



# THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

WINTER/SPRING  
2004



## CELEBRATING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM PRESCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL

### INSIDE



ECES  
PAGE 6



ECMS  
PAGE 8



ECSA  
PAGE 15



Alumni News  
PAGE 16



# The “S” Sense of Christian Education: *Submission, Service, and Sacrifice*

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN, ECES PRINCIPAL

**AS** a first grade student, Eric struggled with perfectionism. Every time he made a mistake on a worksheet or an art project he tore the paper and began to weep, declaring, “I can’t do it!” Then he would refuse to do any schoolwork and inconsolably demand to go home. Each time he did this, the entire lesson would be interrupted until he was sent to the principal

Jerry felt picked on and heard other children calling him names when his teacher was not within earshot. Each morning he began to feel stomach pain and tried to convince his mom that he should stay home. His grades suffered and he became a discipline problem for his teacher.

Does it really matter whether the above students are in a secular school or a Christian school? **Yes, it matters for a lifetime.** In the above kinds of everyday school situations, this is where worldview is modeled and taught, and children internalize a lasting worldview they will live by for the rest of their lives. The difference between secular and Christian education becomes evident when school authorities and parents enter into each situation. At the very outset of action and reaction in dealing with these kinds of scenarios, worldview makes all the difference.



Kindergarten teacher **Nancy Johnston** & students **Alissa Sytsma** (foreground), **Rachael Tanis** and **Jessica Barna** (background)

## CONTRASTING WORLDVIEWS

In a secular school culture, the prevailing mindset is about how success is achieved through individual accomplishment with an emphasis on self-first thinking that upholds individual rights as a way to self-esteem. Secular worldview thinking demands autonomy, power, and recognition almost at any price. Freedom from constraint and blame become the highest values. Consequently, even the best-intentioned action taken will be informed by this mindset. Every decision depends on the level of acrimony generated or anticipated. Anger and threats often arbitrate outcomes. Even as administrators in these environments carefully negotiate outcomes, it is not unusual for them to face parent-initiated lawsuits each year.

In contrast, a Christian worldview that is the foundation of all relationships, instruction, attitudes, and actions makes Christian education distinctively different.

At the heart of a Christian worldview it could be said that there are three “S” words – submission, service, sacrifice. In Eastern Christian Schools we believe the essence of a truly Christian education only makes sense as we value Christ-like submission, service, and sacrifice.

## WHAT IS BEING LEARNED?

First and foremost it must be stated that schools must be learning communities, not institutions. However, having stated this, it is important to identify what is being learned. Students internalize much more than a curriculum. As they grow in subject knowledge, they are also subconsciously learning how to view the world.

Our Eastern Christian Schools are not glorified public schools, merely adding Bible verses and weekly chapel worship to the curriculum. We aspire to much more. **We want our graduates to live by the “Word of Life” that gives them freedom to overcome and reform a misled and lost world.** We believe that a Christian worldview enables insight and discernment needed for the inevitable complications of life. In His “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus taught that the essence of this pathway is being “salt” and “light,” and He modeled this message by his life of submission, service, and sacrifice.

There are no work sheets, activity packets, or video presentations for learning the “S” sense of the Christian walk. Jesus knew it was not enough to just preach a sermon; He had to authenticate His words with His life and death. In a Christian school community, submission, service and sacrifice are modeled in how authentically school personnel partner with church leaders and parents to live out these values. When school, home and church work together agreeing on these values, our children learn **the “S” sense of Jesus’ declaration** that He is “the way, the truth, and the life.”

## MODELING THE “S” SENSE OF CHRISTIAN VALUES

So how does this work in the practical everyday problems in a Christian school? On two planes – by adults modeling these values and by school culture modeling these values. Ultimately, our decisions model what we truly believe. When adults approach problems with the





# Contents

THE *Herald*  
WINTER/SPRING 2004

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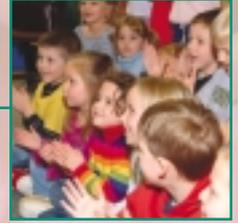
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THE "S" SENSE **INSIDE COVER**

*Starting Young*



**2 ~ 7 ECES NEWS**

*Enroll & Explore*

**ECMS NEWS 8 ~ 9**

*Questions & Experiments*

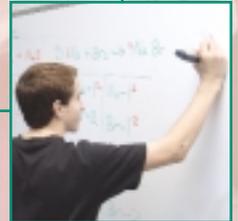


**10 EC SPORTS**

*Winter Highlights*

**EC HS NEWS 11 ~ 14**

*New Challenges & Technology*



**15 ~ 16 ECSA NEWS**

*Remembering Educators*

**ALUMNI NEWS 16 ~ 20**

*Class News & Reunions*



**21 ~ 22 DESIGNATED GIFTS**

*In Memory & In Honor*

**ABOUT THE COVER**

Pictured in their new Preschool classroom are Junior Kindergarten students (L to R): **Jesse Boonstra, Ben Boonstra, John Turpin, Director & Teacher Kathy Faasse, Brandon Aydin, Erin Vander Plaats, and Elisabeth Kuipers.**

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All Address Changes, Alumni News items, and Memorial or Honor gifts should be sent to the attention of the ECSA Development Office at the address above. Items for Alumni News should be identified by class year.

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## New Home for EC Preschool

BY DIRECTOR KATHY FAASSE

After a long wait, the Eastern Christian Preschool has moved to its new facility in Midland Park. The move took place over a long, cold weekend in January; and, thanks to some extra helping hands, the children and staff are thrilled to be in their new home! Located at 50 Orchard Street, the new building is right up the road from the EC Elementary School. This move makes our Preschool a special part of the Midland Park campus and enables the staff to further coordinate student programs, chapels, and activities with the Elementary School teachers.

Two beautiful new classrooms have been remodeled and redecorated to house the Preschool. Everyone anticipates springtime when the property will be landscaped and the playground equipment will be installed.

We are thankful to the Elementary School staff for sharing their building with us for the first half of the school year. The Horizons program and the elementary music classes were moved back to the Elementary building when the Preschool move took place. We are happy to continue to be located close by and look forward to coordinating our efforts to help our students grow spiritually, academically, socially, and in many other ways as we work together within the EC community.

“S” SENSE *continued from Inside Front Cover*

underlying conviction that, not individual power or recognition, but God’s loving view of His people is what matters, then they bear with one another in Christ-like, loving ways. They react and act out of a desire to sacrificially serve each other. Submission allows each adult, in humility, to consider the interests of others. When children witness this in action, there is an undeniable culture of cooperation and community that prevails in a school. The Bible calls this “shalom.” Paul wishes this for each of the congregations he writes to when he writes “grace and peace to you” at the beginning of his epistles. **A Christian school models grace and peace.**

When this happens, there is power in the results. No, problems do not miraculously disappear overnight, but kingdom character is nurtured and we can testify that our children respond. We see it in the way they treat each other and in the almost total absence of serious discipline problems. Our school is a safe place of joy because it is a place of grace and peace.

*Eric’s parents and his principal agreed to pray with Eric each time there was an outburst. Eric’s parents supported a decision that Eric would remain in school no matter how loudly, tearfully, or angrily he demanded to go home. In partnership with the teacher, his parents and the principal made sure Eric was readily accepted back into the classroom each time after an event. Correction of his behaviors came because Eric saw adults who loved him, encouraged him and desired to help him overcome his perfectionist tendencies. He felt safe to experience failure in a school culture that cared more about him than his performance.*

*The principal talked to Jerry and worked out a plan for them to offer his classmates opportunities to resolve the problem. With permission from Jerry’s teacher, the principal individually confronted his classmates who had been involved. Then each child was asked to confess his/her part. Each child prayed with the principal to ask God for help to change the behavior. Then each asked Jerry for forgiveness. Jerry spoke his forgiveness to each student. As a follow-up, his teacher and the principal, with Jerry present, led a series of devotionals about “considering others better than yourself” from Philippians 2. All students in the class had a chance to talk about the importance of forgiveness in God’s plan for reconciliation and salvation.*



Preschool Director *Kathy Faasse* with *Matthew Bottge, Brandon Adair, and Kelsey Veenstra*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN

# Preschool

- ★ Provides a nurturing environment
- ★ Children explore the wonders of God’s creation through Bible stories.
- ★ Teachers are certified in Early Elementary Education.
- ★ Our program develops academic and social skills, creativity, and motor coordination.
- ★ Children participate in music and physical education with our elementary school teachers.



### TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

Who will be your children’s role models? What will you value most in their educational experiences? Isn’t it ironic that even as we choose to uncompromisingly commit to the fellowship of believers in our local church, we tend to allow for the option of sending our children to a secular public school, thinking that church and home are enough to teach the Christian worldview? Your answers to these questions and your subsequent decisions based on those answers will dramatically affect your own lives as parents and the lives of other people your child comes to love, to marry, to work for, and to interact with in our local communities and around the globe. Having spent 25 years in a public school environment and nearly 9 years in a Christian school environment, I am convinced that making this decision matters for a lifetime.

**Call Admissions: (973) 427-6244** to visit our new facility at 50 Orchard Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432

## What's The Difference?

BY LARRY BAKER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AND EC CL. OF '73

**Editor's Note:** This article is reprinted with the permission of EC alumnus **Larry Baker**, who has recently published a book entitled **From the Principal**. Although Larry is writing about the Kalamazoo Christian Schools in this article, **you are encouraged to substitute "Eastern Christian School" whenever that school is named**. We pray that your conclusions will be the same regarding the value of Christian Education in our local northern New Jersey area.

**M**any Christians follow a devotional pattern that brings them through the Bible in a year. If you're one of those folks, you probably work your way through Genesis in January and Revelation in December.

The first chapters of Genesis describe the creation and fall—the beginning of the human race. The last chapters of Revelation reveal the condition of the New Earth and how God's plan will ultimately be carried out. . . .

What makes the difference between these two books? Why is the sun created and later not necessary? Why is Satan initially successful, and seemingly victorious, but ultimately defeated? Why, at one time, did humankind run and hide from God, but later is invited to enjoy His presence forever?

. . . . You and I both know the difference. The difference between Genesis and Revelation is a slain Lamb. The difference between the bleak chapters of Genesis and the beautiful description of our future home is a beaten man on a cross. The difference between the despair of Genesis and the hope of Revelation, is a baby lying in a manger. Jesus is the difference.

Not only is Jesus the difference between Genesis and Revelation, he's the difference between operating the Kalamazoo Christian Schools and Kalamazoo Public. He's the difference between kindergarten at East Christian and kindergarten at Comstock Elementary. Jesus is the reason

the Kalamazoo Christian Schools exist. We are here to show this city, but especially your children, that Jesus makes the difference.

You pay dearly for this Christian education. Although your tuition dollars don't allow us to build budgets that support cutting edge technology. . . ., we deliver an excellent education. You'll find evidence of that excellence as you read through this newsletter.

The important thing your dollars buy, however, and what you can expect from me, from each building administrator, teacher, secretary and custodian in the Christian school system is a commitment to teach and train your children in a way that points them toward Jesus.

If our schools are not revealing the Lordship of Jesus and demonstrating how He makes the difference in all of life, then you are wasting your money. If we are, however, meeting that challenge, and striving toward that mission, then your tuition investment in your child's education will have priceless and eternal returns.



