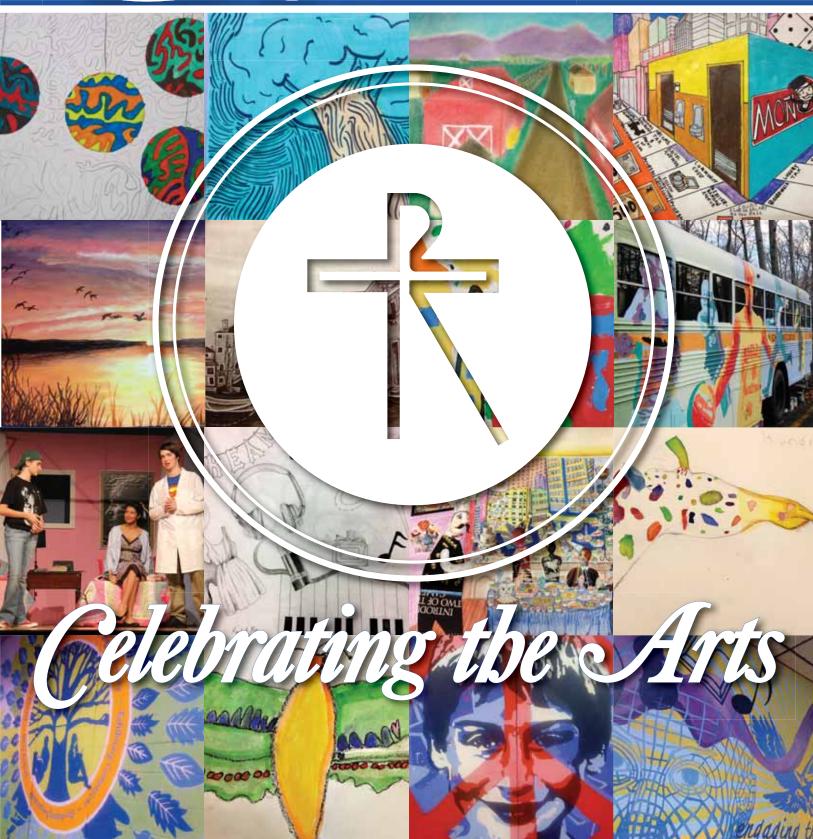


SPRING 2013 VOL. 54, ISSUE 1



Eastern Christian School Association 50 Oakwood Avenue

North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

MAKING CULTURE

n his excellent new book, Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work, the Rev. Tim Keller writes of the role that we are called to fulfill in making culture with God. As God's image bearers, we are called to be "creative and assertive...re-arranging the raw materials of God's creation in such a way that it helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish...Music takes the physics of sound and re-arranges it into something beautiful and thrilling that brings meaning to life...When we take simple materials and turn them into poignant works of art - we are continuing God's work of forming, filling, and subduing."

Since its formation 120 years ago, Eastern Christian School has proclaimed God's sovereignty over the arts and celebrated their unique ability to reflect the incredible majesty and beauty of the creation in which we have been placed. This issue of *The Herald* celebrates the arts and the richness they bring to the learning community that is Eastern Christian School. It highlights the role that the arts play in provoking our thoughts about life and relationships, and, especially, in bringing honor and glory to

our Heavenly Father. I hope that you enjoy this issue of The Herald and our profile of the way that the arts are engaging the mind, nurturing the spirit, and transforming the world at Eastern Christian School!

Jum A. De

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





SPRING 2013 VOLUME 54 ISSUE 1

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ABOUT THE COVER

Our cover features art by EC students. They are: (1) Brian Schaaf, 4th grade (2) Patrick Colbert, senior (3) Rachael Tanis, freshman (4) Naomi Valentin, freshman (5) Kayla Van Lenten, junior (6) Pamela Torrez, junior (7) Anna Langelaar, 1st grade (8) the Athletic Bus mural (9) Skyler Van Valkenburgh, Stephanie Avila, and Dan Gorter in *John Lennon and Me* (10) Rachel Kim, senior (11) Pamela Torrez, junior (12) Kiandra Dussard, 5th grade (13) the Media Center mural (14) Keera Pienaar, kindergartner (15) "Art for Hope:Boston" video still (16) the Cafeteria mural

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The Herald is the magazine for alumni, parents, and friends of Eastern Christian School published twice a year. It is a publication of the Eastern Christian School Association's Foundation Board. Letters, articles, artwork and photography are welcome for possible inclusion in The Herald. Art and photos will be returned when a SASE is included. Send all correspondence regarding feedback and publication to the address above. E-mail is welcomed and encouraged.

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CAMPUS NEWS



Tom Dykhouse speaks in the Media Center

The N.H. Beversluis Media Center Renovated, Rededicated

BY GARRET NIEUWENHUIS

n November 15, 2012, a gathering of faculty, staff, donors and community members participated in the rededication ceremony of the recently renovated N.H. Beversluis Media Center in the Eastern Christian High School.

The N.H. Beversluis Media Center has existed under that name since October 1998 when the Board of Directors approved extensive improvements that would upgrade the "library" to a media center, thus acting as the information, resource and research center for the interdisciplinary humanities core curriculum. It was named in honor of **Rev. N.H. Beversluis**, who was a former student, teacher and principal at Eastern Christian High School, as well as an author whose writings showed a deep commitment to Christian Education. Rev. Beversluis passed away on January 22, 1998.

In October 2011, High School administrators held discussions regarding possible updates to the Media Center. These updates would incorporate some of the latest technological advancement that are available to students and teachers alike in 2012. The upgrades, fully funded by donations, included new floor coverings, mobile technology and contemporary furniture that facilitates collaboration and research. Many little-used, outdated books were removed from shelves and replaced with contemporary, age-appropriate literature.



The Rev. Dr. N. H. Beversluis '35

The High School art department painted a beautiful mural on a large blank wall, and several unused bookshelves were removed in order to create a larger floor space for research work.

In his remarks for this occasion, Head of School **Thomas Dykhouse** paid homage to Rev. Beversluis as a pioneer in the field of Christian Education, and spoke of how blessed we were to have him as part of EC's Administration for many years.

Rev. Beversluis once said, "I have learned that Christian Education is the cornerstone of our Reformed culture, and that it must increasingly become more *Christian* and better *education*!"

This effort to bring the Media Center to its present status is partly a response to that challenge!

The Grand Opening of the Eagles Learning Center

Three years ago, an idea was hatched within the Eastern Christian community for an exciting, innovative way to serve both its own school family and the broader community of all local children and their families. This vision officially became reality at the grand opening ceremony and dedication service of the new Eagles Learning Center on Saturday, November 17, 2012.

Tom Dykhouse, Executive Director and Head of School for Eastern Christian, presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony. In attendance was the Honorable Randy George, mayor of North Haledon, who received thanks for his personal support of the project and the backing of borough officials overall.

Mr. Dykhouse acknowledged the work of **John Belanus**, Director of Operations for Eastern Christian, who led the efforts to secure and renovate the physical space that is now occupied by the Learning Center. He also thanked **Dick Van Yperen**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for providing leadership in developing the program and recruiting staff.

Eagles Learning Center co-directors **Ken Knyfd** and **Ian Zacharias** were acknowledged for their diligent work in bringing the center to life,

along with **James Anderson**, Director of Extended Learning Programs, under whose direction Eagles Learning Center falls.

Members of the Eastern Christian School Association board of directors, trustees of the Foundation for Eastern Christian School, members of the Eagles Learning Center Advisory Board, and members of the Eastern Christian Administrative Council and Educational Council were also present at the dedication service.

Eagles Learning Center was envisioned as a way for Eastern Christian Schools to capitalize on 120 years of experience in teaching children and young people. The intention is to use that experience to support community families. Eagles Learning Center offers programs and activities such as SAT and ACT preparation, enrichment services, and educational support for kids with unique learning needs and those who need a little extra help.

Eagles Learning Center is located at 569 High Mountain Road in North Haledon, next to Veenstra's Deli. Mr. Dykhouse described the location as "providential," as the store is located right in the middle of North Haledon's two schools, Memorial School on one side and High Mountain School on the other.



Ian Zacharias, Tom Dykhouse, North Haledon Mayor Randy George, James Anderson, and Ken Knyfd

October Superstorm Spares EC Buildings

BY GRACE VALENTIN, JUNIOR

uperstorm Sandy blew through northern New Jersey on Sunday, October 28, 2012, leaving behind massive destruction. Eastern Christian Schools and its families suffered mostly inconvenience – days without power and many aspects of normal life altered. The school was closed for the entire week of October 29 to November 2.

Although the school was forced to change its routines and alter its schedules, the Eastern Christian school buildings suffered no physical damage.

According to **John Belanus**, Director of Operations, "Two trees fell at the Elementary School, one tree at the High School." He also said that "power was restored first at the Elementary School on Thursday morning, the High School on Friday evening, and finally at the Middle School on Saturday morning." Internet service was not restored at the Middle School for another two weeks.

Dick Van Yperen, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that some of the missed school days needed to be rescheduled. "We planned for four snow days for this school year, and we have used five days already," he said. Two days in January were added to the calendar in order to ensure that EC would have adequate educational days in its calendar.

The High School was forced to cancel their special activity period for an additional week, because it required Internet connectivity. This



Tree debris in North Haledon following Sandy.

affected the music program. **Tina Bucci**, the Freshman and Sophomore Dean said, "Music classes were forced to miss two weeks, which affects the music program dramatically."

The High School also postponed the fall drama, *John Lennon and Me*, for a week. The show was originally scheduled to be performed from November 8-10, but the actors and crew missed an entire week of critical rehearsals and needed additional time. Even after the delay, many props and costumes had to be improvised as they were delayed in shipping.

Sandy's Impact on the EC Community

owned trees, flooding, and extensive power outtages: these were the most common effects of Superstorm Sandy on the immediate EC community in northern New Jersey. We give thanks to God that no one in the EC community was seriously injured or suffered like so many others did in our area.

According to an informal student survey at the High School, 90% of the student body lost power in the storm, with 28% of them losing it for more than a week.

Two families, the **Postmas** and **Kuders**, were forced to evacuate their houses in the middle of the night during the storm because their homes were at risk of a fire in a nearby gas line. They had a stressful night, first standing in an open field during the storm, and then driving on roads filled with trees. Still, their homes were fine and were only without power for a few days.



Aaron Robinson, a 2nd grader, said, "A tree fell and smashed my dad's boat, but it was really close to hitting my house."

Other students reported damage to their homes from trees. Junior **Krista Everson** said that a tree broke her chimney and fell into her parent's

bedroom. Fifth grader **Kara Shotmeyer** said that a tree damaged her attic.

Many EC families supported each other by opening up their homes that did have power and heat for sleeping, showers, and meals. The community pulled together throughout the week.

Some members of the community had houses on the Jersey shore that were affected by the storm. Students such as junior **Josh Breeman** and senior **Jeff Clark** reported that their shore homes were severely damaged. However, both students expressed appreciation that their primary homes were fine, and they were more concerned for those they knew that permanently lived down the shore.

high school chapel service.

Responding to Sandy

BY SANDY WESTRA

The staff at Eagles Day Camp, normally a summer program, decided to help respond to Superstorm Sandy by holding a special event in December, offering a day of safe, creative, and exciting activities for kids while raising money and food donations to benefit victims of Sandy.

