



THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2007
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CELEBRATING THE SEASON

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL." ISAIAH 58:11

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE

ECHS VALEDICTORY:

BY ECHS VALEDICTORIAN DOMINIC RIVERA



“Faculty, Staff, Board Members, Parents, Family, Friends, and Class of 2007:

Those of you who know me can attest to the fact that I am fascinated with the beauty of nature, and those of you that have either played outdoor sports with, rode in the car with, or sat in class with (especially when I had a seat by the window) know from my crazed outbursts of either “hawk, heron, or turkey vulture!” that I especially love birds. This is why I decided to share this story with you.



ECHS Valedictorian **Dominic Rivera** with mom, **Carol (Dykstra) Rivera** ('74) and Commencement Speaker, **Mike Alsum**.

THE EAGLE

Way up high in the tallest of the trees on the highest of the cliffs is where you will find what is quite possibly the most majestic bird that soars the skies: the eagle. But why does the eagle burden itself with the hard task of creating its home so high up on the cliffs? Wouldn't it be much easier for the eagle to rent an apartment in a suburban setting for \$800 a month? My friends, the primary reason that eagles build so high up in the tallest of the trees on the highest of the cliffs is not for themselves, **but for the next generation**; for there comes a time after all the roosting, feeding, and growing that a mother eagle pushes its young out of the nest. Why would a mother eagle do that? The mother eagle knows that this is the best for its eaglets. Sure enough, even though the falling young eagles do not know what to do at first, they quickly adjust to the new surroundings and immanently learn to fly on their own. The young eagles, now with steady wings, have learned how to support themselves and will be ready for what the future holds in store. *continued on page 2*

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

ECHS VALEDICTORY:

BY ECMS VALEDICTORIAN EMILEE KIM

“Whom are you following? Where are you going? These are the questions that we have been asking ourselves throughout the year. How many years have we, as a class, known each other? Whether we've been going to EC for eight years or one we have all come far in our relationships. Remember fifth grade in Mr. Henderson's class when we did Snow White for the MNK Mixer? Then in seventh grade we went to Spruce Lake together. Every once in a while we would have Spirit Weeks where we would get to do crazy things. Now we are eighth graders about to graduate. We've gone through many struggles and celebrations, but through them we have become closer together. In the same way, we have all grown in our relationship with God. As a class and individuals, there have been many experiences that have tested our faith. Now we are going to be tested again, during the summer, as we go our separate ways for high school. Will our faith get stronger and grow during the summer or will we stray? Whatever we do, God has a plan for our lives.



ECMS Valedictorian **Emilee Kim**.

‘LET US KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT.’ GALATIANS 5:25

This year our theme was to ‘Keep in Step with the Spirit.’ This is based on the Bible verse Galatians 5:25; ‘*Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*’ We need to know whom we are following and if we are keeping in step with the Spirit, then we should be guided by the Spirit. But there are many distractions that can lead us away from the Spirit. There are going to be many times when we can stray off our path, so we need to focus and not give in to the temptation. Think back to fifth, sixth, and seventh grade, and ask the question, has who we've been following changed at all. And if so, has it been a bad change or a good one. One big problem we face is peer pressure; it is everywhere and hard to ignore. Our friends influence us, and we are with them all the time so we begin to get used to it. Then we start to feel that what we are doing isn't that bad. This is going to happen a lot in high school. We will feel lost and lonely at times no matter where we go, we need to remember that God is always there for us. As a school, we followed the right example when we took the challenge to not get demerits. We made it to our goal and got to enjoy a barbeque to celebrate.

Another question we need to ask ourselves is; **where are we going?** Maybe we're going away on a vacation during the summer or just staying home. No matter where we go, we need to know that God has a plan for us. We should also think about our future and how what we do now can affect it. Many of us probably know exactly what we want to be, and others might have no clue. I am one of those people that have absolutely no idea of what I'm going to do. As many of you know, I can be very indecisive and will let others make a lot of decisions for me. But I do know that God has a plan and purpose for

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Pictured on the cover are scenes from the 2007 ECHS Commencement, ECMS Commencement, ECES 4th Grade Promotion Chapel and EC Preschool Graduation.

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HS VALEDICTORY *continued from inside front cover*



Seniors Christina Castro and Erin Groenewald lead their class singing "Lean on Me."

National / State Recognitions

EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

Soo-Yeon An Timothy Rudd
Dominic Rivera

PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARD

Soo-Yeon An
Michael Bongiovanni Melody Lyman
Amanda Buccola Lauren Panzica
Daria Burachek Candice Peterson
Bryan Bushoven Alexander Petras
Christina Castro Cara Lee Poalillo
Ji-Hwan Chung Dominic Rivera
Rebecca Flim Timothy Rudd
Jae Hee Han Kristen Tanis
Joan Hoogerhyde Raymond Torbet
Andrew Hulsebos Brooke Veenstra
Laura Kuiken Douglas Wessel
Kirstin Lane Breslin White
Paul Leoni

TIME TO FLY ON OUR OWN

Class of 2007, this is our time to be pushed out of the nest. The Bible says, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace' (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Now is our time to move on. Think of the eagles in your life that have built a nest for you in the tallest of the trees on the highest of the cliffs; whether they be parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings, friends, or whoever else comes to mind, it is because of them that you now have the space to fly. As a class, we are all being pushed out of our nest that we have grown together in for so long. You may have come to Eastern Christian in Kindergarten or at some point in high school; you may have come by your decision or the decision of those in charge; you may have come because of friends or because you moved here from a different place; At any rate, we're all here now, and we should acknowledge those who have made this dream of graduation a reality. As post high school plans approach and the time comes for us learn to fly on our own, we must remember that our roots are not in our future, but in our past here at Eastern Christian. I understand that today is our day, but to those in the audience that have made everything possible for us, your unending sacrifices and unconditional love does not go unnoticed.

And to the Class of 2007:

'From the break of day to the setting sun
Eagles soar together
It's one for all, all for one
Eagles soar together
Outside the school, and in its walls
Eagles soar together
If an eagle trips and falls
Eagles soar together
In damp old cellars and torch-lit halls
Eagles soar together
With our backs up against the wall
Eagles soar together

On the field, court, diamond, or even in the school
Eagles soar together
For an eagle in need, we're never to cool
Eagles soar together
Whether away from home, or inside the nest
Eagles soar together
When an eagle's in need, none others can rest
Eagles soar together
Once an eagle, always an eagle, that's how it goes
Eagles soar together
And an eagle among eagles is never alone
Eagles will always soar together.'
- by Joe Everett, EC Class of 2008

Thank you and I wish God's blessing on all your future endeavors.
Class of 2007, *fly like an eagle!*"



Senior Justin Van Dyke with mom, Sharon (Dykstra) Van Dyke ('78) and Mike Alsum. Justin: The Herald Staff congratulates you on your graduation. It has been a pleasure working with you and sorting through all the wonderful pictures you take. God's blessings on your future plans. - The Herald Staff



Teacher Deb Andrews and HS Senior Ji-Hwan Chung, this year's TRIG-STAR mathematics competition winner.



Mrs. Janet Braen presenting Justin Vierling, this year's recipient of the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship, with his award.

ECHS Commencement Perspective: The Principal's Blessing

BY JAN LUCAS, ECHS PRINCIPAL

“During the weeks leading up to the commencement ceremony most talk is focused on what the graduates will be taking with them as they move on to their next phase of learning. Not only the specific information and processes of learning that were mastered but also deep friendships and developed gifts that will continue to have personal significance far into the future. The Principal, living up to the job requirement of always looking at things from an unconventional perspective, focuses on what the Class of 2007 leaves with the school. The gifts left behind, like a present tucked away in a guest's room for the host to discover after saying good bye, are the graduates affirmations of faith in Jesus Christ that will provide the staff with the energy to joyfully return in September and do it all over again! Time and time again even when issues seemed over whelming a member of this class would pray with a hurting student or teacher, productively confront a classmate to do the right thing, offer a confession when appropriate, show up for school to work at learning even when personal challenges were overwhelming, offer a heartfelt apology, give generously to others, confront an adult lacking maturity, offer words of encouragement when needed and, boldly proclaim that a relationship with Jesus Christ provides a person with everything especially when life's challenges could easily bring on despair. We will continue to hold your affirmations of our faith as God's blessing for us! May your faith continue to be affirmed through the new relationships that come with new learning adventures. Be observant of God's rich blessings!”



ECHS Class of 2007

ECHS Commencement Address: L + L + L = L

BY MICHAEL ALSUM, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL & TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

“In reflecting on what I might say to you here tonight it occurred to me that we, you (the Class of 2007) and I are at similar places in our lives. You have spent 18 years with your families, 13 years in school 4 of which were in this fabulous high school. In those four years you have moved from adolescent boys and girls to young men and women ready to conquer the world or at least a small part of it. Many of you own cars and are no longer dependent on others to get you from point A to point B. You have gained more independence and along with that more responsibility. You have grown in knowledge, wisdom and faith. You have taken four years to reach this point of graduation.

