ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

April 2019







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NOTES

The Annual Stewardship Report is a publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the accomplishments of the past year, the vision for the coming year, and financial/stewardship information.

Welcome to Eastern Christian School's STEWARDSHIP REPORT

When the leadership at Eastern Christian School decided an annual report should be published, we considered what the report should be called. We wanted our report to stand out from those of other nonprofit and for-profit organizations. We settled on Annual Stewardship Report. This report isn't simply a record of funds received and funds spent. It is a record of how, with great care, Eastern Christian School has stewarded the gifts we receive from you, our generous supporting community.

Jesus made it clear in Matthew 25 that the master expected his servants to demonstrate good stewardship over what they had been given. At The Foundation for ECSA we take that instruction seriously and do our best to carefully steward all that you entrust us with. The budget information on the following pages includes only a portion of the funds that we raise each year. Those numbers obviously reflect the budget expectations. In addition, The Foundation raises capital funds, endowment funds, and restricted funds.

Income	2017-2018
Budget Funds	\$1,260,000
Capital Funds	\$874,677
Endowment Funds	\$721,946
Restricted Funds	\$291,028
Total Funds Raised	\$3,147,651

According to Where'd My Money Go?, a survey by Grey Matter Research & Consulting the average American believes that a charity should spend no more than 23% on overhead but that charities actually spend 36.9 cents on the dollar. Huffington Post places the number at 23%. Other sources consider 33% as the benchmark for cost per dollar raised.

For 2017-2018 The Foundation for Eastern Christian School spent 17% on fundraising. Well below the national expectations and averages. Even that number is a bit high though since a portion of our expenses are directly related to Alumni Relations and The Herald which are not technically fundraising activities.

We understand that you are entrusting your gifts to us and expect us to be good stewards of those gifts. We pledge to continue to make stewardship a priority as we strive to achieve the mission of Eastern Christian School.

David A. Visbeen

Executive Director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian School





Mission Statement

By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents in a global society.

Statement of Belief

As a Reformed educational institution, we believe that God is sovereign over all creation. We make a connection to God's claim in every subject, not just in biblical studies or chapel; in all behavior, including language, dress; and in all attitudes, including those toward others and toward property. The overall purpose of an Eastern Christian education, shaped by this Reformed perspective, is to encourage students to use their heads, hearts and hands for God and to use discernment to create a worldview that is formed through the lens of faith.

The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence and seeks to contribute cooperatively and responsibly to God's mission of renewing all of creation.

A Commitment to Excellence

Excellence in Christian education requires a significant commitment on the part of our entire school community. It doesn't come cheap and it doesn't come without huge effort. But it is an investment of time, talent, and treasure that will pay dividends in the lives of the children and young people entrusted to our care for time and eternity.

Members of the Eastern Christian School Association met recently to consider the critically important investment that they are making in pursuit of Eastern Christian School's core value of striving for excellence. During their time together, the members of the Association reviewed some of the major accomplishments of the past year and discussed the people, program, and infrastructure investments planned for the 2019-20 school year as we strive for excellence in our mission of educating the children and young people who we serve.

The year that has passed since our last annual report has been another year in which we have witnessed tremendous blessings on the work that we are privileged to carry out with our students and families each and every day.

In the area of educational programing, we have expanded Project Acceleration, our dual enrollment program with Seton Hall University, such that Eastern Christian students are now able to earn up to 37 college credits while enrolled in high school. This program enables our graduates to save more than one full year of valuable time and costly college tuition, thereby giving them a huge head start on their college education and career plans.

We have expanded our Extended Learning program with a revitalized American Experience Program, an expanded Outdoor Adventure Camp, and a newly developed STEAM Camp, all in addition to the beforeschool, after-school, and vacation programming that takes place throughout the school year.

We have negotiated a ground-breaking agreement with Geneva College to open a satellite program on the Eastern Christian High School campus through which our students will be able to complete associate degrees in liberal arts, business, engineering, and a one-year pre-nursing track, all at a fraction of the cost of other high quality Christian college programs.

In terms of community outreach, we have launched a new website and mobile app to help us better serve the needs of both our current families and families who are considering an Eastern Christian education for their children. We have received several external recognitions and awards, including being named among the top 5 Christian high school in New Jersey, an Inspired Brilliance Award for the use of video in school marketing, and been named by the Newark Star Ledger as one of the top workplaces in New Jersey for the second consecutive year.