On Saturday, December 1, seventy-five students in grades K through 5 came out to participate in "Camp for a Cause Day" at the Eastern Christian Elementary School. A staff of 18 volunteer counselors and program leaders supervised the festivities, which included face painting, Christmas card making, cookie decorating, playing games (including indoor "snowball" fights), watching Christmas movies, and even jumping in a bouncy house. For a small registration fee of \$25 (and only \$5 for each additional sibling), parents enjoyed four hours of free time with the satisfaction of knowing their kids were in a safe environment and having a great time!

Camp for a Cause was a success on many levels. The kids who attended had lots of fun. Fourth grader **Annika Westra** had a hard time deciding which part was her favorite: "The bouncy house was awesome, but I really liked the indoor snowball fight, which really weren't snowballs, they were white fuzzy things, and I loved making my own Advent calendar full of candy!"

More importantly, the camp raised \$2000 from camper registrations and collected a large amount of food donations to benefit hurricane victims. The money and food collections were split evenly between the Salvation Army and New Hope Community Ministries.



2nd graders Katherine Marshall, Jaclyn Steenstra, and Laurel Vander Pyl

Eagles Camp for a Cause is extremely grateful for the support shown by gracious corporate and personal sponsors, whose contributions helped ensure that all registration monies went straight to the partnering organizations. A lunch of pizza and hot dogs was served, compliments of Wyckoff Pizza, Rosario's and Belmont Grill; North Haledon Foodtown supplied Christmas cookies; Taylor Rental loaned the bouncy house; Print Solutions in Englewood provided promotional printing services at no charge; and various other items were donated by Eastern Christian parents.

All in all, it was an event characterized by giving on many levels, which is what Christmas is about. Maybe day camp in December isn't such a strange idea after all!

Inspired by Kindness

BY BRITTNEY VAN BOERUM, JUNIOR

Recently, the 2nd graders from Eastern Christian Elementary School participated in Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child, run by the Christian ministry Samaritan's Purse, sends boxes of toys, school supplies and hygiene prod-

ucts to needy children all over the world. The students chose this project after they read a story in Language Arts called *Boxes for Katje*, written by Candace Flemming. The book tells of two families: one from the United States and the other from Holland. The book is set after World War II. The family in the United States sends care packages to the family in Holland. The book's theme is kindness, which led the class to partner with Operation Christmas Child.

The 2nd graders brought in all different types of supplies to put in the boxes. Enough items were brought in to fill 10 boxes. The shipping cost were \$7 per box, and with the skills they learned in math about counting money, the students were able to figure out that they needed \$70 to ship all of the boxes.



Jenna Beverly reads to her 2nd grade students

In order to raise the money to pay for the shipping, some of the children brought in dry foods to make a trail mix that they could sell to the rest of the Elementary schoolers. They sold small bags of the trail mix for 50 cents a bag, and were able to make the \$70 that they needed for this project.

Fun Fashion Show



Lunch at The Brownstone.

The fourth Eastern Christian Fashion Show was held on November 17, 2012 at the Brownstone in Paterson, NJ. EC students, parents and faculty modeled a variety of fashions provided by several local boutiques.

Thanks to volunteers **Barbara Belanus, Audrey Kuiken, Sherrie Kuiken, Patti Peretti** and EC Events Coordinator **Beverly Albies** for all their time and hard work. This year over 65 models participated in the show, which required fittings and getting all the clothes from the stores to the Brownstone and back to the stores again after the show.

A delicious lunch was served to 200 guests, during which a silent auction also took place. Guests enjoyed browsing through



luniors **Rachael Ianis** and **Abigail Kuder.**

related items which resulted in brisk bidding. After lunch, the EC Honors Choir opened the show and sang while the younger students walked the runway. EC Parent Patti Peretti narrated the remainder of the show, providing details about each outfit and many helpful fashion hints.

an array of many fashion

It was an afternoon of fun, fellowship and fashion and ended up raising \$10,000 for Eastern Christian School.

Holiday Music

BY REBECCA GIRIMONTE, SENIOR

he Eastern Christian music program celebrated Christmas with their annual traditions of holiday concerts, showing off the artistry and skills students have learned in the first half of the school year.

On December 5, many of the musical ensembles met on the top floor of Barnes & Noble in Paramus, NJ for a public concert. A part of the sales profits during the fundraising night went to Eastern Christian.

The Middle School band, orchestra, and choir each performed a few songs in the store, bringing holiday cheer to the passing shoppers. The choir members hid Santa hats behind them as they sang, surprising the audience when they threw them in the air during one song. The High School Concert Band and Honors Choir also performed that night.

On December 13, the Middle School ensembles held their annual Christmas concert to a packed crowd in the High School auditorium. Each group expanded their performance repertoire by adding additional songs to the Barnes and Noble concert selections. To start the evening, a string quartet of **Adrian Brown**, **Skylar Brown**, **Emily DeGeyter**, and **Clara Visser** opened with "Angels We Have Heard on High." **Brianne Veenstra** played a bass solo by Bach accompanied by orchestra director **Cathy Clark**.

The 5th and 6th grade choir, as well as the 7th and 8th grade choir, performed many songs with dances and motions, including "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "I Won't Grow Up."

On January 10, the high school ensembles took to the stage for their semester-ending concert, run concurrently with the Art Show which showcases student art work from the past semester.

The High School band revealed its new look – tripling in size from incoming freshmen and transfer students since last year. They played "Simple Gifts" from Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring" and "The Newcastle March" by Johnnie Vinson.

The Honors Choir sang one of Director **Suzanne Kraii**'s favor-

ite praise songs, "Gimme Your Eyes" as well as selections from "Phantom of the Opera."

Mrs. Kraii said that the concert was "a wonderful display of our students' hard work, talent, and most importantly of the Holy Spirit alive in us."

Even though performed after Christmas, the High School ensembles brought back Christmas spirit memories with songs such as the orchestra's rendition of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and the TransSiberian Orchestra's "Sarajevo Christmas Eve 1224." The Concert Choir sang the humorous song, "The 12 Days After Christmas."

Band Director **Rob Flim** said that the concerts at ECHS were "a great success and all groups performed very well to a very receptive crowd."



Hannah Flim, and Emily Mulcock.



Members of the High School Concert Choir.

Awareness, Support, and Dodgeball

BY JUSTIN MILLER, JUNIOR

Awareness Month, EC sports teams raise money and awareness for cancer prevention and treatment. On Friday, October 26, the Athletic Department held a special night of fun competitions between all the High School fall sports teams, with proceeds from the event going to cancer research.

Every athlete pledged at least \$10, and many went above and beyond that.

The activities consisted of volleyball, dodgeball, and ultimate frisbee. Each team played the other teams in the three sports. Even though this was a "fun" event, many of the athletes and teams were very competitive and of course wanted to win.

Every team dressed up in "uniforms" to show their school spirit and to support cancer research. Most teams dressed up in all pink and went all out with pink face paint, hair spray, and many crazy outfits.

Junior volleyball player **Abby Kuder** said, "I had fun getting to compete against all the different fall sports teams, and loved doing it for a purpose."

"I thought it was a great event to help support the

victims of cancer, and it was a great reminder to all of us that we have to help those in need," junior cross country runner **Joshua Ashkinazi** said.



Members of the girls' JV soccer team playing dodgeball.

Students also wrote the names of cancer victims they personally knew on a banner, reminding the school how many people are personally affected by the disease.

Student Service Runs the School

BY KATHRYN POST, JUNIOR

t takes a lot of behind the scenes work to run a Middle School. There are pizzas that need to be delivered, chapels that need to be run, and fish that need to be fed. This year, students at Eastern Christian Middle School are stepping up and taking part in the functioning of the school system.

Unlike previous years, middle school students will be part of specific groups involved in service around the school. "At the Middle School, we feel that it is important for students to feel academically and personally invested in the day-to-day running of the school. We have tried to target the students' interests and give them opportunities for leadership in those areas," Principal **Andrew Culp** said.

The students selected three to five areas in which they would like to serve, and then they were organized into service groups led by teachers. Some of these groups include the drink machines team, a birthday team, student encouragement team, teacher helper team, chapel music team, and fish tank team.

Eighth grader **Scott Steenstra** is excited to begin work in his service groups. This year, he is involved in small groups, yearbook, and the chapel tech team. "As an 8th grader, it's important for me to set an example of

service for the younger students," Scott said.

Nikki Bucci, a 5th grader, is part of the chapel music team and the encouragement team. "I'm excited to sing in chapel because I like to sing and bring glory to God," Nikki said.



Fifth graders Molly Boonstra and Luke Martin.

International Studen BY RUTH KUDER

The Opportunity

Not so long ago, every student in the school could be expected to know what a Psalter Hymnal was. Droste chocolate apple sales funded new school buses. Olie bollen at the spring festival, travelogues about tulip time in the Netherlands in the high school auditorium, and Christmas gifts of butter letter for teachers were traditions. Eastern Christian Schools were started over a century ago by Dutch immigrant families who desired a Christian education for their children, and that cultural heritage has remained to this day in the names and traditions of many families who continue to be active in the school.

As the local communities in northern New Jersey have changed, the school has been increasingly enhanced by families from many different cultural and denominational backgrounds. For more than 10 years, Eastern Christian has welcomed international students.

Originally those students came primarily from Korea. The Korean students

have recently been joined by students from China and other countries. As our international student population has grown and become more diverse, we have worked hard to serve them well.

We offer a tiered ESL program for language support, as well as an active student life program. International students have successfully adjusted to Eastern Christian, as evidenced by last year's 97% international student retention rate.

As we examine the opportunity that this represents, we can look not only to our unique history as a school, but to our shared history as a kingdom people. The Bible is full of stories of adventures in strange lands, as well as a call to care for the foreigner in our midst. Remember Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Esther, Daniel and Ruth. Or consider the Samaritan woman, the Ethiopian Eunuch, or Paul at Mars Hill. When languages, cultures, education and faith intersect, amazing things have been done

International **Students:**

Our international students come from all over the world and bring a variety of gifts to our student body. Meet a few of them:



PLACE OF ORIGIN: LAST LIVED IN: JAPAN GRADE: SENIOR LANGUAGES: CHINESE, ENGLISH, JAPANESE





Michelle & Bryan Sie

FRESHMAN AND

SOPHOMORE

ENGLISH

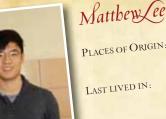
CHINESE,

TAIWANESE

PLACE OF ORIGIN:

GRADES:

LANGUAGES:



PLACES OF ORIGIN: KORE

LAST LIVED IN:

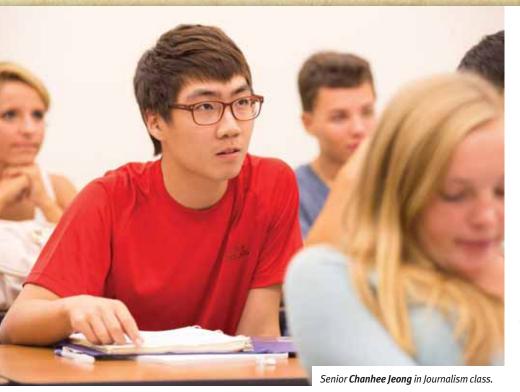
KOREA, HONG KONG, THAILAND AND CANADA

JUNIOR

GRADE:

LANGUAGES:

ENGLISH, KOREAN, CANTONESE



night tradition in the high school cafeteria. At a recent Saturday night event, students from Honduras, Taiwan, Japan, Spain, Korea, China, Italy and Bolivia, along with American friends, many of Dutch descent, enjoyed Chinese hotpot on a Saturday night in that same cafeteria. While the countries of origin have changed, the desire for opportunity through an Eastern Christian education remains remarkably consistent.