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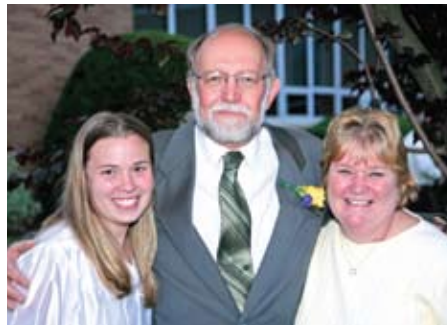
Commencement Speaker Mike Alsum

Relationships

The relationship between the teachers and students at this school makes me want to enroll; the teachers really care for students here,” is the comment that appears most often on exit questionnaires completed after a day’s visit by prospective students. During his 44 years of service to Eastern Christian, in a variety of roles including teacher and Assistant Principal, **Mike Alsum** has set the bar at the top of the standard for forming deep relationships with students and mentoring the staff to follow his example. The crowd of 1000 witnessing the graduation ceremony on June 13 got a glimpse of the web of relationships that have formed during the past four years between ECHS staff members and the members of the Class of 2007. The words expressed in both of the speeches (the full texts appear in this issue), the personal statements read by the senior sponsors as each graduate received a diploma and the joyful exchanges and hugs shared between the high school staff and graduates are the evidence. The families where both a parent and a 2007 graduate shared these same extraordinary relationships with Mike Alsum as their teacher are pictured here.



Steve Hulsebos ('80) and Andrew Hulsebos



Kristen Tanis & Kathy (Rosendale) Tanis ('71)



Russ ('76) & Debbie (Kooreman) Van Buiten ('77), Jason Van Buiten, John Van Buiten ('05)



Eric Wilson ('06), Judy (Zeeuw) Wilson ('78), Zachary Wilson



Geri (Smit) Vooyoys ('77) and Taylor Vooyoys, Art Vooyoys ('05) & Art Vooyoys, Sr. ('77) Geri adds, “Mr. Alsum’s beard was much longer when he was my teacher!”



Sam Dykstra ('05), Peter ('70) and Donna Dykstra (Former ECHS Staff) Peter comments, “You can teach English without Math, but you can’t teach Math without English!”



Barry ('75) and Debi (Wisse) Veenstra ('81), Brooke Veenstra



David Visbeen ('74) and Meghan Visbeen



Keith Spoelstra, Frank Spoelstra ('79) & Ben ('81) and Sharon (Zuidema) Spoelstra ('81), Benny Spoelstra

Community

Relationships with family and persons within the North Jersey geography of the Eastern Christian community for the most part are very familiar and comfortable. A glance at the names of the seniors receiving diplomas shows that the community in the Class of 2007 stretches internationally. Korean is spoken during lunchtime and at breaks by students who stretch traditional community members to begin to experience a global perspective on Christ's community. On several occasions at lunch, adventurous students delighted in a Korean feast prepared by teachers **Kathy Kim** and **Ruth Kuder** and even ate with chopsticks! ECHS continues to enjoy a reputation as a school where relationships that are centered on the model of Jesus Christ provide international families with the assurance that a son or daughter will feel loved and be secure while pursuing an education away from home. Families who

traveled great distances to the US to celebrate commencement with a son or daughter in the Class of 2007 are pictured here.



ESL Instructor **Cyndi Adair** with several of her students.



Joe Tanzola was the host family for **Hoychan Kim** with his sister.



Na Yi Kim, Do Yoon Kim, Soo Yeon An and her mother, **Seo Yoon Kim**.



Young Joon Park with his mother and host family, **Ji Young Yu**.



Sandra and Stephen Brauning, missionaries in the Dominican Republic, with their daughter, **Rebecca**.



Ji Hwan Jung with a relative.



Jae Hee Han with her parents.



Hyo Kyung Lee with her parents and host family.

Post Graduation Plans

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7



Soo-Yeon An
Rutgers University (NJ)



Kelly Ann Andela
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Robert Daniel Anfang
Cedarville University (OH)



Cheryl Felicia Bear
Parsons School of Design (NY)



Michael Samuel Bongiovanni
The College of New Jersey (NJ)



Rebecca Joy Brauning
Jacksonville University (FL)



Peter James Braunius
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Amy Elizabeth Joy Brotherton
Gordon College (MA)



Amanda Marie Buccola
Cedarville University (OH)



Daria Burachek
Simmons College (MA)



Bryan Douglas Bushoven
Messiah College (PA)



Kevin Glenn Bushoven
Eastern University (PA)



"This year's Coffeehouse event was hosted by Holy Grounds Cafe in Allendale and provided a really neat atmosphere for EC students, friends and family to enjoy music, coffee and fellowship. Three ECHS bands played throughout the evening and the turnout was overwhelming. As the event sponsor, I was very encouraged to see the student leadership, involvement and support that characterized the evening" - Emily (McGovern) D'Antuono ('00)



Jonathan Scott Byrd
Valley Forge Military Academy & College (PA)



Jessica Ann Callis
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Christina Nicole Castro
Cedar Crest College (PA)



Ji-Hwan Chung
University of Washington in Seattle (WA)



Peter Robert De Vos
Montclair State University (NJ)



David Edward Den Hollander
Bergen Community College (NJ)

Post Graduation Plans

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7



Silvana Elizabeth Diaz
Passaic County
Community College (NJ)



Joseph James Dickey
Shippensburg University (PA) William Paterson University (NJ)



Andrew George Dykstra
William Paterson University (NJ)



Rebecca Renee Flim
Calvin College/Western
Michigan University (MI)



Stacy Marie Foschini
Passaic County
Community College (NJ)



Richard David Granholm
Liberty University (VA)



Andre Arlease Greene
Morgan State University (MD)



Erin Beth Groenewal
Calvin College (MI)



Jae Hee Han
Rutgers University (NJ)



Jung Yoon (James) Han
Nyack College (NY)



Joan Marie Hoogerhyde
Calvin College/Western
Michigan University (MI)



Andrew John Hulsebos
Calvin College (MI)



Do Yoon Kim
New York Institute of
Technology (NY)



Dukho Kim
St. John's University (NY)



Hoychan Kim
Korean Army



Laura Ashley Kuiken
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Kirstin Elizabeth Lane
Wheaton College (IL)



Hoy Kyung Lee
SUNY - Stony Brook (NY)



Paul Ephraim Leoni
Rutgers University (NJ)



Tyler Halvor Litland
Gordon College (MA)



Melody Sue Lyman
Eastern University (PA)



Kenneth Andrew Malnati
Nyack College (NY)



Sawyer Alicia Maneri
Calvin College (MI)



Daniel Manuel Marcín
Valparaiso University (IN)



Shannon Rose Martin
Bloomfield College (NJ)



Ashley Soleil Meenen
Work Full Time/
Community College



Lisa Marie Mujica
Liberty University (VA)



Kevin James Murray
Professional Fire Fighter
- Hackensack



Jonathan Edward Muzikowski
Nyack College (NY)



Christopher Blake Nayda
Ramapo College of New Jersey (NJ)

Post Graduation Plans

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7



Amy Lynn Paddeu
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Lauren Elizabeth Panzica
Montclair State University (NJ)



Young Joon Park
Swiss Hotel Management
School (Switzerland)



Ashleigh Dawn Patterson
Eastern University (PA)



Daniel Evan Pecoraro
Stevens Institute of
Technology (NJ)



Candice Lynn Peterson
Messiah College (PA)



Alexander Christian Petras
University of Toronto (Canada)



Cara Lee Poalillo
North Central University (MN)



Daniel Patrick Rainville
William Paterson University (NJ)



Michael Joseph Ramiccio
St. Bonaventure University (NY)



Dominic Peter Rivera
The College of New Jersey (NJ)



Timothy James Rudd
Grove City College (PA)



Nastassja Bianca Santana
University of the Arts
Philadelphia (PA)



Bethany Joy Schmitt
Savannah College of Art &
Design (GA)



Daniel John Sietsma
Bloomsburg University (PA)



Bridget Lisa Soodsma
Calvin College (MI)



Bernhard William Spoelstra
Eastern University (PA)



Keith William Spoelstra
Calvin College (MI)



Michelle Marie Staso
Roman Academy (NJ)



Alyssa Joy Steinginga
Calvin College (MI)



Kristen Joy Tanis
Kutztown University (PA)



Shawn William Tanis
Chubb Institute (NJ)



Katelyn Marie Tilli
Cedarville University (OH)



Christina Tirondola
Berkeley College (NY)



Raymond David Torbet
Calvin College (MI)



