

THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2005
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Stepping OUT IN *Faith* COMMENCEMENT 2005



ECHS



ECMS



ECES



ECPS

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You..."

A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM Kurt R. Kaboth, EC's New Chief School Administrator

Greetings and peace,

IT is a great pleasure to join the administrative team at Eastern Christian School this month. I can think of no higher calling than to ensure our children have an excellent academic education within our Christian worldview. I really appreciate the warm welcome I have received from parents, students, faculty and staff, and I am looking forward to meeting all of the members of our community.

Eastern Christian has a long and distinguished record of effective education: teaching academics from a Reformed perspective, mentoring students to become responsible stewards, nurturing them to recognize their gifts, and helping them understand their call to God's service.

We live in a tough environment, and EC makes a significant difference for our children. Our Reformed faith helps us understand that we and our children live in this culture, but do not have to be "of" this culture. We learn the difference at church, at home, and, most significantly for our children, at our EC schools. Here we can inculcate and support all of our efforts to guide our children toward a life of responsive Christian discipleship.

I feel particularly blessed by the opportunity to be a part of this great educational enterprise.

I grew up in small towns in Wisconsin and Indiana in a loving family with a brother and sister. I played sports, learned at the YMCA, and joined my church in high school. My faith grew during high school and college; and although I started down the road toward teaching history, I felt I could have a greater impact helping people by practicing law, which I did for a while in southern Indiana.

During that time I married my wife Katherine who had been studying comparative literature and religious studies. God called her into the Christian ministry, and we ended up at Yale Divinity School. Wandering a little in the wilderness of Connecticut, I came across the opportunity to serve others at the YMCA, and worked as a corporate officer of their national pension plan in New York City for twenty-five years.

In the meanwhile we moved to New Jersey where Katherine served Presbyterian churches in Tenaflly and Ridgewood. She pursued additional education, and subsequently continued her service as a Pastoral Counselor. Today Katherine works with another pastor in a church-based counseling service.

We have been blessed with a daughter, Abigail—Abby as she prefers—who will be a college senior this fall. She loves science and math, particles and quarks, and is studying physics at the University of Chicago. She also teaches 4th grade Sunday School at her church there.

I have been active in my church, West Side Presbyterian in Ridgewood, serving as an Elder and Trustee, and previously a larger church body, as Treasurer of the Presbytery of the Palisades. I was elected President of the West Side Board of Trustees in the month prior to the fire that burned the Sanctuary building, and have been leading the efforts to raise the funds and rebuild this building.

For some time, I had been thinking about what God wanted me to do in response to his call to service. I left the Y and continued thinking and praying until this leadership position at Eastern Christian School came at me from several directions. Although, I've always been a little reluctant to jump quickly at changes, as I continued to pray for guidance, the pull toward Eastern Christian grew stronger.

Then, as I began the interview process, gained a greater understanding of our mission and vision, and most importantly, met the people here—parents, students, faculty and staff—I knew it was where I'm supposed to be. I have shared with several people that the most compelling pull on my heart has been the open, caring friendliness of the students I have met on our three campuses.

So the Board has called me, I've accepted, and have begun as the Chief School Administrator. My charge is to "provide leadership to guide Eastern Christian into a new season of effectively 'Engaging the Mind, Transforming the Spirit and Renewing a Generation.'" I look forward to this challenge, and I look forward to meeting every member of the EC community.

Yours in Christ,



Kurt R. Kaboth



Kurt Kaboth and his wife
Katherine Cunningham.



Kurt Kaboth participated in the ECHS
graduation ceremony by opening with prayer.

Eastern Christian SCHOOL



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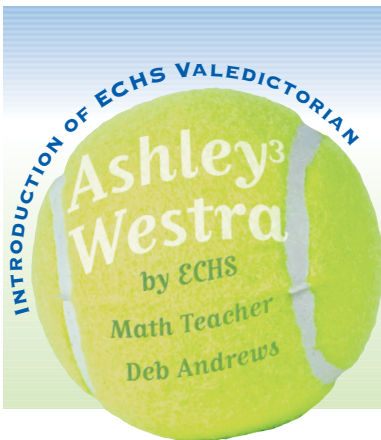
Pictured on the cover are the following students: EC Preschooler **Jared Post** receives his "graduation" certificate from teacher **Sue Martin**; **Emily Stokes** with her parents at the ECES 4th Grade Promotion Chapel; ECMS 8th Grade Graduation participants (L to R) Speaker & Bible teacher **Betsy Tyvoll**, Valedictorian **Justin Tyvoll**, Salutatorian **Danielle Melfi**, and Principal **Florence Nieuwenhuis**; and ECHS graduate **Sam Dykstra** receives his diploma from Board President **Richard Kuder**.

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Symbols like M^3 , and words like “theta,” “sine,” and “absolute value” are as easy as 1, 2, 3, to this year’s valedictorian, but to others they are foreign concepts. In the world of a mathematician, M^3 represents M times M times M, but symbolically it could stand for Music, Math and tennis Matches, the three loves of an amazing young lady.

It is a privilege to introduce to you this evening a former student of mine, who did what no other student has ever done. She was able to maintain an average of over 100% in both Geometry and Precalculus. With great honor, I present to you this year’s Valedictorian of the Class of 2005, **Miss Ashley Westra**.

“Be Quiet and Listen”

BY ASHLEY WESTRA, ECHS CLASS OF 2005 VALEDICTORIAN

It’s been an exciting four years for us in high school, but we have finally made it! The last year is complete. The Washington trip is done, all 16 quarter projects have been presented, final exams have been handed in, the Junior-Senior banquet is finished, and the long weekend to recuperate is a memory. The countdown is over, and all 97 of us are ready to graduate. On behalf of the class of 2005, I would like to thank all of you for sharing in this special occasion with us.

Three weeks ago, at the Senior-Parent Awards Night, we witnessed once again that we are an amazingly talented class graduating here tonight. To be named number one out of a group like this is an honor that I could hardly have dreamed possible four years ago. While reading the Valedictorian award certificate and the accompanying letter that I received at the awards night, I quickly came to the startling conclusion that the real way to spell valedictorian is **S-P-E-E-C-H**. Being a mathematical person, I started to calculate in my head just how many people this meant I would be speaking to at graduation. First, there are about 100 students and they each get 7 tickets. That’s 800 people already. Then, add in teachers and some friends and we’re getting close to 1000! Needless to say, I began shaking in my flip-flops just thinking about giving a speech in front of so many people. To grasp the full fear factor of the situation you need to realize that I’m not known for being a very outspoken person at school. I dare to say, before this evening, some teachers and students wondered if I even knew how to speak. If you want proof of how quiet I really am, just take a look in the new 2005 yearbook.

Right here on page 111, you will see my name and picture listed under the title of quietest person in the class.

However, I need to give credit where credit is due. I have another *Echoes* yearbook with me. This one is from 1949 - back when Eastern Christian High School was known as Eastern Academy. If

you page through and look somewhere after the faculty pictures, you find something interesting on page 41. Right here in black and white you can see

a picture of my grandmother – **Martha (Fisher) Witte** - accepting the “Quietest Girl Award” for her class. I guess you could say I pretty much inherited that title. Now you can understand just how deep my quiet roots really go.

Actually, I prefer not to think of myself as being a quiet person, but rather as being a good listener. Maybe I have taken the rule “Silence is Golden” to the extreme, but I once read that the biggest percentage of learning comes from listening. Since I was interested in learning, and since you need to be quiet in order to listen, I believed this was a good rule to follow. Having explained this, I hope some teachers will be more lenient when it comes to putting those “lack of class participation” comments on mid-term reports, especially like the one on mine that read: “Ashley is so quiet that I often wonder what’s going on inside her head.”

I know of one famous person who has a great deal going on inside his head - Donald Trump – and he agrees too that there are many benefits to listening. I enjoy watching his show, *The Apprentice*. While most of us connect him with the phrase “You’re Fired,” I connect him with something I heard being discussed on *Larry King Live*. In the interview with Larry King, the Donald agreed on the statement, “*I never learned anything when I was talking.*” Just think of all that we might have missed because we were talking instead of listening! Maybe we even missed God talking because we weren’t listening. The Bible says that God’s voice is a still small voice. Only when you stand still and listen, when you open your ears, will you be able to hear God speaking to you.

Many of you probably don’t realize it, but I am one of those few students that lives way up there in Sussex County. We commute everyday from Sussex to “down below” so we can attend a Christian high school. It’s a long trip. Depending on traffic and stops, it can be a 3 hour or more bus ride each day. A lot of chit-chat goes on in that time. It’s amazing what a quiet listener can learn from others talking around you on those many hours spent on the bus.



Valedictorian **Ashley Westra** said that her quiet listening ability came from her grandmother, a 1949 Eastern Academy graduate.



Graduate **Ashley Anderson** receives her diploma from Board President **Richard Kuder**.

I heard about bad grades from terrible teachers, unfair parents, boyfriends, and I think I better stop, but the point is - imagine how much more we could learn from being quiet and listening than just gossip from the bus. *"The first step to wisdom is silence; the second is listening"* (Ibn Gabirol). It's important to listen so we can learn from teachers, parents, and most of all God. Are you listening for God's still small voice? Try to listen and have faith that God will reveal the direction He wants you to go next with your life. Then start making plans and dream for the future.

God wants us to follow our dreams! Dreams that come from seeking God's plan for our lives, and dreams that use our gifts and talents to His honor and glory. Our class has many students with very diverse talents. Take a walk down the halls of school and you'll see our artwork and many awards proudly displayed. Often our musical talents were heard during chapels and concerts. This group is made up of artists, musicians, athletes, writers, mechanics, computer experts, and the list goes on. When you see how much our class has grown academically and spiritually just in the last four years, it is almost inconceivable to think of what God will be capable of doing with us in the future. We have already discovered and used many of our talents, and we need to continue to do so to the best of our ability by listening for further instructions from God. I pray that God will give each of us the will and the power to achieve His purpose and plan for our lives. God is at work in each of us. Be confident in this: that He who has begun a good work in you is not going to quit on you.

But what if our dream is risky? Should we follow it or do we let our worried mothers talk us out of it? I can think of many risky dreams that became disasters during our high school years. It started out a few days into our freshman year when the World Trade Center fell to the ground. Many firemen, like Meghan's dad, dreamed of saving lives, but ended up losing their own. In 2003, seven astronauts, who had a lifelong dream of going into space, were suddenly killed when their shuttle Columbia burned up over Texas. Thousands of soldiers dream of freedom for all, yet they continue to die as the War on Terror goes on. Still, things like this should not stop us from following God's plan. If disaster does strike, it won't be the end because Psalm 121:7 states, *"The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul."* If we dare to dream,



Annette Kuperus, Sean Tanner and Meghan Van Hine walk down the aisle as the ceremony begins.

and we pay for the risk, don't be afraid because faith will save us. It will not be the end of life's story. It is the beginning of eternity with God.

The poet Carl Sandberg wrote, *"Nothing happens unless there is first a dream."* So make your life happen. Make things happen that will make our world more caring, more loving, more peaceful. Have faith to dream the impossible dreams and courage to take action on that faith, and to risk failure. Have faith that one person can make a difference and that each of us must try. Believe that your gifts from God are meant to serve Him in an extraordinary way. If you have the faith, God's got the power.

After hearing me speak tonight, maybe some of you will think of me not only as a quiet listener, but as a good example. You can't imagine how nervous I was about making this speech, yet the girl you voted for as the quietest person of the class was able to stand up here - without fainting or even shaking too much- because God gave me the courage and confidence to believe that *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13). Focus on this verse when you face difficult tasks in the future. Because of it, we won't ever need to be afraid of anything that could stop us from fulfilling our dreams - God will give each of us the strength we need. I just hope that we can be quiet enough to listen when He speaks.



Graduates EunHo Choi, JaeHyun Choi, Young-gyu Gweon, Nick Kwon and Sara Choi celebrate this special day.



Seniors (L to R) Jenna Hulsebos, Chloe-Mourai Whitaker and Ka-Young Kim led their classmates in singing the class song "Indescribable."

The Significance of "Mud" and "Glory Strength"



The setting for the EC High School's graduation ceremony on the front lawn of the campus is certainly picturesque. Shrubs are trimmed, flowers are planted, the grass is cut, walks and driveways are clean, and the risers and white chairs form an inviting amphitheater for 97 graduating seniors and their guests. A mosaic pattern created by males wearing royal blue caps and gowns and females in white is formed as the graduates take their places on the risers. In the background the leaves of a stand of large mature trees provide cooling shade, immediately for the graduates sitting close to the trees, and gradually for guests as the setting sun gently disappears behind the foliage. And the temperature, acknowledged by many as a deliberate blessing from God for the occasion, drops from weeklong 90's into the gentle 70's!

As Principal Lucas walks up to the podium to begin the presentation of diplomas, he describes two rather odd features in this beautiful setting that hardly seem worthy of mention:

- A **stream** with just a meandering trickle of water. He admits calling it a "stream" is being rather generous; actually it is a drainage ditch for runoff.
- A mound of **mud** he described as a pick-up truckload of **mud**. Not

residual **mud** from soil erosion. This is *deliberate mud*!

The audience seems puzzled about the logic of bringing these unsightly land features into focus in such a picturesque setting, but the Class of 2005 understands and feels affirmed at their mention because...

Six weeks earlier these graduates under the capable leadership of senior **Jim Abma** transformed this exact same spot on campus into an all-school picnic that included:

- A line of Gas Grills cooking hundreds of hamburgers
- A Push Cart complete with umbrella serving hot dogs
- A Farm Fence holding a variety of animals for petting
- An Abma's Farm Tractor and Wagon transporting students on hay rides around campus
- A gigantic soapy Slip 'N Slide giving students an opportunity to get really wet while demonstrating an incredible variety of body motions
- A Moon Walk for acrobats and tumblers who enjoy bouncing and being up-side-down
- AND a highly competitive Tug of War tournament.