Go to [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) for three more articles: "Is it Worth the Sacrifice", "Is ECES Really that Much Different from an Excellent Public School?" and "A Prayer for Parents & Teachers".

## YOU ARE INVITED to Apply for Admission to EC's Kindergarten for 2004-05



*In all things we are guided by the Word of God—the Bible, the Word made flesh—Jesus Christ, and God in us—the Holy Spirit.*

### OUR CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

Bible Lessons & Language Arts Program ■ Mathematics & Computer Instruction  
Science & Social Studies Exploration ■ Music & Art Experiences  
Scheduled Physical Education Instruction

**For information or tours**, call our Director of Admissions at (973) 427-6244 ■ E-mail: [admissions@easternchristian.org](mailto:admissions@easternchristian.org) or visit our web site: [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org)

Our Kindergarten is located at Eastern Christian Elementary School, 25 Baldin Drive, Midland Park, NJ 07432

HALF-DAY and ALL-DAY PROGRAMS  
TRANSPORTATION & AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE

## Important Growth Stages to Consider

BY DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS  
JANYCE BANDSTRA

Are you aware that according to *Understanding Your Teenager* by Wayne Rice, there are two different times that our children **discover, test** and then **conclude**? Children make discoveries about their world during ages Birth to 4 years old and then again during ages 13 to 14. They test their ideas and relationships during ages 5 - 8 and then again from ages 15 - 17. Children first start to draw conclusions at ages 9 - 12, based on their discoveries and their evaluations. A second round of discoveries and testing brings them to this level of decision-making again from age 18 and up.

0-4	Discovery
5-8	Testing
9-12	Concluding
Puberty	
13-14	Discovery
15-17	Testing
18-on	Concluding

### SA-Puberty Chart

Reprinted with permission from *Understanding your Teenager*, copyright 1992 by Youth Specialties. Administered by *Understanding Your Teenager*, Lakeside, CA 92040, [www.uyt.com](http://www.uyt.com).

**Don't you want your child in a Christian School surrounded by Christian teachers and staff at the first testing age?** Why wait until the first concluding stage is over before sending a child to a Christian school? Come and visit our elementary and preschool and discover for yourself the joy of children singing their praises to God in the morning and praying before saying good-bye at the end of the day. Give your children the opportunity to learn from teachers who love the Lord and strive to show that love to your child each day.

## New Parents Share Their Answers

**Ronald and Kirsten Barna** are new parents in the EC community this school year. They have given permission for us to share their answers to two questions asked of all who apply for admission to our schools. Their response came in the form of this letter addressed to Director of Admissions **Janyce Bandstra**:

*Dear Janyce,*

*Enclosed you will find the question section of the application for admission for our child, **Jessica Barna**.*

### **How did you learn about EC?**

*Eastern Christian Schools and the education that they provide have a significant legacy for me. My father, Russell Kauffman, was a graduate of ECHS Class of 1960 and my aunt, Susan Kauffman, ECHS Class of 1963, often shared with me the value of an Eastern Christian education. In addition,... the Wolyniec family, the Davis family, the Kruis family, and the Soodma family have discussed with me the many positive aspects of the Eastern Christian Schools. As a teenager, I had numerous friends that attended Eastern Christian High School.*

### **What are your reasons for applying for admission?**

*Proverbs 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. This is our primary reason for applying to Eastern Christian School.*

*Our perspective of how education, particularly the formal education of our child, is held to be a responsibility given to us by God when He blessed us with Jessica. We value the view that parents, church and school are partners in the total education of our child.*

*We have looked at all alternative educational opportunities and are convinced that Eastern Christian's worldview and ours are most closely aligned and compatible with our understanding of God's plans for us and our daughter, Jessica.*

*In this respect, we believe that Eastern Christian will provide the best environment for Jessica to continue to develop a Christian worldview, become a positive influence for Christ to do his will and develop a deeper relationship with Christ as her Savior. As well as question, doubt and live out her faith.*

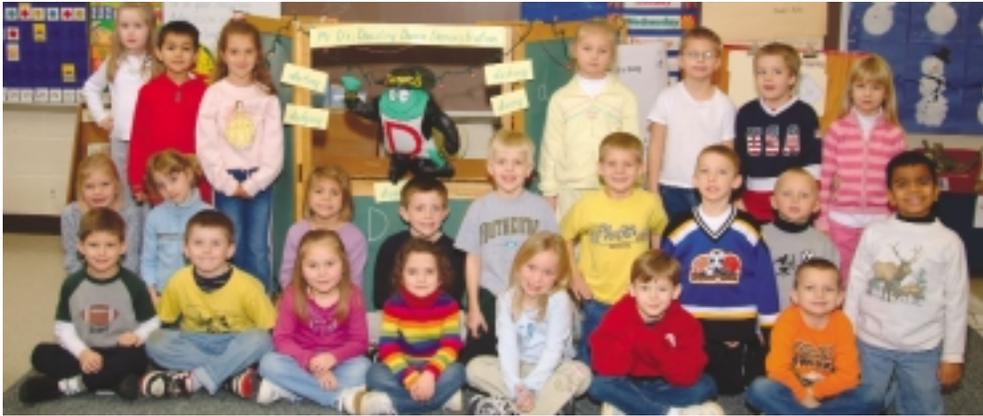


Members present (L to R): **Hilda De Roo, Ruth Knyfd, Jeanette Lont, Garberdina Nywening, Karen Holmes, Carrie Schaaf, Clara Hoogenhuis, and Pauline Van Beekum.**

## Continuing a Long Tradition: Quilting for EC

Faithful volunteers are a continual source of blessing for our school system. A shining example of dedication to Christian Education in action is a close-knit group of women who call themselves the **Esther Quilters**. Every Thursday morning these quilters gather at Midland Park Christian Reformed Church to work on quilting tops that other people have made. In some cases, these women are children or grandchildren of ladies who founded the group – a witness to generations of volunteer support for Eastern Christian School.

Each year they manage to finish about 12 quilts, and they donate their proceeds from their work to EC Elementary School. Working from a "wish list" of various classroom items, they choose to designate their gift to fund many needs in order to equip teachers with tools to enrich the education of our students. This year they designated their donation to be used for items ranging from books to CD players to a water fountain for the Half-Day Kindergarten class. In recent years they have donated money for digital cameras,



Pictured is Nancy Johnston's Kindergarten class, with **Jessica Barna** standing to the left of "Mr. D."

*In closing, a lasting memory occurred when we visited Eastern Christian Elementary School. Everyone (students, teachers, administrators, parents) seemed genuinely happy to be there...learning, teaching, serving God and each other. This is the environment that we would desire for Jessica to grow and be nurtured in.*

*We pray that you would find our application favorable, and that Jessica will be a part of your Kindergarten program in September 2003. Thank you for your consideration.*

*In Christ,*

**Kirsten A. Barna**

**POSTSCRIPT:** When asked recently to provide some follow-up comments, Kirsten sent this note:

*"Our daughter Jessica has been at Eastern Christian Elementary School since September 2003. We are continually blessed and inspired by the dedication, love, and sense of community of the Eastern Christian 'family.' Our daughter is thriving academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally in this Christ-centered, nurturing and challenging environment. She is encouraged and rewarded in her Christian faith and love by her teachers, classmates and friends. We thank God daily that He has led us to Eastern Christian. We hope that our comments encourage other families as they prayerfully contemplate sending their children to Eastern Christian."*

## We Appreciate EC!

*"[I would like to express my] appreciation for four happy and life-forming years at EA, and also with great appreciation for what the Eastern Christian Schools are doing now in your several communities." Mae Harriet (Van Dyk) Rooy (Class of '45)*

*"Still using [Christian Education] to God's glory as we serve Wycliffe Bible Translators here in North Carolina in our retirement." Fred De Ruiter (Class of '52)*

*"The longer I live the more I realize the sacrifices my parents made to send us all to a Christian school. We are now sacrificing to send our grandchildren to a Christian school...We live in a very rural area on a farm and still the influences of the world are all around and children need to know a better way to live....My husband went to Midland Park Christian grade school before he moved to Goshen, NY...His mother and my mother went to Riverside Christian School in the 1920's so you see our 'river runs deep' in Christian education....Our lives are full...'filled up' and 'spilling over' with the love of Christ and the education we received in the Eastern Christian Schools. That will never leave us." Carol (Eichhorn) Visscher (Class of '62)*

*"I am just really grateful to God that He continues to provide for us so that our 2 boys can attend EC. The sacrifice that EC teachers make to teach there is appreciated more than words can express." Karen (De Ritter) Knorr (Class of '82 & EC Parent)*

*"As Christians we are heirs of God, His children. What a blessing to be a part of the EC community! Our children also reap the benefits of the Christian education that we were given. It's a wonderful legacy to pass on. Our prayer is that our children will pass on the gift of Christian education to their children as well." Virginia (Schuil) Groenewal (Class of '82 & EC Parent)*

*continued on page 7*

projectors for computer education, art supplies, and new desks. Giving records in the Development Office show that the amount donated by these committed servants totals over \$27,000 for the years since these records have been kept on computer.

**Garberdina Nywening**, spokesperson for the Esther Quilters, said that they spend approximately four hours each Thursday on quilting projects, often braving bad weather during the winter. Including Mrs. Nywening (who has been a member for 40 years!), the regular members are: **Pauline Van Beekum, Carrie Schaaf, Gladys Van Goor, Jeanette Lont, Ruth Knyfd, Karen Holmes, Hilda De Roo, Clara Hoogenhuis, and Linda Baker.** Some of these ladies volunteer for other organizations as well, such as the Christian Health Care Center. In the CHCC's newsletter *Center Life* Ruth Knyfd was quoted as saying, *"Our greatest satisfaction from being in the quilting group is the fact that we're doing it for Eastern Christian."*

On the day we visited, eight women (2 were absent that day) sat around the frame, busily stitching a quilt top with a butterfly pattern design and one all-white quilt. As their fingers pushed the needles carefully in and out of the layers of fabric, they were enjoying their time together as they talked about common interests, recipes (a favorite topic) or trips they have taken. The results will be two more beautifully finished quilts and another donation to continue their tradition of support for EC.

**If you have a top that needs to be quilted**, please contact Mrs. Nywening at 201-444-5648. The Esther Quilters would be happy to serve you!

## 3rd Graders Create Their Own “Polar Region”

With winter temperatures dipping to arctic levels and ice or snow in the weekly forecast, the third grade students and their teachers **Rhonda Klein**, **Donna Hoogerhyde** and **Holly Turner** created a “polar region” to supplement their study of the books

*Stone Fox* and *Mr. Popper’s Penguins*. The hallway between classrooms became a polar display of snowflakes, “polar” art and interesting facts.

Students began by reading about exciting sled races and researching facts about penguins and explorers, but this learning experience grew to include lessons from other subject areas, too. Boys

and girls were drawing Alaskan dogs, and graphing temperatures using computers. Skills in map reading, letter writing, analyzing statistics, and careful scientific observation were honed. In their physical education classes, students even enjoyed simulating sled races of their own using scooters.

