

THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

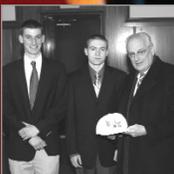
WINTER/SPRING
VOL. 46 - ISSUE 1



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL YOU LANDS!

NEW STRING INSTRUMENTS TAKE THE STAGE Focus on the EC Music Program

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Presenting EC to the Broader Community:

A CHALLENGE BY CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR KURT KABOTH

As we embark on a new marketing mission for Eastern Christian School, one of the first tasks we faced has been to develop a summary of important talking points that articulate: “Who EC Is,” “How is EC Distinctive?” and “What does EC offer to Christian Parents who are Seeking a Quality Educational Experience for their Children?”

I urge you to share with your friends and fellow church and community members some of the facts and perspectives that are included in this issue. And, of course, tell them your own story about education at Eastern Christian School! Our heart’s desire is to draw more people into our Christian Education Community so that more and more servants of the Lord Jesus Christ will be educated to infuse this world with the Gospel message in thoughtful words and selfless deeds.

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Engaging the Mind, Transforming the Spirit & Renewing a Generation



Bringing Joy to Others

Education at Eastern Christian School is distinctively different. In the classroom, academics are taught from a Christian perspective, and teachers faithfully mentor students to become responsible stewards. EC provides a learning community that encourages students to recognize their gifts and develop their potential for service to God and their community. Students are challenged to reflect and to ask themselves how academics, the arts, and athletics are preparing them for a life of service. Across the academic spectrum from gifted to challenged, Eastern Christian focuses on learning appropriate for every student in its schools.

Eastern Christian School’s mission is to provide an excellent academic education in the context of a Christian worldview. It does that for 915 students from Pre-K through High School on its three campuses in Midland Park, Wyckoff, and North Haledon. These students come from over 40 communities and 140 different Christian Churches in North Jersey. 17% of the student body is African-American, Asian or Hispanic. They come to Eastern Christian for the outstanding curriculum, the individualized attention, the development of a keen moral sense, and a preparation for a life of Christian discipleship.

Founded in 1892, Eastern Christian is the oldest and largest Christian day school in the New York Metropolitan area. It is parent-governed by an elected Board of Directors. EC is financed by student tuition and the substantial support it receives from local churches, alumni, and area businesses. One of its most steadfast and generous supporters is Atlantic Stewardship Bank.

Eastern Christian’s commitment to academic excellence can be measured by its faculty, facilities, and progressive curriculum. Eastern Christian High School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. EC Seniors’ SAT scores exceed those of US and New Jersey students, and students at religious and small high schools. Over 90% of EC graduates further their education and, annually receive over \$1million in scholarships.

EC graduates attend colleges and universities such as Boston College, Bucknell, Calvin, Cooper Union, Cornell, Georgetown, John Jay, Lehigh, Messiah, Montclair State, NJIT, New York University, Messiah, Montclair State, Nyack, Penn State, Princeton, Rice, Rutgers, Stevens Institute, Susquehanna, Syracuse, Taylor, Trinity, Wheaton, and the Universities of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Virginia, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Eastern Christian School is affiliated with *Christian Schools International*, an Association of over 425 Christian schools in the United States and Canada. Most of the faculty are New Jersey State certified with an average teaching experience of 15 years, and almost half have earned advanced degrees. EC’s curriculum is continually evaluated and enhanced by the professional staff in order to make learning at Eastern Christian exceptional.



Welcoming New Students



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ABOUT THE COVER

About the Cover:

Pictured on the cover are the members of the ECHS Orchestra, rehearsing together and enjoying the sound of new string instruments donated to EC this year. Their director is Rev. Mark Lucas. Band instruments were also donated to enrich the music program at EC.

The Herald is the magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Eastern Christian School published three times a year. The mailing address for Eastern Christian School Association is: 50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449. To reach us by phone, call 973-427-6244 or 973-427-9294. Eastern Christian School's e-mail address for the Development Office is: development@easternchristian.org. Our web site address is: www.easternchristian.org.

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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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PRESENTING EC *continued from page 2*



Singing Praises Together

Eastern Christian School's three campuses are spacious and well-equipped with each building designed to meet the particular educational needs of preschool, elementary, middle and high school students. Each campus has an excellent Media Center, up-to-date

technology, specially designed fine arts and music rooms, along with spacious gymnasiums and athletic fields. Transportation to each campus is available from most North Jersey communities.

The opportunities for students at Eastern Christian abound. In addition to challenging academics and a multitude of service opportunities, creative expression is promoted through EC's fine arts program. Beginning in the early grades, students are encouraged to sing and learn an instrument. This initial introduction prepares students to later join the choir, orchestra or band in Middle School and High School. In addition to EC's High School

ensembles, which have toured the metropolitan area, students have an opportunity to participate in dramatic productions and musicals, Chamber Singers, Gospel Ensemble and jazz groups.

Almost half of Eastern Christian's High School students participate in sports. EC is a member of the Bergen Passaic Scholastic League, NJSIAA. Its twenty-nine teams have earned recognition in basketball, soccer and volleyball tournaments. Eastern Christian has also received more sportsmanship awards than any other New Jersey coed school with a large sports program.

Ultimately, Eastern Christian provides students with a nurturing learning community where they are academically challenged from a Christian perspective.

Eastern Christian's mission is fulfilled as graduates develop and live out their potential for service to God and their community.



Sharing God's Word

The Most Important Lesson: An Alumna's Testimony

BY KERISHA R. HARRIS, CLASS OF 2000

I know I received a top-notch academic education at Eastern Christian, but the most important lesson I learned was the value and importance of having Christ as the center of my life. From kindergarten to senior year, I do not recall a single school day, athletic event, or class trip in which we did not begin and end the event with prayer. My education at EC taught me that in all ways, I must acknowledge God, and he would surely direct my path. Furthermore, the staff and faculty at EC recognize that students need encouragement and love in order for them to grow into who God wants them to be.

The faculty and staff of EC take the time to recognize and cultivate these individual gifts and talents in their students. From as early as my first grade class with **Ms. Rypkema (Ritsma)**, I remember her continual praise of my writing and story telling abilities, and her constant encouragement for me to continue to develop those skills. As I progressed into high school, I recall my journalism teacher **Dr. Peterson** encouraging me to apply for

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EC Alumna Kerisha Harris

Fast Facts

OUR HERITAGE

For 114 years, Eastern Christian School has been dedicated to educating and challenging young people for Christian life and service. We are parent-governed by an elected Board of Directors, and receive substantial support from local churches, businesses and alumni. Our alumni lead and serve in Christian homes and churches, in business and industry, and in our communities and nation. They are a testimony to the foundation they have received at Eastern Christian School.

1ST GOAL: *Develop within each student a knowledge of God and His world.*



Kindergartens Painted Spring Flowers with Watercolors.

ALUMNI TESTIMONY *continued from page 2*

the Hugh N. Boyd Minorities in Journalism workshop. I did, and I became one of 16 high school students chosen out of several hundred applicants to represent the state of New Jersey at the conference. But perhaps the most distinct memory was at the end of my senior year when I came across an opportunity to write for Teen People magazine, and I sat in the computer lab agonizing over whether or not I was even talented enough to qualify. **Mr. Reith**, my computer instructor and former tennis coach, encouraged me not to let this opportunity pass me by. Without his encouragement, I may not have even tried, but he believed in me and I went for it, and went on to become a nationally published writer at age 17, providing regular articles for the magazine.

Since my years spent at EC, I've gone on to study at the University of Florida, where I served as a freshman orientation leader, a student ambas-

sador, and was a recipient of *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities* honors before graduating with my degree in journalism in 2004. I've been blessed by God with continual success in my field, including work for *Teen People* magazine, the *2005 BET Awards*, ABC's *Live! With Regis and Kelly*, and ESPN Radio. I now live in Atlanta, GA, and I work in the media operations division of CNN as a Video Journalist, offering editorial support to all divisions of news coverage, including domestic, headline, and international news. God has blessed me tremendously, and I owe all of my success to Him. I still begin and end each day with prayer, just like I learned at EC. I may not have been someone who the world thought much of, but I have proven that through God, I am capable of anything. **I thank Eastern Christian for teaching me the importance of having Christ in my life, and for always encouraging me to pursue my dreams.**

Giving Glory to God Through Music

BY REV. MARK J. LUCAS, ECHS & ECMS ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

Since David picked up his harp and played music to soothe the ailing King Saul, and possibly even long before, believers have recognized the power and beauty of music and of stringed instruments in particular. For nearly 50 years at Eastern Christian, there has been a strong orchestra program beginning in the early grades and continuing through Middle School and High School. **Student musicians have always been challenged to develop their talent, master an instrument and give glory to God in the process.** This specialized skill has also given many a competitive edge as they look to apply to college.



ECES Susuki Instructor **Cathy (Chaparian) Clark** ('84)

This specialized skill has also given many a competitive edge as they look to apply to college.



Winter Concert performance by ECHS Orchestra

THE STRING PROGRAM AT EC

The program begins in second grade where children have the opportunity to begin playing the violin. Much attention is given to posture and care of the

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4TH GOAL: *Develop an awareness and sensitivity to the cultural diversity in which the child lives.*



ECES Students Invite Visitors to an Open House.

OUR GOALS

- Develop within each student a knowledge of God and His world.
- Develop an awareness of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all areas of life.
- Educate the whole child -- mind, soul and body.
- Develop an awareness and sensitivity to the cultural diversity in which the child lives.
- Encourage students to think independently, based on Biblical guidance.
- Prepare students for additional training in academic or vocational endeavors.
- Enable students to identify and cultivate their God-given talents for ministry and service.
- Serve as an extension of the Christian home and a partner with the Christian Church.

Fast Facts



GLORY TO GOD THROUGH MUSIC *continued from page 3*



Middle School violist **Carly Veenstra:**
 "When I play in orchestra, it is soothing...."

instrument. A combination of Suzuki training, which leads students through emphasis on melody, and technical exercise, which strengthens fingers and hands, gradually gives students the foundation needed to begin making music. Like learning to read, the wonder of pulling a bow

across a string and drawing out a beautiful sound, is great to hear and see. Though the program begins with violin, at fourth grade and beyond students are given the opportunity to change to viola, cello and bass.

At the Middle School and High School levels more emphasis is given to playing together in an ensemble. We are fortunate to have a broad range of music available for string orchestra and one of the great parts of being a music teacher is to see students begin to "own" a piece and make it sound well together. Personally, at the beginning I like to hear, "I don't like this piece; it's too hard!" and then

gradually, through practice, as the music takes shape and the concert draws closer, hear the change in their combined sound that tells the piece has become a favorite.

Students Talk about the String Program

"I have been playing violin for over three years now and I really believe it helps me use the talent God gave me in a special way." - Michelle Van Dyke (ECMS)

A GENEROUS GIFT OF INSTRUMENTS

The string program benefited greatly at the beginning of this year from a generous donation of new string instruments to the Middle and High School, given in memory of the late **Harold** and **Mamie Randall**. EC alumnus **Brian Hanse** ('77), who arranged for this generous gift which also included band instruments, noted that the "hope is that the collection of new instruments will inspire and encourage both teacher and pupil." [Editor's Note: Some of the new string instruments can be seen on the cover of this issue.]

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CONTRIBUTES TO SUCCESS

The success of the string program at EC also has other people to thank. Parents in particular are one of the key ingredients. Many parents have to endure some unusual (and not always pleasing!) sounds during practice time but it is often the encouragement and support of parents that gives a program like this its vitality. There are also private music teachers in the area who give musicians a very important boost in mastering an instrument and the program benefits greatly from their expertise and interest in students as well.

The northern New Jersey area also offers fine opportunities for students to play and improve on their instruments. Many EC students have participated in the Ridgewood Festival of Strings and the Regional and State Orchestras sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter of the Music Educators National Conference, which are highly competitive. Area churches also benefit from musicians who are glad to perform in worship services.

King David would not have recognized a modern violin or cello, but he surely would have applauded (maybe even danced!) to hear fellow believers making music for the glory of God and the benefit of others.