Esther Nancy Tuit
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Jason Scott Van Buiten
New Jersey Institute of
Technology (NJ)



Jonathan Glenn Van Dyk
Liberty University (VA)



Justin Tyler Van Dyke
William Paterson University (NJ)



Joshua Andrew Van Eck
Calvin College (MI)

Post Graduation Plans

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7



Jessica Marie Van Grouw
William Paterson University (NJ)



Alyssa Jan Vanden Berg
Work Full Time



Brooke Janelle Veenstra
Calvin College (MI)



Michael Emmanuel Vega
Rutgers University (NJ)



Justin Henry Vierling
William Paterson University (NJ)



Kenneth James Visbeen
William Paterson University (NJ)



Meghan Elizabeth Visbeen
Eastern University (PA)



Taylor Ashley Vooyo
Coastal Carolina University (SC)



Meghan Ann Way
Kean University (NJ)



Christopher Joseph Webb
Lincoln Technical Institute (NJ)



Douglas Wayne Wessel
Stevens Institute of
Technology (NJ)



Kenneth Raymond Westra
Gordon College (MA)



Breslin Colville White
Rider University (NJ)



Zachary Andrew Wilson
Sussex County
Community College



Daniel Jae Yoo
Parsons School of Design (NY)

Art Department Award

Nastassja Santana Bethany Schmitt

Bausch & Lomb Science Award

Douglas Wessel

Bible & Life Award

Cara Lee Poalillo

Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Joan Hoogerhyde

Choral Award

Joseph Dickey Daniel Marcin Bernhard Spoelstra
Andrew Hulsebos Dominic Rivera

Drama Department Award

Lauren Panzica Justin Van Dyke

**English Department Excellence in Writing Award
English Department Scholastic Writing Award**

Bethany Schmitt

French Language Award

Daria Burachek

Harold Phillips Vocational Scholarship

Michelle Staso

High School Faculty Award

Dominic Rivera

Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award

Alexander Petras

Jeanette Crozier Scholarship

Justin Vierling

Lakeland Bank Award

Melody Lyman

Mathematics Department Award

Ji-Hwan Chung

Orchestra Award

Alexander Petras

R. Bruce Van Hine First Responder's Scholarship

Ashleigh Patterson

Richard J. Vander Plaats Service Award

Daniel Marcin

Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Justin Vierling

Spanish Language Award

Joshua Van Eck

Stringer Nursing Scholarship

Joan Hoogerhyde

Technology Department Excellence in Computer Technology Award

Jason Van Buiten

Technology Department Excellence in Audio/Visual Technology Award

Justin Van Dyke

“Light For Your Path”

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN, P – 8 PRINCIPAL & CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

“Well, you survived middle school! You survived a transition year, change in schedule, MAP testing, AR goals and a lot more that can now be labeled over and done with! I imagine you are now focused on the future – summer, high school and the rest of your life.

Your parents and teachers join you in looking forward with anticipation at how you will grow into godly men and women. We know from experience that the future is unpredictable and exciting. I suspect that if you asked your parents or teachers about their journey through life, and if they were honest with you, a good number would tell you that along with the excitement of the unknown future there will be hard lessons about God’s sovereignty and faithfulness.

I like that Garmin commercial where a guy has a conversation with his GPS device because it finds a golf course, a Chinese restaurant and reroutes him around traffic. **There will not be a GPS for your life journey, but you do have the Holy Spirit.** Our theme this year urged you to learn about how to ‘keep in step with the Spirit’ as you allow Him to guide and counsel you. In addition to posing the question, ‘what does it mean to keep in step with the Spirit?’ we also continually asked, ‘Where are you going?’ and ‘Who are you following?’ These are essential questions at any stage of life.

Two summers ago I planned to attend the Christian Schools International Leadership Conference in July. I received the brochure in April, booked my flight to Toronto, and made hotel reservations. In July, my wife and I boarded our plane and flew to Toronto, Canada. I had carefully researched airport transportation to the hotel, but when we arrived I could not find the correct bus. I did find buses that went to hotels in downtown Toronto, so I left my wife at the bus pick up area with all our bags and I went to exchange money. When I came back, the bus had loaded everyone except us and our bags. While the driver was on board taking money, I opened the cargo doors to put our baggage on the bus. This set off an alarm and the driver charged off the bus screaming at me.



8th Grade graduates **Matthew McGraw, Leah Groenewal, Scott De Jong and Rebecca Morris.**

When he calmed down, he asked me what hotel I wanted to go to.

I told him the Ottawa Marriott.

He asked me, “What hotel?”

Again I said, “The Ottawa Marriott.”

Then he asked me, “Are you in the right city?”

I said somewhat impatiently, “Of course I am in the right city!” pulling out my brochure to prove it to him.

That is when I discovered that I was, indeed, in the wrong city. I had apparently just assumed that the conference was in Toronto when I had booked the flight.

I called the hotel in Ottawa to ask about how I could get from Toronto to Ottawa. A six hour drive! So I went to the Air Canada desk and said, “You won’t believe what I just did. We flew into the wrong city, is there a flight to Ottawa today?” After paying out more than \$500 (Ouch!) for a one hour flight to Ottawa and changing my return flight so that we could fly into New York from Ottawa instead of Toronto, we boarded the plane to fly into the right city, only to discover that I was not registered for the conference, either. At least we had a hotel room!

When we flew back to New York’s LaGuardia Airport after the conference, my brother picked us up with a sign in the window of his car saying, welcome to Chicago.

I know you all know exactly where you are going to high school. It’s not likely that you will find yourself in the wrong school the day after Labor Day, but those three essential questions will remain important as you live out the next four years and beyond.

My challenge to you tonight is simple: **Strive to read your Bible every day. God’s inspired words will tune your sense of direction. They will influence your thoughts and decisions, and show you the way. You will know where you are going and who you are following. Proverbs 3: 1,2 ‘...do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.’**

On that wrong way trip two summers ago, I had all the information I needed in my briefcase. I just didn’t read it carefully. It didn’t matter that I was carrying it, or that I thought I knew what it said.

The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible. As a Christian, when you take time to really read the Bible, you are reading it with the author. He will give you insight, discernment and understanding. **You will be able to keep in step with the Spirit as you allow God’s word to be a lamp for your feet and a light for your path.”**



Madeline Kosten, Co-Salutatorian offers a “Prayer for Graduates.”

8th Grade Graduates Receiving the President’s Award for Educational Excellence:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Jeremy Braunius | Patrick Kim | Sarah Sessa |
| Brandi Bushman | Madeline Kosten | Anna Van Schepen |
| Jessica Hoogerhyde | Andrew Kuder | Dara Veenstra |
| Jaelyn Jacobs | Kristen Lindsay | Dawn Wang |
| Katherine Johnston | Kara Pepper | Victoria Westra |
| David Kang | Julia Quinn | Marina Youssef |
| Emilee Kim | Jacqueline Santhouse | |

ECMS Graduation Perspective

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN, P – 8 PRINCIPAL & CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Having met all their obligations and responsibilities, eighth grade students were awarded the last day of school off this year to prepare for their evening graduation ceremony. This year's ceremony featured words of challenge and inspiration from their teachers and administrators. A packed auditorium thrilled to a chorus ensemble rendition of "Seasons of Love" and an extraordinary violin solo by **Dawn Wang**. Valedictorian, **Emilee Kim** spoke about the highlights of their middle school experience and challenged herself and fellow graduates to "keep in step with the Spirit" as they moved on in life. ECMS principal, **Jan Lucas** read to the class from THE MESSAGE paraphrase of Romans 12 as a benediction. Then the ECMS Class of 2007 marched out of the ceremony to the music of *Water Music from Music for the Royal Fireworks* and to the applause of over 350 people.



Row 1(L to R): Adam Struyk, Katherine Johnston, Robert Gross, Rachael Coba, LP Ten Eyck, Kathleen D'Urso, Jamison Pimm, Emily D'Amelio, Amanda Boonstra, Meghan Vander Plaats, David Van Dyk, Marina Youssef, Cody Ten Kate, Sarah Sessa, Kevin Post, Kirstin Anderson, Christian Becker, Brandi Bushman. **Row 2:** Meghan LaFlam, Gene Hill, Sharon Visbeen, Sam Pecoraro, Allison Woodfin, Ryan Visbeen, Nicole Woudenberg, Corbin Whited, Dara Veenstra, Joseph De Marco, Dawn Wang, Chad Miller, Brian Kukol, Amanda Fenners, Jeremy Braunius, Kayla Westra, Chad Boonstra. **Row 3:** Matthew McGraw, Leah Groenewal, Scott De Jong, Rebecca Morris, David Harrison, Brianna Traub, Daniel Van Lenten, Emily Locklear, Patrick Kim, Amanda Touw, Jordan Klingler, Allison Vriesema, Kyle De Jong, Jacqueline Santhouse, Timothy Boonstra, Rachel Varney, Jacob Vander Wiele, Kara Pepper. **Row 4:** Nichole Hagedoorn, Christopher Schipper, Jessica Hoogerhyde, Samuel Braen, Kathryn Streelman, Craig Jacobs, Kristen Lindsay, Andrew Kuder, Victoria Westra, David Kang, Anna Van Schepen, Lyke Teshome, Madeline Kosten, Jay Choi, Jaclyn Jacobs, Henry Hanse, Julia Quinn, Mark Hook. Not pictured: Emilee Kim.