All of these learning activities were made possible with the creative cooperation of art teacher **Lisa Hartensveld**, Horizons teacher **Ginny Folk**, computer education teacher **Sandy Bottge**, and physical education teacher **Deb Veenstra**. The teachers’ goal was to make this a cross-curricular experience, but also to address and encourage the different learning styles of the children.

### FOLLOWING THE IDITAROD MUSHERS

A highlight of the “polar region” study has been the students’ involvement with the annual *Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race*. Using the race’s web site ([www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)), students chose individual mushers to track in the hopes that the person they picked would guide their dog sled team to victory in this world-renowned race, which has been called the “Last Great Race on Earth.” According to the information on the web site, the Iditarod Trail began as a mail

and supply route from the coastal cities to the interior mining camps, with gold returning via dog sleds. “*In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life-saving highway for epidemic-stricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and serum had to be brought in; again by intrepid dog mushers and their*

*faithful hard-driving dogs.*” The current race commemorating the struggle between man, dog and natural forces now runs from Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast. Each team with 12 to 16 dogs per team driven by one musher travel more than 1150 miles in 10 to 17 days.

The many and varied classroom activities culminate in March during the actual Alaskan Iditarod. Students follow their chosen mushers via computer updates and track them on maps in the classroom. During the approximately two-week period, they watch daily to see if their mushers’ strategies for feeding the dogs, traveling days or nights, and their own personal stamina will carry them to the winner’s circle. Hopefully, by that time in the season the weather in New Jersey, if not in Alaska, will be warming up with sunny days and playground races in the grass!



Emily Stokes proudly displays her polar artwork.



“On your mark, get set, mush!”

### Joining Ken Medema in Concert

The music curriculum at ECES included a special opportunity for the third and fourth graders this year. During the last several years the children in these grades have performed several different musicals as part of their learning experience, but this year they were privileged to sing as part of two Ken Medema concerts entitled *The Story Tellin’ Man* on February 28 at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. The performances were well attended, and the audience supported the students with their enthusiastic applause.

Ken Medema is a blind performing and recording artist who has shared his music in a wide variety of venues including churches, campuses, youth events and religious programs on television. He has been writing songs about his Christian life for many years and has produced nine albums. According to the program notes, *The Story Tellin’ Man* “...was a Teacher who told lots of stories. Some were happy, some were pensive and sad. Some were full of adventure, some were quiet and thought-provoking. Some made obvious points, others were difficult to understand. But every story taught an important lesson.” The source of these stories are three Biblical parables: The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep, and The Lost Son.



Shawn Kukol, Connor Elsaesser and Michelle Van Dyke enjoy reading with their stuffed animal friends.

## Helping Our Brothers & Sisters in Peru

Every year at ECES the staff identifies a special cause to support as a school fundraiser. This year students raised money for The Luke Society's efforts in Peru. The Luke Society is an interdenominational organization of Christian health and business professional dedicated to medical missions. The fundraiser's focus was to support a community health program which serves meals to 200-300 children daily in the area of Cerro Bolongo, Peru. According to the letter sent to parents, "The children are not only fed physically, but spiritually as well, through Bible stories, songs and crafts."



Daniel Rose, Amanda Held, Josh Bruins and their classmates were challenged to fill a "lunch bag" featuring a picture of one of the Peruvian children they will be helping.

Students were asked to get personally involved by offering their talents in service to others in exchange for a donation toward this cause. Services ranged from setting the table daily to babysitting and visiting shut-ins. Their activities included shoveling snow and extended to singing or playing instruments in various places.

Principal Dick Van Yperen stated in the weekly Home Bulletin which introduced this project that here at EC Elementary "... we are not just feeding their [the students'] intellects, but also, we are helping them to envision how they can be 'salt' and 'light' for a world that needs restoration from decadence and darkness."

The ECES 3rd graders rehearsed two of the songs as a part of their music education, but the 4th graders spent time all year preparing for these concerts during their music classtime. Teacher Esther Alsum had initiated the contact with Ken because of her experience with his songs. Since Ken had already arranged to perform as part of the annual *Ministry Leadership Conference* sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Deaconate, it worked out well to incorporate our students into the musical performance.

The children learned the basics of harmony, concert etiquette, and how to sing the words so that listeners would be blessed. They also enjoyed discussions about the themes of such songs as "Someone is Waiting," "Friend, You Need a Hand," and "Are You a Loser." Students talked about how Ken Medema defined a "loser" as someone who tries to "go it alone" instead of walking with God. The better alternative, according to the song, is to believe that through all of the problems in life, "He'll always hold you in His love." Mrs. Alsum intertwined lessons about the meaning of the three parables with music lessons that would teach students how to convey these important truths to the listening audiences.

PTO members helped to advertise and sell tickets to both performances. They also purchased T-shirts with the words "The Story Tellin' Man" for all the student performers. The proceeds from this concert were designated to improve the playground equipment at ECES.

### WE APPRECIATE EC! *continued from page 5*

"Looking back, for me a Christian Education was important as a student because it helped shape my life. As a parent I want to share that same experience [with my children]." **Keith Davis** (Cl. of '85 & EC Parent)

"Christian Education is extremely important in our society today. To have Christian teachers being role models for our kids is crucial in their growth to Christian adults." **Tricia (Spyckaboer) Cameron** (Class of '93)

"[We would like to] express our thanks and gratitude to the teachers and principals of both the elementary and middle schools. We have witnessed their dedication and service through our children in recent years, and it has been nothing short of inspiring." **Angelo M. D'Urso** (Current Parent)

"We have always felt that our 4 children received an excellent education at Eastern Christian." **Jean Hofstra** (Past Parent)

"We have been enlightened and influenced by the quality education our granddaughters and daughter are receiving." **Peter and Lois Minck** (Current Grandparents & Parents of Kindergarten Teacher Nancy Johnston)

"I have always appreciated the (Jr. High, High School) education my girls received in EC. Christian schooling is essential in encouraging young people to serve God (at a strategic time in their lives)." **Denise (Lynn) Greco** (EC Current Parent)

"The best decision my parents did for me was to send me to receive a Chr.Ed. - It has influenced me my whole life and prepared me for eternity - Thank God!" **Elsie (Wisse) Schafer** (Cl. of '52)

"Value? - well I've been a teacher in Christian high schools for the past 36 years." **Martin Kooistra Jr.** (Cl. of '63)

"I'm sorry to say that I did not appreciate my EC education while I was receiving it. However now, 'looking back,' it really was priceless! Thank you to all who made it possible!" **Don Van Valkenburgh Jr.** (Cl. of '70)



Ken Medema (bottom left) and ECES Choir

## New Scholarship Established

Eastern Christian School Association would like to announce the establishment of the **Elise Kathleen Gorter Endowed Scholarship Fund** in memory of Elise, a sixth grade student at Eastern Christian Middle School, who entered into the presence of her Lord in late August 2003. The interest from the fund will provide tuition assistance for students attending Eastern Christian School. All gifts for this fund should be sent to: ECSA Development Office, 50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon NJ 07508-2449.

## Bible Bee Sharpens Bible Knowledge

In February, eight ECMS students competed in a Bible competition of the Northern New Jersey 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 instructed that the competition would consist of three parts: a Bible sword drill, general Bible knowledge questions, and questions about their specific knowledge of Acts 1 - 8.

The following students qualified to participate after taking a pre-test of General Bible knowledge:

Grade 5: **Daniel Van Lenten** and **Jaelyn Jacobs**

Grade 6: **Dana Kukol** and **Michael Flim**

Grade 7: **Stephanie Jacobs** and **A.J. Panzica**

Grade 8: **Kyle Vandenberg** and **Joseph Everett**.

Bible teachers **Betsy Tyvoll** and **Joann Everett** agreed the competition was an enriching and rewarding experience. EC students were able to get together with students from other Christian schools to share their knowledge and love of *The Bible*.



Pictured (L to R): **Mrs. Joann Everett, Michael Flim, Dan Van Lenten, Joe Everett, A.J. Panzica, Stephanie Jacobs, Kyle Vandenberg, Jaelyn Jacobs, Dana Kukol** and **Mrs. Betsy Tyvoll**

## ECMS Holds "Souper Bowl"

BY VIRGINIA HOOGSTRA, STUDENT COUNCIL CO-SPONSOR

Part of the education of the students at ECMS is to learn how to look beyond themselves, see the needs of others and, with compassion, respond proactively. The PTO recently made ECMS Student Council members aware of the fact that *Eva's Kitchen* in Paterson needed its Food Bank replenished. Their specific request was for cans of soup. Since this request came just before Super Bowl weekend, it was decided to have a *Souper Bowl Food Drive*. Flyers were sent home, and boxes were placed in the Media Center hallway for collection. These boxes were soon overflowing so additional cans filled containers in the homerooms as well.

A total of **935** cans were collected by the end of the Food Drive. Mr. Henderson's homeroom brought in the most cans of soup (217)! PTO member **Kathleen Lane** and mom **Lauren Norkett** accompanied several Student Council members to deliver all the cans to *Eva's Kitchen*.

We read in II Corinthians 1:3-4 that Jesus is "*the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*" Our hope and prayer for all our students is that they will develop truly grateful hearts for all God has done for them, and then allow that gratitude to motivate them to reach out to others wherever and whenever the need arises.



Fifth grader **Kyle De Jong** holds one of the containers overflowing with cans of donated soup.

## "Sitting" on a Ziggurat

As a response to a lesson about the Tower of Babel, groups of sixth graders were assigned to create replicas of ziggurat towers by their teacher Joanne Everett. Working primarily with cardboard and duct tape, students fashioned towers in a variety of shapes and sizes.

**Mark Lucas** (*ECMS teacher and Herald photographer*) displays his technology skills in this creative photo of one group posing "atop" their own ziggurat. At the highest point of the ziggurat is **Matt Zacaroli**. Other students perched on the structure via computer "magic" are: (left to right) **Ashley Braen, Katie McHugh, Dominique Hunter, Megan Vandenberg** and **Eric Darmstatter**.



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# Designing Structures to Withstand Earthquakes

BY BRIAN SWEETMAN, SCIENCE TEACHER

*“Engineers around the world are researching earthquake-resistant structures. Models are designed, built, and tested to understand how a building will react to the violent shaking of an earthquake.”*

This introduction set the stage for a classroom project that generated student interest and taught several skills using scientific methods. The challenge for teacher **Brian Sweetman**’s students was to “*build a model earthquake-resistant structure and test it on the Epicenter™ Earthquake Simulator*,” according to the teacher’s guide for this activity.

Groups of students began by designing a structure using a pencil, rulers and graph paper. Then they measured and cut balsa wood to follow their blueprint of a tower which was a model of a 150 ft. (or 15 story) building. The objective was to build this tower to scale and test its ability to withstand “earthquakes” of increasing magnitudes when placed on the Pitsco *Epicenter™ Earthquake Simulator*. For each trial, students increased the magnitude with a control box that had numbers corresponding to measurements found on a Richter Scale, the standard tool for evaluating the size of actual earthquakes.