As we consider our vision for a school community, the vision of the future kingdom of God, as described in Revelation 7: 8-10, provides a clear picture of what that community looks like: "After this I looked, and

by the people of God for the kingdom of God. The school's historic mission of educating students who will go out to be a transforming influence in culture is moving in exciting directions. Students are coming from all over the world and will go out to transform societies in ways we can't even imagine.

Not so long ago, booster club Fish 'N' Chips fundraisers were a Saturday

behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Diane & Chloe Kim frica Hernandez Pamela Torrez PLACE OF ORIGIN: KOREA PLACE OF ORIGIN: PLACE OF ORIGIN: SPAIN HONDURAS LAST LIVED IN: GRADE: SOPHOMORE GRADE: FRESHMAN GRADES: LANGUAGES: LANGUAGES: SPANISH. AND JUNIOR JUNIOR FRENCH. SPANISH, KOREAN, LANGUAGES: ENGLISH ENGLISH, SPANISH, ITALIAN, ENGLISH PORTUGUESE HaoFeng Cai Enfeng Qui Rachel Rim PLACE OF ORIGIN: PLACE OF ORIGIN: PLACE OF ORIGIN: SOPHOMORE GRADE: LAST LIVED IN: GRADE: ITALY CHINESE, SENIOR LANGUAGES: ENGLISH GRADE: LANGUAGES: JUNIOR KOREAN, LANGUAGES: CHINESE, ENGLISH ITALIAN. ENGLISH

International Students

(top:) Senior Yi (Tommy) Zhu, John Bruinooge '76, Judy (Veenstra) Bruinooge '76. (bottom:) senior Sarah Bruinooge and sophomore Ming Long (Bryan) Sie.

Host Families Q & A:

International parents are so committed to the education and opportunities that Eastern Christian provides that they are willing to send their children across the world. Because Eastern Christian continues to work in partnership with families, American host families have stepped in to partner with students' parents and the school. **John** and **Judy Bruinooge** are an experienced host family and have shared their experience with hosting international students. If you are interested in learning more about the host family program, contact the Host Family Coordinator, **Cathy Lagerveld**, at cathylagerveld@easternchristian.org.

The Herald: How did you get involved in hosting?

Judy: As Director of Transportation at Eastern Christian, I am sometimes asked to pick up students at the airport. On one occasion, a student needed a place to stay for a week until his host family was ready for him. He came home with us and in one week's time, we had introduced him to the beach, New York City, new foods, and stores. We had also set him up with a computer, phone, US currency and a bank account. It was great! Being with someone discovering America for the first time was very exciting for our family.

We continued to provide temporary housing for international students when families were away for a few days and had the opportunity to introduce another student to the vast offerings at a local diner. He couldn't believe it! He took pictures of the huge menu with his cell phone. We also hosted his first traditional Thanksgiving.

Our world was opening up to other traditions and lifestyles. We loved the supper table classroom that was created between us. John's love and knowledge of history keeps everyone absorbed in shared educational conversations.

Tell us about the students you are currently hosting.

Tommy is from China and is a senior. He loves to cook. He will tell you that eating is his hobby. What people don't know about him is that he plays the guitar.

Bryan is from Taiwan and is a sophomore. He enjoys the sport of running, so cross-country and track keep him very happy. He is a disciplined student and loves tasting Tommy's cooking creations.

What do you enjoy about hosting?

Everything – specifically sharing and learning from each other. We enjoy helping them figure out the English language and trying to explain idioms to them. What I love most is being the one to introduce them to American culture and witnessing their reaction.

What has been the most interesting experience you've had has host parents?

When Bryan wanted to get involved in athletics, I advocated for what I thought he wanted – to participate in soccer. When he came home from practice the first day, we were all confused. He didn't understand why Americans needed to kick a ball in order to run. In Taiwan, he could just run without the ball. Then it became clear that he wanted to participate in cross-country. No ball necessary!

It has all been interesting, but introducing our holidays to the boys has been the best. We have food and traditions to explain, but the family aspect of it is so new and different as well. When we gather together, there are 27 of us. In China you are only allowed one child; to have any more you have to have government permission and pay a large fee. Having triplets in the extended family is amazing to them, and it is fun to see all the cousins embrace them.

What else would you like people to know about hosting?

It is easy and it is simple. In our opinion two students make for a better hosting experience. The kids blend into our family life. Some people may think it is an invasion of their privacy to have visitors in their house for so long. It isn't like that at all. A host is not entertaining guests — they are embracing an opportunity that God has allowed. Expect wonderful things to happen when you host an international student!

International Students

International Student Life

A global student body brings a chance for all students to gain an understanding of different cultures in some unique ways. The International Student Program at Eastern Christian has a vibrant student life program that is intentional in including both domestic and international students.

For domestic students, the program offers the opportunity to learn about other cultures. All freshmen recently participated in an international student panel discussion in which international students shared their school experiences in Spain, Honduras, China and Korea. Students were surprised to learn that:

- students have two hours for lunch in Spain
- in China, college acceptance is based exclusively on a student's score on a single test called the Gaokao
- students are expected to study 12-16 hours a day in China and Korea
- Chinese food in America bears no resemblance to real Chinese food
- in China, most children don't have siblings. This means that they have two parents and two sets of grandparents (6 adults in total) who are exclusively focused on them.

The student panel was followed by a cook-off in which students were given a recipe, purchased ingredients from a Korean food market, and prepared the dish for a panel of international student judges. Purchasing ingredients and preparing food helped students understand how challenging it can be to navigate a world in which their understanding of language and culture was limited. It also led to a joyful and delicious outcome when food was sampled and shared.

Domestic students can apply to the Ambassador Program to be included in international events. Fifty students have been accepted as student Ambassadors and international events have been very popular, with 50-80 students in attendance. At least once a month students get together for social events. The program has sponsored an international food night, game night, karaoke, bowling, a trip to New York City for ice skating and Christmas sightseeing, and a Chinese New Year celebration. In addition, the program sponsors trips on Christmas and spring breaks. The students enjoyed skiing at Shawnee this winter and some time to play at Disney World in the spring. Katherine



Junior Holly Silva, Ellie Choi, senior Sora Min, and junior Hyun Jin Ree try food at the International Food Night.

Kim, who is a science teacher at Eastern Christian High School, a gourmet chef, and an unofficial Disney expert, organizes all aspects of the International Student Life Program.



CURRICULUM MATTERS

BY TIM STEEN

Curriculum: it's one of those funny words used in school and almost no place else. But it also happens to be a concept central to Eastern Christian's mission: What are we teaching our students?

The fact is, deliberate focus on curriculum is vital for our school. Students learn lessons from their teachers every day. Curriculum happens! Much work is being done by EC faculty striving to improve their curriculum.

There are many aspects to understanding recent innovations and

initiatives in Eastern Christian's curriculum, but Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Dick Van Yperen** breaks it down into four main areas using a table analogy.

"The curriculum table has four legs – and each one must be balanced with the others in order for that table to stand up properly," Mr. Van Yperen said.

In this section of *The Herald*, we'll examine each leg of the table and learn how EC is improving the balance and stability of each one.

The Written Curriculum

The first "leg" of the curriculum table is the planned, written curriculum. This is the traditional understanding of the word "curriculum" – it encompasses the textbooks used, the technological resources and the teacher's lesson plans.

Eastern Christian's administration and faculty have been making plans for significant improvements to the written curriculum.

This year, the entire 5th and 6th grade curriculum was scrutinized and altered, with new science textbooks, math resources, social studies lessons and a renewed emphasis on reading in Language Arts.

World Languages are being studied for new planned curriculum.

Over the last few years, Spanish has been introduced to both the middle school and elementary school. Now, plans are underway to really study how the students are improving in their Spanish language acquisition, with assessments being added in 4th, 6th, and 8th grades in the coming years.

Finally, the K-12 Bible Curriculum is almost done with a multi-year project in changing its curriculum. Bible teachers have put considerable energy into a meaningful and sequenced Bible curriculum for every grade.



The Taught Curriculum

Because the written curriculum is often all inclusive, there could be a significant difference between the curriculum as planned and the curriculum that the teacher actually teaches in the classroom.

In fact, in many cases there should be a difference.

Mr. Van Yperen said, "The teacher is a professional who determines the curriculum, and a true professional is making decisions all the time based on what she sees happening in the classroom."

In order to completely study the taught curriculum, all K-12 EC Language Arts and Math teachers are logging and mapping the actual content of their classroom lessons this year. This analysis has arisen as a key component of the Educational Blueprint, a plan that EC has committed to follow as part of its accreditation process.

Mapping the curricula taught will allow teachers to improve the actual in-classroom lessons as they relate to the new Common Core State Standards. These new standards are being adopted by almost every state as the United States pursues a rigorous plan to improve education nationwide. In many cases, the changes being called for in the Common Core State Standards add more depth and drastically alter the focus of the learning goals from the previous NJ State Standards.

"Our work on this comes at an opportune time," said Mr. Van Yperen. "A new written curriculum is coming. We are overlaying the old and the new, and comparing them to what we are actually teaching." Art teacher **Donna Aceino** works with freshmen **Kelly Dykman** and **Hannah Furman.**

Teacher aide Lynn Veenstra with Diella Tarkang.

The Assessed Curriculum

If you never assess the learning of the students, you can never know what they are actually learning. If you don't test for learning, how would you ever know what is working and what isn't? The Assessed Curriculum, then, is an important third leg of the whole table.

"Assessment" traditionally means tests – summative, high stakes tests, where a student's grade rests on how well they are able to recall facts. However, more and more research shows that this isn't necessarily the best method to assess learning.

Mr. Van Yperen uses an analogy of a doctor's office: "A teacher is like a doctor, where every patient is unique. Except we've got 20 patients at once!"

"Exams are an autopsy. You find out exactly what happened, but it is too late to make any changes," he said.

Formative assessment – which can be informal questions, grading essays and providing feedback, or going over home-work – is a way to check for student understanding and learning while the lessons are still taking place.

"These are diagnostic measures. They allow teachers to adjust on the go, and give individual attention to problem areas," Mr. Van Yperen said.

Eastern Christian is committed to combining summative assessments, formative assessments, and objective standardized testing to measure the learning of students.

EC uses the "MAP Test" (Measures of Academic Progress) as a standardized test twice a year for all students in grades 2-10, and the results have been encouraging.

Mr. Van Yperen said, "As a school, EC students test a full grade ahead of the national average."

Living Curriculum

After a student has learned, how do they apply that learning to their lives? At Eastern Christian, the final leg of the curriculum table has to do with how students shape their hearts to be more and more Christ-like as they learn life lessons in and out of the classroom.

There are opportunities in every grade and at every level for students to put their faith into action.

At the Elementary School, an annual "Problem-Based Learning" project asks students to find concrete steps they can take to solve big problems, such as bullying or pollution. Students brainstorm and solve the problems themselves, with their teachers as mentors and guides.