Bill Hanse stands by a plaque in the ECMS Music Room that reads: "We dedicate Eastern Christian School's expanded collection of Band and Orchestra instruments of Violins, String Bass, French Horn, Cellos, Piccolos, Baritone Saxophone, Viola, Oboes, [and] Xylophone to the glory of God and in loving memory of the late **Harold K. and Mamie Randall**. **William C. Hanse** and **Brian W. Hanse**, Trustees Thanksgiving 2005"

Fast Facts

OUR ENROLLMENT

- Pre-School (2 yr-olds-Junior K): **60**
Midland Park Campus
- Elementary (K-4): **237**
Midland Park Campus
- Middle (5-8): **250**
Wyckoff Campus
- High (9-12): **376**
North Haledon Campus

2ND GOAL: Develop an awareness of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all areas of life.



Members of the ECHS Choir, **Andrew Hulsebos** and **Ben Spoelstra**, use their talents to praise the Lord.

3RD GOAL: Educate the whole child – mind, soul and body.



ECES Students Enjoy New Playground Equipment

Music Education is Fundamental for Christians

BY DR. STELLA TARTSINIS, ECHS & ECMS BAND DIRECTOR

Music education at Eastern Christian reaches out and teaches the students the value of works inspirationally written for and by the church over the centuries. Some of the most substantial works written for the church have been composed by J.S. Bach, who is considered to be one of the most important composers in Western European music. The discussion, rehearsal and performance of Bach's works and other gifted composers helps students understand fully that God is always the center of their education. The power of musical expression lends itself as a personal devotion to praising Our Lord Jesus Christ. Psalm 81: 1-2 states: "Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob! Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre."



Victoria Westra plays her flute at the Middle School Winter Concert.

Music education is fundamental to our development as human beings in general and Christians in particular. The power of enhancing instrumental performance includes love of music, methodical planned practice, and blending together with fellow students in music class. The result is a strong community that develops among students who are working for the same goal: improving their performance and helping others to honor Our Lord through music. The power of music allows the transformation of sinful hearts. Students also learn that the study of music is just as difficult as other advanced subjects, and this builds good work ethics and goal-setting skills.

Through the ages composers such as Haydn and others have deemed themselves to be honored to compose music through the presence of the Lord. Haydn also noted that he wore his best clothes when composing in His presence. (*Talks with Great Composers* by Arthur M. Abell: Citadel Press, NY, NY 1994). It is inspiring to note that composers who have God be the center of their lives have had their works last through the test of time. Such noteworthy composers have included Mendelssohn, Brahms, Beethoven, and others. This shows that God inspired lives whose influence lasts forever. Therefore, teaching students the power of a Christian education will be everlasting—being passed from one generation to another in order to spread the true meaning of life that comes through Our Savior.

First Benefit Concert Performed at ECHS

The ECHS Band and Orchestra recently performed its first Benefit Concert on February 10, 2006. Both the orchestra and band performed a varied program of classical and light music such as Respigi's *Italian in Algiers* and jazz standard *My Funny Valentine*.

Faculty member & saxophonist **Dr. Stella Tartsinis** with guest pianist **Yannis Xylas** were featured in a performance of concert "Melodies and Dazzlers." Everyone enjoyed hearing the alto saxophone solos that ranged from Bach to Joplin. [Editor's Note: Go to www.styliani.com to read more about the music career of Styliani (Stella) Tartsinis]

A gourmet dessert was served for anyone who came to the concert early; and as a result of the evening event, the Music Department raised money to help fund its trip to a competition at *Six Flags Great Adventure* in May. Their Spring Concert is scheduled for May 19.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PERFORMANCES

The ECMS Band rehearses a variety of music, ranging from Christian-based pieces to jazz-inspired compositions to concert band works. The school's Jazz Band includes several musicians from the concert band. As part of their music education experience, the ECMS band and orchestra attended a New York Philharmonic *School Day Concert* on December 8, 2005, and performed a Winter Concert at ECHS. This Spring they will perform in a second concert on May 11. All are invited to attend!



Saxophonist and EC Music Teacher Stella Tartsinis

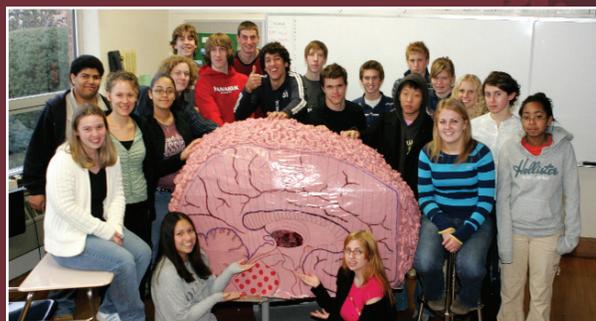
5TH GOAL:

Encourage student to think independently, based on Biblical guidance.



Middle School Bible Classes made 3-D models of the Holy Land.

6TH GOAL: Prepare students for additional training in academic or vocational endeavors.



ECHS Psychology students built this papier-mâché model during a study of the brain.

Fast Facts



“A Whale of a Good Time”

ECES Spring Musical

Both student actors and audiences enjoyed the production of the ECES Spring Musical “*Oh, Jonah*” in March. After learning new music skills and lots of practice in singing and working as a “community,” Fourth Grade students shared the story of how God worked in the life of Jonah, the reluctant prophet, to offer repentance to the sinful citizens of Ninevah. In the words of the composers Allen Pote and Carole McCann:

“Oh, Jonah” is meant to be a whale of a good time for both performers and audience as the story of the prophet Jonah is brought to life with music, mime, and merry-making. It’s more than just a story about a whale swallowing a human. It’s a story about us. It’s a tale involving responsibility, repentance, listening for the word of God in our lives, accepting people who are different from us, and believing that there is mercy and compassion of all who turn toward God – serious thoughts, but told with a sense of humor and frolicking fun.”

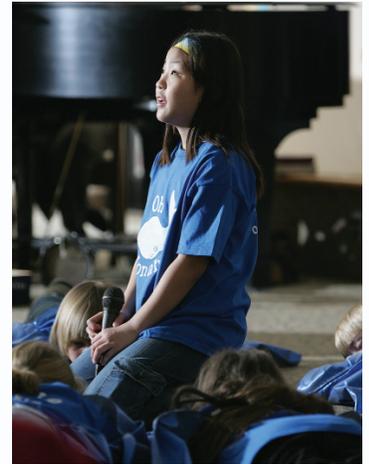
MUSIC CURRICULUM PREPARATION

Preparation for this musical has actually spanned several years. That’s because the ECES music curriculum from Preschool up to fourth grade builds on skills and abilities cultivated in music classes, devotion time in classrooms and chapels, and in special holiday and seasonal presentations.

Students learn at an early stage to listen to notes that go “higher and lower”, rhythms that change, and enjoy a diversity of types of music. They

practice reading notes on a staff and counting beats in a measure because they work with Orff instruments using the “Kodaly” method of sight-reading. Vocally, they enjoy group singing of new songs and old favorites, using techniques of singing in rounds and singing “partner songs,” where two songs are sung at the same time because they harmonize with each other.

By the time students reach fourth grade, they are ready to work on skills such as singing “lightly” to blend together and articulating words clearly in song. During rehearsal for the musical, they also learn the discipline of perseverance and the rewards of hard work. The idea of “Christian community” becomes a reality for them and forms the basis for a habit of service, celebration and sharing that God can use as they grow into adulthood.



In one performance Jonah was portrayed by Michelle Suh.

LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF JONAH

A “sea” of students dressed in sailor hats and special T-shirts which sport the

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“The Whale” swims onto the scene.



In one performance Jonah was portrayed by Michelle Suh

Fast Facts

7TH GOAL: Enable students to identify and cultivate their God-given talents for ministry and service.



ECMS Sixth Graders work with Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat residents (see article in this issue)

8TH GOAL: Serve as an extension of the Christian home and a partner with the Christian Church.



ECMS staff and students collected donations for Bridgeway CRC’s food pantry.

SPRING MUSICAL *continued from page 6*

phrase "I'm a Whale of a Kid" sang the story of Jonah for enthusiastic audiences at ECES, the Holland Christian Home, the Christian Health Care Center and a local church. The part of "Jonah" was shared by two students, **Jessie Ojeda** and **Michelle Suh**. Four boys and 4 girls "swam" together to portray "The Whale." The Fourth Grade Chorus, supported by Third Grade "sailors" portray Johnah's story through a series of songs in the 30-minute production. Some of the students' favorite songs included "Sailor's Life" and "City of Sin," which were choreographed by ECES Teacher Nancy Johnston.

When asked why this musical is a favorite, Music teacher **Esther Alsum** said that this story is about who God is and who we are – God wants a relationship with us and He pursues us, seeking a response from us because He loves us so much, in spite of our sins. Mrs. Alsum used the project of a musical performance to work toward the ultimate goal expressed so well by Helen Kemp, who said:

"Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice... It Takes a Whole Person To Sing and Rejoice!"

ECES Music Instruction:

Responding Creatively to Praise Our Creator

BY ESTHER ALSUM, ECES MUSIC TEACHER

Because by its nature music is expressive, we seek in our music instruction to engage children in the development of skills and understanding of a varied repertoire so that they can more fully respond creatively, in praise, to the Creator of music. This goal is accomplished by:

- Blending the innovative and respected techniques of Zoltan Kodaly and Carl Orff
- Improvising together in response to music
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- Integrating music with the other disciplines.
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture
- Responding in movement to expression in music
- Playing instruments and singing alone and along with others on pitch and in rhythm, expressively
- Using a varied repertoire of songs representing genres and styles from diverse cultures.

INTRODUCING THE CLASSICS

One part of the elementary music curriculum is introducing students to the musical classics:

Kindergarten: "*Carnival of the Animals*" by Saint-Saens. The children mime the animals after learning about the composer's uncanny ability to skillfully capture the sound of many animals such as:

1. the "growl" by the cellos and basses and piano, and
2. the laboriously slow dancing of the tortoise to Offenbach's "CanCan."

1st Grade: "*Peter and the Wolf*" by Sergei Prokofiev. The story is read, and movement is created. Students learn to recognize the characters and motifs; they view a video, and create artwork while listening to the music.

2nd Grade: Vivaldi's "*Four Seasons*" A story is read about an orphanage he supported. Children create art work to each season and their art is displayed in the form of a tree, snowman, flowers, and sun. One wall of the music rooms becomes the "Four Seasons."



Students enjoy playing instruments and learning different rhythms.

3rd Grade: Mussorgsky's "*Pictures at an Exhibition*" A story is read describing the events in his life leading up to this composition. Artwork is created again as the music is being played.

[Editor's Note: See the separate article in this issue for information about the 4th Grade music curriculum.]

TECHNIQUES USED ACROSS ALL GRADE LEVELS

Skills are developed through the Kodaly and Orff techniques. The skill to be learned is usually introduced through a game song which is fun. Sometimes they are reinforced through a bird's song (ex. a chickadee's song is a 'so-mi' pattern) and other songs. Songs are played on Orff (barred) instruments, and eventually the notes located on the musical staff.

Music makes the learning of other disciplines more interesting. For example, the 2nd graders are studying the planets, so in music we're listening to "*The Planets*" by Holst, and talking about how we might compose music for Mars, the red (angry) planet and the other planets. We create movement to a rhythmic chant about the planets and create artwork as we listen again to "*The Planets*."

By the time students leave ECES, they have experienced, enjoyed, played and performed many melodies and songs, while giving all of the glory to God!

NJ Congressman Pascrell Nominates Two EC Seniors

TO WEST POINT AND ANNAPOLIS



Pictured (L to R) are: Matthew Bouwense, Congressman Pascrell and Patrick Hickey

Congressman Bill Pascrell has named **Matthew Bouwense** and **Patrick Hickey**, both Eastern Christian Seniors, to U.S. Military Academies this fall. He presented both men with their certificates of nomination on February 24 at Eastern Christian High School. He congratulated Matt and Patrick, their parents and the School, and said all Americans were looking to them for leadership.

Matthew Bouwense of Wayne, an honor student at EC and Rensselaer Medalist, will attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Patrick Hickey of Haledon, an honor student at EC and National Merit

Commended Scholar, will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Both men had to meet the rigorous entrance requirements of these Academies prior to their nomination by Congressman Pascrell.