Avid cable or satellite TV sports enthusiasts, who have happened upon tug of war competitions during the off season of popular games, understand that sanctioned tug of war competitions must be held near **mud**! The tug of war rope was positioned along the drainage ditch and at its center was the mound of deliberate **mud** prepared from a truckload of dirt given a 12-hour soaking by a lawn sprinkler. Teams took their positions along the

continued on page 7



Row 1: Benjamin Rhoads, Xiomara Robinson, John Perna, Rebecca Rivera, Dale Acevedo, Sara Davidson, Bernard Criscenzo, Megan Biswurm, Ryan Siss, Philomena Mazza-Hilway, Jenna Schwartz;
Row 2: Katelyn Brown, Michael Steenstra, Ashley Anderson, Stephen Stewart, Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee, Brian Lonagan, Jillian Berry, Marc Bloom, Kelli Bollen, Jillian Gallagher, Lisa Breur, Jennifer Zicherman, John Nyman, Jaclyn Veenstra, James Abma, Kristin Dykhouse, Daniel Danza; **Row 3:** Alison Troast, David Nelson, Dominique Dreher, Eric Martin, Elyse DeJong, Philip Beverly, Ashley Westra, Brian Knorr, Jenna Hulsebos, Stephanie Siegel, Jonathan Henderson, Susana Lopez, Robert Struck; **Row 4:** Joshua Castro, Taylor Maneri, Michael Postma, Jonathan Cheresnick, Suzanne Tarta, Matthew O'Koren, Drew Kuipers, Melissa Pruiksma, Michael Alsum, Christine Engelsdorfer, William Hollis, Elisabeth Scarpa, Michael Biele, Rebecca Lindemulder, Michael Kraai, Kristina Barbuto, Amy Hutton; **Row 5:** Shannon Sietsma, Mary Duffy, Deona Petito, Sarah Stadtlander, Katie Martin, Kristen Groenewal, Meghan Van Hine, Lauren DeJong, Annette Kuperus, Marina Burachek, Sharon Jackson, Christie Tenewitz, Melanie Susen, Kelley Greenfield **Row 6:** Jared Van Denend, Joshua Stadtlander, Samuel Dykstra, Brian Vogel, Sean Tanner, Daniel Wesdyk, Daryl Leegwater, Justin Boling, Timothy McHugh, John Van Buiten, Matthew Milkamp, Arthur Vooyoys; **Not pictured:** Kenny Brand, Jae Hyun Cho, Sara Choi, Chris Darmstatter, Young Gyu Gweon, Ka Young Kim, Nick Kwon, Jerrell Rollins, Tara Wharwood, and Chloe-Mourai Whitaker.

Your Dream or God's Dream?

Excerpts from ECHS Graduation Speech | BY KRISTIN WILLIS, SENIOR CLASS DEAN

I am very honored to be here tonight. I started here at Eastern Christian when this class entered their freshman year.... Graduates, over the past four years I have been amazed at the leadership you have shown and the care you have for one another. Your class not only helps each other out when a classmate is in need, but you hold each other accountable for your actions. As your Class Dean, I was able to get to know many of you on a more personal level and started to feel like a proud parent when I saw you use your gifts and disappointed when I didn't see you putting out your best effort. Parents, the members of this class strive to be their best, and each uses their unique gifts to work together. I was able to be here for the Christmas Festival and witnessed this class at its best. There was a sense of excitement and pride. As EC students, you have shown over the past four years the ability to work hard, but have fun at the same time. I really enjoyed my time here working with you and am eager to see what God does for all of you in the future. **Today I want to challenge you to find your dream.**

If you had me as a psychology teacher, then you were asked to write a letter to yourself about where you would like to be in ten years. I have those letters and am planning to send them to you in ten years. If I had written a letter like that when I was a senior I would be opening my letter today.... If I were to ask *you* what your dream is for your life, would you be able to answer that? Some of you could and some of you couldn't. **But let's replace the word 'dream' and use 'will' instead.** There is a difference between pursuing your will for your life and God's will for you. How many times have you heard the phrase "Trust your heart?" It is a good philosophy, but if that phrase is what we based our decisions on, then we would miss out on some great

opportunities for our lives. If I trusted my heart when I was deciding to take the job here, then I would have never accepted it. My heart was telling me, No way – this isn't what you wanted for your life. This wasn't my will. John Calvin states, ***'It is no small profit to be robbed of our blind self-love so that we become fully aware of our weakness; to have such an understanding of our weakness that we distrust ourselves to such an extent that we put all our trust in God'....***

You all are about to start a very important stage in your life. You have a decision to make. **You can define life by feeling and interpretation, or you can live as Christ teaches by dying to the self-centeredness that blinds us and following the God who sees all.**

"...I challenge you to make the decision to no longer seek out what is pleasurable, but what is right. This isn't a one-time decision. You will constantly be faced with the choice of following your will or God's will. Aren't you glad that we cannot predict the future by writing a letter to ourselves? You are all about to start such an exciting time in your life. I know God will surprise you and reward you when you choose Him. Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) says, ***'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'***"

Go to www.easternchristian.org for the full version.



ECHS Graduation Speaker Kristin Willis

CHAPEL: A Time of Worship & Spiritual Growth

BY 2005 YEARBOOK STAFF WRITERS

One can see where the true spirit of Eastern Christian lies every Thursday morning in Chapel. Students worship God in fresh, unique ways every week. Whether it is through different ethnic styles of music, performances of dance and sign language, or thoughtful skits, students express their love

for their Creator with vigor. Under the watchful leadership of Mr. Culp, the *Bible and Worship* class manages to coordinate an enriching and thought-provoking display of spiritual enlightenment every week, which shows through in the positive reception from all who attend.

Specifically, this year there were several chapels

run by classes. The students' thorough involvement in creating the chapels and leading them aided their peers' ability to relate to the topic. There was a dramatic change in student involvement and openness from the Harvey Cedars Retreat in September to the end of the year. Worship was diverse and innovative week after week as students anticipated the forty-minute, school-wide devotional time. There were also many speakers, and their stories created an impact on student's opinions, beliefs, and morals.

Chapel is representative of Eastern Christian's mission to help its students reach maturity, both emotionally and spiritually, and it's gaining momentum, week by week. Upon graduating from Eastern Christian High School, the goal is not only to walk away stocked full of memories, but also to be dramatically impacted through spiritual growth from the past experiences. Hopefully, all will achieve this goal with aid from designated Chapel time.



Senior Tim McHugh and Teacher Ji Young Kim lead the students in singing during chapel worship time.



Bible & Worship Class member John Van Buiten shares a Bible passage which is central to the chapel's theme.

ECHS Graduate Awards & Honors

NATIONAL / STATE RECOGNITIONS

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

Katelyn Brown	Alison Troast
Christie Tenewitz	Rebecca Rivera
Kelley Greenfield	Ashley Westra

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars:

Sean Tanner	Alison Troast
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Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Merit for Excellence:

Rebecca Rivera

American Scholastic Mathematics Association Highest Score for EC Math Club:

EunHo Choi

President's Education Awards

Kristina Barbuto	Philomena Mazza-Hilway
Philip Beverly	Matthew Milkamp
Megan Biswurm	Matthew O'Koren
Lisa Breur	Deona Petito
Katelyn Brown	Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee
Joshua Castro	Rebecca Rivera
Jonathan Cheresnick	Elisabeth Scarpa
Lauren DeJong	Stephanie Siegel
Samuel Dykstra	Sean Tanner
Kelley Greenfield	Suzanne Tarta
Jenna Hulsebos	Christie Tenewitz
Ka-Young Kim	Alison Troast
Brian Knorr	John Van Buiten
Rebecca Lindemulder	Ashley Westra
Eric Martin	

PART II: "A Coast-to-Coast Partnership In The Arts"

BY ECHS MUSIC TEACHER MEGHANN PERSENAIRE



Ripon Christian's KnightSounds singing with ECHS Chamber Singers

"A Coast-to-Coast Partnership In The Arts" culminated in Ripon, California March 17-21, 2005. Eastern Christian teachers **Meghann Persenaire** and **Stacy Wieringa** and **Mari Schuller** from Ripon Christian School coordinated the events of the second year in a two-year partnership, a partnership that facilitated unique communications between students.

Art students and members of Eastern Christian School's Chamber Singers departed on Thursday, March 17. Upon their arrival in Ripon, California, art students immediately taught an art lesson to first grade students at Ripon Christian Elementary School. Chamber Singers led a chapel at Ripon Christian High School, and students from both schools traveled to Columbia State Park following the chapel. The second day was concluded by an outstanding concert and art show in Ripon Christian's new performing arts center. Saturday provided an opportunity for students and parents from both schools to interact in San Francisco, California, where students and parents toured Alcatraz, Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39. Chamber Singers concluded the partnership by leading a worship service at Escalon Christian Reformed Church in Escalon, California.

The town of Ripon is set in California's San Joaquin Valley, a valley known for its agriculture. Students from Eastern Christian stayed with host families from Ripon Christian, and many had the opportunity to stay on a farm for the first time--a new and memorable experience! The learning that took place went far beyond the technical details of art and vocal music skills. The "Arts Partnership" opened doors to new learning and new friendships.

STUDENTS' COMMENTS AND REACTIONS

Kristen Groenewal: "California was a great learning experience in many different ways. Getting up at 3 a.m. and staying up until 2 a.m. was an experience in itself. Being with friends and even with people you don't normally hang out with for that period of time brings you closer together. It builds a bond that I think has strengthened our choir even making us sing better together. Some of us had our first experience seeing almond orchards, and I can honestly say that I have never seen that many pick-up trucks in my life. Life's pace quickly slowed down in California, compared to New Jersey, and it was nice. I had an awesome time meeting new people who accepted us. It was easy to have fun and praise God through it."



Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship – **Josh Stadlander!** **Mrs Janet Braen** came to ECHS to present the check to Josh personally as part of the Braen family's commitment to "give back some of what God has given them.." On behalf of EC, **Principal Jan Lucas** expressed appreciation for the support of Braen Stone Industries to help Josh achieve his academic goals.

PARTNERSHIP IN THE ARTS

John Van Buiten: “My role in going to California was to be the accompanist for Chamber Singers. I got a perspective that not many others saw during our trip. My responsibilities included playing the piano during the rehearsals and concerts and playing the organ prelude during the church service at Escalon Christian Reformed Church. Our trip to San Francisco was incredible. We got to see Golden Gate Park, Alcatraz, and Pier 39. Some of the sights also served to provide a context for our US History II class, as we had been studying the Civil Rights movement. I enjoyed our trip and hope we will continue our partnership with Ripon Christian School.”

Dominic Rivera: “I remember looking forward to the California trip since the day after the Ripon choir left a year ago. The time finally came to go and I was psyched. We arrived in San Francisco and then the school. I saw familiar faces when we met with the students of Ripon Christian, and I knew it would be a fun time. The students were very nice and unselfish with us. My friend Andrew Hulsebos stayed with me in a hospitable home with a sophomore guy named Darren. Overall the trip was worthwhile and the singing experience was amazing. Their new Performing Arts Center complimented the sound, and I am sad that it is over now.”

Suzanne Tarta: “All of our expectations were surpassed. My friend Jaci and I stayed with the most amazing host family, the Vis’s. Their family welcomed us with open arms. It was such an incredible experience. It was remarkable how comfortable we felt in our very different, strange environment. We had the opportunity to stay on a walnut orchard, surrounded by wine vineyards and almond orchards. We formed new friendships as we sang as one united choir, ate together, and basically spent every waking moment with fellow Christians from across the country. I’m very thankful for this opportunity and I will cherish it. Thank you EC and all who participated and helped make this a successful life-learning experience.”

MUD AND GLORY STRENGTH *continued from page 4*

rope, gradually increasing the rope’s tension as they prepared for the official to drop the flag starting the game. Each game ended as the losing team was dragged through the **mud** by their victors.

The most amazing consequence of the tug of war competitions was that legs and arms and, occasionally, whole bodies covered in **mud** became badges of honor for students who were on losing teams. The **mud** became celebrative ooze at a school picnic where it was obvious that students really enjoy playing together. Very significant community building occurred during that afternoon—a gift from the Class of 2005 and a legacy for the underclass members characterized by lots of messy fun! Yes, it was worth the two days following that it took for custodians to clean the school after students returned for afternoon classes!

Having explained the significance of the **mud** to the crowd, Principal Lucas says, “Hold that tug-of-war thought for just a moment as I read part of the faculty’s final encouragement to this class from Eugene Peterson’s *The Message* as printed in your program:

*We pray that you will have the strength to stick it out over
the long haul,
Not the grim strength of gritting your teeth,
But the glory strength God gives.”*

It wasn’t the gritting of teeth that accompanied those grueling competitions of the tug of war that was important. Rather it was the “**glory strength**” in the production of the picnic as demonstrated in the **mud** celebration that resulted in significant community building. God was indeed glorified through it!

Finally, the Principal moved on to the diploma ceremony. Following his reading of each name, Board President Rich Kuder presented the diploma as senior class sponsors shared a personal example of a specific “**glory strength**” demonstrated by each member of the Class of 2005. It quickly becomes obvious to all in attendance that this graduating class understands the significance of community and knows how to build it! We praise God for each of you!