The Middle School goes "MAD" every year in their Make-A-Difference projects. They too concentrate on global problems, such as homelessness, poverty, or illiteracy, and find local actions that they can take to pitch in to start to change the world.

At the High School, students may be required to fulfill service hours for a graduation requirement, but most go beyond this and extend service into their lives. This spring break, over 50 students (1/6th of the school) are serving on schoolsponsored mission trips in Puerto Rico, Uganda, and Boston.

The administration, faculty, and staff are challenged every day to serve as models of this living curriculum. They know the importance of intimately connecting the written, taught and assessed curricula to our core values of Christian character if we truly aim to produce graduates who will transform the world. Curriculum matters when it is lived out through decisions and actions which bring glory to God.



CELEBRATING THE ARTS

BY TIM STEEN





Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created..."

All too often, our country's budget-strapped schools begin to cut out art programs to meet bottom lines. However, at Eastern Christian, "we are given the opportunity to reflect the creative spirit of God," high school art teacher Jesse Wright said.

Mr. Wright and Donna Aceino lead the high school art department. Brenda Leentjes teaches art at the middle and elementary schools. Jane Okma directs the drama department. All together, the art programs at Eastern Christian continue to seek new and exciting ways to reflect God's image as a creator.

Mr. Wright said, "The student body overall is so well-mannered that we're not only able to meet the basic requirements of the curriculum, but far exceed them. We have the opportunity to really push their God-given talents."

Mrs. Aceino said, "My favorite part of teaching art is watching the students realize their potential -



Juniors Rebecca Shin and Jaden Lee.

that God has given them the ability to create because He created them."

In the next few pages, you'll have the opportunity to see these talents yourselves, and to read about the latest efforts to continue to grow Eastern Christian arts into a program that nurtures the spirit and transforms the world.

Mrs. Aceino said, "We are just so thankful that the school has been very supportive and generous in giving us outlets to explore our gifts - real estate, computers, SOAR time, and especially trust!"





The Boiler Room Bombers

Three years ago, Mr. Wright's Design Tech class designed and built a wooden model in the high school boiler room. After it was built, the art classes turned it into a work of art, painting it into an art piece that raised awareness of that year's mission trip to Uganda. The whole project was captured on video, and sped-up to create a stop-motion-like video of the piece's creation.

Since then, the "Boiler Room Bombers" have moved out of the boiler room and into the whole school, creating video-based art pieces multiple times per year.

Two years ago, the art classes produced "Be Creative," a video about art and music. It was entered into the Passaic County Film Festival, and won 2nd place as a music video. Last year, a piece about the Boston mission trip called "Art for Hope: Boston" won an honorable mention in the festival.

The original boiler room bombers.



Art with a Purpose

EC does not simply produce art for its own sake, or for only developing skills. The teachers are constantly looking for ways that students can create art that matters, whether by raising awareness of a topic, beautifying a space that needs a new look, or even improving the lives of others in concrete ways.

Mr. Wright said, "It's very exciting that we can be multidisciplinary and combine the arts classes with the Experiencing Missions classes." The art program has created a video and artwork for each location of the high school mission projects.

Recently, the high school drawing classes completed a large-scale portrait project. Each student painted the face of an orphan from Haiti, working with the Wings of Refuge ministry, a new orphanage in Haiti built in response to the recent earthquake there. However, the project doesn't end with the portraits.

Plans are being made to ship the artwork to the orphanage in Haiti, to decorate the orphanage itself. Wings of Refuge is also hoping it can use the paintings to raise awareness of its ministries, and to maybe even auction some of them during an upcoming banquet. See More Art! scan these codes with your smart phone or visit http://www.ecstudents.net/art







The film festival now looks forward to an entry from Eastern Christian each year. Mr. Wright said, "They've expressed a lot of interest. They enjoy our submissions."

The goal of the art department is to win the film festival. This year, the entry is a film that focuses on the school's international students. Mr. Wright said, "While we are definitely aiming for the top prize, we are grateful for an entry that celebrates the school's international community and the school's tagline."

Thanks to the film festival, Eastern Christian not only gets to show off its creative art department, it also gets an excuse to produce a video that exposes many people to the students and the message of Eastern Christian.

To see the Boiler Room Bombers videos yourself, visit http://www.ecstudents.net/art/?cat=9, or use the QR code here with your smart phone!













Standing Lance in the section sector is the sector at the





Paint it Large

The bright greens and oranges pop out of the newly-renovated High School Media Center.

In the cafeteria, the blues and reds brighten the room and give new life to a high-traffic area.

In Manny Lindemulder's classroom, the nighttime Paris skyline sets the mood for learning languages.

These are all the works of high school art students, who continue to cover the school with creative large-scale murals. So far, these murals have celebrated and promoted the art and music departments, world language, the school's core values, and its mission of "Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, and Transforming the World."

"Now," Mr. Wright said, "We are celebrating sports and the athletes in the school on our most ambitious canvas yet as we explore the theme of motivation."

A decommissioned school bus is being recreated as an art piece, with students filling it with images of EC athletes performing in a variety of sports. The plan is to use the bus as a mascot of sorts, and as a snack shop at home games.

The art classes are also hopeful they can help beautify the planned garden in the High School courtyard, possibly by decorating benches.

Mr. Wright said, "If anyone has a nice bench they can donate, we'd love to have a go at it."



Sora Min Art Piece: Horse

BY ROBYN STEGINK, JUNIOR

Senior Sora Min has produced a number of impressive art pieces in her work in art classes at EC.

Many of her pieces include depictions of the universe and animals. She said, "I like to use the universe because it makes people feel calm and healed."

The piece to the right, *Horse*, depicts a horse and two women. Sora said, "the women in the painting are in pain and have fear inside, but when we look at it, it's beautiful. It creates a kind of paradox."

Sora is hoping to go to Rhode Island School of Design to pursue her art. "I just want to major in art, and if I have to work, I want work related to the arts," she said. "I will try for more competitions after all my college applications are done."

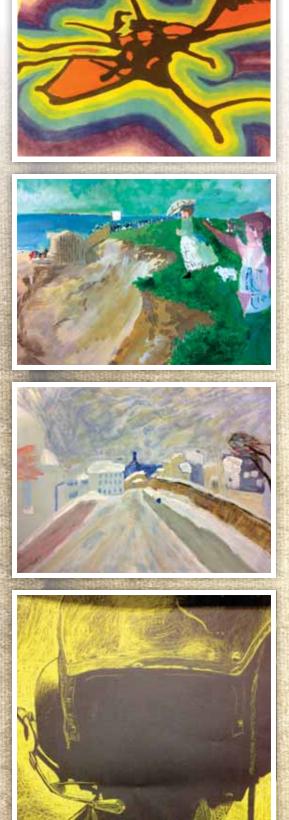
Mrs. Aceino said, "Sora is an extraordinary artist. She excels in a variety of media and exhibits an amazing independent energy as she explores opportunities for personal expression. Her potential is limitless."



The Media Center under construction.







Middle School Opens an Art Show

Ms. Leentjes created a new idea this year to promote art in the Middle School - an all school art show.

She said, "Every student was represented with at least one piece of artwork from art class this year. Teachers from other classes submitted work to be put on display from their subject area where art has taken a major role in creating the project."

The artwork was displayed thematically and background information was provided for the viewers. Along with the artwork, there were fun art activities set up at tables for small children and an interactive wall mural. Visitors had fun with a great photo opportunity — putting their head in the "Scream" painting by Edvard Munch or "American Gothic" by Grant Wood.

A cafe was part of the show offering tasty treats and beverages. While sitting in the cafe or walking through the art show, visitors heard music being played on the piano by Spanish teacher Josephine Lentini, along with a few ensembles from orchestra and band.

Ms. Leentjes said, "This was be a great opportunity for our students and school to showcase the creativity that abounds in the middle school."

The show was held on March 7, which was also the date of the spring Open House at the Middle School.

Fifth graders Emily Steen and Nicole Bucci

Egyptian Embossing Collage by Madison Wynbeek, 6th grade Transformation by Morgan Abma, 8th grade

ITTI I

Briana Rumsey: Thespian

BY JESSE OJEDA, JUNIOR

unior **Briana Rumsey** has been an actress at Saddle River Youth Theater since 8th grade, and last year was named by her company as their Teen Actress of the Year.

Some of her roles have included Elphaba from *Wicked*, Johanna in *Sweeny Todd*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Rosemary in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Luminaire in *Beauty and the Beast*, and the Ghost of Christmas Past in A Christmas Carol. Actors in her troupe switch between lead roles and support roles for each show.

"I always watch a show multiple times before I perform it, and I try to live in my characters life like a method actor does," Briana said. "I also tend to research different interpretations of the character to aid in how I want to portray them."



HER

Hera Greek Vase by Irene Choi, 7th grade

Zebra by Maeve Barclay, 5th grade

Briana Rumsey (left) in How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

Briana now works in the theater's children's department, helping young children mold their musical talent. Briana said she is excited to be switching her focus to work on Eastern Christian's dramatic productions for her last couple years of high school.

Performing as an Art

Performance Art – acting and singing in dramatic or musical productions – happens at all three EC campuses.

In fourth grade, students may join the Elementary School drama team and perform skits at chapels which help visualize the week's message. The 4th graders also put on an annual musical focused on a Bible story or lesson. Recently, they have performed stories about Elijah and Daniel.

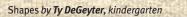
At the Middle School, the after-school program is beginning to implement more opportunities for acting. This winter, a weekly after school class led by Choir Director **Suzanne Kraii** is centered on musical theater. Mrs. Kraii hopes the program will grow in popularity so that classes on improv, acting, and more can be offered throughout the year.

The High School continues to perform one dramatic and one musical production each year. This spring brings the fun *School House Rock*. This past fall, the drama was *John Lennon and Me*, a story about a girl with cystic fibrosis who lives in a hospital with other children with serious diseases.

The play was a great example of the school's reformed perspective. It tackled a serious topic with sensitivity. **Tom Dykhouse**, the Head of School, introduced the play each evening of its performance, reminding the audience that although the characters portrayed in the drama did not always reflect Eastern Christian's worldview, the artistic endeavor of searching for deeper truth and struggling with the effects of a fallen world are important parts of a reformed education.

Seniors Skyler Van Valkenburgh and Kasi Howes in John Lennon and Me.







Watch gears by Anya Veinberg, 3rd grade

Elementary Artistic Beginnings

At the elementary school, students often get their first chance to use new mediums (including watercolors, tempera paint, pencil, colored pencil, markers, clay, and oil pastels) as they begin imitating their creator God during their weekly visits to the art room.

Ms. Leentjes said, "The best thing about teaching art at the ES is the no-fear approach of most of the children in expressing themselves artistically and the love they share so easily for each other, the teachers/staff and God."

Ms. Leentjes strives to place student artwork on a website called artsonia.com, where visitors can leave comments for their student relatives, or purchase items printed with their student's artwork. The school

hopes to find volunteers to help organize and photograph the artwork to make more of it available online.

Each year, the art program at the Elementary School gets revamped with new projects and new materials. This year, an LCD screen was installed in the room. Now, Ms. Leentjes can show artists' work, view artistic techniques, and read books to students.



Teacher aide Jan Santhouse with Mason Libby.