Patrick and Matt are both members of the National Honor Society, and both run track and cross country for Eastern Christian. Pat is the captain of the EC Track Team and has studied advanced computer network design. Matt is first in the Senior Class, a member of the Student Senate, an Eagle Scout, and has his pilot's license. Additionally, Matt passed the entrance requirements for both the Coast Guard and Air Force Academies.

"Matt and Patrick are students who strive for excellence, are forthright in their relationships, and representative of our school," said **Principal Jan Lucas**. "It would be an extraordinary honor for any high school to have two graduating seniors selected to attend the nation's prestigious military academies. For Eastern Christian the honor increases beyond words."



Navigating ECHS Starts with the Freshman Interdisciplinary Seminar (IDS)

BY SUSAN NOYES, ECHS COMPUTER EDUCATION TEACHER

Traveling to a foreign country can be exciting, yet also a bit scary if one is unfamiliar with the language and customs of the natives. Likewise, in "traveling" from middle school to high school students can experience similar emotions.

Incoming freshmen at Eastern Christian High School now have a traveling companion during the first semester of their high school career in the form of a new course, "Interdisciplinary Seminar" or "IDS." IDS is designed to help new freshmen not only feel at home in the high school community, but also to hone the skills necessary for meeting the academic and interpersonal challenges of their secondary education.

Community building begins with high school staff and faculty members coming into class to introduce themselves and share about their roles at ECHS. Students also meet weekly with an upperclass student-led orientation group to provide a time to form relationships with their new classmates. To gain perspective on serving the larger community outside our school walls, the freshmen volunteer for a morning in a service project at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

The academic and interpersonal learning objectives of IDS can be summed up in the word "communication." Students need to be able to communicate well orally, visually, and in writing across disciplines. Additionally, students must be trained to be active listeners and productive members of work groups during cooperative learning activities. This learning takes place through a variety of projects, from writing a science lab report utilizing Microsoft Excel software, to visually designing and writing a comic strip based on a science fiction short story.

"IDS was very relevant," says **James Greco**, Class of 2009. The trip from middle school to high school has gotten that much easier for incoming freshmen thanks to IDS.



Concentrating on the computer screen instructions



Jaclyn Woudenberg and Anthony Panzica discuss the IDS assignment.

John Terpstra: Poet in Residence for a Day

BY AGNES FISHER, ECHS HUMANITIES/ART TEACHER



Untitled

BY KRISTLE AJAEGBU

A scream
That shrill cry wants to escape from the depths
of my diaphragm
It wants to free itself
From its heavy and fatigued burden
A burden
That has kept my mouth shut
Enslaving my profound cry
Chaining it to my soul's abyss
Leaving me only with the alternatives
of Anger and Tears
I chose Tears
Because I'd rather be soaked
With Mockery and Misery
Allowing every tear drop to be a piece of me
That I need to surface
But surface silently
Silently
Silence
In need, desperate need of
Release
It should be loud and strong
Powerful and mighty
Holding great strength
And relegate massive fault
But on whose ears will it fall?
No one
No mother
No father
No brother
No sister
No partner
No friend

John Terpstra, an internationally acclaimed poet residing in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada spent Tuesday, February 21 at Eastern Christian High School reading and leading workshops on poetry. He was in the East on a book signing tour for his book, *The Boys or Waiting For The Electrician's Daughter*. This is a series of prose vignette's dealing with the lives and deaths of his three brothers-in-law from Muscular Dystrophy. They were all born with the disease and died within six months of each other when in their late teens and early twenties. **Neil, Paul and Eric** are the Vande Ree brothers of EC alumna **Mary Ann Vande Ree Terpstra** ('70), John's wife. John's account of their lives and deaths is a poignant, short book written in what would be classified as very poetic prose. *[Editor's Note: Read more about their "EC Connection" in the Alumni News section of this issue.]*

Since John is mainly a poet, his interaction with our students was also mainly based in poetry. He did spend a half hour in the Senior Honors Humanities class first block talking about his book, *THE BOYS* and his reasons for writing it, but the rest of the day he read his own poetry and fielded questions. He spent the second half of the morning reading his own work in the auditorium to the second, third and fourth year Humanities classes. Students received the reading with much applause and numerous comments and questions. In the afternoon session he led a workshop in which student poems were read.

The Workshop consisted of twelve invited students who had written and are very interested in the writing of poetry. They are: **Brielle Ocot, Wathira Nganga, Jay Everett, Joe Everett, Krystle Ajaegbu, Amber Joy Fiedler, Allison McGovern, Mary McGovern, Joseph Pellegrino, Deidre Ramoz-Perez, Schuyler Seitsma and Chris Webb**. Each of these young people had e-mailed Mr. Terpstra one of their poems more than a week prior to his arrival so he had been able to read and make comments before he did the seminar style workshop with them. This was a

continued on page 8

Introduction to Student Poetry

BY MARLA STOUT, ECHS
HUMANITIES TEACHER

People sometimes assume that poetry must have a strong rhyme scheme and an accentuated rhythm if it is to be termed poetry. That is not the case; in fact, most contemporary poetry is based upon subtle rhythm, precise imagery, and a fresh way of reproducing an emotion. The two poems printed on this page are noteworthy because of the sophisticated use of metaphor, careful diction, and strong emotional impact contained in them.

[Editor's Note: See also the article on John Terpstra: Poet in Residence for a Day for further information about the study of poetry.]

Monologue for a curtain

BY WATHIRA NG'ANG'A

A pale green hue set against blank white walls,
Weekend visitors look at me and think
How beautifully I match with the bedding
And glance away without a second thought.

You approach me, and then you brush me off
To look at something more worthwhile than me
Like traffic drifting by on the street
Or snow falling on a December night.

But when you're trying to catch that boy's eye,
He just sees the thin blonde behind you
And walks 'round you to talk and laugh with her.
You're brushed away without a second thought.

In this way we're both two of a kind, but
You will continue to see me only
As a haze keeping you from better sights,
Except at night when you're alone in your bed.

Then I'm a silent shield against your lifelong
dread
Of black shadows in the night, creepy and dark.
So I'll stay here and keep protecting you
From your recurring childhood nightmares.

JOHN TERPSTRA continued from page 8

tremendous learning experience for our students and a wonderful opportunity for learning from their own writing. Two of the students' poems appear in *The Herald*. John Terpstra was very impressed with the poetry our students had written and suggested to Mrs. Stout and Mrs. Fisher that both Krystle and Wathira are already excellent visionary writers.

Two of John's books are now a part of our permanent collection in the Media Center. He donated his latest poetry book, *Disarmament*, to the school, and copies of *The Boys* were donated by a family friend, since many in the EC and Midland Park Christian communities offered support to the Vande Rees for the years that the three boys were coping with their illness.

Mr. Terpstra was the winner of the 1988 Bressani Prize for poetry and the 1992 CBC Radio Literary competition. John's poetry is filled with Biblical allusions and references to both church life as well as daily life. Having him as poet in residence for a day was a blessing to all who participated!



Commending Enthusiastic Readers

BY BEVERLY TEN KATE, ECMS MEDIA CENTER COORDINATOR

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians annually sponsors "The Enthusiastic Reader Awards." For almost twenty-five years, they have honored and celebrated nine readers each year. School librarians and teachers are asked to commend as many students as possible who exhibit the following characteristics:

- Exhibit an enthusiasm for reading
- Exhibit an enthusiasm for sharing books
- Use books for a variety of purposes
- Read independently on a voluntary basis
- Use school and /or public libraries
- Select books at appropriate interest levels

The following students were recommended from the ECMS Fifth and Sixth Grades:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| FIFTH GRADE | Brandon Steinginga |
| Sarah Post | Cassie Chambers |
| Emily Hench | Ameer Halim |
| Ned Hull | Matt Botbyl |
| Jeffrey Clark | Josh Davidson |
| Heidi Lineweaver | Jon Englishmen |
| SIXTH GRADE | Diana Kleinmanns |
| Shannon Dykstra | Amy Martin |
| Bethany Gorter | Sarah Postma |
| Abby Hartog | Abigail Troast |
| | Morgan De Marco |



A generous donor recently provided the fund to replace the flag pole at ECMS so that the flag could be flown again daily. The same donor also provided the funds for installing sound panels in the new ECMS gym.

Dick Van Yperen Named K-8 Principal



Dick VanYperen talks to ECES students in chapel.

Eastern Christian School's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of **Richard Van Yperen** as K-8 Principal and Curriculum Coordinator effective June 19, 2006. He will be responsible for leading Eastern Christian's Middle School in Wyckoff, and its Elementary School in

Midland Park. Dick currently serves as Principal of the Elementary School where he has led faculty, students, parents and staff in the creation of an excellent community of learners.

Mr. Van Yperen was selected to bring this same vision to all Kindergarten through 8th grades. Eastern Christian believes curriculum development and coordination is the main pathway that will take Eastern Christian toward its goal of creating a seamless and unified learning community. The continual process of mapping and developing a dynamic curriculum integrates faith and instruction, allows for the differentiation of instruction and provides the opportunity for collaboration by students, parents and staff.

Prior to coming to Eastern Christian Elementary School as Principal, Mr. Van Yperen taught English and was an administrator at the Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya. He also taught and coached at Ridgewood High School for twenty-five years before that. Dick has a BA from Taylor University and an MAT from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is a member of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the Association for



Mrs. Rena Tolsma spoke in chapel about her planned trip to Ecuador with "Healing the Children," whose goal was to perform needed surgery on 100 children during a week's stay. She explained that people having surgery have to bring their own sheets, but many could not afford to do this. Rena challenged the students to help. Pictured are **Ben Melendez, Andrew Vriesema** and **Amy Rice** with the new and gently used twin sheets collected for patients.

The Value of an EC Education

Our 2006 Alumni Survey (mailed with our Christian Education Day letter in February) solicited the following comments about the Value of the Christian Education that alumni from a variety of class years received at Eastern Christian School:

CLASS OF 2001:

"Quality instruction and expectations of the staff for responsibility, integrity, and life-long learning in education helped shape my goals."

Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Christian Schools International. Dick also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Health Care Center.

Mr. Van Yperen is a member of Grace Church in Ridgewood and currently serves as President of its Board of Elders. He has also served as a Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent and Head of the Pastor Search Committee. Dick resides in Ridgewood with his wife Doreen, who also works for Eastern Christian School.

"We are very pleased and extremely fortunate to find such a qualified and visionary leader for our Elementary and Middle Schools," said **Kurt Kaboth**, Chief School Administrator.



A group of 6th Graders pictured with the New York harbor in the background.

Class Trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage

Teacher **Courtney Dyksen** and chaperones took the sixth graders to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City on January 12. The trip followed a unit of study on World War II and the Holocaust.

While at the museum, the sixth graders were able to learn about Jewish heritage and history, life for Jews during the Holocaust, and Jewish participation in the war. In addition, three of the tour guides were Holocaust survivors and the students were able to hear their stories.

New Technology Enhances Learning Opportunities

BY RALPH HUTTON, ECMS COMPUTER ED TEACHER

NEW eMACS CULTIVATE CREATIVITY

Over the past year there have been continual improvements in technology at the Middle School. Going back to last winter, the Computer Lab was upgraded to house a complete set of 25 new eMac computers. The Media Center has also gone through some similar changes. Just recently, 12 additional eMacs were installed, replacing some of the older hardware, which is being relocated to classrooms throughout the building.

These computers allow the students the freedom to become more creative as they work with various graphics, computer-generated sounds, animations, and other special effects for the projects they are assigned in a variety of classes. Teachers continue to bring their classes to the Media Center to give students access to computers outside of their regular computer education classes.



Media Center Coordinator **Beverly Ten Kate** instructs teacher **Pamela Kosten** and ECMS students as they work on the new computers.

Center computers. This is an excellent resource for students to use while doing research for various class projects. Knowledge about all aspects of God's creation and information about the topics being studied are increasingly "at the fingertips" of learners in EC Middle School.

DELIVERING DYNAMIC LESSONS WITH SMART BOARD

ECMS recently took delivery of a very sophisticated SMART Board Interactive whiteboard which is an easy-to-use tool for delivering dynamic lessons. Teachers can present lessons, Web pages and videos on an interactive screen that responds to the touch of a finger or a pen. Through touch, computer applications can be controlled and notes can be written over the applications in digital ink. ECMS teachers attended a fascinating, two-hour training session provided by a representative from SMART Board.