**ECHS Graduate Awards & Honors
SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS
GIVEN BY ECHS**

Art Department Award:

Jonathan Cheresnick

Bible & Life Award:

Joshua Stadtlander

Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship:

Lauren De Jong

English Department Award:

Philomena Mazza-Hilway

French Language Award:

Megan Biswurm	Alison Troast
Joshua Castro	Ashley Westra
Sara Davidson	Chloe-Mourai Whitaker
Rebecca Lindemulder	

Harold Phillips Vocational Scholarship:

Brian Vogel

High School Faculty Award:

Philip Beverly	Lauren De Jong
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Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award:

Elisabeth Scarpa

Mathematics Award:

Ashley Westra

Music Department Awards:

Philip Beverly	Christine Engelsdorfer
Daniel Danza	John Van Buiten

Presidential Freedom Award:

Lisa Breur

Richard J. Vander Plaat Service Award:

Lisa Breur

R. Bruce Van Hine First Responders Award:

Lisa Breur

Science Award:

Sean Tanner

Spanish Award:

Kelley Greenfield	Alison Troast
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Stringer Nursing Scholarship:

Lauren De Jong	Kelley Greenfield
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Technology Department Award:

Taylor Maneri	Daniel Wesdyk
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Theater Award:

Lauren De Jong

Post Graduation Plans – Class of 2005

James Alan Abma SUNY Cobleskill, NY	Kelley Elise Greenfield The College of New Jersey, NJ	Melissa Danielle Pruiksm Capri Institute, NJ
Dale Alexander Acevedo Westchester Community College, NY	Kristen Lee Groenewal Calvin College, MI	Kathryn Kerri Ratcliffe-Lee Rutgers, The State University of NJ
Michael George Alsum Calvin College, MI	Young-gyu Gweon University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	Benjamin Sanders Rhoads Liberty University, VA
Ashley LaRae Anderson Philadelphia University	Jonathan Richard Henderson William Paterson University, NJ	Rebecca Christina Rivera Philadelphia University, PA
Kristina Mary Swenson Barbuto University of Vermont, VT	William Henry Hollis II Art Institute of Pittsburgh, PA	Xiomara Nicole Robinson Ramapo College of New Jersey
Jillian Patricia Berry Bergen Community College, NJ	Jenna Nicole Hulsebos Calvin College, MI	Jerrell Ka'Wan Rollins No Information Provided
Philip Aaron Beverly Calvin College, MI	Amy Leigh Hutton North Park University, IL	Elisabeth Amy Scarpa Gordon College, MA
Michael Arthur Biele Houghton College, NY	Sharon Elizabeth Jackson University of Akron, OH	Jenna Lee Schwartz Endicott College, MA
Megan Suzanne Biswurm Baylor University, TX	Eunchong Joo No Information Provided	Stephanie Marissa Siegel Muhlenberg College, PA
Marc Andrew Bloom Southeastern College, FL	Ka-Young Kim Mount Holyoke College, MA	Shannon Elizabeth Sietsma Bergen Community, NJ
Justin Jody Boling Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ	Brian Mark Knorr Ramapo College of New Jersey	Ryan William Siss Nyack College, NY
Kelli Ann Bollen No Information Provided	Michael Edwin Kraai Calvin College, MI	Joshua Gary Stadlander Liberty University, VA
Kenneth Scott Brand Work	Drew Anne Kuipers Nyack College, NY	Sarah Marie Stadlander Liberty University, VA
Lisa Marie Breur King's College, PA	Annette Kuperus Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ	Michael Daniel Steenstra Calvin College, MI
Katelyn Elizabeth Brown Point Loma Nazarene University, CA	YongHwan Kwon University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	Stephen Michael Stewart No Information Provided
Marina Burachek Manhattanville College, NY	Daryl Leegwater Nyack College, NY	Robert William Struck No Information Provided
Joshua Emanuel Castro Penn State University	Rebecca Ada Frances Lindemulder Manhattan College, NY	Melanie Ann Susen Nyack College, NY
Jonathan Michael Cheresnick Allegheny College, PA	Brian William Lonagan County College of Morris	Sean Burgess Tanner New Jersey Institute of Technology
JaeHyun Cho Penn State University, PA	Susana López Middlesex County College, NJ	Suzanne Alexander Tart Baylor University, TX
EunHo Choi University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	Jennifer Ann Lynch Ohio State University, OH	Christie Lee Tenewitz Gordon College, MA
Yeji Choi Parson's School of Design, NY	Taylor Alan Maneri Johnson & Wales University, RI	Alison Marie Troast Calvin College, MI
Bernard William Criscenzo Nyack College, NY	Eric John Martin Calvin College, MI	John Michael Van Buiten Calvin College, MI
Daniel Joseph Danza Ramapo College of New Jersey	Katie Lynn Martin Berdan Institute, NJ	Jared Scott Van Denend Elon University, NC
Christopher John Darmstadter Work	Philomena Angelina Mazza-Hilway Bard College, NY	Meghan Joy Van Hine Messiah College, PA
Sara Melissa Davidson William Paterson University, NJ	Timothy James McHugh William Paterson University, NJ	Jaclyn Patricia Veenstra Calvin College, MI
Elyse Joy De Jong Messiah College, PA	Matthew John Milkamp William Paterson University, NJ	Brian Scott Vogel Lincoln Technical Institute, NJ
Lauren Michelle De Jong The College of New Jersey, NJ	David Andrew Nelson Concordia College, NY	Arthur Bradley Voors Coastal Carolina University, SC
Dominique Jill Dreher Eastern University, PA	John Daniel Peter Nyman Passaic Cty. Community College, NJ	Daniel Jacob Wesdyk Nyack College, NY
Mary Kathleen Duffy Eastern University, PA	Matthew Stephen O'Koren Bard College, NY	Ashley Marie Westra Grove City College, PA
Kristin Joy Dykhous Eastern University, PA	John Michael Perna William Paterson University, NJ	Tara-Ann Louise Wharwood County College of Morris, NJ
Samuel Kuiper Dykstra Fordham University, NY	Deona Petito Kean University, NJ	Chloe-Mourai Whitaker Art Institute of Seattle, WA
Christine Louise Engelsdorfer Liberty University, VA	Michael Paul Postma Messiah College, PA	Hyung Min Yoo Purdue University, IN
Jillian Megan Gallagher Eastern University, PA		Jennifer Ann Zicherman Rutgers, The State University of NJ

Local Newspaper Highlights EC Graduation

The following is an excerpt from *The Record* newspaper's short series based on specific questions about local high school graduations, which appeared in June, 2005:

"EASTERN CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, NORTH HALEDON

- Commencement: Wednesday, June 15 at 7pm
- 2005 graduates: 98
- Valedictorian: **Ashley Westra**, who will attend Grove City College
- Graduates going on to college: 80% will attend four-year schools and 10 % will go on to two-year schools.
- High School Web Address: www.easternchristian.org

CLASS OF '05 FACTS:

- The seniors were instrumental in raising \$10,000 for victims of the December tsunami
- **Melanie Susan** earned 12 varsity letters for participating in sports every season – soccer, basketball, softball.
- The senior class won more than \$1.9 million in scholarship money for college

SCHOOL OF THOUGHT:

Elisabeth Scarpa has played four years of varsity soccer and is a member of National Honor Society and Student Class Council. She also is a part of a student advisory group that works with the principal to implement change within the school. She will attend Gordon College in Massachusetts. *'I am excited about this new point in my life – graduation and leaving for college. But it is also a sad time leaving behind the place that I have belonged to for so long. I have really enjoyed my time in high school. I have built meaningful and lasting relationships with both friends and teachers here. My senior year especially has been a time of growth, excitement and learning for me. It has been a great four years, yet I look forward to what is in store for me in college.'*

2005 Yearbook – "Introduction to the Faculty & Staff Pages"

AN EXAMPLE OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EC STUDENTS AND EC TEACHERS

Written by a Yearbook Staff Member

"Sometimes they [teachers] strike fear into our hearts, like when a monstrous Humanities midterm is handed out. Sometimes they make us laugh, like when Mr. Steen dons his "camo" [camouflage to set the scene for his infamous "Web Wars" in the halls of the school], or when Doc Wilson hoists a table leg over his head [to make a point during class.] But whichever pursuit they devote their time to, the faculty and staff at Eastern Christian are always making sure that the best education possible is given. Whether it be actually teaching a class, staying after to help a student understand, making sure the school is clean, keeping us healthy, or helping the school run smoothly, each member of the faculty and staff contributes something important.

They work behind the face to keep the clock ticking. [Editor's Note: The cover of this yearbook showed a clock face opening with the title 'Not Just a Face'] The faculty at Eastern Christian is the very definition of digging behind the scenes. At no other school will you find teachers that are so involved in the lives of their students, and who genuinely care about their future in a crazy technological world. The EC faculty does not keep itself aloof from the dealings of the young masses. Rather, they engage us, building relationships that encourage emotional development, and a much more interactive and personal atmosphere in the classroom. EC is a very different school, where students and teachers alike savor the knowledge that they are all part of the fellowship of Christ, and that everyone can learn from each other. **Therefore, the students are here for the teachers just as much as the teachers are here for the students."**

EC HS Trip to England/Ireland

AS REPORTED BY JUNIOR KRISTA MUZIKOWSKI IN THE 2005 YEARBOOK

"This year a group of sixteen students traveled to England and Ireland over spring break. For many of us, it was the first time we had ever been overseas—for some the first time on an airplane! It began in a whirlwind, as we lost a night of sleep, arriving in London at 8:30 in the morning. Although a little jet lagged, we were excited to begin, and spent the first few days in the city of London. During those first days, we visited some of the famous tourist attractions such as Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Trafalgar Square. We even caught a glimpse of the queen as she was driven to Buckingham Palace in her car.

One of our day excursions brought us to the historic town of Canterbury, where we toured Canterbury Cathedral (famously used in *Canterbury Tales*). We visited the old Roman City of Bath where we spent the day touring the city. We were privileged to have a professional instructor teach us the art of 'Morris Dancing,' which required a lot of coordination and some props. Although we had a great time learning, I think our group (and our instructor) would agree that none of us have a future in Morris Dancing!

Next we took the ferry from England to Ireland. Although we were greeted by some rainy weather, it didn't dampen our spirits. There our group spent some free time walking through the capital city of Dublin, touring Trinity College and attending a Good Friday service in St. Patrick's Cathedral. We also visited the Rock of Cashel and Dublin Castle. One highlight was the visit to Blarney Castle, home of the famous Blarney Stone, which according to an old Irish legend will give the gift of eloquence to those who kiss it. We climbed the narrow spiral staircase to the top of the tower, where most of us bravely leaned over the edge to kiss the stone.

For all of us, the trip to England and Ireland was one we will not soon forget. The towering cathedrals and beautiful castles along with the other sights left a lasting impression on all of us. We came home with new friends, unforgettable memories, and a new appreciation for a different culture and lifestyle. The sponsors for the trip were EC teachers **Agnes Fisher** (art and humanities) and the **Rev. Mark Lucas** (Latin, orchestra and EC photographer)."

EC HS Trip to France

Excerpted from the 2005 EC HS Yearbook

(Editor's Note: Another group of EC students traveled to France and submitted this report.)

"Stepping off the plane in Paris, we arrived tired but full of anticipation of the fun to come. The first three days of our trip we spent walking around in Paris and visiting many of the well-known attractions. Some of the highlights included climbing la Tour Eiffel, walking through Notre Dame, seeing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre, and taking a train ride to visit the Chateau and Gardens of Versailles.

After Paris, we took the French bullet train south to Avignon, a beautiful fortified medieval city that included the Palace of the Popes. On the way, we stopped briefly at Nimes to admire its ancient Roman architecture. We began the next day in another provincial village, Roussillon, where we were able to climb through its beautiful ochre cliffs. That night, we went to a farm and took a French cuisine class, where we cooked our own dinner.

We then moved on to Cassis, an old fisherman's town, where we took a boat ride in the Mediterranean. Another exciting experience occurred when we went to Grasse, the center of France's perfume production. We learned how perfume is created and then were able to create our own scents. That had interesting results. The large city of Nice, located along the Mediterranean Sea, marked the end of our trip.

Before we knew it, our trip was over, but the memories of our great experience will last forever. The sponsors for the trip were EC teachers **Joel Apol** (social studies) and **Manny Lindemulder** (French, Spanish and German)."

EC HS Photo Gallery

EC TRIG-STAR



Dan Hoch has won the designation of 2004/2005 TRIG-STAR for Eastern Christian High School in a competition held this spring. He is the son of Jane Saxton and Dan Hoch from West Milford, NJ, and is pictured with Math Club Sponsor Deb Andrews. The contest was sponsored by the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors. A TRIG-STAR is a mathematics student who has demonstrated in competition that they are the most skilled among classmates in the practical application of trigonometry. The competition for the honor is simply a timed exercise, which is the solving of a trigonometry problem that incorporates the use of right triangle formulas, the law of sines, and the law of cosines. The contest helps to promote careers in surveying and mapping to students at high schools across the country. The award is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors and co-sponsored locally. More than 160 students from 11 New Jersey schools participated this year. Local winners also have the opportunity to participate in the National TRIG-STAR competition for scholarship awards.

EC Jazz Band



Pictured (L to R) are several members of the EC HS Jazz Band: **Brielle Ocot**, **Dan Danza**, **Sharon Jackson**, **Jared Van Denend**, **Tom Henion**, **Dan Pecoraro** and **Doug Wessel**. They displayed their musical talents at the EC HS Jazz Band Shindig held on Friday, June 3 in the cafeteria. Teacher **Sharon Augsburger** served as their encouraging sponsor. Not pictured: Jazz Band members **Dave Henion** and **Paul Bruinooge**.

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

EC Middle School Graduation - June 16, 2005 | BY ECMS LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER JOYCE BREUR

As the army of eighth graders marched in to *Pomp and Circumstance*, there was much excitement and anticipation of the evening. Each student took his or her place on the new risers, a much-appreciated anonymous donation to ECMS. One of the eighth grade teachers, **Dr. Terry Allen**, opened with prayer, and Salutatorian **Danielle Melfi**, welcomed everyone. Danielle shared some of her EC Middle School experiences, acknowledged the class's growth in many ways, and encouraged her classmates toward the new chapter they would be entering in their lives.

Graduate **Stephanie Jacobs** sang to God's glory, “*Imagine Me Without You*,” and then **Principal Florence Nieuwenhuis** presented the academic awards. Mrs. Nieuwenhuis honored the class for their caring, cooperative, and enthusiastic spirit and commended them for their 828 hours (or more than five months) of Christian Service. In addition, she recognized their academic gifts by stating that the Class of 2005 scored better than 98% of the schools in the nation on their IOWA standardized tests, and that one third of the graduates had earned the prestigious President's Award for Educational Excellence.

Principal Nieuwenhuis then presented the Salutatorian award to **Danielle Melfi**, and the Valedictorian award to **Justin Tyvoll**, students who “represent the heart of Eastern Christian Middle School.” In Justin Tyvoll's address, he likened the class to “a community, a city, an army. We have become comrades and true friends through our accomplishments as a group, just as soldiers bind together through their victories in combat.” Justin acknowl-



Salutatorian **Danielle Melfi** offers the welcome and opening remarks.

edged the *heart* of the soldiers as well, such as ministering through visits to Dawn Treader School, hosting the Eighth Grade Pancake Luncheon, along with other positive uses of their gifts, which “has balanced us out to form a true union.” Like a true army, there are “many varied successes that have highlighted our own differences...which have strengthened the bonds between us, knowing that each of us has eccentric and unique gifts and qualities.” Many fond memories were formed at ECMS such as Spruce Lake Retreats, sugar-packed fun on the Philadelphia trip, jokes about Mr. Allen's need to “save the rainforests,” Mrs. Tyvoll's and Mrs. Breur's classes playing tricks on one another, and finally, the bronze statues on the Philly trip.

It was these statues, the bronze heroes of our nation, that Justin reflected upon.

“Many of us have ambitions and desires to reach as far as these ‘heroes’ did...yet we must face the fact that few of us, if any, will rise to such high standings as those great men. Jesus is saying in the Sermon on the Mount, that we should not focus on worldly things, such as fame, power, and importance, but upon heavenly things.” Justin concluded by saying, “God has his own hall of bronze statues, and there is a figure of every-one of you in it. And the plaques that accompany the statues do not list your achievements; instead, they say, ‘This is My creation, the joy of My heart. Well done, my good and faithful servant.’”