FOUNDATION NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK-APRIL 22-26, 2013

Text: 1 Peter 2:5a " You, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house." Christian Education week will once again be celebrated at Eastern Christian School during the week of April 22-26, 2013. During this week, our membership will be asked to consider a financial commitment to the school. We also ask them to take part

in a special service in their local participating congregations on CE Day: Sunday, April 21, 2013. Our Christian Schools are like the "living stones" when they focus on



the mission of advancing the Kingdom of God and equipping students for service. Our students, parents and communities are living stones when they build for the King. Each one of us is a living stone when we respond to the call to be disciples of Jesus. Living Stones seek to follow the Living Stone!

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis **Executive Director** Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association

New Location for T.R.I.P. Store

BY: GARRET NIEUWENHUIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION FOR ECSA.

On November 2, 2012 the Eastern Christian T.R.I.P. store moved from the basement area of the High School to a new, street level store front at 569 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. This location primarily serves as the home of the

new Eastern Christian Eagle's Learning Center. Due to the fact that the Learning Center does not need the space in the morning, the T.R.I.P. operation has set up shop for several mornings during the week. This culminates on each Friday morning with the retail sales of gift cards and the pick-up of previously placed orders.

According to the T.R.I.P. Director, Faye Dyksen, this convenient location was responsible for some increase in sales at the end of 2012, and it is being well received by the store customers, many of whom drive past this location on their way to and from the High School. We have also had some "walk in" customers and have been able to promote the services of the Learning Center to those who inquire.

The T.R.I.P. program, now 18 years old, is a critical program for the parents as well as the school. Eastern Christian received \$22,000 in profits from this program in the 2011-2012 school year and current parents saved \$68,848 in tuition. In addition, we have over \$108,000 in our Future Parents Fund, for those whose children may not yet be attending Eastern Christian, but plan to do so at a future date.

This is truly a win-win program for all concerned!



EC's TRIP Store with volunteer Karen Knorr at the computer.

The Christian Burial Fund of Paterson, NJ

"LUCTOR ET EMERGO" 1910-2012

n September 2012, after operating for more than 102 years, the members of the current Board of Directors of the Christian Burial Fund voted to disband, pay the obligation to the members, and then to donate its remaining assets to the Eastern Christian School Association.

Organized on July 7, 1910 by a few members of the former Second Christian Reformed Church (now known as Unity Christian Reformed Church) this society sought to "assist the surviving relatives of a deceased member in the defraying of their funeral expenses with financial aid."

With a cadre of collectors to assist in the collection of the annual dues, the society accumulated enough

reserves to handle death claims, make investments in mortgages to members,

and to make donations to Eastern Christian School (as stipulated in the by-laws of the society). According to the society records, weekly dues were between \$.05 cents and \$.20 cents per week, depending on the age of the member at the time the certificate of membership was issued. The maximum payment that a family could receive for funeral expenses was \$200. At its peak, the society had nearly 2000 paying members and \$600,000 in assets. The Christian Burial Society of Paterson, NJ was one of three such organizations operating in the local Christian communities. Today only one such group in our area continues to operate as a burial society.

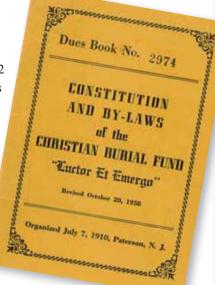
During the past few decades a seven member Board of Directors, who served without compensation, has managed this organization. Records from 1958 indicate that **Peter Roukema**, **Jess Pruiksma**, **Lambert Yskamp**, **Edward Fylstra**, **Edward Nawyn** and **Richard Tuit** constituted the Board of Directors. Most recently, the Board of Directors included **Jim Jacobs** and **Garry Rozema**, both of whom passed away in 2012. Those remaining on the Board to oversee the disbanding of the organization were **Len Dykman**, **Bernard Malda**, **James Lodema**, **Mark Everett** and **Bruce Jacobs**. All of the above are still or were members of Unity Christian Reformed Church.

We would also like to acknowledge the auditors of the Burial Fund, Bushoven & Co, who, as a labor of love for many years, have audited and provided tax accounting service to the society.

The Board of Directors of the Fund had a total commitment to Christian education from the very beginning of the organization to the present. With their most recent final gift to ECSA, the Christian Burial Fund has donated a total of \$655,114 to Eastern Christian School from their investment earnings over the years. These earnings came from loans to teachers, society members and several loans to ECSA for new school busses. According to the Board members, they never experienced a default on any loan and in many cases, they were paid back ahead of time.

The Board of Directors of Eastern Christian School is deeply appreciative of the commitment of this society to ECSA and for their beneficial assistance with generous financial support over the years. God has richly blessed ECSA through the Burial Fund.

Luctor et Emergo: I have struggled and have overcome!



Upcoming Fundraising Events

Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala Thursday, April 18, 2013 The Tides, North Haledon, NJ

Come out and enjoy a dazzling evening of fellowship and fundraising! Dress in your favorite jeans and "bling," and get ready for a bidding frenzy! Due to the generosity of our sponsors, 100% of the funds raised from the silent and live auction will directly benefit Eastern Christian School. Visit ecdenimanddiamonds.com for details and to purchase tickets.

Christian Education Week 2013 April 22-26, 2013

Theme: Living Stones

Bible Verse: "You, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house." 1 Peter 2:5a

Golf Outing Monday, May 20, 2013 Black Bear Golf Club, Franklin, NJ

Enjoy an afternoon of golf, followed by a delicious dinner. Advertise your business with a hole sponsorship! Visit easternchristian.org for more details and to sign up!

All School Jog-a-Thon May 10, 2013

For more information on these events, please call EC's Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 or visit: www.easternchristian.org EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The 2013 Campaign for Eastern Christian

Engaging - Nurturing - Transforming

OUR PLAN FOR...

EASTERN CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1. Construct a new, larger and more inviting entrance to the school with handicap accessibility.
- 2. Replace all the windows and entrance doors in the original part of the building, including the Media Center.
- 3. Renovate 11 classrooms in the original part of the building.
- 4. Completely renovate the bathrooms with ADA compliant components.
- 5. Install a new heating system in the 47 year old building.
- 6. Install air conditioning throughout the building.
- 7. Upgrade the building security, including a new intercom system and bell system.
- 8. Relocate the playground
- 9. Resurface the entire parking lot.

EASTERN CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 1. Completely renovate the bathrooms in the original wing of the school with ADA compliant components.
- 2. Upgrade the building security to include a new intercom system and bell system.
- 3. Replace carpeting in the Media Center.
- 4. Resurface the entire parking lot.

EASTERN CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

- 1. Upgrade the High School heating system.
- 2. Completely renovate several bathrooms with ADA compliant components.
- 3. Install new lockers where needed.
- 4. Make necessary structural repairs to the 60 year old building.
- 5. Resurface the entire parking lot.

THE FUTURE

Add \$250,000 to the ECSA Endowment Fund.





TOTAL COST OF IMPROVEMENTS \$2,750,000

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Architect's rendering of the new entrance to Eastern Christian Elementary School

Support the 2013 Capital Campaign with your prayers and generosity!

This is a project that will take place during the summers of 2013 & 2014

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF **THE 2013 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

- 1. Continue to upgrade our educational facilities to provide a 21st Century learning environment for the students we serve.
- 2. Secure significant investments in Eastern Christian campuses from our supporting communities without increasing tuition.
- 3. Leverage the improved educational facilities as a magnet for recruitment and student retention.

BUSINESS DRIVE

2012-2013 Annual Fund Business Drive Reaches its Goal

BY: GARRET G. NIEUWENHUIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION FOR EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

s part of our Annual Fund appeal, we make a special effort to involve our business partners each year. This group of supporters has been among the most consistent with their faithful support of Eastern Christian, not only with their financial resources, but with their gifts-in-kind as well. We are most appreciative of their generous support in so many ways each year!

The recently completed Business Drive was headed up by EC parent and member of the EC Foundation Board of Trustees, **Charles Shotmeyer**. Chuck is the president of the family-owned Shotmeyer Bros. Fuel Co.,LLC in Hawthorne, New Jersey.

In his appeal letter to the business community, Chuck stressed the value and importance of a faith-based education. He said that his children and their classmates receive this education each day at Eastern Christian School. This education is a stepping stone to becoming tomorrow's leaders in industry, government and in our communities.

We are so grateful for the donations, totaling \$52,230, from the following business partners:

2012 Business Drive Donors

Gold Sponsors

Abbey Carpet & Floor of Hawthorne Ashley HomeStores Northeast Braen Stone Industries Bushoven & Company C S Stucco & Plaster Dykhouse Construction Company, Inc. **Groenewal Electric** Hi-Tech Family Dentistry, LLC J. P. Morgan Private Bank Kuiken Brothers Company, Inc. Martin Orthodontics Reiner Group Search Consultants Searchpath New York Metro, Inc. Vander Plaat - Vermeulen, Inc. Visbeen Contruction Co. Wayne Tile Company Wiegers, Inc.

Silver Sponsors

AmeriHealth Insurance Company of NJ Chris Fix Tree Care Eastern Insurors, LLC Jennifer Bushman D.M.D., P.C. KJB Fireplaces Shotmeyer Brothers V&S Floor Covering, Inc. William Sytsma Landscaping

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Donors

Antonovich Brothers, Inc. Browning-Forshay Funeral Home James Karr Piano Tuning & Restoration Financial Consulting Strategies LLC Forrest Signs McBride Agency Northeast Janitorial Supply, Inc. Tanis Hardware Corp. Waldwick Printing Company

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY:

Advertise your business with a fence banner! Banners are displayed on the fence of EC's high school athletic field at both fall soccer games and spring baseball games. Call EC's Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 for more information!



ALUMNI NEWS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI:

William Reitsma, BSN,CPTC

V.P. CLINICAL SERVICES, NJ SHARING NETWORK, ECSA CLASS OF 1971

graduated from Eastern Christian High School in 1971, appreciative of the education I received at ECSA and feeling well prepared for the challenges that faced me. I enrolled in the William Paterson University nursing program after high school, and I graduated from that program in 1976. After working in a critical care unit for three years, I was approached about my interest in working in the field of organ donation and transplantation. I expressed an interest and have been working in this field ever since, serving in various capacities, all in New Jersey.

Almost immediately, I became aware of what a special place I was called to serve. Having worked for all of the 33 years knowing that I was using the gifts I was given for meaningful work in transforming lives, I realized how blessed I was.

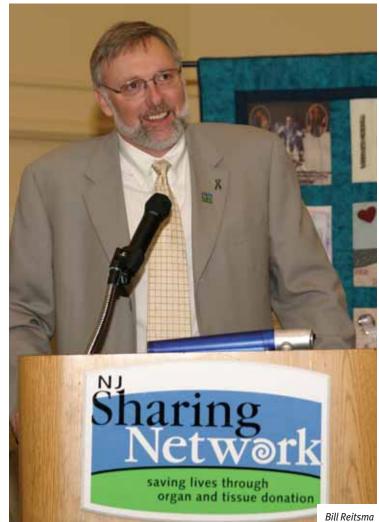
During my first week on the job I met a man on dialysis who was literally dying from complications of diabetes and later that same week I met the parents of a 14 year old boy who died of a brain aneurysm and agreed to donate his organs. One of the boy's kidneys went to the man I had met earlier that week!