MS VALEDICTORY *continued from inside front cover*

me, whether I know what it is or not. There have also been many times in the school year when we think that God could be leading us in circles or backwards. We need to trust and follow Him and realize that a lot of the time we don't know where we are going.

ESSENTIAL FAITH QUESTIONS

This year has been about keeping in step with the Spirit. That means that we have to learn from its example and continue to grow in it. We have recently done the Essential Question Project, which asked the questions, **how does our learning influence our faith and how does our faith influence our learning?** Through this project, we were all able to show our faith in the daily things we do. Some showed it through technology, music, dance, or art. These projects really showed peoples' personalities and we all were able to learn things about them that we never knew. This project really helped us see how we can use our talents and gifts to express our faith in God. As we grow and move on, we will continue to ask these questions and refine our answers

to these questions. Another thing we as an eighth grade class did was show our appreciation to the Wyckoff firefighters, police men, and EMS squad. We came up with our own way to thank them for all they've done. In doing this, we were keeping in step with the Spirit by showing them God's love.

PRESSING ON TOWARD THE GOAL

This has been a great class to be with and we have come so far. One thing we should remember is that this is not an end, but just a transition into a new stage and we still have to grow and learn. Ending the school year is sad with all the people leaving for high school and even during the summer where we don't get to see each other or some people are moving. But no matter what happens to us, we know that God has a plan for us. As we find out what God's plan for us is, we should remember the verse Philippians 4:14, **'I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'** Let us fulfill our goal by keeping in step with the Spirit."

ECMS: Faith And Learning Month

by Joyce Breur, 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher



Elizabeth Gonzalez and Emily Giresi combined their talents for their project.

May was the Celebration of Faith and Learning Month at ECMS. The entire school reflected on two essential questions:

“How does your faith influence your learning?”

“How does your learning influence your faith?”

As the students pondered these two essential questions, they decided how they could answer them in a meaningful way. Basically, an essential question has no right or wrong answer, but rather allows the students to think deeply, using the information that they have learned in their classes. As a result, that’s exactly what the Middle School students did for their presentations in response to these two essential questions. Using their educational experiences to draw upon, the students created meaningful presentations in all different modes. The presentations ranged from PowerPoint to dance, from sculpture to drama, and from original writing to musical performance. Each presentation creatively expressed the integration of faith and learning within our students’ lives. The students also composed a significant paragraph which expressed the connection of their presentation to these two essential questions. As a culmination to this celebration, our valedictorian, **Emilee Kim**, clearly articulated the effectiveness of this project in her graduation speech by saying, “*This project really helped us see how we can use our talents and gifts to express our faith in God. As we grow and move on, we will continue to ask these questions and refine our answers to them.*”

Clearwater Sailing Trip

BY EVERETT HENDERSON, 5TH & 6TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER



How can you be a steward to God’s creation? On June 11, the fifth grade class plus 38 adults comprised of parents, grandparents, and teachers set sail from the Alpine Boat Basin to explore this question. With an environmental education theme, this field trip is the culmination of the fifth grade unit on Ecology. Onboard the Mystic Whaler on a beautiful clear day, the Tappan Zee Bridge could be seen to the north, George Washington Bridge to the south and the NJ Palisades to the west. There were many highlights to this trip, which was enjoyed by the adults as much as the students. Onboard were learning stations with different kinds of fish as well as stations on water chemistry, navigation, and the history of the Hudson Valley.

For some, a highlight was the lowering of the trawl net to collect specimens such as hogchokers and sea robins. Others enjoyed working in unison to raise the sails while singing a sea chantey. By the end of the day, both students and adults came away not only with sunburns but more importantly a greater appreciation of the wonders of God’s world.

Shine Until the Finish Line

BY MEGHANN PERSENAIRE, MIDDLE SCHOOL DEAN OF STUDENTS

Shine through the finish line. That was the challenge set before our middle school students, a challenge to be achieved in 30 school days. The purpose of “Shine Until the Finish Line” was to prevent the academic and behavioral decline that typically occurs during the last 30 school days, and to improve the academic and behavioral components of our school. The goals: gold medals, silver medals, advisory super gold medals, 6000 points and an all-school barbecue, a goal that seemed unreachable at times.

Students could earn individual silver and gold medals. Individual gold medals were achieved by having a demerit-free day. Advisory super gold medals were achieved by having a demerit-free day as an advisory. Points were subtracted for demerits and points were added for individual silver, gold,

continued on page 13

FINISH LINE *continued from page 12*

and advisory super gold medals. Students received a report each morning, culminating in the following report on May 31:

“Congratulations to the Eastern Christian Middle School Community on meeting their goal of 6000 points. We will celebrate on June 12 as a school community. We worked to meet a common goal, and we will continue to work toward our overall goal—to “keep in step with the Spirit.” You have had an excellent school year—Continue to work to the best of your ability, being guided by the Spirit in your conduct, your class work, and your daily activities. Continue to bring glory to God in all that you do!” ‘I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.’ Philippians 3:14

We celebrate today because we have won an earthly prize and, as we celebrate, we continue to ‘keep in step.’ We continue to ‘press on’ toward our goal, a goal far beyond any earthly prize—eternal glory! It is our prayer that you will continue to ‘press on’ toward the prize for which God has called you to heaven in Christ Jesus.”

Highlights of the final 30 days included 9 of 11 advisories earning at least two advisory super gold medals, and a sunny June day on which 213 of 233 students earned individual gold medals. Students maintained high academic and behavioral standards and shattered their goal after just 23



8th Grader Dan Van Lenten and ECMS Computer Skills Teacher Ralph Hutton prepare to feed the entire school!

days. We celebrated on June 12 with an all-school barbecue hosted by the 8th Grade.

Congratulations to our students on achieving their goal and going far beyond the finish line. Congratulations to our students on an excellent school year!

Middle School Track Season

BY TERRY ALLEN, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Middle School Girls’ and Boys’ track teams marked out a remarkable season this spring. In the course of six separate meets in May they earned dual meet records of 11-0 (girls) and 10-1 (boys). They then followed that with first place victories in the two invitational meets, May 24 at Saddle Brook (our league meet with six teams) and May 31 at the Ridgewood Invitational, where teams from 15 separate schools competed. In each of those meets, both the girls’ and boys’ teams brought home the championship trophies! W.T.G. Eagles! We had a team of 67 (34 girls, 33 boys), 6th, 7th and 8th graders, one of our largest teams ever, and over many practices and with diligent work, our improvement as a team and as individuals was significant. That personal growth is one of the most meaningful aspects of our season in track and field.

Special congratulations are in order for our gold medal winners at

the Ridgewood Invitational: **Sam Braen**, boys discus; **Morgan DeMarco**, girls discus; **Julie Quinn**, triple jump; **Jeremy Braunius**, 800 meter; **Craig Jacobs**, 1600 meter, and **Kristen Traub** in both the girls 800 and 1600! Also, throughout the season, many school records were tied or eclipsed by this season’s efforts: **Heather Tanis**, 60 meter, **Dara Veenstra**, 100 meter; **Brianne Traub**, 400; **Kristen Traub**, 800; **Morgan DeMarco**, discus; **Julie Quinn**, triple jump; **Abe Kang**, 60; **Jeremy Braunius**, 800; **Craig Jacobs**, 1600; **David Harrison**, long jump. Their marks will provide a challenge for future ECMS runners, jumpers and throwers!

All in all, we had a blessed and wonderful season. We praise the Lord for our successes. Our coaches, **Mr. Allen** (throwers), **Mr. Dolgin** (jumps, relays) and **Mary Faber** (runners, relays), congratulate our athletes, and thank the parents for their consistent support. Go Eagles!