We have implemented an innovative inter-local agreement with the Borough of North Haledon which has strengthened our already strong ties with our home town and saved us tens of thousands of dollars in operating expense for services such as snow plowing and trash removal. This partnership will be even further strengthened in May as approximately 100 Eastern Christian High School students, working in partnership with the mayor and borough officials, will serve our North Haledon neighbors during our annual high school service day.

We have completed numerous facility upgrades to protect our students and staff and to improve their EC experience. Facility upgrades completed this year include new classroom doors and locks and all new exterior electronic locking systems on the Midland Park and Wyckoff campuses, a new public address system in the high school, and, not to forget, playground renovations in Wyckoff.

Truly, a year of blessings on our mission!

As we plan for the year ahead, we are committed to continue the significant investments that we have been making in our program on all three campuses to strengthen the educational opportunities, the support services, and the health and safety of our students and staff.

Specifically, we will be expanding our preschool by reducing the age of initial enrollment to 2 ½ years and adding a fourth preschool section as of September. We will be expanding our flagship high school STEAM program to now include all students in grades K-8, thereby helping our younger students to more completely observe the wonders of creation through the lens of science. We are creating a new upper elementary division on the Wyckoff campus to serve the unique needs of our 4th and 5th graders, and establishing a ground-breaking experiential learning program for our 6th graders.

We will continue to invest in support services as part of our commitment to student health and welfare by expanding the hours that our nurses are on campus each day and by renewing our innovative partnership with the Christian Health Care Center which provides on-site mental health services to our students on the Midland Park and Wyckoff campuses.

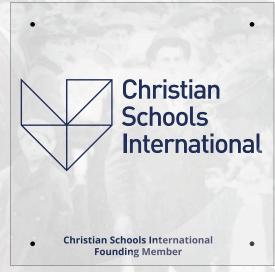


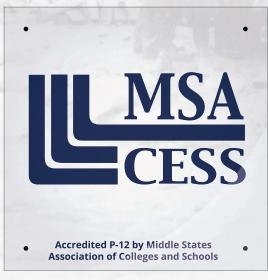
Pursuing Excellence Since 1892













We will continue to make major investments in our buildings, technology, and especially, the security of our facilities to ensure the safety of our students and staff. In Midland Park, we will be completing a major playground upgrade and building an outdoor classroom. In Wyckoff, we will be replacing the existing heating system with new high-efficiency boilers, and at the high school installing new doors and locks on all classrooms. This summer, we will transition to a new internet service provider that will provide us with a huge increase in bandwidth, unify us under a single cross-campus system, and allow our technology experts to remotely diagnose and repair service issues on the hundreds of devices deployed throughout our buildings. Additionally, we will be installing a new content filter on our network to protect our students from inappropriate and dangerous websites.

Finally, we will be installing one-button lockdown technology in Midland Park and North Haledon to match the system recently installed in Wyckoff. This system will provide vastly improved emergency communications within our buildings and with our local police departments in the event of an emergency.

Between the installation of this communication system and the new doors and locks, we will literally be able to move from business as usual to a complete lockdown of our buildings with the touch of just two buttons.

Eastern Christian School and the community that supports its mission are truly committed to excellence in Christian education. We have been blessed beyond our ability to ask or imagine during the last year, as we have been throughout our entire 127 year history. We look forward with great anticipation to seeing God's plans unfold in the year ahead!







Excellence in Education

Karyn Baitzel, Liesl Botbyl, Leah Genuario, David Intlekofer, Meredith Kohlbrenner, Ruth Kuder, Dan Lazor and Jamie Van Buiten all contributed to this article.

Eastern Christian continues to develop innovative educational programs. Work during the 2018-2019 school year has laid the groundwork for a number of creative and cutting-edge opportunities. As we look ahead to the 2019-2020 school year and beyond, we envision an expanded preschool for younger students, and a college partnership for older students. We are offering developmentally appropriate enhancements, in an upper elementary model for fourth and fifth graders, in an experiential learning focus for sixth graders, and in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) opportunities for kindergarten through eighth graders. High school students can participate in our growing WINGS program, in which they can work with community professionals in guided internships. In keeping with our ongoing commitment to an exceptional education, we are expanding with excellence!