I realized then the power of the gift and how privileged I was to be the conduit for that gift. I was also privileged to be a participant in a process in which the kindness of a family suffering loss would decide to save the

November 30, 1997 Dear Donor Family, I feel bad that you lost your child. I think it was very kind of your family to donate the heart. I am glad. I have another chance of life. Thank you very much for donating the heart. I really appreciate your giving of what I needed. I pray for your family and your child. Love, Joy PS. I'm home now from the hospital. I'm doing very well.

life of someone they did not know. I have never lost sight of how special this work is and have always respected the gift that makes the healing and the science possible. It is these events that I believe have blessed me more that I realize.

Throughout my career I have met the kindest



and most thankful people you can ever imagine. In addition to the kindness seen in donor families, I met another group of incredible people; people who for many years have fought valiantly to stay alive and then receive the gift of a donated organ or tissue. These individuals are perhaps the most grateful people I have ever known. It is like grace; we don't deserve it, we can't buy it, but we are given it, and so we are thankful for it. I feel that anything I have accomplished is a debt to those who are so very kind and so very thankful.

My accomplishments that bring out the "Distinguished" adjective of this recognition can all be attributed to being a good steward of the gifts God has given me. When I entered transplantation, it was in its infancy. During my career, donation and transplantation grew in New Jersey from 13 organ donors and 40 organs transplanted, to 180 organ donors and 523 transplants in a year. *continued on page 25*

A letter from an 8-year old donor recipient to her donor family is among Bill's most cherished awards from his job.

continued from page 24

In addition, I was part of the startup of all of the transplant programs in New Jersey and the start of the tissue recovery program in New Jersey, which is now over 500 donors. These are not just numbers, but lives impacted by donation and transplantation.

To get there I worked both nationally and locally to establish laws, regulations and ethical standards that would create a culture for giving and establish a system for the fair and equitable distribution of the organs and tissues given. I have been given numerous awards both nationally and locally from peer groups and recipient groups; however, the most meaningful award was a little girl's letter to the family that donated their son's heart to save her life.

Thank you Eastern Christian for preparing me for a life of service and for recognizing me for the work I was able to accomplish to benefit those in need with God's help and blessing!

To register to save a life through organ & tissue donation, go to www. njsharingnetwork.org.

Alumni News

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

THE 1960S

John Hartog '65 recently received the National Distinguished Principal award (elementary school division) in the state of New Mexico. This award is presented by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. John was one of 60 recipients in the country to receive this award. John and his wife, **Ruth (Dykstra) Hartog '66** traveled to Washington DC and participated in the black-tie award ceremony held in the Presidential Ballroom of the Capital Hilton. John has spent his entire career as an educator in Gallup, New Mexico, the last twenty of which he served as principal.

THE 1990S

- Sam Romero '93 and Heather Kiszons '94 were married on 8/18/12 in Douglas, Michigan. They are now living in Philadelphia, Penn.
- Jamie and **Jeff Byma '96** announce the birth of a daughter, Reagan Elizabeth on 11/21/12. The Bymas reside in Oak Park, Ill.
- Lisa and **John Borduin '97** announce the birth of a son, John Robert, on 7/12/12.
- Kimberly Bandstra '97 has served in the US Army since 1998. She is currently a staff sergeant and living in Kentucky. During her 2nd tour in Iraq, as a military police officer, she was responsible for the security of Camp Victory, and was one of the last to leave after security was signed over to Iraq from the USA in December 2011.

Kate and **Adam Choka '99** announce the birth of a son, Kyden Adeeb, on 7/9/12. The Choka's reside in Hawaii.

Jason and **Sandy (Vogel) Sweetman '99** announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail, on 9/15/12. She joins her sister Julia, age 2.

THE 2000S

- Michelle and **Kyle Laauwe '00** announce the birth of a daughter, Briana Rose, on 10/12/12.
- **Stephen Gritzky '00** and **Katharine McCoy '00** were married on 8/11/12 and reside in Little Falls, NJ.
- Brian Grzmkowski '00 and Ellen Assimos were married on 10/13/12.
- Christi and **Dan Scarpa '02** announce the birth of a son, Joseph Daniel, on 10/10/12. Joseph joins big brother Johnny. The Scarpas live in Midland Park, NJ.
- **Philip '02** and **Lindsey (Braunius) Tuit '02** announce the birth of a son, Brandon Nicholas, on 9/10/12.
- Marc Spoelstra '03 and Kali De Haan '06 were married on 12/21/12. Marc teaches PhyEd and Horizons at Eastern Christian Middle School and is the ECMS Athletic Director. Marc & Kali reside in Haskell, NJ.
- Jake Tuit '03 and Jillian Berry '05 were married on 6/9/12. They live in Oakland, NJ.
- Kristin Dykhouse '05 and Steven Gelenter were married on 9/1/12. They are residing in Wayne, NJ.

NEW ALUMNI DIRECTORY IS COMING!

To make sure our data is as up-to-date as possible, Eastern Christian School is working with **Harris Connect** to update our database with current information. In addition, an alumni directory will be produced - scheduled for publication in late 2013.

Harris Connect will begin contacting you by postcard and/or email to verify the information we have is accurate and complete. All updates are returned to Eastern Christian School so that our database remains current. Harris specializes in alumni and membership publications and will help produce a 6" by 9" Alumni Directory book as well as a CD that will be available to purchase.

Please make verifying your alumni information a top priority! Call the toll-free number indicated on the postcard or email you will receive within 7 days upon receiving it. Thank you in advance for your participation!

THE 20108

Brianne Traub '11 was named the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Player of the Week for her basketball performance during the week ending 11/25/12. A sophomore at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Penn., Brianne currently leads her team in scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage and steals. Her scoring average is currently second in the conference. She was named CACC Rookie of the Year in 2012.

REMEMBERING...

ALUMNI

- **Dorothy (Zuidema) Wynbeek '31** of Wyckoff, formerly of North Haledon on 12/31/12. She was a member of the Bethel Christian Reformed Church & Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.
- **Gertrude (Slump) Minnema '33** on 8/27/12 at the age of 95 of North Haledon, formerly of Ridgewood. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood.
- **Betty (Hartog) Thoma '34** of Wayne on 12/6/12. A long-time resident of Haledon, Betty was a member of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in North Haledon, NJ.
- Florence (Veenema) Wiegers '34 of North Haledon, formerly of Wyckoff on 12/27/12. She was a member of Midland Park Christian Reformed Church and a former member of First Christian Reformed Church. Florence volunteered at the Christian Health Care Center and at the Corner Closet.
- Mae (De Boer) Moezelaar '37 of Wyckoff on 9/26/12. Mae was a member of Unity Christian Reformed Church, an organist for 60 years, an accompanist for the Apollo Glee Club, Back to God Hour, and Eastern Academy Choir. A member of Eastern Christian High School Ladies' Circle, the North 4th Street School Ladies' Aid and a volunteer at the Christian Health Care Center.
- Johanna (De Korte) Sharp '38 of Wayne on 12/30/12. Johanna was a life long member of Bridgeway Community Church (formerly First CRC) in Haledon, where she was a member of their Senior Group.
- Martina (Tanis) Sytsma '40 of Winchester, VA on 8/7/12. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Winchester and an Honorary Life Member of the Presbyterian Women.
- **Anne (Beversluis) Etterbeek '41** of Midland Park on 7/20/12. She was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.

Garret Belanus '43 of Artesia, NM on 1/4/12. A memorial service was held at Midland Park Christian Reformed Church.

- Marguerite "Van" (Vanderwerf) Wolff '43 of Ridgewood, on 9/18/12. She became a reporter for the Paterson Evening News in 1943 and worked there as a military reporter during the war. She was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of North Haledon. Marguerite's battle with dementia was the subject of a cover story in New York Magazine written by her son, Michael Wolff.
- Ruth (Boer) Freerks '43 of Parsippany on 9/19/12. She was the director of Home Health Services at Hackensack University Medical Center as well as a Nursing Consultant for 35 years before retiring in 1997. She served on National, State and Local health care and human service boards throughout her career. Ruth was a member of the Board of Trustees at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital since 1995. She was also an active member and secretary for the Parsippany Presbyterian Women and a member of the United Methodist Women.
- Richard Zuidema'43 of Ellenton, FL on 10/15/12. He served in the U.S. Navy and was an advocate of Christian education, serving as a math/science teacher and/ or administrator at Christian schools in several states for most of his career including Eastern Christian High School (1964-1968), Bradenton Christian Schools as well as other schools in Florida and Colorado. He was a member of Bradenton Christian Reformed Church.
- Clarence (Klaas) De Ruiter '44 of Brooklyn, NY on 7/22/12, formerly of Clifton, NJ.
- Bernard Van Heemst '49 of Prospect Park, on 12/2/12. He faithfully served his country in the Korean War. He was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.
 Maynard Baker '52 of North Haledon, NJ and Little River, SC on 12/14/12. He

served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. He was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff, NJ and Calabash Presbyterian in Calabash, NC.

- Lois (Hartley) Schouten '55 of Wayne, formerly of Hawthorne, on 8/26/12. Lois was a member of Hawthorne Gospel Church, singing in the church choir for many years.
- **Bernice (Decker) Tanis '60** of Bloomingdale, on 9/13/12. She was a member of the Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church.
- Ruth Ann (Baker) Wynbeek '60 of Midland Park on 12/30/12. Ruth was a member of Midland Park Christian Reformed Church where she served on many committees. She also volunteered at Eastern Christian Elementary School and the Corner Closet.
- Joyce (Broadhurst) Fieldhouse'62 of Summerfield, FL on 12/5/12. Joyce was a member of First Baptist Church, Ocala. She retired in 2005, after 35 years as a legal assistant.
- Philip Piersma '66 of Frankfort, Michigan on 11/24/12. He was the former owner of Cutlerville True Value and was married to Nancy Meeter, a former EC Elementary School teacher.
- **Barbara (Klopman) Etterbeek '68** of Wyckoff on 12/11/12. She was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.
- Brian J. Martin '73 on 5/5/12. Brian served for many years in the US Army, and at the time of his death was a civilian employee of the US Coast Guard. Inurnment was at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Dr. George Fenners '77** of Wyckoff, NJ on 7/11/12. George was a general practitioner of dentistry in Oakland for 26 years. He was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church.

REUNION YEAR CLASSES

Please be sure the Alumni Office has your up-to-date contact information. Send your address and/or email information to alumni@easternchristian.org and you will be sure to get all your reunion news.

Class of 2003: 10-YEAR REUNION

A planning committee including Ashlie (Adcock) Berardocco, Nicole Hagedoorn, Leigh Dini, Liz (Davis) Sauer and Heather (Ydo) Burrell has been formed. Please email the committee at: ecclass2003@gmail.com with your up-to-date contact information, ideas and suggestions – and watch your emails for future details!

Class of 1993: 20-YEAR REUNION

Jennifer (Meyer) Ross has begun the process of reaching out to classmates for ideas for next year's reunion. Anyone interested in helping can contact Jenn at 973-800-8742. Be sure to check out the Facebook page at "Eastern Christian Reunion" with the second name being Jenn Meyer Ross.

Class of 1978: 35-YEAR REUNION

The Class of '78 is planning a 35th reunion in the fall of 2013. A Facebook account is being created - watch for an invitation! Anyone interested in working on the reunion, please contact **Maribeth (Van Der Plaats) Vriesema** at maribethvriesema@easternchristian.org.