ECMS Boys and Girls Track Team

CLASS OF 2007 ATHLETIC AWARDS

Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Female: Rebecca Flim
Male: Dominic Rivera

Army Reserve/National Scholar Athlete

Female: Laura Kuiken
Male: Dominic Rivera

United States Marine Corp Athletic Award

Female: Shannon Martin
Male: Tyler Litland

NJSIAA Scholar/Athlete Award

Dominic Rivera

NJSIAA Educational Testing Service Scholar Athlete Award

Female: Kirstin Lane
Male: Dominic Rivera

Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete

Female: Rebecca Flim
Male: Dan Sietsma

New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Shannon Martin

Bergen County Umpires Association

Female: Shannon Martin
Male: Keith Spoelstra

Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Female: Rebecca Flim
Male: Kenneth Malnati
Dominic Rivera

Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award

Rebecca Flim Kenneth Malnati
Tyler Litland Shannon Martin
Dominic Rivera



Senior Pitcher **Keith Spoelstra**

Sports Highlights

2007 SPRING ATHLETIC SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

by Steve King, Athletic Director



Senior **Shannon Martin**

Girls' Track: The 2007 team was small in number, but huge in heart. The appearance of snow at the first track meet had some wondering what they had signed up for. But as the weather improved the whole team started to pull together. The upperclassmen grew into team members encouraging team leaders as the season progressed. Overall each team member showed significant personal improvement throughout the season, but several members gave notable performances. **Cara Poalillo, Rebecca Flim** and **Schuyler Sietsma** earned places in three events in the BPSL league meet, while Rebecca also took a first in the javelin in the Passaic County meet. The team finished at 5-6.

Boys' Track: The 2007 team finished at 7-4 for the season and finished 8th in the NJSIAA Parochial meet. The exciting results of this year were the incredible number of personal best improvements accomplished by individuals. Seniors **Tyler Litland** and **Josh Van Eck** led the team as captains with Josh receiving the Most Valuable Player Award. **Austin Bullock, Tyler Litland, Josh Abma,** and **Dan Sietsma** helped set new places in the top five EC performances. **Ben DeWaal Malefyt** set a new freshmen record for discus.

Varsity Softball: The team ended the season at 12-11, but this record is just a small indication of what the spring season consisted of. The team selected a theme from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." Together the players battled through broken bones, torn muscles, and pulled hamstrings. As a result team members were on the disabled list for games at a time, and even for the season. They had big wins over Immaculate Conception, Pompton Lakes and Hawthorne and were ranked 4th in the county before the injuries took their toll. **Shannon Martin** the only senior, will be missed for her hard work, dedication and leadership. Junior **Emily Karr** led in the pitching (.43 ERA) and hitting (.638 batting average) prior to her season ending injury. **Alyssa Cestaro** (21 RBI), **Randi-Lynn Veenstra** (.295 batting average), and **Kelsey Spoelstra** (.408 on base percentage) helped lead the team to earn quality stats.

JV Softball: The Girls' JV softball team finished at 6-11. The season got off to a good start at Paterson Catholic with an 11-0 win. Over the next few games the team struggled against some very good competition. Eventually the team pulled together and had impressive wins over Midland Park and Manchester. They also experienced a gratifying 11-10 comeback win over Immaculate Heart. The enjoyable part of the season was to see great improvement in both individual and team accomplishments.

Varsity Baseball: After a 1-6 start, the Eagles went 7-2 in their next 9 games to make the States beating Midland Park 8 to 7. Some highlights this year were winning at Pompton Lakes 4-2 and Glen Rock 5-4 for the first time in a number of years. The team also won against last year's division winner Saddle Brook 15-0 on a no hitter by **Ken Westra**. That win was followed up with a combined no hitter against Elmwood Park by pitchers **Devon De Jong** and **Brian Sietsma**, with a final score 8-0. **Keith Spoelstra** pitched a 1 hitter against Manchester winning 8-0 and Ken Westra threw a 2 hitter in the county game against PCT only to lose 3-0. The team's final record was 12 and 12, losing the last game in the sectional semi-finals of the States. **Joe Everett** (.375), **Brian Sietsma** (.350), and **Mike Bongiovanni** (.318) led the team in hitting average.

JV Baseball: With so many freshmen joining the program, as well as an experienced group of returnees from last year, the coaches were excited about the potential for the year. As the season progressed it was obvious that flexibility was a key to the team, as many players were able to fill in at various positions.

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2007 HIGHLIGHTS *continued from page 14*

The coaches stressed however that consistent play was important to strive for in order to improve. The team was able to maintain an even record throughout the season, including an exciting extra inning win over Saddle Brook.

Tennis: With one of the most competitive tennis squads in years, the coaches looked forward to a great season. Led by seniors **Robbie Anfang** and **Dominic Rivera** the tone of the season was cordial and pleasant. This was continually recognized by opposing coaches who would often share their appreciation with the EC coaches. Equal play performance was also a strength in the singles line-up. Robbie finished at 8-7, Dominic at 13-3, and **Joe Veenstra** at 10-6. Throughout the season 15 different players participated in varsity matches.

Golf: This young squad had a very successful season. They finished at 17-13 overall and 7-3 in the league. EC took 2nd place in the BPSL league behind Glen Rock. The team was led by freshman **Taylor Crawley**, freshman **Craig Doller**, and sophomore **Brian Vander Heide**. With only senior **Ray Torbet** graduating, the Eagles should be highly competitive over the next few years.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Varsity Softball Team on being awarded the George Lucas Memorial Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship for the 2007 season. The Bergen County Umpires Association awards this to that team that best exemplifies sportsmanship during the softball season. One team from all of Northern New Jersey is chosen for this award. Congratulations to Head Coach **Laura King**, Assistant Coach **Cory Petrillo-Banta**, and the members of the 2007 Varsity team. A banner for this award was presented to the team in June.

Congratulations to Eastern Christian Athletics on receiving the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Award for the 2006-2007 school year. The Athletic Department was recognized by the Bergen Passaic Scholastic League as being the top school in the league in sportsmanship throughout the entire school year. Congratulations to Athletic Director **Steve King**, the Eastern Christian coaching staff, the members of all teams, as well as the fans at the events, for this award. Eastern Christian Athletic Teams also remained disqualification free since 1991 and will be honored by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association in the fall.



Umpire **Pete Lukach** presenting the Sportsmanship plaque to Coach **Laura King** and the Varsity Softball team.

SPRING 2007 ATHLETIC AWARDS

TENNIS

- Robert Anfang**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Dominic Rivera**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Joe Veenstra**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County



Senior **Robbie Anfang**

GIRLS' TRACK

- Schuyler Sietsma**
Honorable Mention All League 100m
Honorable Mention All League 200m
Honorable Mention All League Javelin
- Rebecca Flim**
First Team All County Javelin
Honorable Mention All League Shot Put
Second Team All League Discus
First Team All League Javelin
- Arielle Dreher**
Honorable Mention All League Discus
- Cara Poalillo**
Honorable Mention All County
Honorable Mention All League Long Jump
Honorable Mention All League High Jump
Honorable Mention All League Triple Jump
- Erica Lotz**
Honorable Mention All County
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault
- Kerith Sunden**
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault

BOYS' TRACK

- Austin Bullock**
Honorable Mention All League 100m
- Tyler Litland**
Honorable Mention All County
- Dan Sietsma**
Second Team All League 3200m
- Josh Tanis**
Honorable Mention All League 110m HH
Honorable Mention All League 400m IH
- Joel Veenstra**
Honorable Mention All League Shot Put
- Sean Hagedoorn**
Honorable Mention All League Shot Put
- Josh Van Eck**
Honorable Mention All County
Honorable Mention All League Long Jump
Honorable Mention All League High Jump
- Linley Thobourne**
Honorable Mention All League High Jump
- Nate Van Eck**
Honorable Mention All League High Jump
- Justin Vierling**
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault
- Stefano Cosini**
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault

GOLF

- Taylor Crawley**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Craig Doller**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Brian Vander Heide**
Second Team All League
- Ray Torbet**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

SOFTBALL

- Emily Karr**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Nicole Struyk**
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Kelsey Spoelstra**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Shannon Martin**
Honorable Mention All League

BASEBALL

- Ken Westra**
Second Team All League
- Keith Spoelstra**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Brian Sietsma**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Mike Bongiovanni**
Second Team All League
- Joe Everett**
Second Team All League
Second Team All County
- Kendall Everett**
Honorable Mention All League

Walk by Faith and God Will make Your Steps Firm

2007 ECES Promotion Message

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN, P – 8 PRINCIPAL & CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

“We know you have learned to verbally declare “walk by faith!” this year. But, how will we know that you learned to actually walk by faith?”

Brian Vivolo has delared he can ride a unicycle. How do we know he can ride a unicycle? [Brian demonstrates how he can ride his unicycle.] We see him do it. His actions backup his words!

We say you have learned enough to go into middle school. How do we know you have learned enough? We have tested you; we have seen you perform.

We are excited about how you have grown and learned during your time at ECES. Your demonstration of learning has produced that excitement. However, you know what would thrill us as we watch you grow through middle school and into high school? We would be thrilled to see you pleasing God, by believing that He exists and by earnestly seeking Him.