Many towers built by the student groups could withstand an “earthquake” measuring 7.75 on the Richter Scale. One group, consisting of **Ken Kruijs, Jason Lane, Steve Bushoven** and **Josh Tanis**, built a tower that withstood damage from an 8.0 “earthquake.” **Justin Tyvoll, Nathan Bruins, Matt Boonstra** and **Jeremy Stevens** built the tower that could withstand the most damage. Their tower withstood an “earthquake” of 8.25 on the Richter Scale. Congratulations to all of the groups for their excellent effort during this exciting science experiment!



Science Teacher **Brian Sweetman** (center) watches the beginning of the tower’s collapse with students (L to R): **Stephanie Jacobs, Nathan Bruins, Arthur Hoogmoed, Andrew Abadeer** and **Ashley Ronco**

## 5th Grader Stumps Former NYC Mayor

**“What is the hardest decision you ever had to make?”** This was the question posed by ECMS 5th grader **Jeremy Levine** recently to former New York City Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani**, according to ECMS Principal **Florence Nieuwenhuis**. She and her husband Garry, as well as the Levine family, were part of the audience who had come to hear the former mayor speak on “Six Principles of Leadership” on February 6 at William Paterson University.



**Jeremy Levine**

After holding the audience spellbound during his speech, the former mayor fielded questions from the audience. When Jeremy asked his question about the mayor’s hardest decision, Giuliani gave a surprising reply: “I’m stumped!” He shared that TV interviewer Tim Russert from *Meet The Press* has been trying to do this for many years, but Jeremy was the one who succeeded in asking a question that the former mayor could not answer! Giuliani did speak of many painful decisions he has had to make, specifically mentioning that sending fire fighters or police officers into dangerous situations where, for example, a burning building could collapse, was very hard. But identifying the hardest decision? – that would be a question raised by an EC student which Rudolph Giuliani will continue to ponder. Mrs. Nieuwenhuis and the Levine family were proud of Jeremy’s ability to voice an important question in a large public forum. It’s an important part of learning to think critically and to participate as a citizen in our local area – two skills taught from a Christian perspective at ECMS.

## Playing World Games

BY LAURA KUEHLKE,, HORIZONS (GIFTED & TALENTED) TEACHER

Fifth & sixth grade Horizons students traveled to Dwight-Englewood School to participate in the *World Games* role-playing simulations this year. A giant map covers the area in which the game is played. Students are given cards that designate which region they will represent. Each student worked with a team of other students from various schools (200 total were in attendance) to solve major world problems such as hunger, lack of resources, health care, etc. They needed to use their playing cards to trade with other countries that might have more of whatever they required to meet the needs of their people, such as food supplies.

Among the highlights were the reinforcement of several important educational skills. For example, students gained a deeper knowledge of geography. The game also fostered greater awareness of the problems that others face outside of the US. As their teacher, this exercise helped me focus on the fact that as Christians it is important to think beyond ourselves and reach out to help those in need, just as Jesus did. By role-playing and solving the various problems that the regions faced, students were able to put themselves “in another’s shoes” for a day.

The EC students enjoyed this game and look forward to more of these types of activities in the future. Those involved in this year’s simulations included: **Gene Hill, Kevin Post, Sarah Sessa, Megan Hutton, Holly Swenson, Andrew Greico, Scott Bouwense, Danae Diehm, Jeremy Braunius, and Emilee Kim.**



World Games player **Scott Bouwense** reviews the facts with other students on his team.



Go to [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) for three more articles: “*GeoBee*,” “*Engineering Challenge*” and “*WWII Projects*”.

# Sports Highlights

## WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



EC Girls Basketball team members:  
(top to bottom) Kelly Kuiken,  
Melanie Susan & Jackie Stout

### WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS

#### BOWLING:

**Andrew Post**  
Second Team All League

**Andrew Poalillo**  
Second Team All League

**Harrison Bruining**  
Honorable Mention All League

**Brian Vogel**  
Honorable Mention All League

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL:

**Scott Bushoven**  
First Team All League  
Second Team All County

**Daryl Leegwater**  
First Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Dan Westra**  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All League

#### GIRLS' BASKETBALL:

**Mandy Kuiken**  
First Team All League  
First Team All County

**Lindsay Litland**  
First Team All League  
First Team All County

**Melanie Susen**  
First Team All League  
Second Team All County

**Jackie Stout**  
Second Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Kelly Kuiken**  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Boys' Varsity Basketball** (Record: 9-13): After starting the season at 0-3, the Eagles persevered and won 6 of the next 7. The team had several quality wins over Garfield, Lodi and Waldwick. They played competitively in many games, even when they ended a game with a loss. Senior Captain **Scott Bushoven** averaged 15.8 point per game, and Junior Center **Daryl Leegwater** averaged 12.7. A number of underclassmen got significant playing time, so the future looks bright.

**Boys' JV Basketball** (Record: 12-5): This team had several impressive wins over Garfield, Midland Park and Saddle Brook. They stayed competitive with their hustle and determination. With the combination of juniors and sophomores, mixed with several freshmen, this team should help the Varsity next year.

**Boys' Freshmen Basketball** (Record: 12-5): The 13-member freshmen team improved tremendously over the 3-month season. Three of their losses came to a total deficit of only 9 points. Many of these players will be counted on to help the JV and Varsity next year.

**Boys' Middle School Basketball** (Record: 12-3): Eight 8th graders and five 7th graders helped lead this team to a successful season. The season started slowly with 3 losses, while playing with less than a full complement of players (due to the flu). However, the team bounced back with exciting wins over Hawthorne and unbeaten Garfield.

**Girls' Varsity Basketball** (Record: 19-6): This team finished in second place in the League. Two of the losses were to rival Paterson Catholic, with the second loss being by only 2 points at the buzzer! Several of the exciting games include wins over Saddle Brook, Midland Park, Glen Rock and Waldwick. They qualified for the State Tournament, and the team was also ranked 3rd in the County Tournament. **Lindsay Litland** (14 ppg), **Mandy Kuiken** (13 ppg), and **Melanie Susen** (10 ppg) lead the team in scoring.

**Girls' JV Basketball** (Record: 4-13): The JV Team was comprised this year of 11 freshmen. The girls came in with a desire to learn and improve their game. Co-Captains **Shannon Martin** and **Kirsten Lane** both served as leaders to motivate the team. The highlight was a double overtime win on the road at Immaculate.

**Girls' MS Basketball** (Record: 1-14): The team members included 9 eighth graders and 6 seventh graders. 10 of 15 were new to the basketball team this year. The season served as a time of growth with first time players showing improvement in skills and team play, while returning players used previous experience to lead the team.

**Bowling** (Record: 6-14): The 2003-2004 Bowling team was built around a very young team consisting mostly of sophomores. In a tough conference, the team finished 6-14. Several of the highlight matches included wins over Immaculate, Saddle Brook and Manchester.



Members of the 2003-04 Varsity Boys Basketball Team

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## Congratulations!



Athletic Director **Steve King** (L) with  
Custodian **David Joustra** (R)

Congratulations to **David Joustra**! At a meeting of the Passaic County Coaches Association on March 16, Dave was honored by the Eastern Christian Athletic Department for his outstanding service to our Athletic Program. Dave has worked at EC for more than 9 years, and he has been an invaluable co-worker for Athletic Director Steve King during every sports season. Dave is the person responsible for the set-up and take-down of the gym for all athletic activities. He serves Eastern Christian in a tireless manner, never seeking praise for the work he does. Dave is someone whose efforts behind the scenes are never completely recognized by those who attend games or participate in the sports program, but those involved in running the Athletic Program are very thankful for his help. Dave is to be commended for the outstanding service he provides on a daily basis.

Congratulations to **Mandy Kuiken**, **Lindsay Litland** and **Scott Bushoven**, who were chosen to play in the April 10 Bergen Passaic All Star Basketball Classic at Fairleigh Dickinson University. This game, sponsored by the coaches in both counties, showcases the top players from both counties playing against each other.

Congratulations also to Girls' Varsity Coach **Steve King**! He was chosen by the Passaic County Coaches to be one of the coaches for the Passaic team. Coach King just completed his 29th year of coaching Girls' Varsity Basketball at Eastern Christian.



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# Being a Blessing: Current Student Serves an EC Alumna's Non-profit

EC HS Sophomore **Matthew Bouwense**'s work at the Florence Christian Home was a blessing to the residents and to Executive Director **Theresa Bushman** (Cl. of 1937). The Florence Christian Home provides a loving home for unwed pregnant teenagers. As a Boy Scout, Matthew's "Eagle Project" was to beautify the outdoor landscaping for those living at the Home. His work was reported in a December issue of the *Wayne Today* and in several other local NJ newspapers. Included in the following excerpts is a summary of his community service:

*"When we think Boy Scouts, we think uniforms, merit badges, camping and parades. We may even bring to mind young men helping their community with clean-ups, raking, shoveling, and in many cases undertaking much larger projects. What we are not always aware of is the personal role that the scouts often have in defining, planning and executing these projects. Yet this is the requirement for the always challenging 'Eagle Project.'*

*This past summer, **Matthew Bouwense**...planned and executed a project to upgrade the outdoor living area at the Florence Christian Home...located in Wayne, NJ....In April, Matthew began planning the project which would require cleaning the large screened porch and its furniture, removing and refurbishing some of the furniture, building a new picnic table, building and planting new window flower boxes, trimming shrubs and painting. In the months that followed, he solicited materials from the local merchants and coordinated and supervised the efforts of fellow Scouts from Troop 104. Over several weekends and weeknights, the Scouts put in over 125 hours of labor.*

*This September, ...**Theresa Bushman**, Executive Director of the Florence Christian Home, presented Matthew with a letter of commendation. In it, she noted the wonderful improvements and extended her best wishes and prayers for Matthew and Troop 104.*

*Matthew is quick to note the help of his fellow scouts and his pleasant surprise in the level of interest shown by the local firms he had contacted for support....Matthew is a sophomore honors student at Eastern Christian High School...Matthew also serves at Jacksonville Chapel as the sound technician for their Sunday youth services."*

**Postscript:** Since this article appeared, Matt's father **Russell Bouwense** (Cl. of '74) e-mailed to share that Matt went before a board of review on Feb. 23, his last step for the Eagle rank. Plans are set for a "Full Court of Honor" to held on June 12 to honor Matt and two other scouts for their achievement.



EC Alumna **Theresa Bushman** with  
ECHS student **Matthew Bouwense**



**1946 Women's Basketball Team -**  
Pictured (L to R) Kneeling: **Betsy Van Halsema** (Coach), **Marie (Machiela) Intveld**, **Marty (De Puyt) Van Anel**, **Marilyn ("Honey") Hagedorn**, **Ida (Kuiphoff) Martin**, **Evelyn (Link) Houseward**; Standing: **Barbara (Butler) Kaminska?**, **Betty Ann (Drukker) Chabert**, **Ada (Kuiken) Hieb**, **Margaret (Vander Wiele) Feringa**, **Frieda (Vander Byl) Bartlam**, **Evelyn (Smith) Baker**, **Roberta (Spoelhof) Bruinooge**, **Evelyn (Atema) Meppelink**, **Ethel (Petzinger) De See**



Participants in the on-stage dialogue were (L to R): Mandy Kuiken, Rob Struck, Patricia Askew, Cliff Simon, Arielle Passenti, Josh Park, Dan Danza, and Lindsay Litland

# International Relations Chapel: An Important Dialogue & Challenge

**LED BY STUDENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLASS**

*With an Introduction and Closing Comments by Principal Jan Lucas*

## SETTING THE SCENE – THE PRINCIPAL'S VIEW

The job of high school principal is never lacking in excitement and challenge. One can plan meticulously to attend to the obvious details, but the unexpected is so prevalent that there is often an expectancy of “It’s almost too quiet today. I wonder what’s going to happen next?”