TECHNOLOGY BRINGS FLEXIBILITY

Students also have the flexibility to access their saved work from any computer in the building. This ability has become necessary since there are times when students will create a presentation using the computers in the Computer Lab or in the Media Center, but they will be required to give their presentation in front of an audience in one of the classrooms. A recent upgrade to the computer server will allow for this exchange of data to occur even faster over the school's network.

Under teacher supervision and with parents' signed permission, students can also access the Internet from both the Computer Lab and Media

The Value of an EC Education

CLASS OF 1998:

"Going through school with a learning disability, I may have fallen through the cracks at another school. EC teachers worked with me and my family to help me succeed. I had straight A's my senior year! I'm also proud to have a strong Biblical knowledge— I continued this in college with a minor in Bible."

Sixth Graders Demonstrate Compassion

Students in **Pamela Kosten's** sixth grade homeroom visited the Eastern Christian Children's Retreat in Wyckoff in February. This is a home for individuals with developmental disabilities, where Ms. Kosten had been employed prior to working at ECMS.

The twenty ECMS students had the opportunity to interact with the residents of the Retreat as they made a Valentine's Day craft together and played their musical instruments for their listening pleasure. The residents of ECCR demonstrated their happiness with plenty of smiles and welcoming gestures.

This service opportunity was an experience where the students demonstrated incredible acceptance by showing love and compassion to the people who live at the Retreat. We all had a wonderful time!



Kristen Traub works on a craft with an ECCR resident.



Davon Jacobs plays the sax as groups of ECMS students and ECCR residents work together

E C H S

Sports Highlights

2005-06 WINTER ATHLETICS REPORT

BY STEVE KING, ECHS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Boys' Varsity Basketball (15-7 Record)—The team finished second in BPSL league competition at 6-2 at the end of the regular season. There were many exciting games during the season, but several key victories included victories over Saddle Brook at home, Midland Park on the road, and Hawthorne Christian on the road. The team also played an excellent game against Clifton in the County Tournament, losing by 5. In State Tournament action the Eagles lost a tough 4-point game to a quick team from St. Mary's of Elizabeth.

Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball (11-7 Record)—This team finished strong, suffering several of their losses during the last minutes of the game. The junior Eagles were able to sweep Midland Park, while splitting games with Glen Rock and Saddle Brook. One of the most exciting wins occurred on the road at Hawthorne Christian. This was a very young team, but as the season progressed, the growth in maturity and experience of the players was evident on the court.

Boys' Freshmen Basketball (10-7 Record) —The freshmen team enjoyed an exciting season. They finished with a winning record, and many of their games were also decided in the last minutes of the game. During these close games, a new hero emerged each time, as all starters made key contributions in these games. The scoring was very balanced, and the players off the bench helped to provide many minutes of quality play in the games. Several of the key wins were over Hawthorne and Glen Rock, a team that earlier in the season had beaten the Eagles.

Girls' Varsity Basketball – This young, inexperienced team did not have one senior player this year. A look at the overall statistics indicated that the team was led in stats by two sophomores – another evidence of the youthfulness of the team members. Though the team did not win a game this season, this did not stop the girls from practicing hard, playing hard and more importantly, growing together as a team. They were recognized by an article in *The Herald News* for their hard work, good spirit and positive attitude during the season. Exciting games included losses to Waldwick, Garfield, and Manchester.



Nicole Brello sets up for a foul shot.

Bowling (7-11 Record) – After losing two key players from last year's team, the EC bowling team was facing a year of rebuilding. Several seniors as well as a good young underclass contribution helped to make the Eagles a competitive squad. Though they finished with more losses than wins, the record is not indicative of the closeness of many of the matches. Highlights included two wins over Immaculate Conception, as well as several individual scores at or above 200.

WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS

BOWLING

Harrison Bruining

Second Team All League

Kristin Czerminski

Second Team All League

Dave Kuperus

Honorable Mention All League

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Paul Siljee

First Team All League
Second Team All County

Josh Wisse

First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Mike Malefyt

First Team All League

Ben Kuiken

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Brad Tanis

Second Team All League

Tyler Litland

Honorable Mention All League

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Nicole Brello

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Randi Lynn Veenstra

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County



Winners of the Christian School Tournament – ECMS Girls Basketball Team members: **Front Row:** Kelsey Spoelstra, Dara Veenstra, Kara Pepper, Rebecca Morris, Brianne Traub; **Back Row:** Dana Kukol, Jackie Woods, Megan Vandenberg, Megan Hutton, Megan Polulak, Jessica Hoogerhyde, Kristen Lindsay, Jamie Van Buiten

ECMS Winter Sports Update

BY TERRY ALLEN, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The 2006 EC Middle School basketball season, which ended in mid-February, was a season prolific with victories, both by wide and narrow margins with close, fantastic finishes and memorable experiences. The boys finished 13-4, and had two multi-game winning streaks to punctuate a very successful season. And the girls' team surpassed even that by compiling a 14-3 record and winning the championship trophy at a Christian school tournament on February 17-18.

Both teams and their coaches, **Paul Siljee** (boys' team) and **Russ Van Buiten** and **Jay Van Buiten** (girls' team), are to be congratulated on their respective seasons. We also want to thank the Eagle cheerleading team, directed by **Susan Siljee**, for the skilled and enthusiastic routines that added spirit and grace to our home games. For all of these middle school athletes, hours of practice and much hard work, accentuated by God-given skill and teamwork, made this season one to remember, as can be attested to by the supportive parents and friends who witnessed their efforts. Good job, Eagles!

Newspaper Quotes from the Winter Sports Season



The 2005-06 Girls Varsity Basketball Team

CROSS COUNTRY / TRACK

The *Herald News* proudly announced its first class of student athletes who received recognition for their examples of “Motivation * Vision * Performance” (MVPs). The newspaper stated, “These special student-athletes represent the best of the best in the classroom and on the fields and courts.” Chosen from Eastern Christian School this year was **Mary Tolsma**, who is noted for being a member of the student government, a student who has undertaken several honors level courses, in addition to excelling in Cross Country as the four-time winner of All-County Awards. EC’s coach **Joel Apol** is quoted as saying, “Mary is the heart of the girls cross country and track teams.... Mary is without a doubt the best runner our school has ever produced.”

BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys Varsity Team member **Paul Siljee** (son of ECHS 1975 graduate Paul Siljee) made the *The Herald News* headlines on February 1st when he led the Eagles to a 57-54 victory over Elmwood Park in an exciting close game, and the Varsity Eagles team was again in the news when they won against rival Saddle Brook a little later in the season. The excitement of the game and the EC community support was conveyed in the following quotes from the sports article:

“The [Saddle Brook] Falcons opened the final quarter on an 8-2 run, getting four of Justin Maneri’s team-high 16 points, to open up a 44-35 lead with a little over four minutes remaining. But instead of folding, the Eagles were emboldened by a few exciting plays and reeled off a 14-2 run to go ahead 49-46. Siljee scored eight points during the spurt,

including a basket off a steal by Ben Kuiken (team-high 16 points) and a 3-pointer on the following play....

... After trailing by nine points in their own gym in the fourth period, the Eagles stormed back to closed the game on a 17-6 run to win 52-50 before a large and enthusiastic crowd.”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

In an article entitled, “Eagles learn that wins aren’t everything” *The Herald News* chose to report on the winless EC Girls Basketball Team and discovered another evidence of how our students can be witnesses and examples to others. The following are excerpts from the February 25, 2006 story:

“On a recent Wednesday, there were nine girls getting ready for practice in the Eastern Christian gym. This was the Eagles’ entire basketball squad, and of those nine, one was sidelined with a blood disorder, two were getting over the flu, and one had several pulled leg muscles. Two had never played basketball before, giving them a handicap of their own.

Add to that the fact that the Eagles didn’t win a game all season, finishing Thursday with a 43-31 loss to Paterson Catholic. That made for a 0-20 season. And to the end, there was nearly 100 percent attendance at practice and laughter and smiles in the gym....”

“Just because we lose, it’s not like we play bad; we try to play the best we can and we know it – and we have a lot of fun,” junior captain **Shannon Martin** said. “We come to practice because we don’t want to let each other down. We are a team, and even though we don’t have the luxury of winning, we’re still close. We’re like family.”



The Boys Varsity Basketball Team pictured in the ECHOES 1966 Yearbook. Do you remember who was on the team? If so, e-mail the Development Office with your list of names by row.

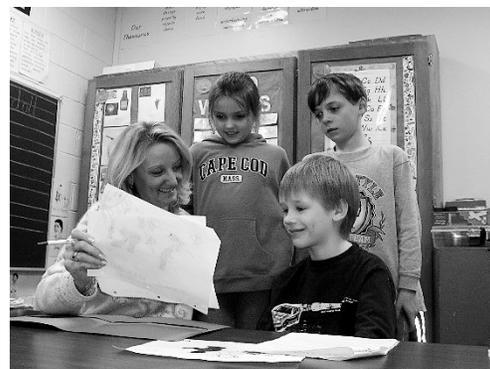
The Owl's Nest Is Now The Whole Building

BY ALISA ENGELHARD & CYNTHIA VISBEEN, TEACHERS IN *THE OWL'S NEST*

As Winnie-the-Pooh, Piglet, and friends would gather in the wise old Owl's nest to learn what they couldn't master on their own, EC Elementary School's *Owl's Nest* has been providing a safe, nurturing environment for students who learn differently for over twenty years. However, the *Owl's Nest* has now expanded beyond the confines of a single resource room to a program that offers a spectrum of services to students and teachers throughout our building. We strive to provide the "Least Restrictive Environment," which means students should be placed in environments that help them learn at their greatest potential.

Although the *Owl's Nest* program has many components, the three areas—in order from most intense intervention to least restrictive—are: the resource classroom, in-class support, and our collaboration with the classroom teachers. At the level where the most intense intervention takes place, we see accelerated learning when we meet with kids in the original *Nest*, a separate classroom where the program began. For example, during one year of replacement reading instruction, most students are able to raise their reading skill level by at least a full year, and often by two or more years. We accomplish this through a small student-to-teacher ratio and with materials especially designed for

students who need direct instruction. We document the student's growth with assessments which help to guide our teaching throughout the year. When this goal is reached, usually the students are able to return to regular classroom learning with their peers.



Working together builds skills and confidence.

Secondly, we offer "in-class-support" so that students who experience a gap between their learning level and their peers' level, are able to learn in their least restrictive environment—their own classroom. An in-class-support professional can guide, redirect, accommodate or modify as the lesson is being taught by the regular classroom teacher. In part, this goal is accomplished by using Bergen and Passaic County Special Services instructors. Some students also have short tutoring sessions in the resource trailer for 40 minutes a week to boost their skills.

At the least restrictive level, we have found that teacher-to-teacher collaboration helps staff, *Owl's Nest* students and the rest of the class. Thankfully, we have willing elementary school professionals who have shared their successes and challenges with us and, as a result, we have successfully tried new techniques and materials. The Wednesday Collaborative Hour at



Teachers *Cynthia Visbeen* (L) and *Alisa Engelhard* (R) with some students in The Owl's Nest.

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On The Go, Travel Show!

BY DONNA HOOGERHYDE, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

"On the Go, Travel Show!" was the theme at Eastern Christian Elementary School on a special day in November. The Travel Show was the culminating activity to a month long study in *Donna Hoogerhyde's* Fourth Grade Social Studies class. Each student chose one of the states and researched the outstanding attractions and highlights, including famous cities, national parks, landforms and major products. Using that information, students created a travel poster "advertising" their state. The results were outstanding, depicting the unique characteristics of each state in a variety of ways.

At the Travel Show, the students displayed their posters, along with additional artifacts and food representative of their state. A few examples were a "field" of blue grass with a white picket fence for Kentucky, Petoskey stones from Michigan, and pineapples and macadamia nuts from Hawaii. Parents, grandparents, special friends and other schoolmates attended the afternoon event. Many guests commented on how much information the children were able to convey about their states. It was a wonderful day!



Doug Davis and Justin Miller were the tour guides for the state of North Carolina, and Calvin Bushman welcomed visitors to Alabama.