Graduate **Julie Sohn** then performed a beautiful piano solo of the classical piece, *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum*. This was a bridge into the commencement address by Bible teacher and mother of Valedictorian, **Mrs. Betsy Tyvoll**. While Justin focused on an army of graduates and their acts while in service, Mrs. Tyvoll focused on blessings and peace for these warriors of Christ. She



Valedictorian **Justin Tyvoll**



ECMS Graduation Speaker & Bible Teacher **Betsy Tyvoll**

Joyce Schoonejongen's Retirement Announced

Principal Florence Nieuwenhuis: “Before we join in singing ‘May the Mind of Christ Our Savior’ at this graduation ceremony, I would like to publicly acknowledge one of our dear teachers who is retiring after serving her Lord for the past 43 years at Eastern Christian. **Ms. Joyce Schoonejongen**, may I ask you to please stand? Tonight we, as a community, wish to extend our appreciation for your dedication to Christian education. Thank you for teaching our students to see God's hand in everything, including math, for your hard work both in the classroom and at home preparing lessons and grading never-ending papers. Thank you so much for a job well done! May God continue to bless you in your new home and surroundings as you move to Michigan this fall.”

admonished the class to remember that they are the salt and the light, to keep up a private prayer life, to do acts of kindness quietly, and to be a blessing to others. Mrs. Tyvoll reminded the class of Aaron's blessing to the Israelites, which is found in the Book of Numbers:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace."

She then presented each student with replicas of the two amulets that bore this blessing. These necklaces--made by **Mrs. Faber** and her father **Mr. Zuidema**, **Ms. Leentjes**, and **Mrs. Tyvoll**--would serve as a reminder to the students to carry this blessing in their souls. Mrs. Tyvoll finished her address by requesting the graduates to rise. The ECMS faculty and staff came forward to serve as priests to their students one last time as they, with outstretched arms, poured out God's blessing and protection upon the graduates.

As a tribute to our King, the graduating class sang the song "Amazing Love," a musical arrangement composed by graduate **Dan Bruinooge** and accompanied by Dan and the ECMS Praise Band. Mrs. Nieuwenhuis then presented the graduates to the official ECSA representatives and to the audience. **Thomas Henion**, Vice-President of the ECSA Board of Directors, presented each graduate with a diploma. The impressive ceremony closed with ECSA Chief School Administrator **Kurt Kaboth** offering closing remarks and prayer before the happy middle school graduates marched out of the gym and into their future as high school students.



The faculty and staff came forward to bless the 8th grade graduates.



Andrew Abadeer, Brian Sietsma, and Steven Sagona were part of the 8th Grade Praise Team who led the graduates in singing the class song "Amazing Love."



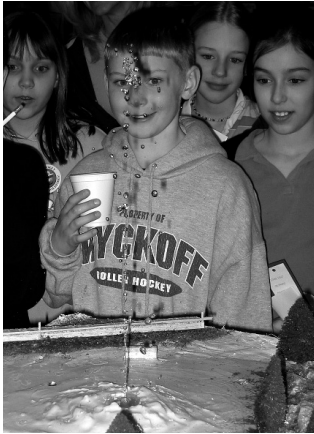
The ECMS Class of 2005

Row 1: Anthony Panzica, Abbey Woodfin, Steven Sagona, Ashley Ronco, Jonathan Mas, Carolina Gonzalez, Zachary Veenstra, Julie Sohn, Ethan Holly; **Row 2:** Jason Lane, Joshua Abma, Alexandra Van Buiten, Daniel Bruinooge, Amy Raisner, Devron Meenen, Sandra Hagedorn, Brian Van Der Heide, Dottie Rhoads, Zacharie Westra, Justin Tyvoll; **Row 3:** Koo Dal Kweon, Kelly Keil, Kyle Lorentz, Stephanie Jacobs, Matthew Touw, Schuyler Sietsma, Nathan Bruins, Jaclyn Woudenberg, Steven Bushoven, Danielle Melfi, Jonathan Beggs, Holly Choi; **Row 4:** Andrew Abadeer, Cori Leegwater, Scott Genzink, Jesse Fritsch, Devon De Jong, Brianna Martin, Matthew Boonstra, Amber Fiedler, Joshua Tanis, Da In Lee, Jeremy Stevens, Taylor Ocot, Kevin Reid, So Young Lee; **Row 5:** Nicole Veenstra, James Greco, Tracy Vanden Berg, Arthur Hoogmoed, Allison Faber, Robert Buis, Lauren Spoelstra, Austin Bullock, Cassandra Versnel, Dae Yong Park, Cheryl Bogertman, Brian Sietsma, Katie Burke; **Row 6:** Michelle Okma, Kendall Everett, Kelly Ten Eyck, Ryan Hah, Michelle Van Lenten, Justin Van Grouw, Arrielle Dreher, Kenneth Kruis, Debora Vogel, Keith Van Dyke, Steffanie Boonstra, Sean Hagedoorn, Rachel Kuder **Not pictured:** Brian Jang and Ji Min Park

ECMS

National Park Fair

BY ECMS SCIENCE TEACHER EVERETT HENDERSON



Fifth graders **Natalie Rhoads, Jake Pruiksma, Larrisa Ottens, and Abigail Troast** are enjoying the National Park fair by witnessing the eruption of a geyser built by **Ben Stout**.

Who: Sixth Grade students
What: National Park Fair
When: March 17, 2005
Where: ECMS Gymnasium

What is a National Park? The United States Congress created the first national park, Yellowstone, in 1872. The idea for national parks has spread worldwide ever since that day more than 133 years ago. Today, there are more than 60 national parks in the United States. Millions of people from all over the world visit America's national parks. In a project involving Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies, students researched and organized information which culminated in a presentation displaying the wonders of God's creation. Students learned about the



Ranger Kevin Drake and Smokey the Bear from the NJ Forest Fire Service added authenticity to the fair. They handed out literature, stickers, and spoke with the sixth graders about fire prevention. **Wayne Vriesema**, husband of ECMS staff member **Maribeth Vriesema**, designed and constructed the scenery and other volunteers gave a hand where needed.

history, ecology, geology, and other relevant information of the specific park they studied. During the fair, students made presentations to visitors to persuade them to visit the park. Some students provided food samples which related to the park. Some built models such as a Joshua Tree or a geyser. In all, forty parks were represented. *Have you ever been to a national park?*



Stephanie Jacobs sings with confidence.



Concentration is "key" for **Ameer Halim**.

Students Share Talents at Fine Arts Festival

The Annual ECMS Fine Arts Festival was held in April, showcasing the various talents of our students. The competitions included two Bible Bees on Monday, a Vocal competition on Tuesday, two Spelling Bees on Wednesday, an Instrumental competition on Thursday, and finally on Friday there was a time to share talents in Creative Movement, Oral Presentation and Skits. Parents and friends were invited to enjoy seeing how God has blessed our students with many special abilities.



Amanda Touw and Jessica Hoogerhyde mirror one another.

Dara Veenstra waits patiently while **Jacob Vander Wiele** spells his word.

ECMS Career Day

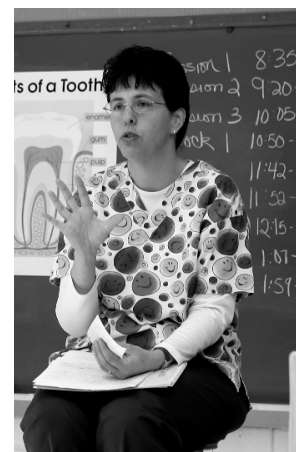
This Spring ECMS students had the opportunity to hear from people in 40 different professions as they participated in Career Day. Parents, alumni, and other friends of EC from areas as diverse as the arts, media, medicine, education, the legal profession, law enforcement, ministry, counseling, construction, design, math, science, and technology shared information with students about their work. We are grateful to all who gave of their time and talent for this special event.



Cl. of '75 member **Joanne (Martin) Kukol** (center) talked to students about her design work, including the EC Cross logo. Also pictured are: (L to R) **Nick Gallo**, **Nate Leentjes**, Teacher **Beverly TenKate**, and **Sarah Postma**.



Students had a lot of questions for policeman **John E. King, Jr.** (Cl. of '97).



Laura (Hoogerhyde) Lotz (Cl. of '80) explained the work of a dental hygienist.

FUN at Field Day



Many Middle School students took part in relay races on Field Day.



Brandon Steiginga being timed for jump roping.



Michael Visbeen (front), **Casey Dykman** (right), and **Jeremy Bongiovanni** (left back) try not to fall during the Potato Sack Race.



Nicole Gorter, **Meghan Jensen**, and **Emily Lotz** get dizzy by spinning around baseball bats in the Dizzy Race.

Math's Importance in the Working World

BY JOYCE SCHOONEJONGEN

Special speakers came to the 5th Grade Math classes this spring to explain how math is a very important part of their jobs. Kitchen designer **Sheri (Vogel) Mulcock** (Cl. of '84), optician **Karen (Kuiken) Troast** (Cl. of '77), **Chuck Shotmeyer**, CFO of Van Dyk Healthcare; and NJ State



Optician **Karen Troast** and her 5th grade daughter **Abigail** demonstrated how to measure lens to be fitted into glasses.

Trooper **James Dunham** helped to enrich the math curriculum by sharing their expertise about the many practical uses of math within the workplace.

The 6th Grade Math students enjoyed a math field trip to Skyline Greenhouses, Inc. in June. Co-owner **Ron Malefyt** (Cl. of '82) explained how he uses math skills for his everyday operations. The students learned how math is needed to count accurately, to water properly and to provide optimal care for plants.

CLASS OF 2005 ATHLETIC AWARDS

WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN AWARD

Female: Katelyn Brown
Male: Phil Beverly

NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

Melanie Susen

ARMY RESERVE/NATIONAL SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Female: Melanie Susen
Male: Sean Tanner

PASSAIC COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SENIOR SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Female: Melanie Susen
Male: Mike Alsum

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT VARSITY CLUB AWARD

Female: Melanie Susen
Male: Mike Alsum

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT IRON EAGLE AWARD

Melanie Susen

NJSIAA SCHOLAR/ATHLETE AWARD

Elisabeth Scarpa

NJSIAA EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

Female: Ashley Westra
Male: Phil Beverly

2005 TORPEDO SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP

Kristen Groenewal



Senior Athletic Award Winners: **Phil Beverly, Melanie Susan, Ashley Westra and Mike Alsum**

Sports Highlights

SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS | BY STEVE KING, ECHS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Steve Sietsma provided some power for the Varsity Baseball Team.

Varsity Softball: Girls Varsity Softball ended the season with a fine 18-8 record. The team started slowly with a 1-3 record. However, a 7-game winning streak turned the season around. The team finished 14-4 in the league and took first place in the division. They also experienced a great County Tournament by upsetting the #1 seed Pompton Lakes before losing in the semi-finals to De Paul.

JV Softball: Despite a 4-12 record, the JV Softball Team proved to be a dedicated and hard-working group of athletes. Their new coach's challenge was to discover each person's strengths and weaknesses and mold the players into a unified team. Even though at that time the team played against several tough teams, their coach concluded that EC players managed to keep their heads high, their hearts in the game, and their pride strong.

Varsity Baseball: The Varsity Baseball team finished at 8-12. This was a very exciting season as the seniors and juniors provided tremendous leadership. Many of the losses were games where the score was very close, and either team could have ended up being the winner.

JV Baseball: With a 9-6-1 record the JV Baseball season was highly successful. The beginning of the season brought many challenges, but that did not prevent the team from putting together a squad that was strong at the bat and the field. The team was led by a core of young players, with everyone encouraging from the field and the bench.

Tennis: The Tennis Team finished with a record of 2-14. This was a very young team with only one senior member. Several key positions were filled by freshmen players. Gaining experience this year holds promise for success in upcoming years.

Golf: Once again our Golf Team experienced a great season at 20-11. The team captured the League Championship, finished 4th in the County Tournament, and 3rd in the State Tournament. Two of the highlights included victories over County Champion Wayne Valley and past champion Wayne Hills.

High School Track: This was a very exciting track season for our Boys and Girls Teams. Both teams stayed in the middle of the standings in the League. The boys finished with a 5-6 record and the girls' record was 4-5. The team also had an outstanding showing at the County Meet and the State Meet. In

continued on page 15

Congratulations!

Sportsmanship Awards: Eastern Christian High School is one of seven schools out of 453 member schools in the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association who has not had a disqualification of an athlete or coach since statistics have been kept beginning in 1991. Of the 7 schools that have been honored, five are all-girls' schools, so ECHS is only 1 out of 2 coed schools to be so honored. Eastern Christian also has received various Sportsmanship Awards over these past years.

Freshman **Emily Karr** was named The Record newspaper's "Athlete of the Week" for May 3, 2005 for her outstanding pitching for the EC Varsity Softball Team.