The walk from my office to the auditorium for chapel on Thursday mornings is always filled with expectation. As the auditorium doors are opened, the music of the Praise Team fills the hallways. Then as the bell rings to begin the “passing time” to chapel, Praise Team members gather in a small circle on stage for prayer. My faith is affirmed to see that the focus of the musicians is not on performance, but on requesting God’s Spirit to use them to establish a welcoming atmosphere for worship.

Immediately following the bell, students begin make their way to their chapel seats. My sense of community is affirmed as 450 students, faculty and support staff walk past me, some greeting me personally—others engaged in animated conversations; and all are moving to participate in our weekly corporate worship. I am reminded subtly that my membership in this dynamic faith community as a brother in Christ is so much more significant than my role of serving them as principal. I am also excited to experience the wonderful diversity in this community as they walk past!

**But then on Thursday January 22 the mood in chapel is completely different.** The stage is empty, the Praise Team has not gathered, and a lack of a presence of worship leaders causes some uneasiness in the auditorium. A lone faculty member, International Relations teacher **Joel Apol**, makes his way on to the stage, waits a few moments for the audience to quiet and then proceeds with his introduction. Next ten members of his class join him on stage, and they form a semi-circle around two microphones positioned at center stage. Today’s chapel does not follow the normal format. Students **Alex Noyes, Lindsay Litland, Tyler Olson, Dan Danza, Rob Struck, Arielle Passenti, Patricia Askew, Mandy Kuiken, Cliff Simon, Mike Biele,** and **Josh Park** are ready to inform and challenge their classmates.

## THE SCRIPT FOR THIS CHAPEL FOLLOWS:

*(read as a dialogue by members of the class)*

**Introduction:** Our intention today is not to entertain you. Neither is it to engage in direct worship, though we do hope that what you learn may make you better at worship. Our presentation today has four purposes:

1. It will inform you about some things that are very important.
2. It will show why these things matter to all of us personally.
3. It will explain why we know so little an area that is so vitally important.
4. And it will give you some thoughts as to what you can actually do to improve some of these conditions.

### SECTION #1: IMPORTANT FACTS

Many of you were handed colored note cards as you entered the auditorium. Please look at them now and stand up when instructed:

- Will those people who have cards marked with **Yellow** please stand.

■ **If our student body represented the entire population of the US, the two people standing would represent the number of people, in the US that have died of AIDS or have HIV.** (Serious perhaps, but not really mind bending) Note: Only 2 students stood out of a total 405 present to represent one half of one percent of US population.

- Now will those who are holding cards marked with **Blue** please stand.

■ **If our student body represented the population of sub-Saharan Africa, the people standing would represent those who have died of AIDS or have HIV there.** (A little more startling, I’m sure you agree) Note: 70 students stood out of 405, or 17% of Saharan, Africa population

- Now will all of you who have cards marked with **Green** please stand.

■ **This time our whole student body represents all of the children in the southern half of the African continent. Those of you who are standing represent the number of orphans under the age of 15. They are orphaned because their parents have died of AIDS or of diseases that AIDS left them susceptible to.**

■ **These orphans are often the very people who are recruited into the rebel armies that have so terrified much of Africa this decade.** Note: 140 students stood out of 405, or 34% of southern half of the African continent.

There are many reasons for this plague. Perhaps the most major is lack of education. Many Africans are still not convinced that the disease has anything to do

with sexual activity. A common myth found throughout the continent is that AIDS is cured when one has sex with a virgin. In Zimbabwe it is still a widespread custom for uncles to initiate their 8-year-old nieces to sexual intercourse.

The AIDS fueled epidemic of infectious diseases in Africa is also part of the circle of poverty. With so many farmers dead fewer crops are tended and harvested. The food supply is, therefore reduced causing a weaker populace which is more susceptible to diseases. The fact that the affected countries are less prosperous also means that they are less able to provide education and medical help which then, of course, leads to more disease and poverty. Some experts in Africa fear that what we are witnessing is the beginning of the total destruction of civilization in Africa.

**Transition:** As disturbing as some of these facts are, they, for the most part, do not seem to affect us directly. Why should we, as Christians and also as Americans, be concerned? This all seems to be happening a long way away and none of it seems to have much of an impact on us here in America.

### SECTION #2: WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS & WHY SHOULD THEY MATTER TO CHRISTIANS?

Actually, we should be very concerned because in several ways, both direct and indirect, America and other rich countries are responsible for the situation being as bad as it is.

- **Less than 4% of the world’s population lives in The US. Yet we use more than 20% of the world’s resources.**

There is a tremendous shortage of medicines in the poorest and most disease ravaged places in the world.

- **Another common misconception is that we Americans give more to overseas charity and relief organizations than other countries.** It is much less compared to almost all other prosperous countries.

- **Debt that is owed to US and European Banks also make it very hard for poor countries to help themselves.** Some countries are paying as much as 60% of their yearly GNPs just to pay interest on these debts.

**As Christians it is simply not acceptable to be part of a nation that has, within its power, so much potential for good in the world, and that does so little:**

■ **Christ himself, when asked what is expected of the Godly, replied that seeing to the needs of the poor was foremost.**

- When the Apostle Paul explained to the Corinthians what a Christian did, he used King David's words that "He is one who gives generously to the needy.
- But you do not have to go that far into the Bible to find this theme. In the very first chapter of Genesis the cultural mandate tells mankind to take dominion over the earth.
- To have dominion means to take care of the world for God. It means to bring his kingdom into the world, to do what Christ would do.

**So, how do you think we, who have so much, are doing in taking care of those who have so little?**

There is another, more insidious side to why this all matters to us. Infectious diseases have been held at bay in America and Europe by a combination of superior health care and a medical community that has been able to meet almost every challenge. This, however, may not be the case in the near future. **Misuse of antibiotics and new "super bug" strains of old diseases are making the entire world's population more at risk.** These new strains are developing much faster than researchers abilities to deal with them. Add to this the huge increase in inter-continental travel and business, and it may be a matter of a few short decades before we witness the horrors of Africa here in America.

**Transition: So, if the situation in Africa is such a serious threat to, not only itself, but to the rest of the world too, then why aren't we doing something?** Why isn't our country spending the necessary time and resources to meet this threat? Why aren't we all aware of it? Isn't this just about the biggest threat to national security that could possibly exist? This next section might answer some of these questions for you:

### SECTION #3: CONSIDER THESE CONTRASTS. DO YOU SEE THE PROBLEM?

- AIDS has now become history's most deadly disease with fatalities surpassing even the Black Death of the Middle Ages. A United Nations estimate confirms that over 24.5 million people in Africa have AIDS. That's more than 70% of the world's total cases.
- NBC is charging a record \$2 million for a 30 second advertisement slot during the May 6 Friends finale. This is despite the rumor that members of the cast were selling crack during the final shooting.
- Last year alone AIDS killed over 2.3 million people. 9 countries in Africa report that more than 10% of their populations have the virus. Included in these are Kenya and South Africa.
- Martha Stewart pleaded innocent today to charges of securities fraud. Unlike Michael Jackson, she did not dance on the roof of her limo.
- It is now estimated that 1 out of every 10 people that are infected with HIV in South Africa do not even know that they have the disease.

**Do you see the problem?** The reason we don't know about the important stuff is that we are not told. **What we see or read in the news are not lies, but we are so involved in frivolous things that what is important is lost.** News, in order to survive must have an audience. Audiences want to be entertained. World disease might be more important than the peace keeping efforts in Iraq, but explosions are much more exciting. Millions of people slowly dying in mass is simple not entertaining. So guess what you will see on the news and guess what you will not.

**Transition:** So what do we do with all this information? We may all be a little wiser than we were twenty minutes ago, but what good is knowing all this?

### SECTION #4: HOW CAN WE ACTUALLY HELP THE SITUATION?

**First of all, Be Aware!** You might enjoy popular culture or sports or music, but understand that there are far more important things in the world and you have an obligation as a Christian to know what they are. We can show you some places where you can see how you can help in a variety of ways. You can pick up a sheet with more information after chapel:

- Place "Number One" to go is to your computer. **The Hunger Site** ([www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com)) and **The Child Health Site** ([www.thechildhealthsite.com](http://www.thechildhealthsite.com)) both have dozens of different ways that you can do something. Just clicking on these site results in food or medical help being sent.
- **Another good opportunity is by sending your thoughts directly to our own government.** Our congressmen are vitally concerned with what people in their districts think. Writing even short notes to their offices stating your concerns is worth your while. Please pick up the listing of area congressmen's addresses that includes Congressmen **Scott Garret (5th District)**, **Bill Pascrell (8th)**, **Steve Rothman (9th)**, and **Donald M. Payne (10th)**.
- **Right here in our own school there are also things to do.** Take advantage of the group prayer on Wednesday mornings and ask God to help us to find service opportunities. We hope in the near future to organize a day of fasting. The money that we spend in a day for food, if saved, collected and sent, would probably feed the same number of people in Africa for a month. We would spend a good amount of the fasting period praying and participating in other activities that would help in the same way. Watch for further announcements.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

You see what we've done. **We showed you a major problem and concern to us as Christians.** We explained why it is so vitally important to us both as Christians and Americans. We showed you why we never really hear about it, and we have given you some options to act on.

All of us spend most of our lives being served—by our families, by this school, by our nation and local governments. This is not why we were created. **Isn't it time we serve God through serving others, like Christ did?**

We urge you to do something you are not used to doing. **Be like Christ. Look for ways to serve others for a change. Don't just be served yourself. Let's close this chapel with prayer.**

### PRINCIPAL'S POSTSCRIPT:

Our Thursday schedule provides time for a morning break right after chapel. Many students eat their first meal of the day during this time, relying on the local deli for bagels or a Taylor Ham and egg sandwich. As I watched them that Thursday, I was amazed to see students exhibiting some rather uncharacteristic behaviors as they got on the food service line after the chapel leaders' challenge to "Be like Christ" and "Look for ways to serve others."

Chapel had ended about 10 minutes early on this day, and at that same time the food server from the deli arrived to set up the breakfast options. The line for food service began to extend all around the cafeteria and then up to the auditorium door, but on this day the students waited **patiently** for at least 10 minutes while preparations were made to serve the food. During this time students conversed at low volume or stood quietly in personal reflection—the line took on a very relaxed character. There was no pushing or line cutting to attempt to be the first to get to the food. The students' behavior was extraordinary! It became obvious to me that this morning's chapel significantly impacted many students. Their immediate, practical response to the challenge of the International Relations class—that their first responsibility as United States citizens is to be global caretakers of a hurting world—was impressive.