Class of 1958: 55-YEAR REUNION

Plans are underway for our 55th reunion! Although all information forms have not been returned, there is a sense that many of the class would like to get together sometime in late summer or early fall of 2013. The Reunion Committee will be meeting shortly to finalize the planning for this event and send out the final details to the classmates. For further information please contact **Garry Nieuwenhuis at** 973-427-7948 or by email:garnflo@verizon.net.

REUNION UPDATE

The Class of 2002 – 10 Year Reunion



Back row: Dan Scarpa, Tom Johnson, Brett Algera, Chris Heerema, Scott Veenema, Phil Tuit, Jim Rohner, Shane Haugh, Scott Van Genderen, Middle row: David Hazen, Russell Unrath, Kristina (Belanus) Vande Vrede, Rebecca Ruiz, Victoria (Jensen) Tiedemann, Katherine (Everett), Joshua Castano, Lisa-Marie Gallager, Matt Kampschmidt

2nd row from front: Lindsey (Braunius) Tuit, Lynn Carten, Chanei Hollis, Jenn Shaffstall, David Riley, David Steenstra Front: Rachel (Stephan) Simko & Jamie (Anfang) Coyne

On Saturday, November 24, 26 members of the class of 2002 gathered for their 10-year reunion. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and reminiscing. The classmates also took time to remember their peer, **David Crossman**, who had passed away suddenly in April 2012. Thanks to **Kris (Belanus) Vande Vrede** for putting together a wonderful evening.

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REUNION UPDATE

The Class of 1992 – 20 Year Reunion



top photo, L-R: **Pam (Steiginga) Struble, Tracey (Ver Hage) Zbierski,** Holly (Pohl) Gionni, Stacie (Sumter) Hoffmeister, Judith Hengeveld, Gretchen (Kuiken) Leegwater and Kara (Husselman) Dyer. bottom left photo: **Ray Shafer, Ryan Leegwater, Kevin Van Dyk,** Lisa (Leegwater) Struck.

bottom middle photo: Lori (Nydam) Vanderaa, Michele (Huizing) Boonstra. bottom right photo: Chris Duffy, Matt Van Dyk, Sara (Vugtaveen) Visker, Holly (Pohl) Gionni.

left side photo: Holly (Pohl) Gionni, Gretchen (Kuiken) Leegwater.

The Class of 1992 had a great time this past October at their 20-year reunion, held at Portobello's Restaurant in Oakland. Twenty-three classmates were in attendance, some traveling from as far as Chicago and Nashville! The talking and reminiscing went on throughout the night as a slide show of our senior photos and memories played. A great time was had by all! Plans for the next reunion were already being tossed around before the night was done! Thank you to **Pam (Steiginga) Struble** for coordinating a fantastic reunion.

The Class of 1987 – 25 Year Reunion



Back row: John Veleber, David Zuidema, Mark Van Hook, Russell Huizing, Ken Wiegers, Ben Bontekoe, Scott Van Boerum, Russell Faber, Michael Van Lenten, Nancy (Kuipers) Martin, Susan (Meenen) Balsamello. Second row: Susan (Hagedorn) Leegwater, Laura (Eichorn) Bosland, Aimee (Dansen) Hulsebos, Christina (Lier) Ball, Mark Borst, Kelly (Priestner) Faber, Sherri (Martin) Faber, Kathy (Van Schepen) DeBell, Diane (Boardman) DeVries, Jodi (Vieldhouse)Zaccone, Donna (Husselman) Nunez, Lisa (Lozzi) Quinn, Elaine Low, Kurt Faber, Michele Meranti, MaryBeth Trommelen, Steve Fridsma, Stephen Heerema. Front row: Roy Hulsebos, Glenn Bysterbush, Rachel (Kreil) DePinto, Susan (Douma) Van Lenten, Laurie (Faber) Maccone, Cyndi (DeRitter) Staat, Tyra Foster, Scott Martin.

Classmates from the Class of 1987 got together on Saturday, October 13 at Pellegrino's in North Haledon. It was great spending time reminiscing with classmates – no one could believe it has been 25 years already. Thank you to **Scott Martin** for coordinating all the arrangements.

The Class of 1952 – 60 Year Reunion



From the morning coffee reunion on September 13: Back row: Fred De Ruiter, Gertrude (Vermaas) Borst, Harriet (Roukema) Abma, Anna Jane (Ten Kate) Sikkema, Janice Hazen, June (De Jong) Oskamp. Front row: Clarence Van Der Wiele, Lenore (Bosland) Dykstra, Winifred (Nyhof) Byker.

Fourteen classmates enjoyed a delicious lunch together on Wednesday, September 12 at Pellegrino's in North Haledon. Classmates traveled from Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Tennessee to attend. The next morning (pictured above), many classmates gathered to have coffee together at Midland Park CRC. It was a wonderful time of renewing old friendships. Many thanks to **Clix Vander Wiele** for organizing the event!

DESIGNATED GIFTS

JUNE 15, 2012 - JANUARY 30, 2013

Thank you to all who made donations to support Christian education at EC! During the time period of June 15, 2012 to January 30, 2013, gifts given in honor or in memory of a loved one totaled \$46,586.36. All gifts are to Eastern Christian School's Endowment Fund unless otherwise indicated.

் In Memory of ்

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Albertus Hartog in memory of Albertus Hartog's 99th Birthday Carolina E. Hartog

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Alice Borduin

David & Cynthia Visbeen

Bill & Charlene Cook

50th Wedding Anniversary John & Kay Drukker Adeline Leo [#]

Evelyn De Leeuw 90th Birthday Jacqueline & Robert Pepper

John H. Dyk

75th Birthday Gertrude & John Borst

Bernice Houseward &

Stephen Pastoor Wedding Anniversary Bernice Houseward & Stephen Pastoor ^

Ruth Ann Knyfd

70th Birthday Ronald & Marilyn Stonehouse

Eleanor Kooreman 80th Birthday Alice & Clarence Baker

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Daniel Minkema 85th Birthday "Your 3 sisters, Gladys, Alice & Gail" George & Carol Bosma

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ANNUAL FUND DONORS

JANUARY 16, 2012 – JANUARY 18, 2013

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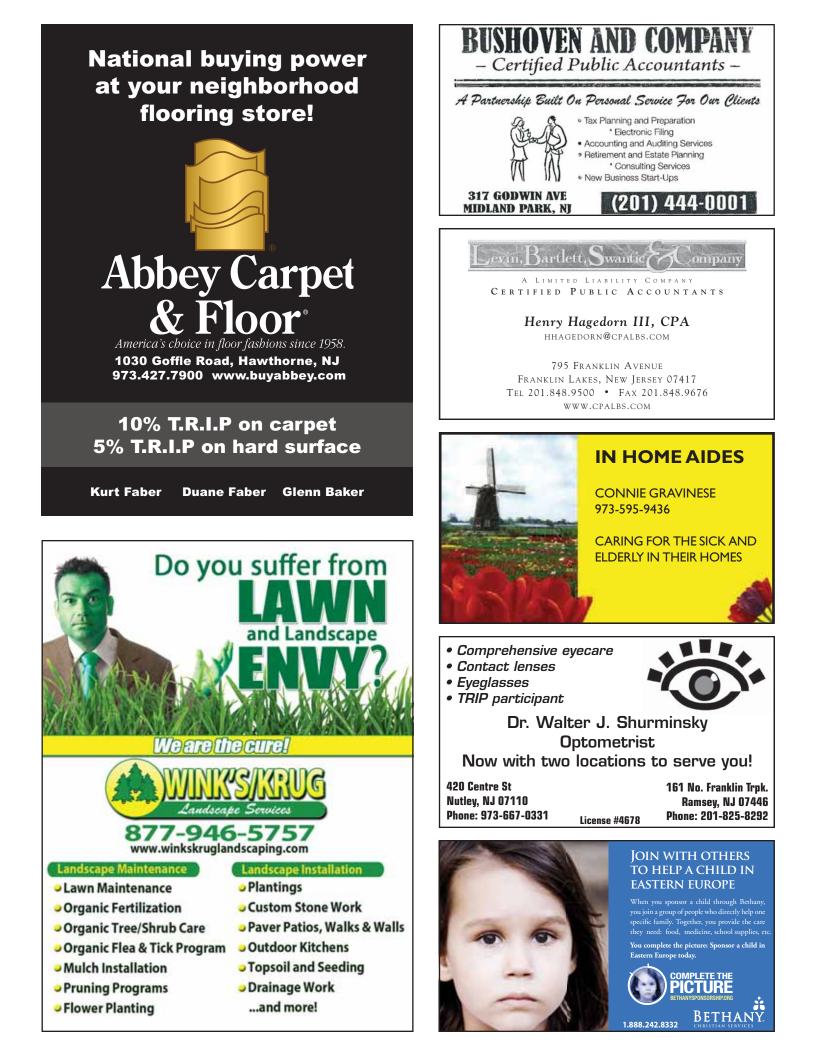
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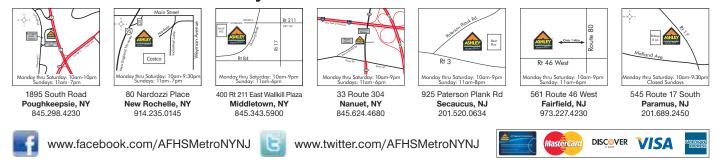








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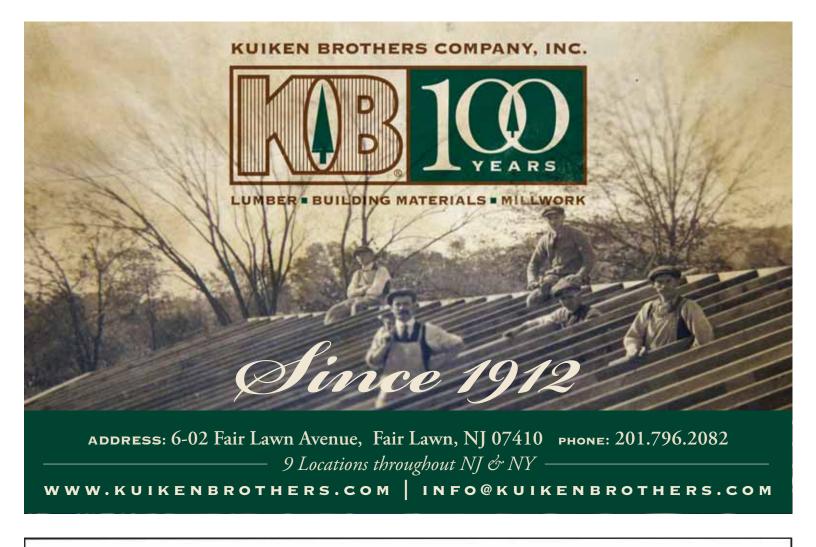
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EC SPORTS



Boys Cross Country

The boys' cross country team ended the season 7-5 in dual meets. The team was led by seniors **Tyler Van Lenten**, **Kyle Coan** and **Dan Vivolo**. Tyler said, "Although many of my teammates and I were never was able to run a personal best time, we did do well as a whole team. The up and coming freshmen (**Joey Post** and **Carter Heerema**) did do very well for their first year."This year, volunteer coach **Bill Sharlow** joined both the boys' and girls' teams for the full season, leading the team in plyometrics and weight-training, which helped the team gain flexibility and strength.



