Vander Wier** and her husband Nathaniel taught for two years at the Nicaragua Christian Academy in Managua, but last summer they moved to

Wellandport, Ontario, Canada where she teaches in the Christian Elementary School and he is in the carpentry business.

### CLASS OF 1997

**Class Rep: James Pyrich**  
Home Page: [www.97cc.com](http://www.97cc.com)

**Jim Pyrich** offers this Reunion update via the class home page: "Apparently, class consensus is not fully forthcoming with respect to an official reunion. Opinion falls into two categories: those that would like a reunion, and those that feel it is too soon. As it stands now, it might be prudent to hold off on a reunion for this year while we allow everyone to get their bearings.... Technical update: I have just started to get things rolling with some database upgrades. I am currently working on a way to allow users of this site to view and edit their information. I am also open to suggestions as to what kinds of things should be included in the database. Accounts will be given only to members of our class. E-mail me with ...everything!"

In April **John Borduin** graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida, receiving a five-year B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering. This past year John was lead engineer for his senior design class and President of the Sigma-Pi Fraternity. He was honored with the Scholar of the Year Award and the Brother of the Year Award. John has now applied to George Washington University for an assistantship in the Joint Institute for Advancement of Flight Sciences. If he chooses this program, John would pursue a graduate degree in Flight Dynamics & Stabilities while doing a research assistantship with NASA. He has also been offered a position as project engineer at Smith Aerospace in Whippany NJ, where he would work on the power system design for the Joint Strike Fighter.

### CLASS OF 1998

**Class Rep: Sandi King**  
25 Ballentine Dr, North Haledon, NJ 07508  
E-mail: [alustri22@aol.com](mailto:alustri22@aol.com)

**Julie Borduin** is presently a senior at Norwich University, VT, pursuing a 5-year Bachelor of Architecture degree. In January she was accepted into Norwich's 5-year Masters of Architecture degree program. In addition, Julie was also given the Norwich Award of Excellence for the best portfolio. Julie will begin her masters' degree work this summer with an internship for William Brown, Architect, Wyckoff. She is planning to do her thesis on children's educational/learning space. Julie also traveled to the Dominican Republic in May with the Norwich Christian Fellowship on an outreach/missions trip.

**Joshua Christoffels** is completing Dordt College with an English major and is applying for service in China with the English Language Institute of China.

### CLASS OF 1999

**Class Rep: Jennifer Van Der Heide**  
1857 Kalamazoo Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
E-mail: [jteach@aol.com](mailto:jteach@aol.com)

Congratulations to **Ben Veenema** and **Stacie Tanis** who were engaged in October. An August 24, 2002 wedding is planned. Also, congratulations to **Julie (Hutton) Amshey** and husband Brian, who were blessed with a son, Jacob Aaron on 1/23/02. The Amshey family resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### A Special Request

from the ECHS AV Department: We are looking for videos of High School graduations from the late '80s to the present. Do you have a graduation ceremony on video that we could borrow? If so, contact Mark Lucas at ECHS (973-427-0900).

# Designated Gifts

JANUARY 17, 2002 – APRIL 22, 2002

Gifts received after April 18 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 98 gifts were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount received was \$18,894.84. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

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