SPORTS *continued from page 14*

the Parochial B State Track meet, the high school Boys' Team took 7th and the Girls' Team took 9th. The results were:

Brad Tanis: 1st in the 400 Hurdles

Jon Cheresnick: 1st in the Javelin

Tyler Litland: 4th in the Discus

Mary Tolsma: 4th in the 1600, 4th in the 3200

Megan Van Schepen: 3rd in the Javelin

Rebecca Flim: 4th in the Discus

Lauren De Jong: 5th in the high jump, 4th in the Long Jump

COMMENTS ABOUT TRACK FROM ECHS STUDENTS

EXCERPTED FROM THE 2005 YEARBOOK

Boys Track: "...Track has always been a great time for me to be able to work out while socializing. In these past three years I have learned so much not only about jumping form, starts, hurdles, and relays, but also about my teammates. While track can sometimes be stressful (when you are forced to run 4 events in a matter of minutes), you know that **Mr. Apol** will always be waiting with ice cream if you do well. Track is one of the few sports in which you really have to earn your spot on Varsity, not just for how well you can run or throw but your attitude during both practices and meets. I can't wait to see what this season has in store for both the girls and boys track teams." – **Brad Tanis**

Girls Track: "This is my third year of doing track. I love this sport because of the friendships I have made. We all have so much fun at the meets, and encourage each other when we're nervous. Track wouldn't seem like a team sport, but it really is. It would be no fun without all my friends. A nice thing about track is that you can try so many different events and see which ones fit you. Track has its ups and downs, but my friends and the memories I have made it all worth while." – **Mary McGovern**



Mike Alsum, Senior and Second player for Golf Team

SPRING 2005 LEAGUE & COUNTY ATHLETIC AWARDS

BASEBALL

Justin Brennan

First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Dan Wesdyk

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Ben Kuiken

Second Team All League

Dave Kuperus

Honorable Mention All League

GOLF

Sam Dykstra

First Team All League
First Team All County

Mike Alsum

First Team All League
Second Team All County

Justin Dedio

First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Art Vooyes

Second Team All League

Mike Kraai

Honorable Mention All League

TENNIS

Robert Anfang

Second Team All League

Eric Martin

Honorable Mention All League

Joe Veenstra

Honorable Mention All County

Dane Martin

Honorable Mention All County

SOFTBALL

Emily Karr

First Team All League
Second Team All County

Katie Donnelly

First Team All League
First Team All County

Melanie Susen

Second Team All League
Second Team All County

Jamie Dykstra

Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Ashley Jaffres

Honorable Mention All County

Rebecca Rivera

Second Team All League

Shannon Martin

Second Team All League

Tracy Dykstra

Honorable Mention All League

TRACK

Mary Tolsma

First Team All League 1600
Second Team All League 3200
First Team All County 3200

Lauren De Jong

First Team All League High Jump
Honorable Mention All League
Long Jump
Honorable Mention All County
High Jump

Meghan Van Schepen

First Team All League Discus
Second Team All League Shot Put
Honorable Mention All League
Javelin
Honorable Mention All County
Discus

Rebecca Flim Honorable Mention

All League Shot Put
Honorable Mention All League
Discus

Brad Tanis

Honorable Mention All League 400
Second Team All League
400 Hurdles
Second Team All County
400 Hurdles

Matt O'Koren

Honorable Mention All League 800

Steve Bosloper

Honorable Mention All League 3200

Tyler Litland

Honorable Mention All League Discus
Honorable Mention All County Discus

Justin Van Dyke

Honorable Mention All League
Shot Put

Jon Cheresnick

Honorable Mention All League
Javelin
Honorable Mention All County
Javelin

Josh Van Eck

Honorable Mention All League
High Jump



Eric Martin was the lone Senior on the Tennis Team.

Middle School Track Season

This was another successful season for the ECMS Track Teams. According to Athletic Director **Terry Allen**, each team member grew in skill and understanding about events and personal capabilities. The boys finished at 6-1 and the girls at 5-2.

The highlight of the season was the final Ridgewood Invitational where, after competing with 19 other schools, the boys' team took 1st place! Congratulations to our school record-tying or record-breaking performances of **Kendall Everett** (High Jump, Long Jump), **Lauren Spoelstra** (shot put, discus) and the boys 4x100 relay team of **Austin Bullock**, **Sean Hagedoorn**, **Kendall Everett**, and **Brian Sietsma**.

Several 7th and 8th graders showed commendable school spirit and persistence as they made and participated on a school team in each of the three seasons during the school year (Cross country or Soccer, Basketball and Track). Congratulations to the following athletes on this year-long achievement:

7th graders: **Megan Hutton** and **Jamie Van Buiten**

8th graders: **Arrielle Dreher**, **Ashley Ronco**, **Abbey Woodfin** and **Kendall Everett**.

Special Note: **Schuyler Sietsma** and **Brian Sietsma** accomplished this 3-season sports feat for both their 7th and 8th grade years!

ECES Perfect Attendance List

2004-2005

KINDERGARTEN

Devyn Bavagnoli Nicholas Rosendale
Benjamin Boonstra

FIRST GRADE:

David Hefty Kristen Sieverts
Ethan Hoytema Michael Vriesema

SECOND GRADE:

Devin Hulsebos Kaytlynn Knyfd
Perry Jacob Joshua Touw
Mark Jacob Patricia Wolyniec

THIRD GRADE:

Hannah Flim Sarah Mulcock
Carolyn Kosten

FOURTH GRADE:

Renee Braunius Carly Veenstra
Krystal Knyfd

President Bush Responds to Student's Letter

BY VIRGINIA FOLK,
ECES HORIZONS TEACHER

This year all EC Third Grade students enjoyed studying the Iditarod, the "Great Race of Alaska." As part of this multiple intelligence unit which included lessons in writing,



Abby Kuder, holding her letter from President Bush and her dog "Flat Zuma."

math, science, social studies/geography, and the arts, the students were assigned to write friendly letters to people from other states or other parts of the world. One student, **Abby Kuder**, chose to write to President George W. Bush. Like all the students, she included a picture of a race dog, "Flat Zuma," and a request for a reply. President Bush sent her a personal letter telling her that not only did he receive "Flat Zuma," but that "he" was well behaved! The President's letter included information about his pets, Barney, Mrs. Beazley and Willie, plus a picture of the President and Mrs. Bush.

"Make Your Life A Song To God"

Principal Van Yperen's Challenge at the 4th Grade Promotion Chapel



4th Graders played several songs including "Ode to Joy" on their recorders.

Well, this is it! In a few minutes you will be handed a promotion certificate that declares you have successfully completed ECES requirements to move on to middle school. Like others before you, you all will move onward in your lives; and like other years we will remain behind. But we won't forget you, and we look forward to watching you graduate from middle school and then high school.

Personally, I plan to attend your high school graduation. You are a special class for me because we came to school together in September 2000. My desire is to see you through to the end of high school in 2013. The ECES class of 2005 will turn into the ECHS class of 2013. Between now and then there will be much that will happen that will change your appearance and increase your understanding, but I hope you will always remember the basics you learned here in elementary school.

At ECES you have mastered basic skills that will serve you for a lifetime. My prayer is that you will live by the spiritual truths you have learned here. You have hidden God's word in your heart where it can serve you when you face the challenges that are ahead. Each year, in addition to the Bible curriculum verses, you have learned a verse that taught a biblical spiritual truth we hope you never will forget:

Kindergarten – Philippians 2:3

First Grade – Matthew 6:33

Second Grade – 2 Corinthians 5: 9 & Psalm 19:14

Third Grade – Psalm 119:105

Fourth Grade – Psalm 89:1

(At this point groups of fourth grade students stood to recite each of the theme verses.)

Today, I want to finish our 2004 – 2005 theme of "**Sing To the Lord**" by giving you a challenge. Actually, the challenge is in the song we just sang – "Make Your Life A Song To God." As you travel through the stages of life, what will people remember about you?

(At this point several teachers stood to tell of a memory they had of this fourth grade class.)

As you think about your future, you may have some dreams about becoming famous. Some of you may desire to be a musician, an actor, a singer, a missionary, a pastor, a teacher or perhaps a professional athlete.

I have known some very talented people who have become famous. When I was a young boy, Bobby Richardson went to my church. Bobby Richardson played second base for the New York Yankees and was named the MVP of the 1960 World Series. I was so proud that I knew him personally. He was an exceptional athlete on a team of great athletes. Do you know his name?

Perhaps you will recognize another name from that team – Mickey Mantle. If you are a true Yankee fan there are certain players that you have to know, Joe DiMaggio, Babe Ruth, Yogi Berra, Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle are some of those famous names. They are famous because of how great they were. Their names were always in the headlines. They were idolized, and many young boys wanted to grow up to be like Mickey Mantle.

While Mickey Mantle was winning batting titles and hitting homeruns, Bobby Richardson played well enough to become an All Star second baseman. Mickey was famous for his carefree lifestyle and often would make fun of Bobby about his church attendance and his faith in Jesus Christ. Mickey Mantle had it all – popularity, fame, championships, and money. Life for him was

continued on page 18

Surprise! Recognition Chapel Honors Miss Vandenberg

BY PRINCIPAL RICHARD VAN YPEREN

Did you hear about the wonderful surprise the entire student population sprung on **Deb Vandenberg**, our EC Transportation Director? This was no small feat considering the fact that Miss Vandenberg probably knows more about our students and the life of our school than anyone else. And we kept the secret for nine months!

At the end of the school year we had our annual "Recognition Chapel" when we honor a person who contributes significantly to our school. Miss Vandenberg came prepared to give a testimonial for Mrs. Tenewitz, but when she saw *her* family walk in and sit in reserved seating, she began to realize that students had planned the chapel to honor her instead of the school secretary. With a look of total shock on her face, Miss Vandenberg came forward to receive flowers and sit in the rocking chair of honor. Each grade offered tributes in song, testimonials, and gifts.

Deb Vandenberg has been working for Eastern Christian for 22 years. She is a gifted teacher, having taught and coached on both the EC Middle School and High School levels for 16 years. During those teaching years she drove a bus part-time and she continued to drive on a full-time basis over the past six years, becoming Transportation Director three years ago. In her present role, Miss Vandenberg knows every student's name, address and bus route. She writes out all the bus passes and personally rides all the routes to find all the houses. At ECES she volunteers to teach 4th grade math units on checking accounts and the metric system, helps run the St. Jude's Mathathon fundraiser, grading all the math books herself, and volunteers to speak in chapel.

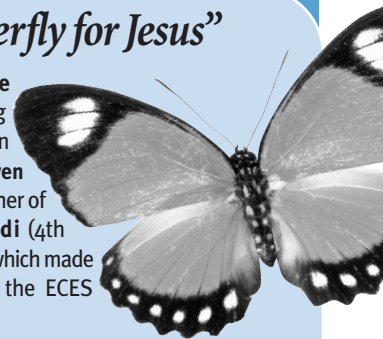
As I witnessed our students celebrate all Miss Vandenberg's contributions to their lives at ECES, I thought about the impact Deb and many others at ECES are having as they model what it means to be self-initiating, reproducing, fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. That cumulative impact of many is precisely why ECES is a special place of blessing.



Principal Dick Van Yperen and ECES students honored Transportation Coordinator **Deb Vandenberg**.

"Be a Butterfly for Jesus"

In tribute to **Miss Alice Koster's** 39 years of teaching a total of 824 Eastern Christian students, **Gwen (Nawyn) Lineweaver**, mother of **Brian** (1st Grade) and **Heidi** (4th Grade) composed a song which made its debut at the end of the ECES Promotion Chapel.



Grade One students sang: "Be a butterfly for Jesus. He wants us to be like an eagle that's soaring so high and so free, to be led where he leads us, to be just as we are. Be a butterfly for Jesus and watch as we grow." During the song, kindergarten children with colorful wings danced down the middle aisle. Touched by the tribute, Miss Koster stood to say, "Children are just like butterflies; each one so beautiful and individual."

Fittingly, the theme of chapel was "Make your life a song to God." Miss Koster has made her professional life a song to God in the service of so many children and families, and at the end of her tenure a song was dedicated to her faithful service and her love for children and butterflies.



Alice Koster (right) with **Principal Dick Van Yperen** and long-term teacher aide **Nancy Simcox** at the Service Awards Dinner (See article in this issue)



The 4th Graders at Spring Lake

2005 Preschool Graduates

Anthony Avila
Ruby Baker
Cole Boonstra
Greta Botbyl
Nicolas Cortes
Matthew D'Amato
Jason DeVries
Amanda Eichmann
Olivia Elsaesser
Gideon Engelhard
Lauren Estes
Hanna Faber
Jessica Faber
Alexandria Ficarro
Emily Fluit
Mark Foster

Noah Hagedoorn
Hannah Hagedorn
Katie Hefty
Brett Johnson
Frankie Jonas
Jeremiah Kaehr
Nicholas Kinahan
Richard Klas
Tyler Klein
Travis Knyfd
Emily Kontos
Matthew Kuiken
Paige Kuipers
Toni La Corte
Megan Leegwater
Cassidy Martin
Zoe McConville
Leah Mercadante
Liza Miller
Emma Moorman
Jared Post
Brandon Sanders
Clay Sietsma
Allie Steiginga
Hanna Sytsma
Natalie Sytsma
Ross Van Harken
Jenna Veenstra
Brianna Veenstra
Ryan Verhoog
Madison Wynbeek



Allison Steiginga
walking down the aisle
at graduation.

47 Preschoolers Graduate!

BY PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR KATHY FAASSE



Teachers **Marilyn Bushman, Sue Martin and Kathy Faasse** lead the Preschool "graduates" into the church sanctuary to begin their awards program.

Preschoolers learned how to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish as well as signing the words using universal sign language. They also signed the words to "The Lord is My Shepherd." A new song, "Amen, We Praise Your Name O Lord," was first sung in English and then in Xhosa, an African dialect. As these children grow, there will be many more songs and languages to learn. May their songs always include praises to our God as they indeed have begun and will continue to do the Lord's work in our global community.

Eastern Christian Preschool held its graduation and closing program on Tuesday, June 14 at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. The youngest graduates of Eastern Christian have been doing their part to "Transform the World," just as many of our alumni are doing, by learning to express themselves in languages known within and outside the United States.

The theme for this year's Preschool has been Psalm 89:1, "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations." Preschoolers learned praise songs throughout the year from Music Teacher **Cathy Clark** and then various verses were added in different languages. This year's



Preschoolers sang and signed their special songs.

MAKE YOUR LIFE A SONG *continued from page 16*

one big party. Mickey lived to honor himself, while Bobby lived to honor God.

A life of alcoholism and other personal problems ultimately led Mickey Mantle to say in an interview with Bob Costas, "I am not a role model. I have been a failure as a father and a husband. Don't be like me." Then several years ago when Mickey Mantle was ill he asked for Bobby Richardson to be at his bedside. All his athleticism had long disappeared, he recognized that blasting 536 homeruns and winning three MVP awards plus a Triple Crown were meaningless. He looked back at his life and saw how he had wasted it. Full of guilt, he confessed his sins and prayed with Bobby Richardson to receive Jesus' forgiveness. I remember watching Bobby Richardson on television ten years ago, as he spoke to a national audience at Mickey Mantle's funeral. He said, "There was a change in Mickey Mantle's life, more than a transition. He responded to God's grace and became a Christian, choosing to receive Christ as his savior. He had a peace that surpasses all understanding."

In the end, both Mickey Mantle and Bobby Richardson have brought honor and glory to God, but which life added up to a song to God?