Girls Cross Country

The girls' cross country team put together another strong season, winning their conference with a dual meet record of 11-1 despite numerous injuries and illnesses throughout the season. The team was led by junior **Kathryn Post**. Kathryn said that an overnight trip to Coach Joel Apol's house in Sussex at the beginning of the season brought both the girls' and the boys' teams together in a new way. "We ate together, we went on a morning run, and we went on a hike. We really got to know one another," Kathryn said. That weekend, as well as training runs around Ramapo Lake and the "Food Run" at the end of the season, were fun twists to usual workout routines, Kathryn said.



Girls Tennis

The girls' varsity tennis team finished their 2012 season with a final record of 4-10-1. The team had wins against Mary Help of Christians Academy and Garfield twice. Junior **Priscilla Winston** said, "As a team we got much closer than we did for my other years because of captain **Jenna Shotmeyer**. She brought us together and helped us become a team." Junior **Emily Thomas** said, "Jenna was an amazing captain. She motivated the whole team and taught us a lot." Jenna was named to the All County Second Team. Priscilla added, "**Coach Adam Culp** taught us different drills and exercises this year to elevate our game above a high school level."



Junior Seth Alicea, and seniors Justin Miller and Soo Young Park

Boys Varsity Soccer

The boys' varsity soccer team finished with a record of 2-12-1. Despite a losing record, the boys have made significant improvement from last season. A highlight of the season was tying league-leading Lodi 0-0 at the "White Out" event, where the girls' and boys' teams played a double header at the North Haledon Willow Field in front of a large student crowd all dressed in white. Senior **Luis Romero** said, "We have a lot of talented players. Our record really doesn't represent the kind of talent that we have on the team." The team was led by defender senior **Justin Stryuk**, and new transfer junior **Seth Alicea**, who lead the team in scoring.

E C Ρ O R T S



Senior Carly Brantner

Girls Varsity Soccer

The girls' soccer team completed another strong season, winning 12 games and losing five, and outscoring their opponents 62-15. Four of the girls' losses were by only one goal. Six team members were given All League honors, with seniors Carly Veenstra and Carly Brantner being named First Team All County. Veenstra ended her career with over 100 goals, placing her second in EC's scoring history. Brantner and senior goalie Jamie Van Buiten led the defense that allowed opponents to score more than one goal only twice. Brantner said, "I was impressed with the heart of all the girls on the team. No one ever gave up, no matter how we were doing."



Freshman David Hefty

Boys JV Soccer

After just losing their final two games of the season in heartbreaking 1-0 scores, the boys' JV soccer team ended the season 8-3-3. They were a strong team all season, scoring 28 goals while only giving up 10. Junior Jesse Ojeda explained that the team was made up of mostly freshmen, "which was a challenge but it worked well. People weren't used to high school soccer, but as the season went on, they learned quickly and it showed in our record." Jesse credits Coach Ben Kuiken for leading the team with strong character and by having fun. Jesse said, "He had us do crazy drills that forced us to rely on one another, and he also bribed us."



Freshman Sarah Martin

Girls JV Soccer

Girls JV soccer returned this year, after not having enough players last year to make a team. Bridget Rainville coached the team. The team ended the season with a 2-7-2 record. Sophomore Hannah Postma said that the team's late season game against Lodi "was our best game." Sophomore Jacki Scott said, "There was a lot of good passing going on. We were really working together." Coach Rainville said, "The girls are what makes the team special - they are awesome and so much fun. They have grown together since the beginning of the season and some have learned new positions that they have never played before. It's been an honor being able to work with them."



Senior Michelle Van Dyke goes for the spike while the team looks on.

Girls Varsity Volleyball

The varsity volleyball team ended their season 10-11, and only lost once in the their final seven games. In their winning streak, the team beat perennial league power Hawthorne in straight sets, which the team said was definitely the highlight of the year. The team was made up of seven seniors, including first team all county player Sarah Bruinooge and Syracuse-bound Michelle Van Dyke. Sarah said, "After we lost to Mary Help, we came together as a team and talked about it. We pulled ourselves together and really improved from that point on." Eight of the teams wins came after that point.



Sophomore Taylor Faber

Girls JV Volleyball

Ending with a record of 10-8, the girls JV volleyball team ended stronger than years past, and felt they made significant improvements in their game. Junior Grace Valentin said, "We worked on some stuff that we weren't able to last year when most of the girls were new. We practiced new positions, new rotations." Grace said that there was a transistion as they learned the new skills, "but then we got a hang of it and it worked well."

Announcing a New EC Sport: Lacrosse

he spring sports season just got more exciting at EC: lacrosse is here! Practices started March 1, and games are just around the corner.

Starting this year, EC is adding boys and girls lacrosse to the athletic department. The teams will be playing at the Junior Varsity level for at least the next two years. The teams will play approximately 10 games this year against other JV teams. All the games will be away, as EC does not yet have a lacrosse field.

Lacrosse is among the fastest growing high school sports, and according to Principal **Dr. Joel Uecker**, parent and community interest in the sport was very high. Other local schools, such as Hawthorne Public School, added lacrosse this year as well.

Adding a new sport to EC's offerings took a lot of work, especially by Athletic Director **Steve King**. Dr. Uecker said, "There are a lot – a lot! – of details that go into starting a program, and a lot of money."

The money, budgeted at \$55,000 for the two teams in the first year, comes outside of the athletic budget, and is being raised by EC from interested donors. (If you are interested in donating, contact Dr. Uecker by email – joeluecker@easternchristian.org, or call the high school at 973-427-0900.)

Dr. Uecker said, "There was significant interest from the community, and the school wanted to do this for the community. In the infancy of the program, it has to be funded by supporters, not from tuition dollars."

Mr. King said that it costs between \$500 - \$750 to outfit a player on the boys' team. (Girls use less equipment because it is a noncontact sport.) In addition to this, he said, there are costs for the coaching, netting, medical supplies, paint, goals, fees, storage and maintaining the fields.

The teams will be practicing at the Middle School. The softball field at the school will be given a fence, and lacrosse will practice next to it. Netting will be added for safety along the field.

EC parent **Ryan Baitzel** is coaching the boys' team. He played lacrosse in college and has been an assistant high school coach recently. **Christy Mulder**, also an EC parent, is the girls' coach. She also played lacrosse in college.

Dr. Uecker said, "We've found two coaches with lacrosse coaching experience with a passion for Christian young people. That's rare."

Dr. Uecker and Mr. King are hoping to use the lacrosse program as a chance to raise the level of EC athletics and its facilities.

"Our goal was to do this excellently, and make a full effort at it. We are going to fund it appropriately, and we are getting quality coaches," Dr. Uecker said. "Excellent athletics are essential for 21st century Christian schools. Parents want opportunities for their kids. An excellent athletic program builds community and grows the school."

Medical Field Scholarships Available

Beneficial astern Christian School continues to manage the Smith-Shute Scholarship Fund. The scholarship provides financial assistance to EC female graduates attending medical school after graduating from college.

The revised eligibility requirements are as follows:

- 1. Must be a female applicant who graduated from Eastern Christian High School.
- 2. Applicant must be a college graduate, attaining a 3.0 GPA
- 3. Applicant must apply for the scholarship within 6 years of graduating from Eastern Christian High School.
- 4. Applicants must pursue a course of study related to the medical field including, but not limited to medical doctor, all areas of nursing, Physical Therapist, dentist, and other similar vocations. Priority will

be given to applicants applying to study to become a medical doctor.

- 5. Applications are to be forwarded to Eastern Christian School's Foundation office by May 15, 2013, which must include a personal bio, evidence of satisfactory GPA, and a letter outlining the reasons for the application.
- 6. Eastern Christian's selections committee will make the final decision for this scholarship which will be renewable for the duration of the student's time in medical school.
- 7. Depending on the resources available, there may only be one scholarship awarded in May of each year.

For additional information, please contact Garret G. Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director, Foundation for Eastern Christian School @ 973-427-9294 or gnieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org.

Setting Off to Syracuse

enior **Michelle Van Dyke** signed a volleyball scholarship with Division 1 Syracuse University this fall and graduated early, finishing her EC requirements in January. She is enrolled in Syracuse for the spring semester.

Volleyball wasn't in Michelle's plan when she started EC High School as a freshman, but a friend's mother convinced her to try. "I wasn't originally going to play, I was going to play tennis," she said.

But once she did try it? "I loved it."

Michelle said, "I realized that I was a pretty good player when I made varsity freshman year. I always thought that people who made varsity freshman year were absolutely amazing at sports, so the fact that I made varsity made me realize that it was something I was good at."

Michelle continued to play volleyball, as well as basketball, during her EC career. As a junior, Michelle was named a first-team All-Passaic center. She played



(top) College and Career Counselor Jesse Struck, Athletic Director Steve King, Principal Dr. Joel Uecker, (bottom) Sharon (Dykstra) Van Dyke '78, Michelle Van Dyke, Bill Van Dyke '77.

AAU basketball in the offseason, and was focused on that sport.

Last spring, however, Syracuse contacted volleyball coach **Larissa Santino** and asked if they could see Michelle play. Michelle said, " I was really surprised that Syracuse was interested in me, especially since I was mostly a basketball player, and I had never been to a volleyball show case or even played on a club team."

Syracuse did want her, however. One of the biggest factors in

Michelle's decision was that Syracuse offered a good program in fashion design, which she had been considering for her major.

Michelle said, "I think that EC helped me a lot in preparing for college academically and spiritually, because of how dedicated the teachers were in preparing me. I believe that if I had been in another school I wouldn't have been able to do this. My memories from EC will definitely be all of the friends I made, and the two mission trips I went on, as well as my sports teams."

Fall Athletic Awards 2012

Boys Soccer			
Justin Struyk	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County		
Seth Statlander	Honorable Mention All County		
Seth Alicia	Honorable Mention All League		
Girls Soccer			
Carly Brantner	First Team All League First Team All County		
Carly Veenstra	First Team All League First Team All County		
Kaitlyn Cestaro	Second Team All League Second Team All County		
Jenna Struyk	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County		
Bethany Kuiken	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County		
Julie Van Buiten	Honorable Mention All League		

Girls Tennis

Jenna Shotmeyer		eam All League eam All County
Blair Bohuny	Second Te	eam All League
Jen Streelman	Second Te	eam All League
Priscilla Winston-I	.aryea	Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County
Alyssa Shurminsk	у	Honorable Mention All County

Cross Country

Kathryn Post	First Team All League Second Team All County
Erin Van Lenten	First Team All League
Bethany Van Eck	First Team All League Honorable Mention All Count

	Jennifer Tartini	First Team All League Honorable Mention All County	
	Kayla Van Lenten	Second Team All League	
	Nicole Tartini	Second Team All League	
	Rachel Campbell	Honorable Mention All League	
	Tyler Van Lenten	First Team All League Honorable Mention All County	
	Daniel Vivolo	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County	
	Robert Peretti	Honorable Mention All League	
Volleyball			
	Sarah Bruinooge	First Team All League First Team All County	
	Michelle Van Dyke	Second Team All League Second Team All County	
	Heidi Lineweaver	Honorable Mention All League	

Jayna Van Buiten Honorable Mention All County

Honorable Mention All County

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