There was one more affirmation that encouraged me as the principal. The faculty is committed to a cycle of student learning that results in a challenge for students to extend their newly discovered knowledge to other people. At the end of their International Relations course, this group of students had felt compelled to encourage the entire student body to share some of their significant concerns and insights. It was exhilarating to see this take place in chapel as one example of how faith integrates with learning at Eastern Christian High School. The next anticipated series of events will follow from the answer to the question: "How will students respond to this challenge?" It may seem unbelievable, but I expect to be pleasantly surprised once again!



Go to [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) for the full version of this chapel



Go to [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) for two more stories:

"North Jersey Scholars, Dan Sunden" and "Tom Henion Receives Humanity Award".

## Quebec Quotes

*"Quebec is a fascinating place. It seemed to be untouched by modern culture and full of historic charm."* – **Brian Lonagan**

*"It was one of the best memories in the year 2003! Every piece of my memory there is filled with fun and joy, even my unforgettable injury."* – **Ka-young Kim**

*"Canada was a good experience. But it was too cold for me!"* – **Codi Van Vlaanderen**

*"It was an awesome experience to have fun and learn more about French people and culture."* – **Jackie Carelis**

*"Our trip to Quebec was very interesting and fascinating. Whether we were dog sledding or tobogganing or even on a walking tour of the city, we were having fun and were always busy."* – **Drew Kuipers**

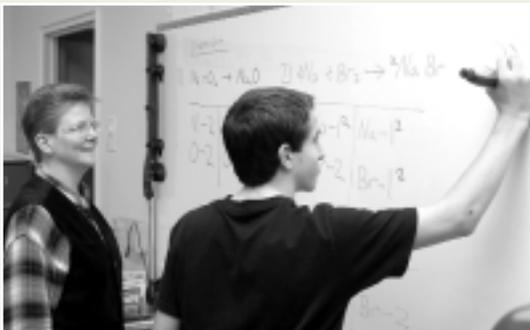
*"Canada was clean, and Quebec was a very beautiful decorated city."* – **Mourai Whitaker**

## New Technology: The Mimio Adds to the Learning Experience

BY RUTH RUDD, RESOURCE ROOM TEACHER

How do you learn best? Just looking at your text or notes (though this is the study method often used) is not the best way. What if you were allowed to rearrange the material you needed to learn using pictures, webs, timelines, maps, etc? Wouldn't it be great to do that on a whiteboard and then print it out? That's just what the students in the Resource Room can do every day.

The *mimio*, a new technology commonly used in business meetings, attaches to the left-hand side of any whiteboard. Using the different frequencies of each colored marker, the *mimio* keeps track of what is written, drawn, or graphed on the board and then sends the information to a printer. The result is a color "picture" of the student's work on the board and a helpful resource for further study. This technology has given many of our students the ability to study in a more effective way. Not only have they studied better, they have studied twice—once at the board and secondly from the printout!



Teacher **Ruth Rudd** and student **Robbie Anfang** at work using the *mimio*.

# Students Experience the Fascination of Quebec

BY MANUELA LINDEMULDER, ECHS FRENCH TEACHER



Quebec Immersion Tour Participants

With bags packed full of warm woolies and our sights set on adventure, members of the French II and International Relations classes set off with their sponsors, Manuela Lindemulder and Joel and Mary Apol, for the winter play land of the north—Quebec, Canada.

Traveling through the night by motor coach, the group arrived by mid-morning on December 29 ready to embark on a four-day "Immersion Tour Extravaganza." Everyone was impressed with the beauty and charm of Old World Quebec in the winter as our walking tour of the fortified city progressed. Highlights of the day included a British tea ceremony, the toboggan slide on the Dufferin Terrace, a moonlight walk on the ramparts, ice skating in the center of town, and hot chocolate at the downtown café. At the end of the day we fell into our beds exhausted!

The next day we experienced unforgettable dog sledding and snowshoeing experiences on a trapper's trail. What fun to discover the exhilaration of the winter wilderness and to experience it as the French Canadians had done in the past.

The shoppers in our group were not disappointed as we explored an authentic Canadian Christmas market and sampled local delicacies. What a treat! However, the day was made complete by an evening of delicious food and wonderful entertainment by a live French Canadian band at a "sugar shack." Here we learned what it takes to harvest maple sap and learn the process by which it becomes syrup. We also had ample opportunity to assure the quality of the syrup by tasting it for ourselves. This was not a hardship for any of us!

After a breakfast of smoked buffalo and blueberry cakes at the Huron Indian Village, we trekked up the Beauré Coast on Day 3. We visited the Montmorency Falls and viewed the great basilica of Sainte Anne de Beauré. The sights were absolutely awe-inspiring. We ended the day as thrill-seekers at Village des Sports. This winter amusement park is devoted entirely to "extreme" tubing, ice-skating and driving bumper cars on ice. What an adrenaline rush! Mercifully, we all survived the great heights and high speeds involved in these heart-stopping activities.

Alas, the day of our departure came, and we bid Quebec "au revoir" with a memorable walking tour of the Place Royale. The old architecture of the city spoke volumes about its rich historic past. Especially notable were several building facades where French artists created a "trompe l'oeil" depicting various episodes in Quebec's history.

We departed for New Jersey by noon that day, tired and yet very satisfied with our successful trip. We knew even then that this trip was scheduled to be repeated in December, 2005. The positive feedback from our students confirmed that our "voyage au Canada" had been everything we had expected and more!

# Remembering A Long-time EC Servant: Bert Van Wyk

## A Letter to EC from Marian Van Wyk

“Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the entire Herald with a great deal of interest. So much is happening in the Eastern Christian Schools, and as one who has a personal interest in ECSA, I am impressed.

I am the widow of Bert Van Wyk, who began his teaching career in February 1958 in the old Riverside Christian School, one and a half years before the Wyckoff Christian School opened and the Riverside School was closed.

The Herald was addressed to me only, so obviously you have received word of Bert's death from cancer at age sixty-eight on September 16, 2003. Our six sons, [are] all graduates of ECSA, (except Michael, who moved with us in his senior year)...

Bert would have been very interested in the beautiful new Middle School. As the elementary school principal of both Wyckoff and Midland Park for over twenty years, he had a dream of having a gym there someday. He spoke of it often with his colleagues, knowing it was just a dream for the future.

Bert spent a total of twenty-eight and one half years serving in the Eastern Christian Schools. His dedication to his work was total, and he admitted in later years that his commitment to the schools sometimes took precedence over his family because the demands were great. At one point his job included teaching half days in fourth grade while administering the two schools! Bert would often be found at school on Saturdays....

Bert continued to be a classroom educator for another eight years after we moved to Georgia. His last five teaching years were spent in a rural community in north Georgia, teaching remedial reading to middle school students, utilizing every possible strategy to help them because his dedication to educate children was relentless.

After he retired, Bert became a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and was appointed president of the organization in our county. He also taught in the adult literacy program in our county, which included teaching GED classes to inmates in the county jail.

Tonight our son, Joel, will be attending his 20th class reunion from Eastern Christian High [Cl. of '83]. Most of his classmates will remember his Dad. As I read names and alumni news in the Herald, Bert had direct interaction with so many, either as students or as parents of students....

One final note, my intent is... to acknowledge one man's significant impact on hundreds of children entrusted to his influence over more than a quarter of a century. With sincere appreciation –

Respectfully,

Marian Van Wyk



Bert Van Wyk (far right) pictured with fellow staff members in the 1950's.

## Join the Christian Burial Fund as a Member & Help EC

The Christian Burial Fund was started in 1910 with the purpose of helping pay for funeral expenses. The money that was collected was then invested as mortgages. The interest that was earned through these mortgages was then donated to Eastern Christian School Association. The death benefit is still only \$200.00 but the benefit to Eastern Christian is \$20,000 per year. Over \$300,000.00 has been donated to Eastern Christian since the fund began.

Currently the Christian Burial Fund Board Members are: President **Jim Jacobs**, Treasurer **Bernie Mulda**, **Len Dykman**, **James Lodema**, **Gary Rozema** and **Ken Tanis**. **Bertha Jacobs** serves as the bookkeeper.

Dues: Birth to 15 years — \$2.60 per year  
15 to 20 years — \$3.12 per year  
20 to 30 years — \$4.16 per year  
30 to 40 years — \$5.20 per year  
40 to 45 years — \$7.80 per year  
45 to 50 years — \$10.40 per year

**Please call EC's Development Office for an application**, so that this source of income for EC can continue. It is a small investment that brings significant, continuous income for our school.



The Development Office staff visited the Holland Home in February, showing the EC video and viewing photos from the 20's, 30's and 40's. **Dick Jeffer** (left) and **Jewel (Belanus) Snyder** (right) help Asst. Development Director **Gail Beverly** identify students in photos they brought to share.

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## A Tribute to a Christian School Educator



On January 29, 2004 **Frances Greydanus** passed away at the age of 92. She was born on April 4, 1911 in Prospect Park. She graduated from Eastern Academy in 1927 and received her teaching certificate from the Paterson Normal School. She began her teaching career at North 4th Street Christian School, where she herself had been a student, and taught there from 1929-1941. In 1941 she moved to California, teaching at Bellflower Christian School from 1941-1943.

In 1943 she returned to New Jersey to teach English at Eastern Academy until 1946. From 1946-1950 she moved back to California to serve as Principal of Bellflower Christian School. Again in 1950 she returned to New Jersey where she taught English for 4 years at Eastern Academy. From 1954 until her retirement in 1976 Frances taught English and served as the Librarian at the Eastern Christian High School in North Haledon.

Miss Greydanus earned two Masters Degrees during her career. Her first was earned in Social Studies and Administration from Montclair State. Her second masters was earned at Rutgers in Library Science. It was this masters degree that Frances worked on in order for Eastern Christian to receive accreditation as a high school. Frances also earned two Fullbright Teaching Scholarships during her career. From 1956-57 she taught English in Rotterdam, Netherlands. From 1961-62 she taught English in Taipei, Taiwan.

Frances was also involved in many areas after her retirement. She served on the Christian Reformed Board of Publications, Classis Hackensack Historical Society and volunteered at the Corner Closet. She also was instrumental in starting the Friendship Ministries, a ministry serving the mentally and physically impaired.

Frances Greydanus was a faithful servant to Christian Education. She dedicated her life to teaching. In June, 1976 during her final chapel prior to her retirement, she challenged the students to take serious the Christian life: *"There is no unemployment for a Christian. It is a full-time job. It is evident in our work, in our relationships with others, in the decisions we make, in the friends we chose, in our everyday vocations. The Lord expects us to do the work for which we have been given talents."* She focused on Colossians 3:23-25: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving."* Miss Greydanus served the Lord with passion in her teaching. Eastern Christian and her many students benefited greatly from this servant of the Lord, and we give thanks as she has now received her inheritance. *(Submitted by the family for this publication)*

**Note:** Donations in memory of Frances Greydanus have been designated for the ECHS Media Center or The Holland Christian Home.