As an athlete gifted by God, Bobby Richardson chose to make his life all about honoring God. Instead of telling everyone about his accomplish-

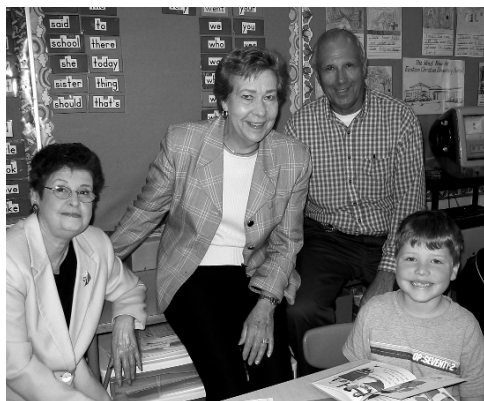
ments as a baseball player, Bobby Richardson told everyone about the amazing things God has done. His life has been used of God because he chose to seek God's kingdom first. At the end of his life as he faced physical death and eternity, Mickey Mantle remembered Bobby Richardson's faith not Don Larsen's perfect game or Roger Maris' great season of 61 homeruns, and that made all the difference for his eternity.

As you grow into men and women, what will people remember about you? Jesus asked, "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26a)

Bobby Richardson has his name written in the Major League Baseball records for being a seven time All Star, for playing in seven World Series, for being a five time gold glove winner and for being the MVP of the 1960 World Series. But more importantly his name can be found in the Book of Life, and because he lived a life that was a song to God, there are many more names, including Mickey Mantle's, whose names are in the The Book of Life for all eternity.

Our hope, as your first Christian school teachers in life, is that you will apply what you have learned about putting God and others first, and you will choose to tune your talents into a song to God so that He will receive the glory. If you live that way, you will change the world.

Grandparents/Special Guests Day 2005



Mike Carson is glad to have three grandparents visit his classroom.

The joys of EC Elementary School are multiplied on some very special days in the late spring when each grade plans a separate **Grandparents/Special Guests Day**. This year seven different days were set aside for grandparents or special guests of students. Our guests were able to partner with students in learning activities and wonderful fellowship. Our students love to share their school with these very special guests.

In Grade Four guests participated with students in a day of hands-on Art activities, reviewing all they have learned in Art during their years at ECES. Grades Two and Three guests attended chapels before visiting classrooms on their days. In Kindergarten, guests moved through various learning centers. Grade One guests shared in the wonder of newly discovered reading skills. What a blessing it is to share across generations all that is great about Eastern Christian Elementary School.



First Grader Robert Skead with his Grandparents.

Preschool Fun Under the Sun

The annual Eastern Christian Preschool Picnic was held on June 1, a bright sunny day. The picnic was held on the grounds of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church. Some EC Middle School students came over to join in the fun and help Preschool children with various "beach" activities. Preschoolers had their picture taken by a sand castle and then proceeded to decorate a frame. The highlight was an "Under the Sea" inflatable amusement where children could jump, slide and BOUNCE! Other activities included planting flowers, face painting, an old-fashioned sack race and an obstacle course. In addition, every Preschooler decorated a pail and shovel so they could have fun all summer! Preschoolers were joined by their parents and younger brothers and sisters, which helped make the day a fun family day as well as a memorable school day.



Kindergarten students Melanie Romero (L) and Claudia Orostizaga welcome their Special Guests to ECES.



Joshua Rizzo enjoys bouncing!



Jason Englishmen runs under the parachute.

ECES Field Day ~ *Watch Me!*



Kelly Pepper, Rebecca Martin and Jolie Wolyniec cool off with delicious popsicles.

Business Sponsors for 2005 Auction Elegance:

**A special "Thank You"
for supporting this event
goes to:**

PATRONS:

Atlantic Stewardship Bank, Midland Park
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Vander Plaat-Vermeulen Memorial Home,
Franklin Lakes



Principal **Dick Van Yperen** (left) and Board President **Rich Kuder** (right) congratulate ECHS Principal **Jan Lucas** on 25 years of service to EC.



Retiree **Alice Koster** (center) surrounded by her colleagues who received service awards: (L to R) **Sandy Bottge**, **Beverly Peters**, **Judy Bruinooge**, **Janet Santhouse**, **Nancy Simcox**, and **Nancy Johnston**

2005 Service Awards

5 YEARS:

Esther Alsum
Naomi Braunius
Judy Bruinooge
Cathy Clark
Corene De Graaf
Nancy Johnston
Susan Noyes
Steven Tuit
Christine Tuit
Richard Van Yperen
Stacy Wieringa

10 YEARS:

Laurie Genzink
Jean Huntington
David Joustra
Beverly Peters
Janet Santhouse
Jack Wilson

15 YEARS:

Cynthia Adair
Terry Allen
Sandra Bottge
Nancy Hemrick
Beverly Ten Kate

20 YEARS:

Manuela Lindemulder
Mark Lucas

25 YEARS:

Ralph Hutton
Jan Lucas
Philip Verrengia

RETIRES:

Alice Koster
Joyce Schoonejongen



Retiree **Joyce Schoonejongen** (left) and Principal **Florence Nieuwenhuis** (right) with honorees from ECMS: **Ralph Hutton**, **Terry Allen**, and **Beverly Ten Kate**

Spring Fundraisers Generate Donations for Education

Auction Elegance: A group of 320 EC supporters gathered at The Tides Estate in North Haledon for an exciting evening of fun, good food, great fellowship and fundraising. The Silent Auction tables overflowed with a variety of donations including theme baskets from our Elementary classrooms and each Middle School grade. Our auctioneer **Henry Kuperus**, entertained and took bids for an array of items, such as a cruise on the Forbes yacht, a catered BBQ at your home, sporting event tickets, vacation get-aways and even front-row seats to EC graduation ceremonies.

Our proceeds for the evening totaled **\$40,000!** We appreciate the generosity of all our donors, who enabled the Auction Committee to provide a wonderful assortment of items on which to bid. Thanks also to our guests who generously bid on our selection of items and to all of our business supporters. (See *Business Sponsor listing*).



STAR 99.1 Celebrity **Keith Stevens** did a live remote broadcast from the ECMS entranceway and shared games and giveaways with students who gathered to talk to him at our June 4 "Drive for the Kids" fundraiser.

EC Golf Tournament: May 23 turned out to be a perfect day for golf – not too hot, and no rain! Our golfers started with an 8 a.m. shotgun start at Great Gorge Country Club in McAfee, NJ. A delicious award luncheon followed at Portobello's in Oakland. A total of **\$18,500** was raised for EC. Mark your calendar for next year's event – May 22, 2006. We are also grateful to the business supporters who generously sponsored this event. (See *Sponsor listing*.)

Chrysler's "Drive for the Kids:" It was an exciting morning on Saturday, June 4, 2005! Christian Radio Station Star 99.1FM did a live broadcast from EC's Middle School and asked their listeners to stop by, check out the school, and take a free test-drive in a brand new Chrysler provided by **Borough Chrysler Jeep** in Wayne, NJ. For each drive taken, EC received a donation from both Chrysler Corp. and Borough Chrysler Jeep. While parents took a quick test-drive, children enjoyed a variety of games in the gym and an outdoor moonwalk. Hot dogs were available, as well as snacks by Unity CRC Booster Club and delicious home-baked goods from ECMS Moms. Our thanks to all who came out to drive and to Borough Chrysler Jeep for the cars and staff to run this event.

Dining with Friends

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

At Eastern Christian we like to start the back-to-school season with an evening dessert lawn party! You know...the air turns cool, the kids are adjusting to their new classes and teachers, making friends... It's Saturday night, and you'd like to relax with a cup of hot cider or coffee, and a little something sweet, so...you gather with friends under the stars hoping to see lots of others with the same idea...But wait just an E.C. minute!!

Before we get dessert we must finish our dinner!

...and that's where a little fundraiser we like to call **Dining with Friends** comes in...

Hostess Wanted: Please consider hosting a party in your home. Invite LOTS of friends – new & old to come and enjoy good food & fellowship! Guests are asked to bring a donation for Eastern Christian equivalent to a festive night out. We'll be glad to supply you with a hostess packet this summer, that will include invitation and menu ideas. All parties will join for a festive dessert around 9pm at a central location.

You can host a party during the summer - or **any** date that is best for you. Plan a summer barbeque or pool party and join in with the other parties at the dessert finale on Sept. 24th.

The ideas are endless – you can host: A family party. . . A neighborhood party. . . A gathering of your child's sports team parents. . . A ladies luncheon. . . Church friends... or new friends you would like to know better. . .

Won't you join us in this wonderful event? Call EC's Development Office at 973-427-9294 or e-mail specialevents@easternchristian.org to sign up!

Upcoming Fundraiser: Come & Support EC!

Christmas Bazaar – Crafters Needed

Our Annual **Christmas Bazaar** will be held on **Saturday, December 3, 2005** at Eastern Christian High School. If you are a crafter or have new items to sell, this is the place for you! Crafters fill the gym and hallways with a variety of items and unique merchandise. A Food Court is in the cafeteria for lunch or a snack. This event is also the pick-up location for the sale of Yankee Candles, Butter Letter, Christmas Trees and more. Our website will have more details on items for sale in the fall. Crafters are encouraged to register for a table via our website (www.easternchristian.org) or call EC's Development Office (973-427-9294 ext. 211).

Eastern Christian's 2005 Golf Outing was a great success!

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

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Inc, Oakland
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Hasbrouck Heights

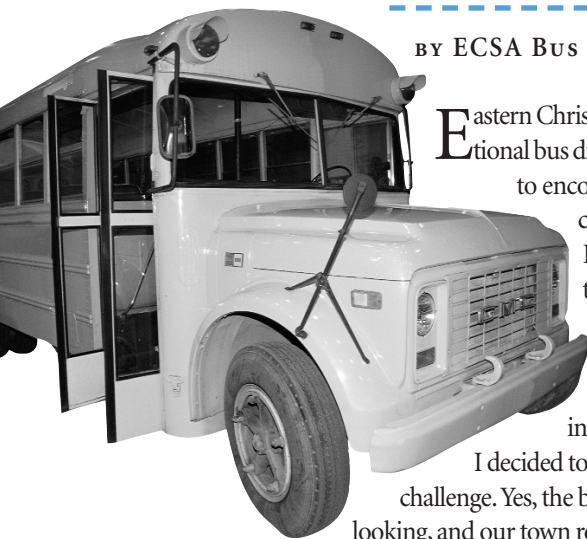
2005 Golf Outing Award Winners

Low Gross:
Larry Haggerty 78
Low Net:
John Milkamp 71
Longest Drive - Mens (L2):
Lance Kraai
Longest Drive - Womens (L2):
Judy Westra
Longest Drive (Q5):
Bob De Jong
Longest Drive (R2):
Dave Steiginga

Closest to the Pin (L8):
Gary Steenwyk
Closest to the Pin (Q6):
Tom Kosten
Closest to the Pin (R5):
Paul Ruitenbergh
Straightest Drive (L5):
Ken Steenstra
Straightest Drive (Q7):
Kyle Jacobs
Straightest Drive (R7):
Don Westra, Jr.

"I Can't Believe I Drive a Big Yellow School Bus!"

BY ECSA BUS DRIVER JUDY (VEENSTRA) BRUINOOG (CL. OF '76)



Eastern Christian is in need of additional bus drivers, and I would like to encourage you to strongly consider the challenge. I am not sure how I got talked into doing it five years ago. I was a stay at home mom with the last child going into kindergarten when

I decided to take on the big yellow challenge. Yes, the buses are big and scary looking, and our town roads and highways are narrow and littered with unskilled drivers, but I found out that driving a school bus requires only a little more skill than taxiing around kids in the family SUV. Once you get turning the corners down pat, the rest falls into place.

Being on Eastern Christian's payroll has allowed me to keep abreast of all the daily activities that happen on each campus, which is great for a mother of boys who never gets the whole story about anything. As a driver for all three schools, you become the "Dear Abby" for those who love to share their day. As long as you don't mind stopping to help a child find their lost tooth on occasion, this job could be right for you!

It is an awesome responsibility to care for our children, and a very rewarding one as well. The young kids can really get attached to you. They love to help you find their house with hints like, "The one with the big tree in front is mine." or "We have a driveway." As bus drivers, we are the first to greet your kids in the morning and the last to say goodbye to them at the end of their school day. We become just as important to them as their teachers. My fourth grade students of five years ago are now in eighth grade

waiting to graduate. They are so excited about entering high school and ask me all kinds of questions. It is such a pleasure to watch them mature over the years and see them becoming all that God is intending them to be.

Allow me to share one of my most memorable experiences and my reason for staying on as a bus driver. On September 11, 2001, I was called to do my regular route because most students stayed at school that day. I picked up kids from all three campuses. We traveled toward the New York City skyline and could see the smoke, and even orange flames at times. My route brought me onto Route 208 and Route 4, past malls that had been closed. No cars were on the highways. It was very frightening for me, as well as for the kids. Some began to panic, and asked many questions. I answered as honestly as I could, sharing information with them as we cried and prayed together. At each stop I waited for a parent to come and greet their child. It seemed to be the longest bus route in history, but it was the most important thing I ever had to do. I was truly blessed by it.

Let me just add that Deb Vandenberg, who is in charge of EC's transportation, is very accommodating. With my busy schedule, I can only manage a small afternoon run and a few kindergarten runs every now and then. Some drivers can only do mornings and want the rest of their day free. Some of our morning drivers are Dads who find it very easy to do a route and still get to another job on time. It is also a super job for someone who is recently retired and looking for a little something extra to do. Some substitute on a run in the afternoon or drive a sports team and stay and watch the game.

So don't be afraid of the **BIG YELLOW SCHOOL BUS**, but rather, be afraid of missing out on an opportunity that you just might enjoy, and be blessed by as well. Won't you consider joining us? Training is provided, and summer is a great time to get started! **Call Deb Vandenberg at the Transportation Office (973-427-2309) for more information.** You won't regret it!

Alumni News



FORMER STAFF

The Development Office was notified that **Anna (Walkotten) Van Peurse** passed away on Feb. 3, 2005 in Artesia, CA. A former teacher in Eastern Christian's North 4th St School, Anna was 100 years old when she passed away. We extend our sympathy to Anna's family and friends.

1922-23 Teaching Staff at North 4th St. Christian School: **Top Row:** (L to R) J.P. Van Amstel, J.G. Kooistra, F. Haan, J. Vroon, G. Dykstra, D. Wondergem; **Bottom Row:** Mr. G. Bos, Jeanette VanDerHeide, **Anna Walkotten**, Catherine Slager, Mrs. Braunius, Sadie Pousma, Neltje A. Bos, Nella Mierop, Minnie Mulder, Ida Breen, Janitor H. Bosch.

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



EA's 1945 Girls Basketball Team – Can you identify these ladies?