Early Childhood Education

Eastern Christian Preschool will be expanding its classes to serve students who are two and a half years old. In recent years, our early childhood program has transitioned from a traditional model, to one that better accommodates today's children and families. Educators and parents have increasingly recognized the value of early childhood education. Preschool Director Karyn Baitzel notes, "There are critical parts of a child's development that can be supported and enhanced by a high-quality early childhood education. Trained teachers build preschoolers' ability to focus their attention and control their behavior, thinking, and feelings, nurture children's curiosity and creativity, and foster an enthusiasm for school and learning."

Preschool parent, Meredith Kohlbrenner shares her experience, "When I enrolled Hope in the



Pre-K 3 class with Sarah VanderWall last school year, 2017-2018, I knew she would have fun, but I maintained an underlying assumption it would just be glorified playtime -- with different toys and more friends. However, when I started seeing pictures on Brightwheel, I realized that Hope was benefitting from an enriching, multi-sensory curriculum that was far more engaging and educational than I could have provided at home. I received pictures of her scooping seeds out of a watermelon, using scissors to cut spaghetti, painting a picture with floss, arranging gems on a lightbox, and using hula hoops to make a Venn diagram. These snapshots portrayed messy, tangible activities that were intentionally crafted to develop her learning of letter sounds, numbers, and so much more."

Early childhood education represents a unique opportunity for students and families to experience Christian education. When we surveyed our

parents last June, we found that about two-thirds of current parents did not attend a Christian high school. Once families experience our preschool program, they tend to stick around. Over the last three years, more than half of Eastern Christian's preschool graduates have continued into the elementary school. We see the expansion of programming for younger students as an opportunity to share the gift of Christian education with many more students and families.

Upper Elementary Program

The formation of an upper elementary program, comprised of fourth and fifth grades, presents an additional opportunity for enhanced learning. The growth of the preschool program caused us to consider the use of space in Midland Park, and a facilities usage study highlighted the opportunities that exist for additional students on the Wyckoff campus. As the team of educators considered this, the conversation generated a lot of excitement about the formation of a fourth and fifth grade cohort in an upper elementary program in Wyckoff. Middle School Vice Principal, Mary Faber, will provide oversight to the program, and will take on the role of Upper Elementary Director. Veteran fourth-grade teachers, Carol Byma and Donna Hoogerhyde, will ensure continuity and leadership for the new model.

Faith formation will be even more targeted to this age group. Upper elementary chapels can be "just right," allowing for speakers to aim for this age group, without having to consider much younger or much older students as they plan their messages. Small discipleship groups and service-learning opportunities will be specific to fourth and fifth grade students. The students will have access to the dedicated spaces that the Wyckoff campus provides, with appropriately sized play equipment and fields, larger gym, media center and music practice rooms and well-equipped laboratory spaces for science and STEAM-related activities.

According to research, there are several hallmarks of exceptional education for adolescents. They reflect an emphasis on the whole child, relationships with peers and adults, a safe school climate, student ownership of learning, and a focus on social and emotional growth. Excellent education for adolescents is about developmentally appropriate practices and groupings, all of which are priorities at Eastern Christian and are things we do exceptionally well. The creation of this cohort will serve to strengthen our already strong school culture, by providing even more targeted learning experiences for our upper elementary school students.

Experiential Learning in Sixth Grade

As a result of personal experience and opportunities to see outdoor education in action, teacher Jamie Van Buiten pitched the concept of experiential learning at Eagle Perch, where Eastern Christian's leadership solicits proposals from employees that would signify "The Next Big Thing" for the school. Her passion for this different style of teaching and the opportunities it presented as a differentiator for Eastern Christian School's program, as well as the potential benefits is offered to our students and their learning led the administration and board to encourage the program's development. During the 2018-2019 school year, Jamie moved to the Wyckoff campus and began a pilot of the program in Social Studies with the 6th grade. Plans are now in place to continue the implementation of the program, providing the training and support to our 6th grade teachers to help them fully engage with this approach to teaching and learning.

The Experiential Learning Program will run during the 6th grade year, teaching students the typical 6th grade curriculum through the approach of experiential learning. Experiential learning is defined as, "learning in which the learner is directly in touch with the realities being studied. It is contrasted with the learner who only reads about, talks about, or writes about these realities

but never comes into contact with them as part of the learning process" (Kolb, Experiential Learning). Our mission and vision at Eastern Christian is to use this pedagogical approach to engage students in a multi-sensory, project-based, experiential education that nurtures personal, academic, and spiritual growth in students by giving them the opportunity to learn about and experience God through activities inside and outside the classroom. It will also offer the perfect transition year for our students moving from the upper elementary program into our middle school.