## Alumni News

*Thank you to all who responded to our recent survey with Alumni News items to share! We will print your "news" in the next issue of The Herald if it does not appear in this issue. – The Editor*

### A Note Regarding a Former EC Staff Member

Several individuals in our community contacted the Development Office to convey that former EC staff member **Julia Cutler** passed away on February 24. She was 88 years old and had lived in the Presbyterian Retirement Community of Quarryville, PA for a number of years. According to *The Southern Lancaster County Chronicle* newspaper article, Julia started teaching in rural schools in that state's Drumore Township before moving to New Jersey. She became a teacher, principal and finally the Promotions Director for Eastern Christian School Association before her retirement. We extend our sympathies to her relatives and friends. *(Ed. Note: You may contact our office for more details contained in the article.)*

### CLASS OF 1940

#### Class Rep Needed

**Rev. Louis J. Dykstra**, 79, died of cancer in Grand Rapids, MI on Nov. 2, 2003 as reported in *The Banner*. He graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary in 1949 and served 7 congregations as their pastor, including the former Irving Park CRC in Midland Park, NJ. He retired in 1988 but remained active for many years in the ministry and as a volunteer for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and Habitat for Humanity.

### CLASS OF 1954

#### Class Rep: Larry Hoogerhyde

2141 Paris Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3121  
E-Mail: [larryh@altelco.net](mailto:larryh@altelco.net)

The 50th Class Reunion will be held on Thursday, **Oct. 21, 2004** at Marks Village Inn, Wayne, NJ. For more information, contact **Eunice (Meyers) Broersma** or **Jane (Vermaas) de Waal Malefyt**. We are anticipating a great turnout!

### CLASS OF 1958

#### Class Reps: Garret & Florence (Okkema) Nieuwenhuis

20 Pleasant View Dr, North Haledon, NJ 07508-2925

**Elva Craig** e-mailed that she would like to hear from her classmates. She writes, *"I have spent 37 years working with Baptist Mid-Missions, 4 years in Alaska and the rest at the University of Iowa with Campus Bible Fellowship. I do a lot of work with International students and as a result have traveled many places in Asia. This past summer I spent one month in China and one week in Mongolia with friends of students as my tour guides. It is exciting to share the Gospel with these people."*

### CLASS OF 1962

#### Class Rep: Nancy (Hartog) Ruitter

127 Howell Rd, Freehold, NJ 07728-8884  
E-Mail: [nruiter@aol.com](mailto:nruiter@aol.com)

**Carol (Eichhorn) Visscher** sent us this update: *"We live in a very rural area on a farm and still the influences of the world are all around and children need to know a better way to live. The only way they will receive this is by seeing how their Godly teachers live their lives.... I am honored to be the Library Director of our small local library. In our pre-school story hour I'm currently teaching 3 and 4 year olds about*

the fruits of the Spirit. They're old enough to learn about Joy, Love, Peace, Kindness, Goodness and Patience and there are many good children books that reinforce these virtues. A librarian just has to take the time to find them. The children do listen and absorb what I teach them...they come to me the next week reporting how someone was not 'kind' to them or how they were 'patient' to a brother or sister....As a side note, I would like to mention I have had no formal education in Library Science the only training in running a library I received from **Miss Frances Greydanus** at Eastern Christian, but the training was excellent and it has served me well for the almost ten years that I have run the Library....Living away from any of the 'usual' Reformed areas has given me the unique opportunity to play CRC 'tag.' Talk to a person long enough and I can sometimes find a 'link' to either the Christian Reformed Church or Eastern Christian School. Our major 'link' is our love for our Savior Jesus Christ and His kingdom. Our marriage has survived 40 years mainly because of this mutual love for each other and respect for each other's faith. Having come through different experiences in life could have created a wedge, but Christ has taken our differences and made a united force that is able to spread His love to all who we meet and work with in our Real Estate and Auction business.... I've learned to milk cows, cashier an auction, and sell real estate as well as a run the library and help raise grandchildren."

### CLASS OF 1965

#### Class Rep Needed

**Shawn (Lois) Vernon** sent us some of her North 4th St. class pictures and some Echoes yearbooks from the 1960's. We were happy to receive these items for our archives and encourage others to contact the Development Office if you have photos/yearbooks to donate. Shawn is now living in Kaunakakai, Hawaii. (Ed. Note: We hope to print one of these N. 4th St. class pictures in the next issue.)

### CLASS OF 1966

#### Class Rep: Case De Haan

243 Browning Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208-1022  
E-Mail: [nddehaan@aol.com](mailto:nddehaan@aol.com)

Ten class members have pooled some dollars and ideas to develop a Web Site for the ECHS Class of 1966. **Brian Lokker**, who has created a new Web site design business, has volunteered to

develop this site, with a view "to unleash the power of digital communication design." The web site will be a place to post letters, thoughts and greetings, with links to the EC Web site ([www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org)) and personal home pages. The interactive site will be like an ongoing reunion that will include a place for pictures and position papers. For more information, contact **Case De Haan** or Brian ([brian@dutchdog.com](mailto:brian@dutchdog.com)). The formal announcement of the site will take place in the next issue of *The Herald*.

**Jan (Boonstra) Post** was notified us that classmate **Robert (Bobbie) Luyendyk** passed away on Jan. 1, 2004. He leaves a wife, two children, a grandchild and his mother. Contact the Development office for his relatives' addresses.

**Evan Heerema** is currently Director of Field Education and Career Development at Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, MI, per the recent survey mailed to alumni.

### CLASS OF 1971

#### Class Rep: Gail (Bakker) Beverly

20 Wendt Lane, Wayne, NJ 07470-6440  
E-Mail: [development@easternchristian.org](mailto:development@easternchristian.org)

**Linda (Nawyn) Algera** and her father **Edward Nawyn** (Cl. of '40) have released their second CD, entitled *Showers of Blessings*, which is a collection of hymns arranged for piano and organ.

### CLASS OF 1972

#### Class Rep Needed

**Jim Kuiken** has been appointed President of Montgomery Watson Harza, Asia-China. Montgomery Watson Harza manages, designs and builds environmental infrastructure in China for multi-national companies and cities. Jim is responsible for the company's operations in greater China which includes primary offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei and Hong-Kong. Jim is married to **Amy (De Rose) Kuiken** (Cl. of '73).

**Pat Veenema** submitted the following news, "**Robert Jay Van Denend** died January 2003. He was my husband from 1976 - 1998. He is survived by our two daughters: **Monica Jo Van Denend Barco** and **Betina Joy Van Denend**, both living in Durham, NC."

### CLASS OF 1973

#### Class Rep Needed

**Larry Baker** is the Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Christian Schools in Kalamazoo,

## Alumni Birth Announcements

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

**CLASS OF 1983 - Thomas and Renee (Borduin) Boardman** (Cl. of '88), a daughter, Leah Joanne on 10/26/03.

**CLASS OF 1991 - Ralph and Allison (Veenstra) Faasse** (Cl. of '97), a son, Jacob Alan on 11/20/03.

**CLASS OF 1992 - Joel and Bonita (Van Dyke) Weber**, a son, Mark Phillip on 9/30/03.

**CLASS OF 1993 - Michael and Tammy (Luinenburg) Propst**, a son, Andrew Michael on 11/15/03.

**CLASS OF 1997 - James L. and Hanneka Mader**, a daughter, Catherine Elizabeth Anne on 12/14/03.

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

MI. He recently published a book entitled *From the Principal*. It is a collection of insightful and humorous newsletter articles written on a variety of Christian school-related topics during his 9 years as high school principal.

### CLASS OF 1982

#### Class Rep: Patricia (Elzinga) Moschella

3 Mountain Ave, Byram, NJ 07874-3237  
E-mail: [moschella@juno.com](mailto:moschella@juno.com)

**Lois (Vander Ploeg) Amos** (Cl. of '59) returned our recent survey with an update on her son **Jim Amos**, saying that Jim is now the owner of the *Hen's Roost* restaurant in Oakland. He is married to Kristen and they have 2 children: Nathan (3 /12) and Anna (6 months).



In November, **Maria and Shawn Bultsma** invited seven of Maria's former 4th, 5th and 6th grade students for Sunday dinner. The Bultsmas now live in Grand Rapids, MI, and these EC alumni had enrolled as freshmen at either Calvin College or Reformed Bible College. Pictured are: Front: Jennifer and Jesse Bultsma; Row 1: **Katie Hutton, Maria Bultsma, Bryan Troast**; Back Row: **Steve Bogertman, Sarah Vander Ploeg, Jackie Hoogstra, Ryan Kuiken and David Bogertman**.

continued on page 18

**The following excerpts are taken from the Class of 1983's Reunion Book:**

**Thomas Boardman** currently works as an entomologist for the Department of Defense after receiving his BS in environmental planning and design from Rutgers. He received his Masters in entomology from the University of Maryland. Tom and his wife, **Renee (Borduin) Boardman** (Cl. of '88) live in Columbia, MD and attend Chapelgate Presbyterian Church. (See *Alumni Births*)

**Merly (Abreu) Bundy** and her husband Bruce are church planting missionaries with Brethren in Christ World Missions. Merly also teaches English to leading executives in Madrid. The Bundy's have three children.

**Greg Golden** works as a customhouse broker for Panalpina, Inc. He and his wife, **Lauren (Cook) Golden** (Cl. of '87) have three children. Greg volunteers with the Gideon's International organization. Looking back, Greg writes, "Do I dare mention painting the chimney?" and "Should we remember our senior year basketball team with a record of 0 and ?? - who can remember how many losses?"

**Sheryl (Tamboer) Ritschel** received her degree in economics from Wheaton College and an MBA in quantitative analysis from Seton Hall University. She is a Sunday school teacher and a den leader for Boy Scouts of America. The Ritschels attend First Presbyterian Church of Whippany.

**Joel Van Wyk** received his degree in ornamental horticulture from Bergen Community College and now owns Timber Lake Ground Maintenance in Georgia. Joel and his wife Alison have two children. Joel enjoys restoring his 1965 Chevelle, 1980 Flash Gordon pinball machine, boating and is a weekend warrior with remodeling and fix-it projects. Joel and his family attend New Hope CRC of Dunwoody.

**CLASS OF 1983**

**Class Rep: John Martin**

8 Henion Place, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403-1602  
E-Mail: [jmartinclass83@aol.com](mailto:jmartinclass83@aol.com)

Class Rep **John Martin** writes, "I would like to thank all of my classmates that turned out to make a great night out of our reunion. A really big THANKS to Tammy, Linda, Karen and Kris for pulling this whole thing together. The night started out with a welcome and prayer by Greg Golden who also prepared a nice picture presentation from old yearbook photos. Next Mike Westra said a few words to remember the loss of **Terri Vogel** and **Larry Rizzo**. He read a touching letter from Teri's mom that was also read at her memorial. The rest of the night was full of fun and laughter. About 40 classmates were in attendance. We're sorry the rest could not make it! You were missed!"

**CLASS OF 1984**

**Class Rep: Wendy (Van Dyk) Abma**

177 Godwin Ave, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-2004

**David Ackerman** called from Tennessee to ask about a 20-year reunion for the Class of 1984. Contact the Development Office if you are interested in organizing a get-together this year.

**CLASS OF 1990**

**Class Rep: Julie (Frens) Stinton**

2634 Almont Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
E-Mail: [STINTMJ726@aol.com](mailto:STINTMJ726@aol.com)

Congratulations to **Dr. Garry Vermaas** who is now a licensed Professional Engineer. Garry has opened a new structural design and inspection firm in Florida with offices in New York, Ohio and China. Garry currently lives in Ft. Lauderdale with his wife Jodi and son Garret. His email address is: [Garry@vermaas.us](mailto:Garry@vermaas.us).