CLASS OF 1945

“Dining with Classmates” Contacts:

Doris (Hofstra) Villarreal

E-Mail: dutchdhv@EV1.net

Gerda Beversluis

Phone: 973-942-3984

Doris Villarreal and **Gerda Beversluis** will be hosting their class at an informal reunion at “Dining with Classmates” this fall. Classmates: Be sure to reserve **Saturday, September 24** at Eastern Christian High School for this festive

evening of renewed acquaintances. (See accompanying article in this issue of *The Herald*.)

CLASS OF 1947

Class Rep: Corene (Riemersma) De Graaf

7 Faner Rd, Midland Park, NJ 07432-1715

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of two of our classmates. **Catherine (Rozendal) Walters** passed away on May 27, 2005 and **Garret Schipper** on June 9, 2005. Catherine was the sister of **Grace (Rozendal) Shuart ('46)** who passed away the day after her sister on May 28, 2005.

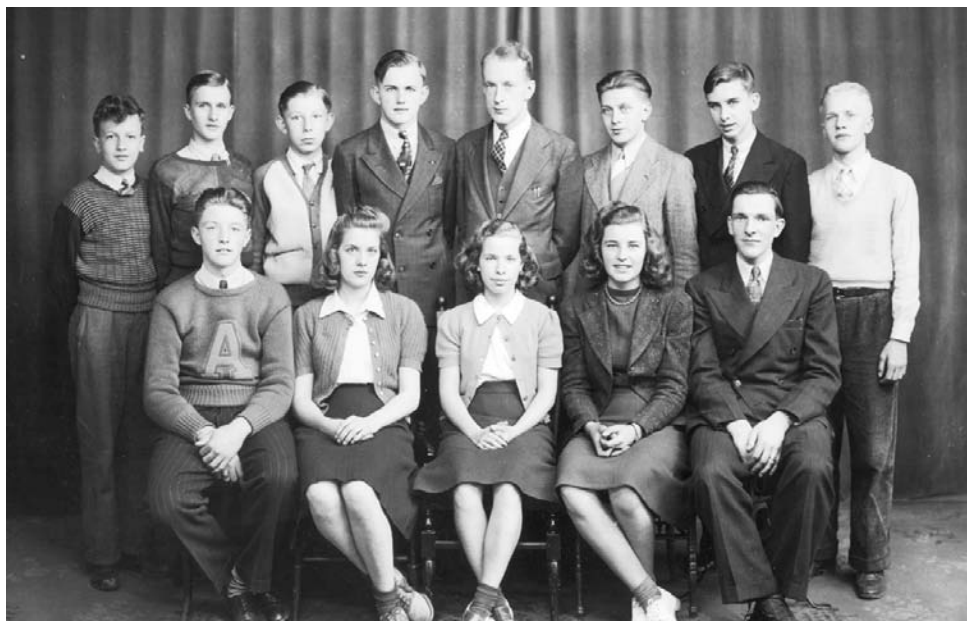
CLASS OF 1948

Class Rep: Bette (Sikkema) King

1303 Four Seasons Dr, Wayne, NJ 07470-1953

E-Mail: ekbette@aol.com

Doris (Allman) Miller ('46) notified our office that her sister **Barbara (Allman) Van Kersen** passed away on Feb. 24, 2005. Our sympathy is extended to Barbara's family and friends.



EA Stamp Club members in 1940 with sponsor Mr. Sid Bangma.

CLASS OF 1950

Reunion Contact: Carl Hoogerhyde

E-Mail: carlhoogerhydejr@msn.com

The **55th Reunion** will be on **Friday, Oct. 14, 2005** at The Paris Inn in Wayne, NJ. A continental breakfast is also planned for Saturday morning at the Faith Community CRC Barn in Wyckoff. Please e-mail Carl if you have any questions.

CLASS OF 1955

Class Rep: Elsie (Schwier) Golden

265 Monroe St, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-1914

E-Mail: eljongolden@aol.com

Elsie reports, “Plans for the **50th Reunion** are moving along. There has been a great response to our letter. The reunion will take place of **Friday, October 14, 2005** at Ossy's Café in Hawthorne at 6 p.m. There is still time to respond if you have not yet done so. Also, if you were ever a part of the Class of 1955 and would like to attend, we would love to have you come. Please contact Elsie or EC's Development Office.” Elsie also noted that addresses are needed for: **George A. Chase, Penny (Hastings) Kay** and **Nella (Tras) Shorey**.



Members of the ECHS 1960 Fishing Club: **Dave Snoep, Sam Steen, Ron Lagerveld, Ed Brandes, H. George Hekman, Mr. Steenstra** (sponsor)



Who were the members of the 1965 Tennis Team with Sponsor Mr. Flietstra pictured here?

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A Personal Tribute to Richard L. Morris:

Artist, Designer, Former ECSA Art Teacher | BY KENNETH A. SCHAAF, CLASS OF 1960

Although it was more than 50 years ago, I still remember meeting **Dick Morris**. When I first entered his studio/classroom in the basement (we called it the *dungeon*) of the old wooden school on North 8th Street in Prospect Park, I was 12 years of age and totally lacking in confidence, self-esteem, and direction. Then over the next 3 years, Morris introduced me to the world of visual arts—drawing, painting, sculpture, wood carving, design, and more. He exposed me to the museums and galleries of New York City, like the Metropolitan and the Museum of Modern Art. Best of all, I received his gentle encouragement to develop what he recognized was a God-given gift to create. What a thought! If that were true, then not only did he place value in me, so did God!

After high school, I studied art in New York, received a degree in secondary education in South Carolina, and began teaching in Washington, DC. I became serious about my painting and have been painting ever since. Last fall I began to think of how God had used Dick Morris to direct my focus and realized I knew so little about him. I wondered if, in his short 4 years of teaching at ECSA, there were others whose lives were also touched by him. Impetuously I placed a notice in *The Herald* for possible answers.

Immediately there was an e-mail response, then another, and another. Soon there appeared a network composed of former Morris students, teaching colleagues, friends, and family members. Information arrived almost daily.

We learned that Richard Lewis Morris was born Nov. 4, 1923, the adopted and only son of Darvil and Blanche Morris. He grew up on the streets of Chicago. Following high school, he attended the John Herron School of Art in Indiana. Soon after, he met, fell in love with, and married

Annette Bouma, a former teacher at North 4th St. Christian School and Eastern Academy. [see *The Herald*, Winter 2002] Making their home in the East, Morris worked as a designer and architect in New York City and in the Paterson area. He designed and built his home in Mahwah, took night courses, and taught adult classes. In 1953, he began teaching art at what was then ECJHS and a few years later completed his BS in education from Columbia University. In 1958, he and Annette, their 7 children, and his parents, moved to Stillwater, NJ. It was there, on a large, rolling farm, they

established the School of the Arts. There he taught, raised his family, created his artwork, and lived a simple lifestyle. Tragically his work came to a sudden and early end in the summer of 1965. One Saturday afternoon in June, on the eve of Father's Day and en route to a family vacation, Morris was fatally injured in a head-on collision. He was 42.

"Dick Morris had a ... profound impact on me," relates one former student. "I still have a mahogany bowl I carved in his class. Think of it, allowing junior high school students to use his [own] woodcarving tools!" Another student commented on his gentle redirection when her own creation was noticeably flawed. In fact, it was Morris' gentle, patient spirit that was mentioned by almost everyone. One of his daughters described her father's speech as

"kind, mild mannered, and courteous." Another responder commented, "He was very involved with his students and really cared about what direction they took in life." So students, their families, faculty members, and friends were frequently invited to the artist's lakeside home in Mahwah. One writer, noting his first visit to the Morris home, said, "I was treated like a mature adult, and my ideas were shown genuine interest and given thoughtful commentary."

A former colleague recalled Morris' "pleasant and congenial" nature. Another remembered him as "a deeply spiritual man, sincere and devout" in his faith. A third teacher sent a beautifully written, three-page essay on his friendship with Dick Morris and his family. "I sometimes wish that Dick could see what a great influence he had on my life, my love of art," he wrote. "I'd love to hear his comments about my paintings."

From time to time when I am working in my studio, I think about a verse like Psalm 100:1

*"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
Worship the LORD with gladness,
Come before Him with joyful creative expressions."*

I am overwhelmed to have the privilege of creating in collaboration with The Creator. And when that happens, I think about another artist who many years ago pointed me in that direction. Thank you, Dick.

*As with all great teachers, his curriculum was an
insignificant part of what he communicated.
From him you didn't learn a subject, but life ...*

William Alexander Percy

Ken Schaaf is on the staff of the Library of Congress where he serves as space manager. He lives with his wife in southern Maryland near the Chesapeake Bay.



ECHS 1957 Yearbook Photo of
Dick Morris



Family photo of Dick Morris and daughter Kasia



1970 Senior Class Officers: Shirley Nawyn, Garry Link, Steve King, and Warren Van Wyck

CLASS OF 1963

Class Rep Needed

Barry Foster is Coordinator of Congregational Life at Hudsonville Reformed Church in MI. His wife **Linda (Vermeulen '62) Foster** is the Director of Education at First Reformed Church of Byron Center, MI. (See next issue for photo of her quilt finished by EC supporters, the Esther Quilters.)

CLASS OF 1971

Class Rep: Gail (Bakker) Beverly

20 Wendt Lane, Wayne, NJ 07470-6440
E-Mail: development@easternchristian.org

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of two classmates: **Harold Steiging** passed away on March 28, 2005 and **Roger Veenstra** passed away on May 28, 2005.

continued on page 26

Dining with Classmates

CALLING ALL MEMBERS of the CLASSES of:
1940, 1945, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 & 1980

You are invited to "Mini" Class Reunions at ECHS as part our annual "Dining with Friends" event on Saturday, September 24, 2005

Some individuals from the Classes of 1960 and 1975 have recently called to ask, "When is a reunion planned for my class?" with the assumption that EC does the planning. Of course, they are disappointed if we tell them that we don't know of any plans at the moment, and that members of the class are the ones who organize and plan all of their own reunions. That has been the tradition – **up until now.**

In thinking about this problem, the Development Office staff came up with an alternative idea for classes who don't have the time or the ability to organize a reunion on their own. It involves becoming a part of the "Dining with Friends" fundraiser on Sept 25, 2005 in a little different way. Instead of dining in a home with your current group of friends, **we are inviting members of the classes ending in "5" or "0" that don't have their own reunion scheduled to come for dinner at EC on September 25.** In this way, there is a minimum of work for those who want a reunion and a way to dine with your own classmates by table without a big expense. *After a relaxing social evening of good food and good company, all dinner parties' guests will be invited to gather together "under the stars" for a sweet finale of desserts, music, and fellowship.*

The cost involved would be \$15 per person, and an additional "hostess" gift in any amount to support EC will be gratefully accepted. To get more information or to register to become a guest at your class's *DINING WITH CLASSMATES*, simply contact the EC Development Office by:

Phone: 973-427-9294 E-mail: development@easternchristian.org
Letter: EC Development Office, 50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508

Be sure to include the Number of Guests coming and the Name (s) to use on the nametags as well as your current Address and Phone number. Spouses of classmates are welcome to join us.

P.S. We'd love to encourage out-of-state alumni who can't come to NJ to participate by hosting your own satellite *DINING WITH CLASSMATES* parties so we can join hands across the miles in friendship and support E.C.

You are invited to attend the best Reunion Dinner Party of the season!

Don't delay in becoming part of this festive evening.

CLASS OF 1972

Class Rep Needed

In response to a recent survey question, "Do you have any Comments about the value of Christian Education?" **Janet Vander Goot** responds, 'Priceless!' She adds, "It has been so long since our class had a get-together...Any interest in formalizing a get-together before it's too late?"

Alumni Birth Announcements

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

CLASS OF 1978 – Roger and Lorinda (Doss '83) Leon, a daughter, Olivia Grace on 3/24/05. Olivia joins a brother Matthew (age 4).

CLASS OF 1980 – Mike and Sharon (Moir) Mondelli, a daughter, Sophia Joan on 5/26/04. Sophia joins sister Jessica (age 6) and brother Michael (age 8).

CLASS OF 1987 – Glenn and Sandra (Hoogmoed '97) Bysterbusch, a daughter, Hailey Beth on 5/21/05.

CLASS OF 1987 – MaryBeth Trommelen and Anthony Collins, a daughter, Ella Johanna on 2/25/05.

CLASS OF 1987 – Jeff and Kathy (Van Schepen '87) De Bell, a son, Thomas John on 5/25/05. Thomas joins brother Scott (age 8) and sister Katie (age 5).

CLASS OF 1991 – Steven and Lisa (Oosting) Van Ek, a son, Grady Steven on 1/29/05. Grady joins Clayton (age 6), Emery (age 4), Eden (age 3) and Maebel (age 2).

CLASS OF 1991 – Matthew and Naomi (Everett '96) Braunius, a daughter, Jennifer Elise on 5/4/05.

CLASS OF 1993 – Brian and Julie (Romano '94) Hartley, a son, Brendan Neil on 4/18/05.

CLASS OF 1993 – Joseph and Jaimee (Troast) Raab, a daughter, Meghann Beth on 3/31/05. Meghann joins brothers Joseph Jr (age 4), Hunter (age 3) Mackenzie (age 1).

CLASS OF 1994 – Sarah and Matthew Struyk, a son, Jacob Darrell on 3/21/05.

CLASS OF 1995 – Dan and Diane (Hollema) DeRooy, a son, Christopher Dwight on 12/27/04.

CLASS OF 1995 – David and Carrie (Tanis) de Waal Malefy, a daughter, Ella Grace on 1/4/05. Ella joins big brother Rylan (age 4).

CLASS OF 1996 – Suzanne and Rich Troast, a son, Caleb Michael on 4/4/05. Caleb joins Noah (age 4).

CLASS OF 1996 – Bill and Amy (Bowers) Dill, Alissa Lee on 12/21/04.