OWL'S NEST *continued from page 15*

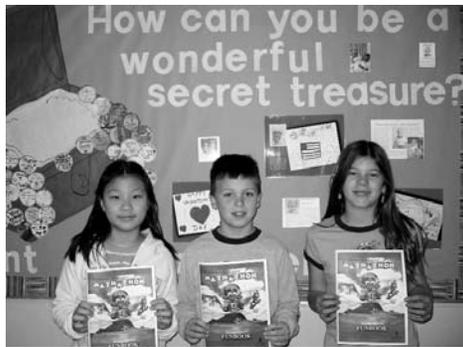
lunchtime has been a great way to interface with teachers and brainstorm possibilities. This time is facilitated by parents who supervise students during lunch and recess, while the teachers meet together. We would like to thank this army of volunteers that make our precious collaborative time possible. In addition, we are also pleased to collaborate throughout the rest of EC system via an LD Student Review Team made up of teachers in similar positions at the EC Middle School and High School.

The Owl's Nest is now integrated into education throughout the whole ECES building! We find our work exciting and meaningful as it benefits

families, students and teachers in our school. We still utilize the resource rooms; but we also work in the resource trailer, classrooms, and with staff individually. One parent stated it well when she said, "The goal for our child with a learning disability is no different than it is for any of our other children at EC." We want students to claim the promise that God makes to each of us, regardless of ability or disability, that is found in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Math-A-Thon: Sharing "A Wonderful Secret Treasure" with St. Jude's

BY CAROL BYMA, ECES 4TH GRADE TEACHER



Pictured are: Michelle Suh, Toby Hartog and Rachel Barrett

Childhood cancer can strike anywhere, at any time. St. Jude's Hospital has led the way to lifesaving treatment procedures that have greatly increased the survival rates from less than 20% in 1962 to better than 90% today.... All treatment costs, beyond

that which may be covered by health insurance, are paid for from public contributions raised through events like the 'Math-A-Thon.'

Our Math-A-Thon fundraiser this February challenged students to be "Magnificent Math-A-Thoners" for the kids at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee who were counting on generous people to help raise money for up-to-date treatments for life-threatening diseases and research to produce new medicines.

During the kick-off chapel in early February, each student received a grade-level appropriate Math-A-Thon Fun Book, which contained more than 200 math problems for students to solve in two weeks' time. To raise money for St. Jude's, they were also challenged to obtain sponsors for their work in the booklet and to use the second set of two weeks to collect and bring in the donations. Last year was the fourth time ECES had participated in this fundraiser, and our students and parents raised \$7,300. This year students were encouraged to increase the donation amount for this worthy cause.

The problems in the Fun Books are not difficult, but they serve to reinforce basic skills at the various grade levels. Concepts such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are covered as well as place value, money, fractions, and problem-solving. Some students worked on the problems in their classrooms and others did the work at home, but all were happy to solve the problems with their knowledge that their work would help children in critical need at the hospital. They expressed this hope in

their writings with statements like, "We're praying for you," and "God won't forget you and neither will we."

At the opening chapel, everyone listened to the words of Matthew 13:44-46: "The kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." All were encouraged to be examples of "the Kingdom of Heaven" on Earth for other people to see. By participating in this service project, students, parents and staff members put the school's theme into action. They were challenged to "Trust in the Lord" while He continued to make them into the "Wonderful Secret Treasure" that the patients at St. Jude's were seeking,



The ECES PTO sponsors a monthly food drive to benefit The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation located in Midland Park. The Foundation helps families with children who are battling cancer. Fighting this disease takes an emotional and financial toll on these families. By participating in the food drives, the students at ECES share Christ's love with those in need in our community. Parent coordinator Maureen Braen stated that about 15 bags of groceries are collected each month, and the items requested help families prepare quick meals during the time they are dealing with hospital stays and doctors' visits.

Improv Instruction Comes to the Elementary School

“Come in from the cold!” **Yvonne Vitale** remembers that her involvement with EC began with this invitation by a fellow EC parent one chilly October day when Yvonne was in her car waiting while her twin sons attended their EC Preschool class. This invitation led her to a room where Principal Dick Van Yperen was discussing the need for help with drama instruction at ECES. As an actor who studied Shakespeare in England, as a person who performed in many venues from schools to museums to synagogues and churches, and the co-founder of the educational improvisation company *Good Clean Fun*, Yvonne immediately felt God’s call to raise her hand and offer to help.

As part of the *Good Clean Fun* troupe in past years, Yvonne and her fellow writer-actors were commissioned to write and perform “drama vignettes to help students understand themselves and others.” This type of socio-drama encompassed many issues including bullying, suicide, AIDS, and relationship issues. The focus was to bring the actors and the student audiences together “to explore human feelings, emotions and needs in a non-threatening manner” and then hopefully to solve particular social problems that needed to be addressed. In her work at EC, she is now taking her drama teaching to a new level by sharing the skills of writing and acting out six Bible stories with teams of 4th grade students who have expressed an interest in being part of a Drama Team.

The concept of “team” is a key element in Ms. Vitale’s instruction. Her goal in creating these drama experiences with the group is to “*activize each student in the group while respecting each one’s immediate capacity for participation.*” That means that group agreement and interaction by each person, rather than emphasizing leading roles and playing up individual actors, is the mark of success. In a Christian school environment, an even more important aspect is to develop the skills of bringing the Bible stories “alive” so that the students’ experience with these truths will stay with them throughout their lifetime. Developing discipline by working as a team where each member is equally involved is another character-building result.

The following stories will be portrayed this year: the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; the story of Moses and the rock; the story of Elijah; the story of Esther; the story of Thomas; and the story of Hezekiah. Teaching by playing certain types of instructional games expands and refines a student’s awareness of all of the characters, their situation, their surroundings and the tensions and resolutions in each Bible story. The goal is to portray how these people from the Bible showed their “Trust in the Lord,” the school’s theme for the year. In order to understand the tension between Ahab and Elijah, for example, the students are challenged to participate in a game of “contrapuntal argument” in which they are first



Volunteer Drama Coach **Yvonne Vitale** with student drama team member **Hannah Flim**.



Students **Valentina Orostizaga** and **Dan De Jong** dramatize a scene from the story of Esther.

asked to verbalize and demonstrate an argument for a certain position (“pro”) and then switch roles to argue against that same position (“con”). In order to dramatize the experience of each character in the story, Ms. Vitale uses the game of “gibberish” where students are asked to take away the words they see, replace those words with “nonsense” words, and try to explain something by the actions of their bodies alone.

This depth of experience helps students convey the atmosphere of tension in a realistic and memorable way for themselves and their audience. Ms. Vitale’s role is to encourage the students as a team to delve into the whole experience – the environment – “to look beneath the surface and inside” in order to illustrate the Bible story and involve the students in the audience in wrestling with situations/problems and remembering how God works through his people.

Each student team prepares, writes, and practices an original skit twice a week for six weeks prior to a chapel performance. If you would like to come and see a drama team in action, you are welcome to call the ECES school office to check presentation dates. Come share in the experience of chapel worship in a new and meaningful way.

Black History Month Chapel

Deafening screams punctuated our elementary school chapel time on the last Wednesday of February. As you might imagine, ECES students enthusiastically accommodated our guest speaker’s request to scream or make noise every time he mentioned an invention credited to a Black inventor.

The **Reverend Michael Bethune**, Director of Acquisition and Distribution for Star of Hope Ministries and Associate Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church of Morristown, highlighted a remarkable or, more accurately for that day, screamable list of inventions – stainless steel pads, ironing board, street sweeper, lawnmower, typewriter, toilet, ice cream, bicycle frame, air conditioning unit and many more.

Each scream provided an exclamation point for the remarkable contributions of an important segment of our population who are too often stereotyped. We closed chapel that day thanking God for how in His sovereignty He has gifted all people to enhance the goodness of His creation.



Reverend Michael Bethune (right) with **Teacher Karen Baitzel** and **Principal Dick Van Yperen**

EC Invites Donors to Join The Eagle Society

BY DAVID VISBEEN, ECSA BOARD MEMBER

The Board of Directors of Eastern Christian School Association is happy to announce the formation of *The Eagle Society*. The intent is to formally recognize those who make significant contributions to the Annual Fund of Eastern Christian.

All individual donors who contribute or enable EC to receive \$1,200 or more during the 2005-06 school year will be inducted into *The Eagle Society*. Members of this society will receive a personal letter of thanks from the President of the Board of Directors as well as recognition in the Association's Annual Report. Membership will be determined annually at the end of EC's fiscal year, based on contributions.

The Annual Fund Drive for Eastern Christian takes place each spring and contacts Association members, current and past parents, alumni, and friends of Eastern Christian with telephone and written solicitations. The fund helps to bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of education. For this fiscal year, the Annual Fund goal is \$680,000.00. **Without the generous and consistent support of the Eastern Christian community for the Annual Fund, each student's family would see a dramatic increase in tuition cost.**

Every dollar contributed to the Annual Fund helps current families afford Christian Education for their children. Every dollar contributed to the Annual Fund helps support the mission of Eastern Christian School Association: *to provide excellent education with a Christian world and life view to the children of Christian families.*

If you are one of our long-time Annual Fund supporters, please consider stepping up in your giving. **If you have never before contributed to the Annual Fund, would you please consider giving a gift this year?** If you or your children have benefited from the Christ-centered education provided at Eastern Christian, the Annual Fund is a wonderful opportunity to be sure others will have the same benefits. We look forward to welcoming many of you to *The Eagle Society* this year.

Atlantic Stewardship Bank Presents a Generous Donation

Addressing the ECSA Board members on the evening for the February Board meeting, **Bill Hanse**, an officer of Atlantic Stewardship Bank, stated: "People like you EC Board members were the founders of our bank. Our inspiration were 'yeoman Christians' who sat in your seats many years ago." Bill added the interesting note that in June, 1976 he was the EC Board President pictured in EC's publication accepting a much-needed donation.

Mr. Hanse and fellow ASB representative **John Steen** then presented Board President **Tom Dykhous** with a check for **\$40,000** to support Eastern Christian School and continue its commitment to the importance of Christian education.

In response to this gift, Board member **David Visbeen** affirmed ASB as a role model for other business owners. He shared the fact that another EC-supporting business owner recently voiced the fact that he was challenged by Atlantic Stewardship Bank's tithing commitment to think about how his own business might be a more active support of the school and other local ministries. **Thank you again, Atlantic Stewardship Bank, for your faithful and generous support!**



Pictured (L to R) are: ASB Director **Bill Hanse**, EC Chief School Administrator **Kurt Kaboth**, ASB Director **John Steen** and ECSA Board President **Tom Dykhous**.



Christine (Baker) Marvin ('90) (right) and co-worker **Shawna** (left) coordinated a fundraiser at MotoPhoto in Wyckoff. A percentage of each Christmas portrait package was donated to

Eastern Christian. Thank you, MotoPhoto!

2005-2006 Business Drive Donors

Business Drive contributions and pledges through February 2005 totaled **\$35,368.75**. We appreciate the support of the owners of the following businesses:

Atlantic Stewardship Bank
 A-Van Electrical Supply, Inc.
 Baker & Hoogerhyde LLC
 Borduin Co., Inc.
 Borduin Paving
 Jennifer Bushman D.M.D. PC
 Bushoven & Company
 Business World, Inc
 Mike Cheresnick Carpentry Inc.
 C S Stucco & Plastering Inc.
 Cedar Hill Landscape Contractors
 Coldwell Banker - Josephine Winters
 Columbia Bank
 Factory Direct of Hasbrouck Heights, LLC
 Forrest Signs
 Genesis Associates Inc.
 George Harms Construction Co.
 Glen Rock Stair Corporation
 Heerema Company
 Hook, Smith & Meyer
 James Karr Piano Tuning and Restoration
 John Avanzato, Inc.
 Kuiken Brothers Co., Inc.
 Leegwater Electric Inc.
 Mathusek Sport Floors
 Northeast Janitorial Supply, Inc.
 Paramus Auto Mall/Chevrolet Hummer
 Patchett, Grode & Topp
 Reiner & Company, Inc.
 Rybiz Properties, LLC
 Sales Consultants of NJ Inc.
 Skyline Greenhouses, Inc.
 William Sytsma Landscaping
 Mark Tirondola Contractor
 R. M. Tuit Paving
 Vander Plaats - Vermeulen Memorial Home, Inc.
 Visbeen Construction Co.
 Wachovia Insurance Services, Inc. -
 David A. Smolenski
 Wallwork Bros.
 Yukon Graphics

Thank You, Homebound Pilots Foundation!