How would we know that you are doing that? Hebrews 11:6 says, “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*” What is the evidence that you are pleasing God by walking by faith? Hebrews 11:6 says – “*Rewards!*”

What does that mean? When you think of rewards, what comes to your mind - ice cream, a trophy, money, friendships? These are all nice

rewards, but they are all temporary – ice cream is quickly eaten, trophies gather dust, money gets spent, and friends change.

DELIGHTFUL REWARDS FOR WALKING BY FAITH

Listen to the words of a great hero of faith, David, from Psalm 37: 3-4
“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Do you hear any rewards mentioned in those verses? “*He will give you the desires of your heart.*” Now, you may think that the desires of your heart are for ice cream, but that is your stomach speaking. Or, you may think that you desire money, but that is your greed speaking.

Later in Psalm 37, David writes: “*If the Lord delights in* *continued on page 17*”



Brian Vivolo on his unicycle.

ECES 4th Grade Class of 2007

Corey Abma
 Jackson Ainsworth
 Stephanie Avila
 Tyler Balkema
 Caleb Becker
 Blair Bohuny
 Aaron Burtz

Sarah Kate Caliguire
 Brandon Crawley
 Justin Davis
 Scott De Bell
 Andrew De Block
 Tyler Doehler
 Caitlin Duffy

Cole Elsaesser
 Taylor Faber
 Morgan Herman
 Taylor Herman
 Devin Hulsebos
 Megan Kim
 Erin Klingler

Kate Klingler
 Kaytlynn Knyfd
 Rebecca Martin
 Emily Maura
 Nathaniel Ocot
 John Onufer
 Luke Pecoraro

Kelly Pepper
 Michael Pepper
 Robert Piluso
 Hannah Postma
 Joel Smid
 Zachary Steiner
 Mella Teshome

Joshua Touw
 Jayna Van Buiten
 Jason Van Goor
 Erin Van Lenten
 Jeffrey Versnel
 Brian Vivolo
 Chloe Whealan
 Patricia Wolyniec



ECES 4th Grade Class of 2007 with teachers Holly Turner and Carol Byma.

a man's way, He makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand."

Do you know what the word "delight" means? It means pleasure, happiness, satisfaction, enjoyment. David says that if you purposely look for your happiness in the Lord, He will give you the desires of your heart. Then he says later, if the Lord finds pleasure and satisfaction in a person, He will support that person no matter what happens.

So, we want to challenge you to continue to walk by faith, believing that God exists and earnestly seeking Him in everything you do in your life. How will we know that you are doing that? We will see you doing things that please God because you know that is the ultimate desire of your heart – to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your strength.

FAITH BUILDS CONFIDENCE

What is Brian's reward for learning to ride a unicycle?

His father, who told him he could learn to ride a unicycle, encouraged faith that enabled him to develop a rare skill, and that skill has produced confidence that he can accomplish hard things.

Similarly, when we have faith in God our Father, believing that He exists and seeking to know Him, we experience confidence that nothing is impossible with God and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Then, you will live an extraordinary life bringing honor and glory to God.

So, walk by faith into middle school with confidence that God will reward your faith, delighting in you and making your steps firm."

Grandparents/Special Guest's Day

BY BEVERLY PETERS, 3RD GRADE TEACHER

Psalm 8:1 *"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."*

Each year at Eastern Christian Elementary School, students at all grade levels invite their grandparents or special guests to spend quality time with them in the classroom. It is so well received that many grandparents call the office early in the school year inquiring about the date to be sure they don't miss it! We've had grandparents travel out of state for the event. Teachers make every effort to be sure our guests are comfortable and that the time spent with them is interactive and not too teacher-driven. Our curriculum work is used as well as engaging projects and interesting activities. We spend an appropriate amount of time together, typically a full morning or an afternoon.

This year, kindergarten students observed newly-hatched chicks and wrote about their progress. They were thrilled to share this experience of new life together and treat their guests with a snack that they made. Math "Bingo" is enjoyed by first grade students as they reviewed their addition and subtraction facts. They also selected 8-10 different individualized reading activities to work on with their partners including reading a book together, designing a new book cover and creating a monkey.

Grandparents love to reminisce about what school was like for them in second grade. Students shared their interests with their special guests as they built on their relationships and made a booklet that will last a lifetime. Memories are created as students learned about some recent history or shared what they learned in the classroom.

Some grade level teachers invited their special guests to start the day with Chapel that included their students performing by instrument or song about our theme, "Walking by Faith". After worshipping together, third grade students escorted their guests to the classroom where they helped students finish a craft



Sarah Kennedy with her grandma.

of a cross with one of their Bible memory verses, John 3:16 imprinted on it. When finished, there was a folder full of interactive puzzles they could work on together.

Fourth grade classes shared their Social Studies State projects and the slide shows that they each created. Much time and effort went into these projects and their guests were very proud of them. At this grade level, grandparents realized it is the student's last one at the elementary school and they savored the event over snacks, a cool drink or a cup of coffee.

Grandparents and Special Guest's Day is about creating memories and good fellowship in our community of believers. It is a blessing to witness grandparents greeting each other in the hallways and meeting up with other friends again. God is truly faithful through all generations.

ECES Perfect Attendance List

KINDERGARTEN

Morgan Ritsema

FIRST GRADE

Rebekah Parker

SECOND GRADE

Gabrielle Buccola
Scott Steenstra

THIRD GRADE

Kelly Dykman
Brandon Parker
Rachael Tanis

FOURTH GRADE

Morgan Herman	Rebecca Martin
Taylor Herman	Brian Vivolo
Megan Kim	Patricia Wolyniec

ECES Fourth Graders: Oozing With Talent

BY HOLLY TURNER, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

The time finally arrived for Eastern Christian Elementary School's Annual Science Fair. The date was May 17th and the 4th grade students had prepared for months for this very night. The students were given the criteria in January and were asked to each choose an experiment that they would conduct over the course of several weeks. Each month thereafter, different aspects of the process were due, such as the Big Question, the Hypothesis, the Materials List and the Procedure.

Along the way the students had many questions and discussions to determine how they should go about completing this project. The students learned all about the Scientific Method and how to explore questions about science. They also learned how to construct a presentation board and they discovered what it takes to make a fantastic presentation. A few of the experiments that were chosen focused on biology, earth science, plant life and chemical reactions.

As the students began to prepare for the big night, we discussed how to present their findings and how to go about explaining the details. It was important for them to know how the experiment worked and to understand their conclusions in order to field questions from people who were attending the Fair. Making eye contact and speaking clearly were just a few things that we went over before the night of the Science Fair. As a final

preparation on the day of the Science Fair, the students invited all the grades to come, walk around and see their experiments. This made for great practice before the actual event.

The night of the Science fair was very exciting. There was a huge turnout that included family, friends and even members of the community. The students were prepared and standing by their experiments as the event began. Each student spoke to visitors as they came by to inquire about their project. As each visitor listened, it became apparent that the knowledge and understanding that each student had for their project was superb. Each one spoke with confidence about how they performed their experiment and what they learned.

Also featured that night was a booth where students could make polymers (also known as "slime" to most kids). Every year the "Mad Scientist" from Mad Science of Bergen County attends the Fair and runs a booth for the students and guests to enjoy making slime. While doing so, they learn about the polymer construction of molecular bonding which creates a gooey slime that the students can take home.

As the evening came to a close, it was quite evident that each student did a fantastic job and learned something new in the process. It was truly a great night of fun and education as the students allowed their creativity and intellect to shine for everyone to see.



Corey Abma with aunt Kim Klingler at the 4th grade Science Fair.



Girls in Susie James' kindergarten class celebrate Cowboy Day!



Third grade students, along with teacher Donna Hoogerhyde, went on a field trip to Braen Quarry.

ECES Welcomes Author Robert Skead

BY CAROL BYMA, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

Eastern Christian Elementary students welcomed children's author **Robert Skead** on Thursday, May 17, 2007. Mr. Skead, the father of three EC elementary and Pre-K students, delighted the students by sharing with them the five books he has written. These books are *Safe at Home*, *Hitting Glory*, *Elves Can't Dunk*, *Elves Can't Tackle*, and *Elves Can't Kick*. Mr. Skead summarized the plots of these stories and shared how the plot ideas were developed. For instance, the idea for *Hitting Glory* came from a 100 year-old bat he purchased.