STEAM

The elementary school Horizons program offers gifted learners advanced STEAM education. Students in 1st-4th grade study different aspects of robotics, including coding, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and building and programming robots. Students frequently use the Engineering Design Process to create technology to solve a problem or investigate. The program generates student interest in STEAM fields as they tangibly interact with each of these disciplines. The enthusiasm and eagerness Horizons students have displayed for STEAM learning has inspired the urgency to bring STEAM to the entire elementary school, not just those who qualify for Horizons.

During the next school year, all elementary school students will benefit from STEAM learning in a Makerspace. In a Makerspace, students have the chance to tinker with a variety of materials to create something out of nothing. Our Makerspace will contain 3D printers, WeDo robots, recyclable materials, Legos, Tinker Toys, K'Nex, drafting supplies, fabric, clay, etc. Hands-on learning provides the opportunity for students to design, struggle, troubleshoot together, and learn resiliency. In this space, STEAM lessons based on the Next Generation Science Standards will task the students to think like engineers, scientists, and artisans to create thoughtful inventions. Although we only need to make a small investment to open

a Makerspace, it will have a large impact on our primary aged learners.

Next year our 4th through 8th graders will have the opportunity to take part in our newly established STEAM classes as part of their Encore rotations. While Math and Science students have already worked on STEAM-like projects in their classes, our new classes will allow for further integration of the STEAM components on a more regular routine and with greater intentionality. Through exploration and problem-based learning, students will be challenged to connect their classroom work to real world problems such as unclean water in developing countries or developing packaging that is more environmentally friendly.

While exploration into areas such as coding, robotics, and rocketry have existed in the current curriculum, we will further develop Next Generation Science Standards, especially in the area of engineering, as our students develop critical thinking, problem solving and a more holistic approach to their learning. Integrating STEAM into our curriculum provides opportunities to see how concepts relate to real life, thereby increasing student interest and passion in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math and providing students with an introduction to the STEAM program at high school.

College at Eastern Christian

(a version of this first published in the 2018 Fall Herald)
Eastern Christian will be including older students, as well as younger students, as it moves into the future. Eastern Christian has partnered with Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA, with the intention to launch Geneva College Eastern Campus, a satellite location utilizing the North Haledon building on nights and weekends. Geneva College will offer this highly innovative program to provide associates degrees in the liberal arts, business, and engineering, and a one-year prenursing track, mirroring similar trends seen

throughout the state (increasingly called a 2+2 program at community colleges). The program's intent is to offer quality, Christian higher education at costs that rival local community colleges, enabling more students in New Jersey to access Christian education beyond their senior year of high school without incurring significant debt. The degree, if desired, could then be seamlessly applied to other four-year universities. Data continues to show a national trend toward students pursuing locally based higher education, driven by cost concerns and other cultural factors.

The new location is highly significant, as it will be the first New Jersey location of a member school of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, which is a national organization of comprehensive institutions of higher learning with Christian missions to advance faith and intellect for the public good. The Geneva College satellite campus must first gain the approval of the State of New Jersey and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the agency accrediting both institutions. The 1400-page application has been submitted to the state, and review is currently in progress.

Liberal arts, business, engineering, and pre-nursing programs were selected so students can transfer credits to a broad array of four-year colleges. In addition, EC aims to work toward pairing students with internships within their desired major while they are enrolled in classes in the evenings and on Saturdays.

The idea of bringing a Christian college to NJ was also presented at Eagle Perch. High school teacher and publications director, Leah Genuario, pitched the proposal that ultimately led to this agreement between the two schools.

WINGS

The WINGS (Work Internship Network for Gaining Skills) program at the high school continues to grow, expanding this year to multiple new fields of

study. Now completing its third year, the WINGS program has grown from one student in its pilot year to six students in its second year to the current twenty students completing internships this year.