In the Fall 2005 issue of *The Herald* we reported on the renovation of two bathrooms near the ECHS gymnasium. Thanks primarily to a grant from the **Homebound Pilots Foundation**, established by the late **Peter De Korte**, these rooms were expanded and renovated to provide ADA-compliant handicap access. The initial intent was simply to renovate the existing bathrooms; but, thanks to the generosity of many businesses and individuals, we were able to expand the rooms, relocate a janitor's closet, and install two new water coolers in the gymnasium.



Pictured (L to R) are **Kurt Kaboth**, **Joanne Van Lenten**, and **David Visbeen**.

Miss Joanne Van Lenten, Mr. De Korte faithful assistant and a current officer for the Foundation, came ECHS to see the wonderful new facilities. Present to greet her were Facilities Chair and Board Member **David Visbeen** and Chief School Administrator **Kurt Kaboth**, who expressed many thanks for the Foundation's donation to this much-needed building improvement project. This enhancement is a benefit to EC students and to local community members, who visit for basketball games and/or rent our facilities during the school year.



The memorial plaque placed near the boys' bathroom entrance.



The women's bathroom near the gym is now a comfortable space for all.

The New Year Brings Changes in ECSA Staff

Beverly Cusack Departs: Beverly Cusack announced that she would leave employment at Eastern Christian School on February 13 to join her husband Rev. Joe Cusack, who had recently been called to be the new Pastor of the Levittown Community Church in Levittown, New York. Beverly served EC for over 14 years in the Business Office, her last position being the Director of Financial services. Because of her efficiency and many kindnesses, she will be missed by our parents, faculty, staff and students.

Jackie Streelman Welcomed: The Board of Directors was pleased to announce the appointment of Jackie Streelman as EC's new Director of Financial Services and Chief Financial Officer. Jackie is a graduate of Calvin College, holds an MBA in accounting from Fairleigh Dickinson, and completed the examination requirement for a CPA. She has worked in the accounting profession for several large companies including GMAC and as Capital Markets Operations Manager for National Community Bank. She is most familiar to the EC community as a Board member and as Treasurer of the Association for the past four years.



New CFO **Jackie Streelman**

Jackie and her husband Jeff have three children in the EC system, including Kathryn in 7th Grade, Jennifer in 4th Grade, and Kyle in 1st Grade. Jackie has served as Treasurer of the EC Elementary School PTO and the NY/NJ Calvin College Alumni Association. We look forward to working with Jackie as she joins the Association Office team.

RESERVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006



for
E.C.'S GOLF OUTING

at GREAT GORGE COUNTRY CLUB

8 AM Shot-gun Start

with Luncheon following in the Pavilion at Great Gorge

Participant Levels:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Foursome | \$600 |
| Individual | \$150 |
| Individual - Seniors (65+) | \$140 |
| Student Rate * | \$100 |

Price Includes: Green fees, Golf cart, food coupon for use between courses, and BBQ Luncheon at Great Gorge.

To Register or for more information, call EC's Development Office at 973-427-9294 ext 211 or visit our website www.easternchristian.org

* Home from college? Organize a foursome with your classmates from EC!

Memories of an EC Community Connection

The article in the front section of this issue about poet and author John Terpstra's invitation to work with ECHS students had its roots in a Midland Park Christian community connection to a 1970 EC graduate **Mary Ann (Vande Ree) Terpstra**, John's wife. In addition to discussing poetry with our current students, John's visit to New Jersey focused on speaking about his new book, *The Boys: Or, Waiting for the Electrician's Daughter*. That daughter was Mary Ann and the "boys" were her brothers **Neil, Paul and Eric**, who were diagnosed with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy and died within six months of each other in 1978 after living with the disease until their early twenties.

Rather than dwell on the sadness and trials of the Vande Ree brothers and their family, the theme of the book was to celebrate their lives and chronicle how these "boys" changed, challenged and enhanced the lives of others in their neighborhood, their church and their school.

By e-mail, Mary Ann recently shared the fact that "...Neil, Paul and Eric all attended Midland Park Christian School (Maltbie Ave.) initially, and the wheelchair-accessible Wyckoff Christian School until Grade 6. They then transferred to Midland Park Junior and Senior Public High School, which were wheelchair accessible." One of Eric's Christian school classmates became a special needs teacher because of her association with him, according to their neighbor and family friend **Anna Jean Leegwater** (Cl. of '54). Mary Ann herself attended Midland Park Christian Elementary School, EC Junior High and Senior High. She added: "This classmate[of Eric's] met John at a conference in Canada a few years ago and when they discovered the common connection they shared with my family, she shared this story with him. It was such a powerful reminder to him that the lives of my brothers had an enormous ripple effect on the lives of many people, that it encouraged him to try again to write this story."

When John Terpstra spoke to a group at Midland Park Christian Reformed Church, there were people in attendance who had been involved

with and changed by their relationship with the Vande Ree family. A number of individuals who cared for the boys are still a part of the Midland Park Christian community today and/or have ties to the Eastern Christian School community. The local newspaper article the next day reported that memories were verbalized about how there was such a support system of neighborhood and church members who came to help on a regular basis. Some shared that, although they went to the Vande Ree home to help, they often came away feeling cheered up by the boys. Others talked about how Neil, Paul, and Eric found a way to live "like everything was normal" and that they were a "great source of spirituality." Mary shared, "I was happy to revisit the High School, and even do some last minute research in the school library for John for one of the poetry workshops he conducted there. It was especially meaningful to reconnect with the many volunteers and nurses who supported our family those many years ago, especially for our daughters, who never knew their uncles, or so clearly how the community played such an important role in the life of the Vande Ree family."

In Canada (where the Terpstas now reside) John's book is shortlisted with only three other authors for the 2006 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. The book is available locally in New Jersey and online. Contact the EC Development Office or Anna Jean Leegwater for more information.



The Vande Ree brothers had "an enormous ripple effect on the lives of many people."

A New EC Alumni Directory

Thank you to all of you who have already filled out and returned your 2006 Alumni Directory Project questionnaires! Updated information for this directory depends on YOU, so please respond to the final mailing coming up this spring (if you haven't already done so). The deadline for address changes to appear in the new directory is **June 1**. If your children are graduates but you are getting their mail, this is the time to correct their mailing information!

Eastern Christian School has selected University Publishing Corporation (UPC) to publish a revised, updated and affordable alumni directory for 2006. Located in Bloomington, Indiana, UPC specializes in the publication of high school, college and professional school directories nationwide. Their unique methods will allow us to provide an attractive and accurate directory to all participating alumni at no cost to Eastern Christian. The directories are being sold by UPC for **\$29.00**, with a share of

the profits going back to our school when at least 20% of our alumni purchase a book. We are working with this company because alumni asked us to publish a more affordable directory this time.

Whether or not you buy a directory, it is important that you fill out and return the questionnaire to the Indiana address, so that EC will have your up-to-date information for The Herald, reunions and other communications from your alma mater.

You can help by updating your records, but we encourage you to consider supporting the program by purchasing a directory. (Please note that this project is separate from our Annual Fund Drive) Your enthusiastic response is crucial to the success of the program. Distribution is scheduled for the end of 2006.

Alumni News

Please note: The Alumni News we print was either received via a written note, e-mail or was noted from media sources. Alumni are encouraged to e-mail their news to: Alumni@easternchristian.org. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. Now you can go to our website (www.easternchristian.org) and fill out a 5-minute survey so you can keep informed about EC. You can also submit your story or give your testimonial about your EC education. Check it out!

FORMER STAFF

Les Pontier passed away on Feb. 13 in Orange City, IA at the age of 91. Mr. Pontier was a teacher in Eastern Academy in the late 1940's.

HERITAGE YEARS

Sarene Osenga ('28) writes, "I have been a resident of the Holland Christian Home in North Haledon for the past 12 years. I was wondering how many of the Class of 1928 are still living?" (Editor's Note: Our database indicates that there are seven: **Amelia (Stam) Brain, Anna (La Fleur) Hutton, Catherine Mathewson, Elizabeth (Spaanstra) Mol, Helen (Haven) Van Tielen, Alvin Vander Byl and Phyllis (Fortuin) Vander Els.**)

Our sympathy go out to the friends and family of **Harriet (Meeter) Schermer** ('38), who passed away on 11/19/2005 after a two-month illness in North Carolina.

Adriana ("Ada") (Wisse) Hartog ('38) passed away on 1/17/06 in Grand Rapids, MI. She worked in the office of Eastern Christian High School and the Development Office for a total of 25 years prior to her retirement in 1990. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

Kornelius Van Goor ('40) passed away on 11/22/05. During the last 15 years of his life, he volunteered his services to Mission India, serving as treasurer on the Board of Directors and conducting numerous tours to India. As reported in *The India Intercessor*, "Kornelius Van Goor MD was passionate about sharing the Good News with others....He graduated from Calvin College, served in World War II, and then graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School in 1950 with a specialty in dermatology. He had a dermatology practice in Grand Rapids until his retirement in 1990....Neal was a delegate to the Michigan State Medical Society for many years. Mission India remembers Neal for his tireless efforts on our behalf, serving as a

board leader and escorting hundreds of Ministry Tour participants to India. He will be missed, but we rejoice that he has gone home to Glory."

Elmer Jeltjes ('40) writes that, "Our last Class Reunion only needed a small table for dinner." He adds that his Christian education "helped growing in the Lord."

CLASS OF 1941

Class Rep: Charlie Hiemstra

1915 76th St, Lubbock, TX 79423-1620

Florence (Jelsma) Fawley ('41) writes, "I was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2001, joining four Presidents, Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, etc."

CLASS OF 1942

Class Rep: Kenneth Tanis

909 Four Seasons Dr, Wayne, NJ 07470-1949

Harold De Roo ('42) writes, "Following EA graduated from Rutgers in '45, then to Western Theological Seminary. Have been RCA minister for 51 years. Went to an EA reunion at Calvin College 2 - 3 years ago. Would hope for another such reunion, it was great!"

The Value of an EC Education

CLASS OF 1940:

"Our religious and Christian values never get old - they last a lifetime."



Riverside Christian School Class of '44: According to Frank Dykstra, this was the largest graduating class from Riverside Christian School. A number of these grads also went on to graduate from Eastern Academy in 1948. Pictured (L to R): **Row 1:** Jean Stam, Joyce (Dykstra) Van Schepen, Jean (Leyman) Kort, Mr. Hommes, Lenore (Kole) Jonkman, Marjorie (Dykhouse) Oppewall, Harriet (Dykstra) Fritsch; **Row 2:** Elroy Dyksen, Gladys Douma, Alice (Dyer) Ruitenber, Elaine Thompson, Gladys (Stap) Klepper, William Meeker, John Steenstra; **Row 3:** Donald Botbyl, Cornelius Breur, Frank Dykstra

ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 21*

CLASS OF 1944

Class Rep: Raeanne (Dyksen) Dykhouse
241 Eastview Terr, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-2603
E-Mail: gdykhous@bellatlantic.net

Stanley van Reken noted in our last issue his website about the Foundation supporting Christian Missionary Children was misprinted. It should be:
<http://home.msen.com/~cmsf/index.htm>.

CLASS OF 1946:

“Christian Education at EC was of great value to me. What was learned at EC has influenced every part of my life. Expensive? Yes. But priceless!”

CLASS OF 1946

Class Rep Needed

Bert G. Boer writes, *“I recently attended the 50th*

Reunion of my graduation from Newark College of Engineering. Nine members were present. I didn't know any of them. I went to night school.”

CLASS OF 1947:

“Two of my grandchildren have graduated from EC, which makes five generations of graduates – God is faithful.”