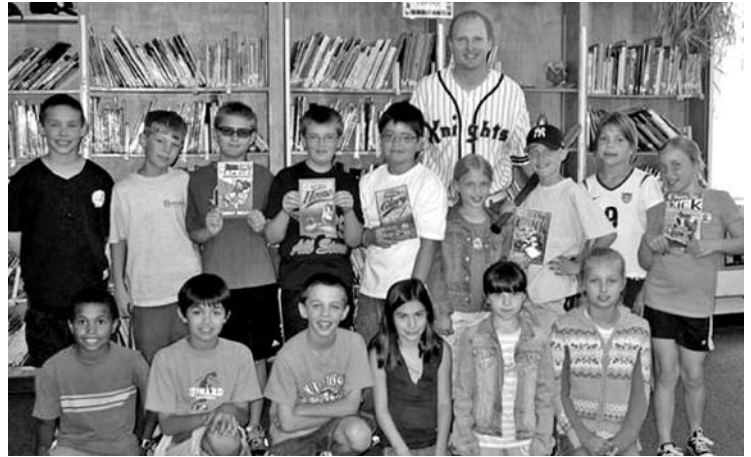
He then asked the students to tell him the good parts of the writing process and the more difficult ones. The students suggested freedom to brainstorm and use one's imagination, writing about any topic, and playing around with ideas, characters, and names as the good parts of writing and felt that coming up with ideas, rewriting ideas, and editing as the more difficult parts.

Mr. Skead also shared a secret formula for writing. He told the students that they needed to start with a big idea, decide on a main character, create a goal for this character, develop one or more problems that would stop this goal from happening, and finally to resolve the conflict with some kind of solution. He also suggested that happy endings to stories are more profitable than sad endings!

To illustrate this formula, the students were asked to come up with ideas to start a story together. They brainstormed a character, a goal, a problem, and

a solution. They were encouraged to actually write this story down, illustrate it, and rewrite it several times until the story was to their satisfaction.

Our guest summed up his time of sharing by saying that it is easy to write when you follow a formula, and it is fun to write when you work with others to make it a great piece of writing. The students left excited about their own writing! Thanks to Mr. Skead for coming and sharing his writing tips with ECES students!



Author **Robert Skead** with future authors!

EC Preschool Spring Highlights

BY KATHY FAASSE, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

ANNUAL PICNIC

Eastern Christian Preschool has had another busy and fun year! Our annual picnic was held on May 31 at Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. Students, parents, and younger brothers and sisters helped us celebrate under sunny (but hot!) skies. Twenty five eighth graders from ECMS were on hand to help with the various activities which included decorating sand pails, planting flowers and maneuvering an obstacle course! Then it was time for a picnic lunch with all the families. It truly is a wonderful way to celebrate the ending of another Preschool year!

GRADUATION



EC Preschool students singing their favorite songs.

The Eastern Christian Preschool Class of 2007 held their graduation and closing program on Monday, June 11 at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. The children presented a program based on this year's theme of Faith. A highlight was singing the hymn "Great is thy Faithfulness" which was so evident as the children sang to a few generations of their families. As these families look forward to more graduations in the future, God's faithfulness will certainly continue.

Preschool Class of 2007

Maeve Barclay	Faith Kennedy
Ashleigh Biswurm	Justin Kim
Leah Boonstra	Joshua Kinahan
Molly Boonstra	Emma Lapinsky
Jenna Brooks	Shane Littell
Nicole Bucci	Luke Martin
Hope Chun	Luke Moorman
Zachary Dansen	Elise Reitsma
Chase De Jong	Madison Ritsema
David De Vries	Ronnie Sgambati
Kiandra Dussard	Johnny Skead
Emily Estes	Emily Steen
Amanda Faber	Victoria Sweetman
Sam Faber	Caitlin Westra
Nicholas Fiore	Jenna Whealan
Rebecca Hagedoorn	Brayden Vogel
Grace Heck	Sydney Wright
Zoe Higby	John Zuidema
Jordan Iannone	

Service Awards



ECSA Service Award honorees (L-R): Esther Alsum, Donna Holly, P-8 Principal Dick Van Yperen, Holly Turner and Lynn Veenstra.

5 YEARS:

Leisl Botbyl	Amanda Mulder
Peter Botbyl	Damaris Nganga
Jena Cooksey	Meghann Persenaire
Geraldine Gallagher	Cornelius Sloomaker
Jenny Gonzalez	Holly Turner
Ruth Kuder	

10 YEARS:

Nora English	Susan Martin
Donna Holly	Mildred Roman
Janice Kuiken	Lynn Veenstra

15 YEARS:

Jay Nelson	Jane Okma
------------	-----------

20 YEARS:

Janyce Bandstra	Barry Veenstra
Barbara Dykhous	Audrey Vogel

30 YEARS:

Raymond Roberts

RETIREES:

Mike Alsum (44 years) Esther Alsum (7 years)

SPECIAL HONOREES:

Employee not returning with more than 20 years of service:

Gail Beverly



Eastern Christian School Association
50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

Thank you to all of our Eastern Christian School community for your help and support over the past two years. Working on behalf of our students from Preschool through High School has been the best job I've ever had. We can be very proud of our faculty and staffs that have created loving, learning communities which have nurtured our children, provided an excellent academic education, and continued them in their spiritual development. I will be moving on to another opportunity this summer. I have appreciated all you have done to support Eastern Christian, and all the kindness you have shared with me.

Kurt Kaboth,
FORMER CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR



Eastern Christian School Association
50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

Dear Herald readers,

This is the last issue of *The Herald* in its current format. We thank Gail Beverly for the 7 years she edited *The Herald*, devoting so much of her time to creating an outstanding publication.

The Herald will have a new multi-faceted look in the future!

1. A newsletter or tabloid version distributed 10 times a year through our students. This is a shorter press run of internal school communications. It will focus on current events, upcoming events, and celebrate our work and life together.

2. A magazine-like and shorter version of *The Herald* that will go to the wider Association community. It will include a significant amount of celebratory materials, alumni information, and donor recognition information.

3. Website News. We intend for the "hottest" news to be put up on the website in a new "Current News" section which can also be used for press releases.



Gail Beverly

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Henion
EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Community Supports Successful Spring Fundraisers

AUCTION ELEGANCE

Eastern Christian School held its 7th *Auction Elegance* at *The Tides* in North Haledon on April 19, 2007. A capacity crowd enjoyed a delicious hot & cold buffet dinner while placing their bids on a variety of theme baskets, outdoor items and more. The Live Auction, led by auctioneer **Henry Kuperus**, included such items as a Cape May Getaway, VIP Viewing Passes to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Golf Outings and more! Our thanks to the many volunteers who planned the event, solicited donations and worked that evening to ensure that everything ran smoothly for the guests. Thanks to the generosity of our bidders, \$55,300 was raised to benefit Eastern Christian School. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 17, 2008 for next year's auction!

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

This year's Golf Outing raised **\$20,180** for Eastern Christian School. The sold-out event included 144 golfers at Crystal Springs Golf Resort. It was a picture-perfect day, with a 1:00pm shot-gun start and delicious buffet dinner afterward. A special thanks to Golf Committee Chairman **Kurt Faber ('87)** and to all our sponsors and golfers who participated.



Auction Guests deciding what to bid on.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The annual **Christmas Bazaar** will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007** at ECHS. This is a great day for the whole family: enjoy the Food Court sponsored by Sixth Reformed Church Booster Club, fun activities for the kids and of course a wide variety of crafters and vendors for your shopping pleasure. Interested crafters can visit www.easternchristian.org for more information.

Barnes & Noble Bookfair to benefit Eastern Christian School will be **Weds., Dec. 12, 2007**. Shop anytime between 9am - 11pm and EC will receive a percentage of your purchase. Do your holiday shopping and help raise funds for EC at the same time. More details to follow!

Auction Elegance Sponsors

PADDLE SPONSORS:

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2007 Golf Outing Sponsors

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DOOR PRIZE DONORS

David Glenz Golf Academy
Encore Health Club, Waldwick
Randy's Auto Repair, Midland Park
Switzer Construction Group
Valley National Bank

Alumni News

Please note: *The Alumni News we print was either received via a written note, e-mail or was noted from media sources. Alumni are encouraged to e-mail their news to: Alumni@easternchristian.org. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.*

HERITAGE YEARS

Willemina (Van Halsema) Quackenbush ('38) of Grand Rapids, MI, passed away on May 31, 2006, at age 85, after a three-month struggle with brain cancer. Willemina graduated from Calvin College with a Bachelor of Arts in June 1942, and the University of Michigan with a Master of Arts in June 1953. She taught in North 4th Street Christian School from 1944-47 and in Passaic Christian School in 1948. Our sympathy is extended to **Ruth (Quackenbush) Ruiz-Chavez** ('74) and **John Quackenbush** ('76).

CLASS OF 1946

Peter Spaak and **Lois (Zeeuw) Smith** were married on May 23, 2007 in a private ceremony, in New Port Richey, FL.

CLASS OF 1953

Dr. J. Robert Halma passed away on May 9, 2007 in PA at the age of 71. He graduated from Calvin College with a Bachelor of Science degree, Syracuse University with a Master of Science degree and received a Ph.D from Lehigh University. He taught organic science at Eastern Christian High School from 1957



Varsity Girls Soccer Team of 1982

– 1960. He was a professor of biology, 1962 – 2000, at Cedar Crest College. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Linda and their children.