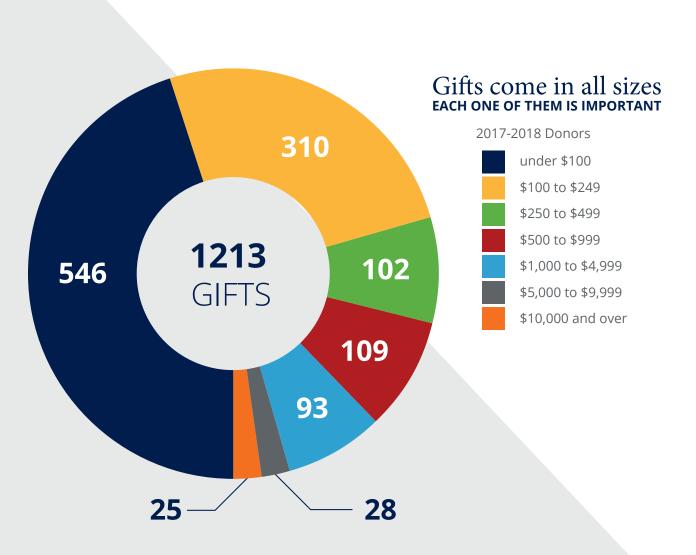
Students have been placed into internships in thirteen different fields, with more partnerships in the works:

Architecture & Engineering
Construction Management
Marketing & Marketing Design
Bio Medical
Computer Programming / Tech
Media Production
HVAC
Auto Mechanics
General Practice Law
Music Studio Production
Veterinarian
Special Education
Data management

Our community partnership organizations frequently comment on the ability and high caliber of the students, and some have even offered our students jobs for after they graduate. Jesse Wright, the director of the WINGS program, has approached by businesses looking for interns, and one even asked for alumni of the program to interview for a full time position at their company.

In addition to expanding the number of internship locations, WINGS has also increased the number of scheduling options. Students are now able to complete their internship hours during the school day, through early release, after school, or even in the summer. These internships provide high school credit, on-site job training, and invaluable experience and connections in competitive fields. Utilizing the jobsite as the classroom, WINGS is providing students irreplaceable exposure to a variety of fields where God may be calling them.

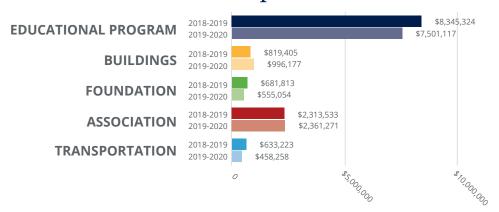
a look at THE**NUMBERS**



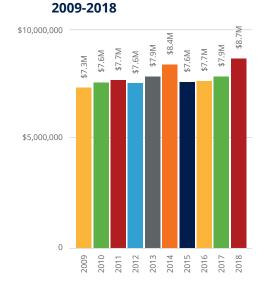
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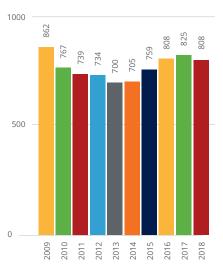


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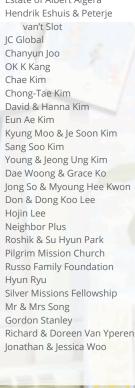
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Eastern Christian School's mission is measured not in years, but in *generations*.

When our founders opened the doors 126 years ago, they began the legacy that is Eastern Christian School today. Their efforts and sacrifices prepared the way for the first generation of students who received an excellent Christ-centered education in NJ. Today Eastern Christian Students continue to benefit from those who had vision and made sacrifices.

You can impact the generations to come, when you name Eastern Christian School in your will. Your planned gift may be an opportunity to give your largest gift ever and is a way to continue supporting Eastern Christian School for years and even generations to come.

The 1812 Society is a group of individuals who have named EC in their wills. To join The 1812 Society, contact The Foundation at foundation@easternchristian.org or call 973-423-9294.

LEAVE LEGACY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.





www.easternchristian.org/giving

The Annual Fund

Every year, each member of our community -- current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty/staff, and others -- are asked to participate in The Annual Fund. These gifts are crucial to Eastern Christian School's operating budget, helping to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of education.

Scholarship

Gifts are raised each year to fund Variable Tuition, helping more families have access to an academically excellent, Christ-centered education.

The Angel Fund

When student families are in crisis, The Angel Fund makes it possible for students to remain in school without additional financial pressure to the family. The Angel Fund is used in the event of a death, major illness, loss of employment or other crisis.

The Endowment Fund

Each year, The Endowment Fund of Eastern Christian School makes a significant contribution to the operating budget.

- Memorials: Many gifts are received in memory of family members and friends. These gifts are generally applied to the Endowment Fund.
- Honorariums: Friends and family often mark special events in the lives of loved ones by making a gift in their honor. These gifts are generally applied to the Endowment Fund.
- Bequests: The most significant contributions to The Endowment Fund have been through the estates of past supporters.