CLASS OF 1947

Class Rep: Corene (Riemersma) De Graaf
7 Faner Rd, Midland Park, NJ 07432-1715
E-Mail: gram25@aol.com

In June of 2007 the Class of 1947 will be marking 60 years since they graduated from Eastern Academy. If any of our classmates are interested in celebrating this event, please contact **Corene (Riemersma) De Graaf, Betty (Botbyl) Tolsma or Lois (Dapp) Veenstra.**

CLASS OF 1950:

“It was helpful educationally, but we didn't do service projects in the 1940's! Service projects are a great 'innovation.”

CLASS OF 1950

Class Rep Needed

“The Dutch Connection,” Clix and Alyce Meines in Littleton, CO sent in the following update: “Charlie and Kay (Schuurman '48) Hoekstra of Florida spent a few wonderful days in Colorado with us.” The Meines also took a trip to Pella, IA to visit Clix's sister **Gert Meines Beintema ('52).**

J. F. Girard Rooks writes, *“One marriage, four kids, twelve grandkids – 4 are Canadian – who would have thought it possible?! I have a 6'5” 240 lb grandson who can bench 275 as a junior in high school and is being scouted for Big Ten' football.”*

CLASS OF 1951:

“During U.S. Navy Boot Camp (1953) I was awarded the American Spirit of Honor medal. I feel this was because of my Christian education at school, church, and home.”

CLASS OF 1951

Class Rep Needed

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of **Lucretia (De Jonge) Vangelas** who passed away on 10/8/2005.

CLASS OF 1953

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

Irene (Hogan) Van't Land wants to let **Betty Van Oostenbridge's** and **Jay Bruinooge's** family know they are praying for them and their loved ones. Know they have their eternal reward.

CLASS OF 1954

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

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LEFT TO RIGHT (kneeling): Jack Broisma, Paul Sweetman, Donald Vroon, Charles Mommelaar, Stuart Kingma, Richard Schuurman; (center): Mr. Steen (Coach); (standing): Jacob Schuurman, Ebele Bruining, John Oosting, William Kingma, Ren Broekhuizen, Clarence Meines.

Thank you to all of the alumni who e-mailed the Development Office with the names of the players pictured on page 12 of the Fall 2005 issue of *The Herald*! The players were from the JV, not the Varsity Team, and only some of the players were shown with Coach Steen. They were: **Bottom row**— Paul Sweetman, Don Vroon, and Charles "Whitey" Mommelaar; and **Back row**— Ebele Bruining, John Oosting, Wm. (Bill) Kingma & Ren Broekhuizen. Because of the interest this photo generated, the entire photo is reprinted in this issue with the names of all of the players on this 1949 EC JV Basketball Team. On a sad note, Don Vroon's widow Judy notified us that Don passed away suddenly two years ago in November.

ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 22*

Fred Lanting announces the publication of his new canine orthopedics book: *Hip Dysplasia and Other Canine Orthopedic Disorders*. This book is a comprehensive (nearly 600 pages!), an amply illustrated and annotated work for casual conversation or study reference. You can get information on the book from Fred at mrgsd@hiwaay.net. Be sure to mention EA or ECHS!

CLASS OF 1956

Class Rep: Shirley (Van Til) Faber
E-Mail: Sfab6@netzero.com

Attention, Classmates: Reserve **Saturday, October 14, 2006** for our 50th Class Reunion. The reunion will take place from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at Portobello's in Oakland, NJ. We will join again together at 6:00pm at The Barn at Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ to renew old acquaintances over a cup of coffee. The reunion committee consists of: **Shirley (Van Til) Faber, Beatrice (Van Beveren) Spalt, Marilyn (Van Eck) De Block, Len Dykman and Rich Kuiken.**

Larry Hoogerhyde ('54) e-mailed that **Paul Witte** passed away on Nov. 27, 2005. His obituary stated, "As a Christian school administrator, Paul left a legacy of dedicated service with God-given skill and humor in Goshen, NY; Miami, FL; Walnut Creek, CA; and Grandville, Lansing, and Jenison, MI."

Brandt Hagedorn is retired but active in Florida after a 41-year career with Hobart Corporation.

CLASS OF 1958:

"Just wish I took the education offered more seriously at the time. We need Christian education now more than ever."

CLASS OF 1962

Class Rep: Nancy (Hartog) Ruiter
127 Howell Rd, Freehold, NJ 07728-8884
E-Mail: nruiter@aol.com

Linda (Vermeulen) Foster sent a note recently stating that she has retired from her position in the field of Christian church education.

Responding to our alumni survey, **Carol**



The 1966 Eastern Christian School Pep Band was directed by **Mr. Thomas Ver Straate**.

Ann (Baatenburg) Lindsay remembered attending EC from kindergarten through fourth grade. She stated: "These were the best of my school years. I carry the joy, the freedom, the fine memories of NJ people and the ethics standards with me today." To help raise funds for Hurricane Katrina victims, Carol Ann has written an essay for the book *Stories of Strength* and a poem for *Beyond Katrina*. She is a member of the Academy of American Poets, has authored four books, and her poetry has appeared in a number of publications.

CLASS OF 1963:

"[My EC education was] the very foundation for my Christian values today."

CLASS OF 1963

Class Rep Needed

George De Vries is a grandfather 7 times over with his 4 children and their 5 boys and 2 girls.

We extend our sympathy to friends and family of **Ken de Waal Malefyt** who died tragically after collapsing on a cross-country ski trail. Ken graduated from Calvin College and had a master's degree in aquatic education from Michigan State University. As stated in *The Grand Rapids Press*, "Hudsonville Christian Middle School is reeling from the loss of a devoted science teacher who spent his entire career at the school.... 'Mr. Malefyt embodied the best qualities of a Christian school teacher,' said Dan Potts, principal of Hudsonville Christian Middle

School.... 'There are people who live and breathe Christian education [and] Ken was one of them.'"

CLASS OF 1964:

"Mr. Okkema's class in HS determined my life. Love God, fight for justice, live humbly. Thank you!"

CLASS OF 1965

Class Rep Needed

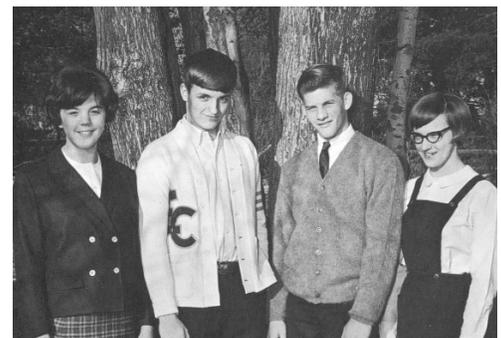
In response to our recent survey, **Henry Bandstra** sent in a note of appreciation stating, "My parents gave much to send us to Christian school for which we were blessed greatly."

CLASS OF 1966

Class Rep: Neil (Case) De Haan

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

Dr. Don Belanus, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, VA, kicked off 2006 with



Class of 1966 Senior Class Officers (L to R): Treasurer Karen Stam, Vice president Jim Bandstra, President Jim Veenstra, and Secretary Anita Hoogerheide. *continued on page 24*

ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 23*

an email to our class's *Herald* correspondent, reminding everyone that this year was our 40th anniversary and asking the question, "What are we going to do to celebrate?" Don retired from active service in the U.S. Navy several years ago, where he served as chaplain. He and his wife Margaret live in Virginia, along with two grown daughters, one a teacher and the other a youth minister, and two granddaughters.

Carole (Pruiksma) Arnoldi sends her greetings from Peachtree City, GA. She stated that her husband Jim had passed away in 1998 and added that her three children are spread out in the South—Tina and Jim in South Carolina and Chris in Tampa, Florida. Carole tells us that she considers herself retired and keeps busy developing new interests.

Our former class president for three years, **Jim Veenstra**, agreed that "it's about time to plan a reunion." Living in Illinois, Jim visits NJ about three times a year. Calling his wife Lois and himself "almost empty nesters," Jim's youngest daughter is a freshman at Dordt College, and Jim also has four grandchildren in Massachusetts and three grandchildren in Illinois.

June (Fisher) Markowitz lives with her husband, Arthur, in Wayne, NJ and works in health care in North Bergen. June is also willing to serve on a committee for this year's reunion. June's daughter Rachael graduated from the University of Pittsburg and is now a business school graduate student at Rutgers. Her son Justin will graduate from Oneonta College-CUNY in May as a geography major.

June suggested that we get started with an email list. To help us organize the reunion, we also plan to have the use of our class's website, to be developed by **Brian Lokker**, who is in the midst of changing his career from lawyer to web designer. Therefore, if you'd like us to get in touch with you regarding the plans for the reunion and the launch of the class's "official" website, please email me at nddehaan@yahoo.com. If you have any ideas for the reunion or would like to serve on the committee, let us know. (Don has invited us to Virginia.) One final note, **Bob Jonkman**, living in New Mexico, has also launched a website. His site can be reached at www.echs66.org.

CLASS OF 1967

Class Rep: Georgia (Faber) Meeter

3179 Co R and E 33

Cooperstown NY 13326-4314

Email: gmeeter@hotmail.com

Howard Husselman wonders if there is going to be a reunion for the class of 1967? If you are interested in information about organizing a reunion, contact the EC Development Office.

CLASS OF 1969:

"My Christian education provided a priceless foundation for my life. The in-depth knowledge of the Bible, the dedication of the Christian teachers, the love and protection of the Christian environment were a true blessing."

CLASS OF 1969

Class Rep Needed

Evan Heerema writes, "I am currently a faculty member at Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, MI where I continue to learn the value of a Christian education."

Ronald Tuit moved to Charlotte, NC where he is an organist in a Presbyterian church. He would like to hear from EC graduates in the area.

Pam (Bandstra) Hagley would like to hear from former classmates including **Marilyn (Beverluis) DeLuccia** and **Linda (De Vries) Vogel**. Her address is available from the EC Development Office.

CLASS OF 1971

Class Rep: Gail (Bakker) Beverly

20 Wendt Lane, Wayne, NJ 07470-6440

E-Mail: development@easternchristian.org

Betty (De Vries) Bouwman writes, "My husband and I have sent our 3 children to Christian schools through high school. My husband also is a 6th grade teacher at Westside Christian School in Grand Rapids. He's been in education for 30 years!"

CLASS OF 1972

Class Rep Needed

Richard E. Tuit is taking leadership at Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Highland

Lakes. He is an elder and occasionally preaches and leads the adult Sunday School Class.

CLASS OF 1972:

"The value of my Christian Education was priceless. I'm so thankful my parents sent me to EC and that God has provided us to send our children there."

CLASS OF 1974:

"As I get further along in years, I believe my time at EC has helped me keep a better and more even perspective on things."

CLASS OF 1974

Class Reps: Betsy (Leesman) Ertmann

2 Erolld Ct, Allendale, NJ 07401

E-Mail: ertmannbal@aol.com

Karen (Veenstra) Nelson

96 N 14th St Prospect Park, NJ 07508-1910

E-Mail: beechcrazi@aol.com

Rev. Carroll Wynne writes, "My mother Margret was head of the religion department at ECHS for a number of years and went home to be with the Lord in 2002. My children attend Delaware County Christian School – an excellent Christian school in the Philly area – formerly headed up by ECHS alumnus **Ken Tanis**." Carroll oversees hospital and shut-in visitation, Maranatha youth group, marriage and family ministry and men's ministry at the Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Janis (Tuit) Warden has been a hospice nurse for 14 years and was involved in starting a hospice home, Comfort House, in Pella, Iowa.

CLASS OF 1975

Class Rep: Carol (Meetsma) Elices

27 Bellevue Rd, Arlington, MA 02476-7919

E-Mail: carmarel@earthlink.net

Debra (Hemkes) Diehm writes, "The Lord has allowed me to substitute teach at Eastern Christian Middle School on occasion. What a tremendous blessing to fill in for such gifted teachers and to share in the daily experience

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ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 24*

there. Being able to conduct devotions is my favorite!"

Pastor Ken Sanders' church in NH will be, Lord willing, going on their 3rd 2-week dental mission trip to Ukraine this summer. They are working in two small Reformed churches. They use translators to understand the Russian language, and a dentist from Ken's church treats about 100 children. The team is also involved in some work and building projects, and Pastor Ken has taught the last two summers in a small Ukraine seminary.