CLASS OF 1972

Dave Dykstra passed away on May 9, 2007. Dave was a member of Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ. Our sympathy to Dave's wife Sue and his 3 children.

CLASS OF 1975

It is with great sadness we inform our classmates that **Ken Faber** passed away on June 26, 2007. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, **Mary (Zuidema) Faber** ('77) and daughters Allison (ECHS Junior) and Rachel (ECHS Sophomore).

CLASS OF 1982

Reunion update from Ginny Groenewal: "Our 25th Reunion will be November 23, 2007, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Please

e-mail **Lisa Soodsma** LSoodsma@aol.com with information, to RSVP and with any questions regarding the upcoming event! Thank you for your help with our 25th reunion!"

CLASS OF 1984

April and **David Van Heemst** have been blessed with the birth of healthy triplet girls, Elizabeth Renee, Anneke Grace and Jessica April in Kankakee, IL. They join their two older twin sisters (age 6).

CLASS OF 1989

Lynn S. Holmes was married to Rori Moorhouse in Hartford, CT on January 14, 2007.

CLASS OF 1994

Julie (Bowers) Tilson e-mailed, "I just wanted to pass along the news that my husband and I just had our third child.

Her name is Carson Elizabeth born on June 19, 2007."

CLASS OF 1995

Andrew Brown writes on the EC online directory, "I got out of the nuclear Navy in Oct. '05 and I have been working at Seabrook Nuclear Power Station since Feb. '06." He resides in Pembroke, NH with his wife and children, Adreana and Nickolaus.

CLASS OF 1997

Reunion Update from **James Pyrich:** "The Class of 1997 10-Year Reunion is afoot! We will be meeting on October 6, 2007 in the Red Room at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ. If

Alumni Currently Serving Our Country

If you know of any serviceman/woman who are EC alumni, we would love to have you share names, addresses, their email address, where they are stationed, and a photo if desired. We will post the information on our website's Alumni page so we can send letters, emails and keep them in our prayers

Please email your information to alumni@easternchristian.org or send to:
EC Development Office, 50 Oakwood Ave., North Haledon, NJ 07508.



Stay Connected!

EC Alumni: check out the online directory at
www.easternchristian.org

This is a password protected online community for you to connect with classmates and other alumni. No matter where you are located, connecting is just a click away!

From the homepage, click on 'Our Alumni' tab, then on the left sidebar click on 'EC Directory Login.' Enter your username & password or click to request one. A search screen will come up and you can begin connecting!

you wish to attend or need more details, please visit:
www.97cc.com/2007reunion.shtml

CLASS OF 2000

Joshua De Jong and Casie Cortese ('01) De Jong were married on June 2, 2007 at Cornerstone Christian Church in Wyckoff. The newlyweds reside in Pompton Lakes.

CLASS OF 2001

Classmates **Bill and Julie (Dykhouse) Tokarski** were married on June 1, 2007 at Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ.

Jen (Beverly) and Chris TenHarmsel celebrated their marriage on May 26, 2007. They continue to live in Chicago where Jen works in human resources at a media agency, and Chris writes computer software for a consulting firm.



The ECMS Spirit Team was the opening act at the Jonas Brothers Concert in March 2007.



Eastern Christian Marketing Committee hosted a concert by the well-known Jonas Brothers, who are former EC students. Shown, along with the Jonas Brothers (top row, center), are all the volunteers who contributed the success of the evening!

In contrast I have been teaching at EC for 44 years and it took 41 of those for me to finish at the high school! I have also gone through many changes - from a young man to an older man - from an eligible single to a grandfather - one of my friends in seeing a recent picture commented the most notable change was the migration of my hair from the top of my head to my chin. I also have grown in knowledge, wisdom and faith.

We, you (Seniors) and I are both experiencing significant changes in our lives at this time. You are going to go to work at a job, to college, many of you moving out of the comfortable environment of home and learning to live independently. I will be leaving a comfortable and secure job for the uncertainty of retirement. Each of us thinking (and worrying) about “What am I going to do when I grow up?” or as I move to the next stage in life.

I have taught mathematics all of the years of my career. It is a beautiful and elegant subject in and of itself. It can be as simple as using a counting system or doing elementary addition or subtraction. Or it can be as complex as advanced calculus or the study of geometries such as topology. It is challenging to the mind and for many of there is no greater satisfaction than solving a difficult problem. Mathematics is a tool used by almost all of us to quantify, to describe or to analyze the world about us. Mathematics is extremely practical and is used by all of us on a daily basis. If you think that you don't use math listen to the next 15 minute conversation that you have with someone and count the number of math terms that you use.

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching this interesting and useful subject but it is the students at whom the teaching is directed who are really the important part. In both the teaching and administrative parts of my job I work with students, teachers and parents constantly. In that interaction the really important things in life occur so I would like to reflect on a few things that effect how we live, love, grow and learn together. As a math teacher I have reduced what I have to say to a formula that you see in the program, L + L + L = L.

THE FIRST AND PRIMARY L IS LOVE!

When asked which commandment is the greatest Jesus says. The most important is: “*Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Mark 12)

So how do you love your neighbor?

I have had a quote displayed on the wall of my office for several years. It says “*Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being.*” (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1749 – 1832) Always take the optimistic view - the glass is half full. Recognize the possibilities (not just the liabilities) in your friends, parents, colleagues and even your teachers. Each of us are after all created in the image of God and that ought to be taken seriously.

Be forgiving. Show love. Many of us are offended way too quickly and then react in ways that then tend to multiply the offense. Consider why you are offended. It may have been more your problem that the one whom you think offended you. Be loving. Show forgiveness.

THE SECOND L IS LISTEN!

Spend time in silence and listen to what God has to say to you whether it is from His Word or sitting quietly in the woods or on a mountain listen to what his creation has to say. Listen to the people around you: parents, children, students, teachers, friends, co-workers. I have learned a tremendous amount by just listening to my students and my children. You will gain much wisdom by listening. You need to listen with large ears and a small mouth if you really want to hear and learn.

Many students in my classes have heard that it has been scientifically proven that when the mouth is open it is impossible to hear. I'm not sure of the whole truth of that statement but ... Listening does enable you to understand why a person acts in a particular way and helps to keep one from premature judgment and reaching erroneous conclusions. If you truly want to get to know people the best method is to listen to them.

THE THIRD L IS LAUGH (ENJOY, HAVE FUN)

We often want to see change in ourselves or in those around us. Have patience with yourself, your friends and with God. Consider how long it can take to change something in your life and give those you care for the same consideration you give yourself. Don't take yourself and others too seriously. Relax, laugh and play, have fun in all of your life. Enjoy and practice simple things. Say ‘I love you.’ Say ‘Thank you.’ Say ‘I'm sorry.’ Say ‘How can I help.’ Practice humility as a way of life. Pray and serve God. Remember that things happen in God's time and that His plans are much superior to ours. As you wait on God enjoy His creation and His people.

L + L + L = LIVE

Take God as your model. Lean on Him and His wisdom. He knows when to speak - when to push - when to be silent. He is compassionate, is just and gives forgiveness. He embraces and always loves. He has created a universe for us to use and enjoy. Therefore in your lives: LOVE Passionately Plus LISTEN Carefully Plus LAUGH Often and you will LIVE Life to the Fullest.

And in conclusion I would like to leave you with God's promise from Isaiah 40:30 – 31, “*Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint.*”

- Lean on God
- God Bless You
- I Love You
- Soar On.”

Designated Gifts

MARCH 2, 2007 – JULY 11, 2007

During this time period, 355 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 \$154,086.89. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

ENDOWMENT FUND

~ In Memory Of ~

Anna Anema

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~ In Honor Of ~

Clarence & Alice Baker

(60th Wedding Anniversary)
John & Gertrude Van Lenten
Jane de Waal Malefyt
Herman & Phyllis Schipper
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Edna Smith
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Laurina & Glen Vanderaa

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(Wedding Anniversary)
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Paul & Alberta De Blacy

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Toni Steenstra

Trena & Bernard Greenfield

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Nick & Norma Hagedoorn

(50th Wedding Anniversary)
PSEG Matching Gift

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(106th Birthday)
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(Care & Devotion)
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Michael & Rebecca Lapinsky
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Arthur & Jeanette Knyfd

(60th Wedding Anniversary)
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Toni Steenstra

Diane & Anthony Monterisi

(Anniversary)
Florence Popjes

Edward & Doris Nyland

(60th Wedding Anniversary)
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Donald & Marie Nyland
Gertrude & Nicholas Kameno

Alfred & Jeannette Smith

(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Ann Morgan
Joyce Schoonejongen
Gerald & Janyce Bandstra

Martha Smith

(95th Birthday)
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Edna Smith
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Adrian & Ruth Visbeen
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(40-Year Reunion)
Class of 1966 Members

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