CLASS OF 1998 – Glenn and Sheryl (Pruksma) Runz, a daughter, Olivia Grace on 6/29/05

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

CLASS OF 1975

Class Rep: Carol (Meetsma) Elices
27 Bellevue Rd, Arlington, MA 02476-7919
E-Mail: carmarel@earthlink.net

Frank Schaddelee e-mailed, "Just wanted to touch base again since our 25-year class reunion in 2000...at the time I was stationed at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX, as an operations officer for a Force Protection Contingency Response Group. Since then I went off to Air Command and Staff College for a year at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL, then back to Lackland AFB where I had the privilege of commanding DOD's Military Working Dog Training Center – talk about a fun job! Last summer I was transferred to Malmstrom AFB, MT (Great Falls) to my current position as commander of a missile security forces squadron responsible for securing 200 ICBMs scattered over a 23,500 square mile area (about the size of West Virginia). It's beautiful up here, and a nice change from the heat and humidity of San Antonio. I'm still married to the same gal (Marilynn) - Mar 06 will be 25 years! My step-daughter (Celena) is also in the Air Force, and is a newly promoted captain, currently serving in Germany as an Intelligence Officer. My 19-year-old daughter (Talor) and my 21-year-old son (Josiah) are both college students attending the University of Texas in Austin. So...if anyone finds themselves in Montana, please feel free to look us up and enjoy a little bit of "Big Sky Country." (E-mail: frank.schaddelee@malmstrom.af.mil) In closing, I just want to add how good and faithful God has been to me and my family through all these years. I often look back to my ECHS days with the fondest of memories."

CLASS OF 1981

Class Rep: Karen (Davis) Hagedoorn
239 Saw Mill Rd, North Haledon, NJ 07508-3046
E-Mail: khagedoorn@aol.com

Class Rep **Karen Hagedoorn** writes, "It's time to start thinking about having a 25-year reunion (Can you believe it?). If there is anyone who would be interested in planning the reunion, or being on a reunion committee, please contact either **Karen or Sharon (Zuidema) Spoelstra** at wyckoffpeddler@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from you soon!"

H. Martin Lier writes, "I was just reading *The Herald* and I thought it might be nice to finally have something listed for the Class of 1981. I will be graduating with Honors from

Ferris State University with a Masters Degree in Education in May and am currently Department Head of the Digital Animation and Game Design Program for a Bachelors Degree at Ferris State University. I keep busy teaching, developing new curriculum, coaching soccer, church, and driving my 3 kids everywhere. I am a Partner in Quantum Media & PLPW LLC - Game Design & CAD Training Company." Martin adds he would love to hear from any 1981 grads at mlier@plpw.com.

CLASS OF 1982

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

Richard M. Cebra writes, "A quick note to update our Eastern Christian Alumni friends: We are about to start our 5th year here at Steamboat Landing in Naples, Maine. Since we moved to Maine we added an Ice Cream Parlor and Craft shop to our business and this year we are adding a video arcade. Because our business year is Memorial Day to Labor Day we have been very active in our local community and church. Last November I was elected to the Maine State Legislature. I am serving a 3-town area: Naples, Casco and Poland. I have been blessed to become friends with several other Conservative Christian Legislators and we are working diligently on legislation including Pro-Life, Family and Marriage issues. We also actively work on keeping our Christian Values relevant in the public debate. Prayers for Christians involved in all levels of Government are always welcome. I haven't seen much in *The Herald* from other 1982 alumni lately – it's always nice to see alumni news." Rich can be contacted by e-mail at: RepRich.Cebra@legislature.maine.gov.

CLASS OF 1984

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

Unfortunately the photo taken at the reunion was not adequate for print publication, so Reunion Rep **Cheryl (Mabie) Bereksazi** is asking fellow classmates who attended the recent reunion, "If anyone who took pictures at the reunion has a good group photo you are willing to share, please contact me. We can scan and return the photo to you."

CLASS OF 1985

Class Rep: Laura (Golden) Gorter

27 Elizabeth Ct, North Haledon, NJ 07508-3015
(Note new address)

Reunion Rep: Susan (Dykman) D'ambra

E-mail: echs1985@msn.com

A 20th Reunion is planned for **Saturday, November 26, 2005** (Thanksgiving weekend) at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes. Please remember to send in your response. If you need another form or have questions, please contact Sue.

CLASS OF 1992

Class Rep Needed

Trudy (Kolk) Marks graduated in May 2005 with an Associates Degree in Nursing from Bergen County Community College. She is presently working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at St. Josephs Medical Center.

CLASS OF 1994

Class Rep: Julie (Bowers) Tilson

9741 East Paseo Del Tornasol Tucson, AZ 85747
(Note new address)

E-Mail: Gjtilson@cox.net

After graduating from Rhode Island School of Design in 1998 as an animator, **Dalila "Dee" Boyd** has formed her own company, Floating Pear Productions, LLC (www.floating-pear.com), and has now published her own book for children, *Only the Stars*. Her current resume can be viewed at www.deeboyd.com.

Matthew Struyk sent in a birth announcement (See *Alumni Births*) and added that he and his family reside in Midvale, Utah. He is a grocery stocker for Harmon's, a small chain of supermarkets.

CLASS OF 1995

Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed

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

E-Mail: ejh810@optonline.net

Steffany Baptiste has been featured under "Teacher Highlights" on the Rutgers University website (www.gse.rutgers.edu/southafrica) for her continuing efforts and dedication to the South African Initiative program through the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education.

Remember our **10-year class reunion** on **Saturday, November 26, 2005** at Portobello's Restaurant in Oakland. Any questions, please contact Elizabeth.

CLASS OF 1996

Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky

45 N. 16th St, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-2252
E-Mail: Lapinsky@msn.com

Todd Hartley and **Xochi Kim** became engaged in March 2005. Their wedding date is set for Dec. 3, 2005.

CLASS OF 1997

Class Rep: James Pyrich

Home Page: www.97cc.com

Elizabeth Kiszonas graduated *magna cum laude* in May from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL with a Master of Divinity degree. She is currently working in an urban ministries program in Chicago.

CLASS OF 1998

Class Rep: Sandi (King) Chiera

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

Elizabeth Bratt recently wrote, "I've moved to Gaithersburg, MA and am currently working as a nanny."

Michele Sietsma and **Eric Nelson** were engaged on December 24, 2004. Michele attended Delaware Valley College and graduated from William Paterson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science. She is employed as the administrator for Green-Way Irrigation, Inc. Eric graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science with a specialization in fire protection from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Eric is employed by Green-Way Irrigation, Inc. as a manager. Their wedding date is August 13, 2005 at Unity CRC in Prospect Park, NJ.

Class Rep **Sandi King** writes, "I received a letter from **Sheryl (Pruiksma) Runz** updating me on her life. It is always so exciting to hear from fellow classmates and I encourage all of you to continue to keep us all updated on your lives. Feel free to write or e-mail me anytime! Anyway, the letter from Sheryl read as follows, 'I am very happy to announce my husband of four years and I am expecting our first baby! We are very excited and looking forward to a little bundle of joy! I am due in early July. - [Update! See Alumni Births] We live in a small town in Pennsylvania, about 40 minutes from Lancaster. We both work as nurses in very busy doctors offices in Lancaster

County. I'd love to hear from you all!' Anyone who would like to contact Sheryl, please e-mail Sandi for her address."

CLASS OF 1999

Class Rep: Jennifer (Van Der Heide) Rysdam

1111 Golfcrest Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509
E-Mail: Jteach19@aol.com

Allison Lindsay graduated in May from George Washington University with a Master of Science degree in Exercise Science. She also completed a two-year graduate assistant appointment as a Certified Athletic Trainer, working through the GWU Athletic Department, with the volleyball, women's lacrosse, women's soccer and gymnastics teams. She will be working this summer at several sports camps in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Marissa Pajot writes, "I would like to announce my engagement to Timothy Webb for the Alumni News Update...."

My fiance is from England and moved here last March to coach soccer....A second reception in England is planned for friends and family who are unable to attend the wedding here at our church, Montclair Community Church." Marissa's wedding date is August 13, 2005. She and her husband will be living in Montclair, NJ.

CLASS OF 2001

Class Rep: Yvonne Wisse

851 Nevada St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Class Rep **Yvonne Wisse** e-mailed this spring to report the following alumni news from classmates:

Deaven Vanden Berg and **Anafaye Greco ('03)** have become engaged, and they are planning a 2006 wedding.

Jeff Dekker and **Ashley Grube** will be married in October of 2005 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Looking for Classmates Online?

You need a password to the *EC Alumni Directory* located on our affiliated website, www.theclist.com/ecsa. It is simple to get your password! The first step is to identify yourself as a valid alumnus by e-mailing us (development@easternchristian.org) your graduation year or years of attendance, your mailing address and an e-mail address for us to use. Once we verify the information, a password will be e-mailed back to you. You can search for classmates, get their e-mail addresses and also decide which e-mail calendar you wish to receive.

Designated Gifts

FEBRUARY 19, 2005 – JUNE 22, 2005

Gifts received after June 22, 2005 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 341 gifts were received or pledged in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount of these gifts in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$73,791.53. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

ENDOWMENT FUND

~In Memory Of~

Fanny Amels

PSEG Matching Gift
John & Kristin Westra

Jean Boonstra

Jennie Kuiken
Margaret De Nooy

Marie E. Boreck

Elsie, Marie & Tunis Wispelwey

Wilma (Orbeck) Bouman

Grace A. Shuart

Sidney Bruins

Debra Wilkes

Geraldine De Boer

The Prudential Foundation
Matching Gift

Jeanette Belanus De Jong

Unilever United States, Inc.
Matching Gift

Arthur De Noble

Brian & Shelby Viasso

Albertus Hartog

Carolina E. Hartog

William J. Meyne

Albert & Catherine Algera

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Janet De Waal Malefyt

Mary Wood-Agents

Cornelia & Marinus Schryvers

Marilyn Schryvers

Harold E. Steiginga

Agnes & Dennis Crean

Alan & Judy Feldman

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Joan & Donald De Bruin

Kevin & Donna Hoogerhyde

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Bill & Helena Dykstra

Corene De Graaf

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Keith & Betty Davis

Rosemary & James Whitney

Phyllis Sweetman

John & Jeanette Lont

Shirley & Don Buwalda

Roger & Lori Steiginga

Randal & Karen Hagedoorn

Marion De Vries

Jeffrey W. Roper

Rob & Laura, Ryan, Shannon

& Kyle Dykstra

Elaine Heerema

Carol Anema

Wayne & Cheryl Schipper

Herbert & Jean Soodsma

Donald & Ann Van Dongen

Jack & Pat Steiginga

Uncle Garry &

Aunt Net Rozema

Pete & Ginny Steensma

Mark & Jennifer Anema

Raymond & Barbara Cantwell

Kathy & Allan Jeltema

Carole J. Roper

Henry & Trudy Atema

Marlo & Kathy Kooistra

Henry & Sharon Vogel

Mr. & Mrs. Len Dykstra

Ron & Karen Steiginga

Richard & Olga Len

Bill & Jo Peters

Mr. & Mrs. Lee R. De Graff

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Ms. Elizabeth De Graff

Ms. Deborah De Graff

Ken & Pat Nydam

Peter & Martha Orbeck

Mark Mentone

Kathy & Al Anema

Nancy & Steven Bruining

Noel & Arlean Levine

Agnes Meyer

Linda Steiginga

Leonis C. Donovan

Diana M. Estes

Ada M. Pontier

Nancy & Roger Tuit & Family

George & Nancy Fenners

Robert, Nancy & Matt Steiginga

Peter & Beverly Ten Kate

Steven E. & Barbara R. King

Richard & Gertrude Schipper

Henry J. & Lori Groenewal

Alan, Carol & Micah Hoeksema

Ruth & John Husselman

Jeff & Mary Beth Steiginga

Betty Terpstra

Henry & Grace Lootsma

Hilda Van Beveren

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David & Arlene Spalt

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PSEG Matching Gift

~In Honor Of~

Albert & Kay Algera

(60th Wedding Anniversary)

PSEG Matching Gift

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(50th Wedding Anniversary)

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Thomas Kearns

Stanley Blom

Alida & Don Van Valkenburgh

Charles & Hilda Borduin

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Robert & Gertrude Troast

Jake & Betty Tolsma

Ruth & John De Vries

Lenora Malefyt

Paul & Alberta De Blae

Garret & Jeanette Rozema

Joan A. & Donald De Bruin

John & Doris Dyk

Irene & Nick Groenewal

Edward & Wilma Kohere

Joan & Donald De Bruin

(50th Wedding Anniversary)

Ruth & John De Vries

Thomas Kearns

Stanley Blom

Edward & Wilma Kohere

Henry & Trudy Atema

Nicholas Kuiken

Anna Mae Eyres

Irene & Nick Groenewal

Marilyn & Donald Sporn

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Raeanna & Garret Dykhouse

Bernice & Bill Siegers

Peter & Marion Borduin

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Carl & Edna M. Hoogerhyde

Albert & Janet Visbeen

Adrianna Hoogerhyde

(104th Birthday)

Carl & Edna Hoogerhyde

John & Marge Jansen

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Corene De Graaf

Virginia Lee

(91st Birthday)

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Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee

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(Gordon College Graduation)

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Patricia R. Ratcliffe

(79th Birthday)

Lawrence Lee &

Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee

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(50th Wedding Anniversary)

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Paul & Alberta De Blacy

John & Kay Drukker

Hester Van Buiten

(80th Birthday)

Ken & Ruth Tanis

Jake & Dot Faber

Katherine Veenstra

(80th Birthday)

Lois M. Veenstra

Christian & Martha Zoetewey

Mike & Ruth Veenstra

(50th Wedding Anniversary)

Lois M. Veenstra

Margretta Van Dyk

Katherine Veenstra

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Estate of Agnes Botbyl

Estate of Kate Hommes

Estate of Bertha Steen Rienstra

Estate of Marinus Ten Hoeve

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PSEG Matching Gift

Hilda Van Beveren

Henry & Doris Zeeuw

Adrian A. "Bud" Visbeen

Neil & Ann Bushoven

~In Honor Of~

Joan & Donald De Bruin

(50th Wedding Anniversary)

Fred & Ann Leentjes

Belle & Simon Hartog

(70th Wedding Anniversary)

Nella & Michael Hobson

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR
EASTERN CHRISTIAN:**

Phase II: Gym

Construction & Beyond

~In Honor Of~

Raeanna & Garret Dykhous

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Matching Gift

ECMS Teachers

Tom & Kathleen Lane

Jack & Annamae Hulsebos

Marsh & McLennen Co., Inc.

Matching Gift

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Nena Schuil Chapman

Gay & Ron Redcay

~In Honor Of~

Garret & Raeann Dykhous

(57th Wedding Anniversary)

Tom & Linda Dykhous

Jack & Anamae Hulsebos

(Wedding Anniversary)

Tom & Linda Dykhous

NOTE: Please mail all endowment, memorial & honor gifts to the attention of the Development Office. Each gift (not the amount) is acknowledged to the appropriate family or individual. The donor also receives an acknowledgment letter. Gifts to these Funds are eligible for matching gifts from companies with a matching gift program. Gifts may also be given online through JustGive.org.