CLASS OF 1976

Class Rep: Tom Henion

159 Haledon Ave, Paterson, NJ 07522-1271

Carole (Van Wieren) Jacobs recently received the Ursula Cahsens Critical Care Excellence Award for providing high-quality, compassionate care at St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital.

CLASS OF 1977:

Referring to the Value of Christian Education, "It is like a star in the sky to me. Always close to my head shining beautifully around me. Reminding me daily of what privileges God and my parents have given me. This star also reminds me of the brightness I have been taught to share with others."

CLASS OF 1979

Class Rep Needed

Glenn Hoogerhyde sent in an update stating, "I value Christian education very highly. It is my chosen professional calling. I look back at my EC memories fondly. I will complete the work on my Master's Degree and graduate from the University of Washington with a Masters of Education Degree Curriculum and Instruction in June 2006."

CLASS OF 1980:

"I wouldn't have traded my Christian education for anything-I was very prepared to face the challenges of college and subsequently Life!"

Roy Faber reported that his father Roy Sr. ('53) passed away in NJ in 2003. Roy himself is anticipating the birth of a granddaughter in May.

CLASS OF 1982:

My Christian education at EC was a "good preparation in world and life from a Christian perspective."

CLASS OF 1984

Class Rep: Cheryl (Mabie) Bereksazi

Email: kab7clb@optonline.net

William Abma writes that he is engaged to Rebecca Koetting and planning a 7/15/06 wedding. Congratulations!

CLASS OF 1985:

"[My Christian education was] Priceless! More valuable to me the older I get! Growing up in a Christian home, I always felt comfortable at EC. It was an extension of my home and I saw everything I learned as connected to God in some way. It shaped my worldview so that God is not just a slice of my life, He IS LIFE."

CLASS OF 1986

Class Rep: Lauran Bell (Hudson) Harrison

E-mail: Lauranbell@tbc.net

Bob Hagedorn reminds his classmates: "We celebrate our 20th graduation anniversary this year!"

CLASS OF 1991

Class Rep: Susanne (Balkema) Wynbeek

454 Manchester Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07506-2788

Sharon (de Bruyn) Kanzinger sent in a birth announcement and added that she and her family are now living in Nashville, TN. (See Alumni Births)

Charles Walker graduated in July 2005 with a Master of Arts in Organized Management from the University of Phoenix.

CLASS OF 1995

Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed

100 Pierson Miller Dr Unit E-24, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1050

E-Mail: ejh810@optonline.net

In response to our survey, Steffany Baptiste shared that she is a Special Education teacher in the Summit Public Schools. She plans to take a sabbatical leave to begin researching full-time for her dissertation at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Excerpts from the Class of 1995's Reunion Booklet:

Ken Jeltema spent eight years and three months in the US Air Force. During that time he spent 4 years in the United Kingdom and 6 months in Saudi Arabia. He received numerous Air Force awards and decorations. Ken currently works as a Staircase Builder/Installer for Glen Rock Stair Corp. and lives in North Haledon with his wife Tiffany and daughter Kayleigh.

Heather (Unrath) Moris lives "where the Army sends us, but currently lives in Killeen, TX." In 2002 Heather and John were married at the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY. John left for his second tour of duty to Iraq in December. Heather works as a Registered Nurse at Scott & White Hospital in Temple, TX and keeps busy with daughter Emma Grace and many volunteer activities.

CLASS OF 1996

Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky

45 N. 16th St, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-2252

E-Mail: Lapinsky@msn.com

Reunion Rep: Marcella (Simon) Vander Eems

70 Verein St., Haledon, NJ 07508



Tim Vander Eems and his sax are calling all members of the Class of 1996 to think about a Reunion!

continued on page 26

ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 25*

Marcella (Simon) Vander Eems has volunteered to be the contact person for organizing the Class of 1996's Class Reunion. Plans are just getting underway, so feel free to contact Marcella if you would like to help.

Xochi Kim and **Todd Hartley** were married on 12/3/05 at the Fort Myer Memorial Chapel in Fort Meyer, VA. They are residing in Virginia.

Jessica (Mulder) Warren sent in an update: She, her husband Mac, and children Kelsey (8),

Kyle (6) and Chloe (3) are living in Miami, FL. Jessica is a Sr. Executive Sales Director with Mary Kay Cosmetics and a 3-Time Pink Cadillac Driver.

CLASS OF 1997

Class Rep: James Pyrich

Home Page: www.97cc.com

Congratulations to Lisa and **John Borduin** who were married Nov. 5, 2005 in Cedar Hill CRC,

Wyckoff, NJ. John and Lisa live in Greenwood Lake, NY.

Also, congratulations to **John King** and **Deborah (Lopez) King ('99)** who were married on 1/16/06 and are residing in Harriman, NY.

James Mader sent in an update: "EC provided me with a worldview which has enabled me to understand more fully the consequences of thought, belief and action. We are expecting our 2nd child in April. I am now working as the counterintelligence collection manager for US Northern Command."

Erin Smeedy became engaged on October 21, 2005 to Timothy Atherton in Epcot at Walt Disney World. She is planning a wedding for November 2, 2006 at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

CLASS OF 1998

Class Rep: Sandi King Chiera

15 E Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064

E-Mail: chiera0022@aol.com

Perry and **Anne (Lucas) Trolard** were married on Jan. 7, 2006 in Ridgewood CRC, Ridgewood, NJ. Anne and Perry are residing in Urbana, IL.

Michael Link was married on 3/27/04 to Joanne Samaha of Aberdeen, NJ. They live in Lansdowne, PA. He is working as a medical resident at the University of PA, and Joanne is a teacher and singer/songwriter.



Pictured are some of the members of the Class of 1996 in a photo from the ECHOES Yearbook. How many can you name?

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More Class Reps Needed!

The EC Alumni Alliance is helping more and more alumni get in touch with us and with each other, thanks to individuals who are willing to serve as Class Reps. The Homecomings held at EC, the Michigan Alumni Dinners, "Dining with Classmates" and the Alumni Directories are four results of our efforts to assist alumni in their efforts to reconnect with classmates and share memories of school days.

A **Class Rep** gathers alumni news and transmits information, questions or concerns to the Development Office. The amount of time you devote to being a rep is up to you, and your class can have more than one rep. You can e-mail news to the EC Development Office (alumni@easternchristian.org) at your convenience or mail your news to us at the ECSA address (50 Oakwood Ave. Attn: Development Office, North Haledon NJ 07508-2449).

To expand our outreach and improve our contact with all alumni, we need a Class Rep for each class. Won't you consider serving your alma mater in this way? If you are interested in learning more, contact Gail at development@easternchristian.org or call 973-427-9294 ext 209. *Note that a class may want to have a Reunion Contact person as well as a Class Rep when two people would like to be involved.*

Please consider this service if you are a member of one of the following classes:

| | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1945 | 1952 | 1970 | 1988 |
| 1946 | 1963 | 1972 | 1992 |
| 1950 | 1965 | 1973 | 2004 |
| 1951 | 1969 | 1979 | 2005 |

ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 26*

Eric J. Huntington and Sara L. Sendik were married on 2/18/06. Rev. Mary Marcus officiated at the double ring and candlelight ceremony at The Tides Estate in North Haledon. Eric and Sara are living in Haledon, NJ.

CLASS OF 1999

Class Rep: Jennifer (Van Der Heide) Rysdam
1111 Golfcrest Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509
E-Mail: jteach19@aol.com

Class Rep **Jen (Van Der Heide) Rysdam** writes, "I received an update from **Emily Geenen** who writes, 'I'm living in Detroit going to Wayne State University in the Clinical Psychology graduate program. I am also getting married on May 13, 2006 to Jonathan Helder (from Calvin).'"

Michael Poremba writes, "I married my college sweetheart Nicole Leonards on 10/9/05!"

Nathaniel Rudd writes that he is recently engaged to YooRan Kim and planning a June 2006 wedding. Nathaniel works for the Japan Christian Academy, working on a large database project for the school. He adds, "Unfortunately this year I wasn't able to get as involved in cross country as I did last year. However, I had a wonderful time going to the meets and cheering the team on....It has been great to have my Uncle Dan back at CAJ...working together with CAJ's computer systems."

See Class of 1997 for wedding news from **Deborah Lopez**.

CLASS OF 2000

Janelle Klaassen

E-Mail: Bella8262@aol.com

Joshua De Jong and **Cassandra Cortese ('01)** are engaged and planning a June 2007 wedding.

Congratulations to the following newlyweds:

Michelle and **Kyle Laauwe**, who were married Dec. 2, 2005 and are residing in North Haledon, NJ

Lisa and **Robert Troast**, who were married on Dec. 12, 2005 and are residing in Sleepy Hollow, NY.

Kerisha Harris writes, "I graduated from The University of Florida in 2004 with a degree in Telecommunication. While in college, I served as a freshman orientation leader, a student

ambassador, and I was a recipient of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities honors in 2003. Since graduating, I have been involved in various freelance media projects, including the 2005 BET Awards, ABC's Live! With Regis and Kelly and ESPN Radio. I have now permanently settled in Atlanta, GA and I am working full-time in the media operations division of CNN, a subsidiary of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. As a CNN video journalist, I offer support to all divisions of news coverage, including domestic, headline and international news. I can be reached at kerisha.harris@turner.com." [Editor's Note: See also her testimony about her EC education in the front section of this issue.]

CLASS OF 2001

Class Reps:

Gina Marocco
25 Weldon Ct.
Totowa, NJ 07512

Yvonne Wisse
33 Cogswell Ave. Apt. 11
Cambridge, MA 02140
E-Mail: yjwisse@hotmail.com

Erin De Jong is engaged to Joseph Siervo. An April 2007 wedding is planned. Erin works for AAA North Jersey in Wayne, NJ.

See Class of 2000 for news from **Cassandra Cortese**.

CLASS OF 2002

Class Reps:

Peter Russo
7 Knolls Rd, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403-1511
E-Mail: Pete779@hotmail.com

Joshua Castano

E-Mail: Joshua.castano@oberlin.edu

Chad Hagedorn e-mailed "This summer I am going to be taking a 2400-mile bike ride in order to raise money for a grassroots Baptist organization in Louisiana. I have already taken two trips down to New Orleans and am organizing another for spring break through my school." If you are interested in helping Chad with his fundraising efforts, contact him at chagedorn@antioch-college.edu.

Katherine Everett married Rev. Brian Balkema on 12/30/05 at the Unity CRC where

Brian is the Associate Pastor. They are living in Prospect Park, NJ.

CLASS OF 2003

Class Rep: Sarah Vander Ploeg

234 Ballentine Dr., North Haledon, NJ 07508
E-Mail: vander@princeton.edu

Sarah Vander Ploeg contacted the Development Office to volunteer to be the Class Rep for Class of 2003. Classmates can reach her at either address listed above. Sarah adds that she sang the title role in Princeton University's Music Departmental opera this past January – Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience." She said that she is "looking forward to keeping better in touch with my classmates!"

Alumni Birth Announcements

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

CLASS OF 1982 – **Cathy and David Cook**, a daughter, Sarah on 10/29/05.

CLASS OF 1990 – **Greg and Chris (Baker) Marvin**, a daughter, Gabriella Rose on 10/19/05. Gabriella joins big brother, Kyle (9) and big sister, Samantha (3).

CLASS OF 1990 – **David and Ellen (Christensen) Leonard**, a son, Aiden Fuller on 11/17/04. Aiden joins big sisters, Krista (8) and Rebekah (2).

CLASS OF 1991 – **Todd and Sharon (de Bruyn) Kanzinger**, a daughter, Ava Lily on 11/1/05. Ava joins big sister, Maile (2).

CLASS OF 1994 – **Mike and Sara (Sonderfan) Heerema**, a son, Aiden Michael on 10/17/05.

CLASS OF 1996 – **Kate and Philip Steenstra**, a daughter, Kaley Grace on 11/2/05.

CLASS OF 1999 – **Drew and Jenny (Kuiken) Robeson**, a daughter, Jordyn Grace on 11/9/05.

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

Designated Gifts

OCTOBER 26, 2005 – FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Gifts received after February 28, 2006 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 165 gifts were received or pledged in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount of these gifts in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$15,051.15. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

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Adeline Leo
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David & Cynthia Visbeen

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Class of 1955

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Kevin & Kathy Cooper

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