Jodi Amos is now **Jodi (Amos) Koment**, per a note from Jodi's mother, Lois. Jodi married Ed Koment in May, 2003.



**Members of the Class of '83 at their 20th Year Reunion:** (L to R) **Front row:** Mary (Abma) Westra, Beth Bangma, Lorinda (Doss) Leon, Jodi (Abma) Woudenberg, Sue (Boogertman) Mertz, Diane (DeWitte) Henderson, Bev (Broersma) Schaaf, Darla (Wisse) Bertollo, Tammy (Bysterbusch) Gundlah; **Second row:** Tim Westra, Kathy (Hsu) Wibberly, Tracy (Stonehouse) DeRuiter, Linda (Kohere) Vandenberg, Lori (VanHeemst) Martin, Karen (Rienstra) Borduin, Greg Golden, Ken Bushoven, Joel Van Wyke, Ken Kruis, John Martin; **Third row:** Vonda Kuiken, Kris (Bosma) Pepper, Karen (Brandes) Spano, Marianne (Lier) Stryuk, Barb (Veenema) Schulz, Heidi (Rusticus) Verhage, Roger Verhage, Lyle Campbell, Jim DeKorte, Steve Woudenberg, George Schaaf, Dave Oostdyk; **Back row:** Ken Nieuwenhuis, Michael Westra, Rich Sytsema, Scott Tanis, Eric Klein, Steve Martin, Dave Aquadro, Rich Leentjes, and Dan Holwerda

### CLASS OF 1992

#### Class Rep Needed

69 Walray Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508-2448  
 Mom Jean Borduin sent an update on son **Wayne Borduin** and his family. They were in Singapore for a 6-month assignment with Chevron/Texaco and were scheduled to return to USA in late February.

### CLASS OF 1994

#### Class Rep: Julie (Bowers) Tilson

403 West Richwoods Blvd, Peoria, IL 61604-1550  
 E-Mail: Gjtilson@aol.com  
 The 10-year Class Reunion will be held on Saturday, **May 29, 2004** at Aldo's Italian Restaurant in Wyckoff, NJ. Any questions, contact Class Rep **Julie Tilson** or **Sara (Sonderfan) Heerema** at sarita\_kay@hotmail.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  
 Class Rep **Elizabeth Hoogmoed** writes, "I am starting to look into putting together our 10-year reunion. Anyone interested in helping should contact me via e-mail or call me at 973-831-6765."

**Gregg J. Boonstra** has been keeping busy since graduation. He has been working in live broadcast audio production, has attended Word of Life Bible College, and also worked and volunteered in youth ministry. With his experience, Gregg came to the conclusion that the quality audio, multimedia, lighting, and reproduction technology used in industry and broadcast work should be used for ministry. Gregg has founded *Sound Idea Technical Services, Inc.*, through which he has been bringing these technologies to various ministries. Gregg has taught volunteers how to effectively use their existing equipment, provided staff for audio engineering during worship services and concerts, provided lighting and curtains for concerts in addition to designing and installing new systems. He recently designed a new audio system for a century-old church located one block from the Atlantic Ocean, taking into account the corrosive salt air environment. Gregg is happily married to Marisa, and you can call the Development Office if you'd like to contact him.

### CLASS OF 1996

#### Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky

89 Struyk Ave, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-2252  
 E-Mail: Lapinsky@msn.com

**Jessica Collota** is now an actress living in Bayonne. In February she was featured in the Food/Dining section of *The Record* as the "Bachelorette" whom three single chefs would compete to meet. According to the article, Jessica grew up eating gourmet meals and was asked to choose a date based solely on one dining experience each chef prepared just for her. *The Record* planned to send Jessica and her chosen chef on a dinner cruise around Manhattan.

### CLASS OF 1997

#### Class Rep: James Pyrich

Home Page: www.97cc.com



**Debbie Vander Plaats**  
 & Fiancé Aaron

**Debbie Vander Plaats** sent an update: "I got engaged on December 17, 2003 to Aaron Berger. We are getting married on Oct. 30, 2004 at Covenant CRC....I am working as an office manager at Futurrex, Inc. in Franklin, NJ and consider it my mission field!"

### CLASS OF 1998

#### Class Rep: Sandi (King) Chiera

15 E Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064  
 E-Mail: chiera0022@aol.com

Class Rep **Sandi (King) Chiera** e-mailed this update: "I'm sure you all noticed the change in my last name, so I just wanted to formally let everyone know that I was married to Christopher Chiera on July 3, 2003 at Cedar Hill CRC. Chris and I met while both attending Felician College, and we now reside in Port Reading, NJ (Middlesex County). Chris teaches, while also coaching baseball and basketball at Colonia High School. I am teaching 3rd grade at Claremont Avenue School, an elementary school in Colonia. Please feel free to send any updates to my new e-mail address: chiera0022@aol.com! Look forward to hearing from you!"

### CLASS OF 1999

#### Class Rep: Jennifer Van Der Heide

1857 Kalamazoo Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
 E-Mail: Jteach19@aol.com

As reported in Covenant CRC's bulletin in February, **Melissa Bruins** and **Allison Lindsay** spent 10 days helping the poor and needy in

Juarez, Mexico. They worked on a mission house, built as a haven for those living in communities of shacks made from garbage in the junkyards.

#### Irving Colon writes, "In September 2002

*I married Theresa A. Meffen. I will be attending the Passaic County Police Academy in the new year and my wife is a medical receptionist. We bought a house shortly after we married and still live in Clifton."*

**Robert Mader** contacted the Development Office to "let you know I am not lost and that I am currently living in Fort Walton Beach, FL and serving in the Air Force at Eglin Air Force Base. I have graduated from Lincoln Technical School and graduated from Teterboro School of Aeronautics." Robert and his wife Helen were married on June 7, 2002 at Hawthorne Gospel Church.

### CLASS OF 2000

#### Class Rep Needed

The following are excerpts from an article in *The Herald News* last fall: "**Janessa Jeltema** saved her best for last. In Sunday's Big East Championship match at Rutgers Yurcak Field, the former Eastern Christian star scored the biggest goal of her career in front of about 20 friends and family members. Her first-half shot from 25 yards out put Villanova up 1-0 over Boston College. After 110 minutes of play, the Wildcats won a penalty kick shootout, 7-6 for their first Big East title....During her tenure at Eastern Christian, Jeltema became Passaic County's all-time leading scorer with 129 career goals. A four-time Herald News All-Area and All-County selection, she guided the Eagles to the county final in 1999... Once Jeltema got to Villanova, [coach] shifted her from forward to midfielder, a move that required some adjustment.... 'She's really enjoyed her years at Villanova University' her mom **Kathy (Veenstra) Jeltema** said."

### CLASS OF 2001

#### Class Reps:

#### Gina Marocco

25 Weldon Ct., Totowa, NJ 07512

#### Yvonne Wisse

2345 East Paris Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI  
 E-Mail: yjw2@calvin.edu

**Yvonne Wisse** writes, "I recently spoke with **Gina Marocco** who has also expressed interest in becoming the 2001 Class Rep. She agreed to team up with me for this 'project'! I am glad to help!" Contact these new Class Reps with any alumni news you have to share.

## 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 III of this recurring column focuses on Midland Park Christian School, one of the schools that was eventually consolidated into the Eastern Christian School Association.*

### THE FIRST MIDLAND PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**T**he Midland Park Christian School Society was organized in the year 1900. That same year the present grounds on Maltbie Avenue were bought, but the building was not erected until some years later. In the beginning only “summer school” was held in the basement of the church. The first teacher in those summer classes was Mr. William Dekker, a middle-aged man who had some education and had quite an extensive knowledge of the Bible. The teacher in the second year of Summer School was Mr. R. K. Offringa, who later became principal of the school. Later Mr. P. Hoekstra, at present professor of History at Calvin College, also taught in the summer school.

Regular school was opened in the present building in the year 1912, with an enrollment of 98 pupils in the school. Mr. Wasenaar was the first principal and Mr. Dykstra the assisting teacher. Later a third room was added and Mr. Hoekstra taught for a while.

Some of the first members of the Board of Education were: Henry Soodsma, William Bakels, William Sybesma, Paul Vriezema and Jacob Van Dyke. God in his wisdom used these men to establish the Midland Park Christian School on a firm foundation. Under God we owe much to these brethren for their vision and faith in getting such a great enterprise on its feet.

The second principal was Mr. H. Bruinsma, under whose leadership the school forged ahead and grew. The remaining principals in order were R. K. Offringa, W. De Kock, D. Wondergem, and the present principal, H. De Blaey.

The school has grown from the first enrollment of 98 and two teachers, to the present enrollment of 200 and six teachers and a principal. The present staff is as follows: Miss N. Highhouse, Kindergarten; Miss M. Jabaay, Grade One; Miss C. Petzinger, Grade Two; Miss M. Lutyne, Grade Three and Four; Miss N. Schelling, Grades Five and part of Six; Miss R. Spikeboer, part of Grade Six and Grade Seven; and H. De Blaey, Principal and Grade Eight. Our sewing teachers are Mrs. J. Vander Meer and Mrs. H. De Blaey who came to the school each Friday afternoon to teach sewing to the seventh and eighth grade girls. During this same time Mr. J. Vande Water teachers manual training to the boys of seventh and the eighth grades. Mr.

W. De Vries is teaching music two afternoons a week. The present custodian is Mr. Vander Meer.

The present building is fast becoming too small to house the ever-growing number



**Midland Park 8th Grade Class (Year 1929?) -Top:** John Vander Meer, Gar Jeffer, ?, Nelson Offringa, Gertrude Van Buiten, Mart De Jong, Florence Belanus (not pictured); **Row 2:** Matilda De Haan, Jennie Englishman Vermaas, Albert VanDerWeert, Wilbur Miller, Agnes Veenstra; **Row 3:** Mildred Hagedorn, Jim Hagedorn, Jeanette Hiemstra, -Vander Heide, Ann Tilegar; **Bottom:** Edith Hedema, Alida Ten Kate, Adrianna (Hazen) Vander Ploeg, Art Hagedorn, Christine Vander Heide, Elizabeth Smith, ?.

of pupils. A few years ago a drive for funds for a new, modern building was held, and a substantial amount was collected and promised for the new project. As soon as building conditions improve, the new building will be erected so that the school can grow without being hampered for quarters. The plans call for a completely modern building, with at least nine or ten large classrooms, a sewing room for the girls and a manual training room for the boys, a principal’s office, a teachers’ room, to be used also for board meetings, and a combination of auditorium and gymnasium. This gymnasium will also be equipped with a kitchen for banquets and suppers. We are eagerly looking forward to the time when this project becomes a reality. The society has purchased seven acres of land for the new building. This will provide ample space for playgrounds, and for baseball.

May God continue to prosper our Midland Park Christian School so that it may become a mighty bulwark for Christian Education in the community in which God has given it a name and a place.”

**Editor’s Note: Here’s a question for those of you who attended or taught at Midland Park Christian School: “What was manual training? What did they boys learn in this class while the girls were sewing?”**

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