The Foundation for Eastern Christian School is able to assist you with any of these giving opportunities.

For more information, call 973-427-9294.

Capital Campaigns and Major Gifts

We routinely have needs that cannot be met through the operating budget. When these needs arise, Capital Campaigns and Major Gift solicitations are organized to fund those expenses.

Planned Giving

In addition to current gifts (cash, checks, credit cards), Eastern Christian accepts a variety of other gifts and will work with you to facilitate these gifts:

- A bequest in a will or living trust is a common planned gift. This is a simple way to make what could be your most significant and lasting gift to Eastern Christian School. Bequests usually become part of the Endowment Fund unless otherwise specified.
- Stocks, Bonds, and Securities: Gifting appreciated stocks, bonds, and securities can provide tax advantages for the donor while maximizing the gift to Eastern Christian School.
- IRA's 401K's and Life Insurance: Designate
 Eastern Christian School as the beneficiary of
 your retirement account. Your gift is tax free.
- IRA Charitable Rollover: Recently signed into law, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals over the age of 70½ to donate up to \$100,000.00 directly from their IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income.
- Charitable Remainder Trust: A gift of real estate in a charitable remainder trust will help you avoid capital gains taxes while ensuring that you receive income for the rest of your life.
- Charitable Gift Annuity: A CGA will provide an immediate tax deduction while providing income for the life of the donor(s).
- Named Endowment: Major donors may wish to consider a Named Endowment. Established during your lifetime or through your estate plan. A specific area of interest (i.e. scholarship, sciences, athletics, facilities, etc.) may be selected and an grant is given each year from the fund to that area of interest.

REPORT TO ALUMNI

The Foundation Office seeks to foster a relationship and create opportunities for alumni to engage with Eastern Christian School.

973.427.9294 | alumni@easternchristian.org

ALUMNI EVENTS

HomEComing

This past year was another spectacular HomEComing weekend. This year, our weekend started off and ended with new events. Friday morning began with Alumni & Friends Golf at Wallkill Golf Club. It was a fun morning and ended with a delicious BBQ lunch. Friday evening 96 of our Heritage Alumni gathered for dinner in the high school, and enjoyed a delightful meal and fellowship. Saturday activities started with the Betty Davis Memorial EC5K in which many alumni participated. Next up was the Alumni Soccer game - where alumni separated into teams based on odd/even graduation years. Finally, late Saturday afternoon, we wrapped up HomEComing weekend with a 3v3 Basketball Tournament. It was a big hit with an 8-team double elimination. A team of 2007 & 2008 alum were the victors!



Homecoming weekend continues to grow and we look forward to HomeComing 2019!

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 18 - 19



Reunions

The Class of 1968 gathered to celebrate their 50th Reunion during HomEComing weekend. In addition, the Class of 2008 enjoyed a 10-year reunion and Class of 1958 spent an afternoon luncheon together to commemorate 60 years since graduation.

Young Alumni Thanksgiving Chapel

The Foundation Office hosted a Thanksgiving Alumni Chapel at ECHS, giving young alumni an opportunity to participate in chapel and enjoy visiting with former classmates and teachers over a bagel and coffee afterwards.



SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Alumni Communications

The Foundation Office sends out infant onesies whenever we receive a birth announcement.

Emails are sent to classmates notifying them of a class member's memorial information.

Class listings with contact information are given out to reunion committees.

Update your email address and contact information at www.easternchristian.org/alumni/submit-news-update-contact-info/ to stay up to date!

EVENTS

ANNUAL FUND ALUMNI GIVING

Thank You! In 2017, the Foundation Office received donations from 317 alumni for EC's annual fund totaling \$211,994.

(This does not include donations from alumni-based businesses)

ALUMNI DONORS

317

NEW ALUMNI DONORS

9

DECADE WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ALUMNI DONORS

(1) 1950's

(2) 1960's

DECADE WITH GREATEST GIVING

(1) 1970's

(2) **1980's**



April 25, 2019 Auction Gala Indian Trail Club Franklin Lakes, NJ

May 4, 2019 Touch a Truck

EC Middle School Wyckoff, NJ

May 13, 2019

Spring Golf OutingWild Turkey Golf Club
Hamburg, NJ

October 18-19, 2019 HomEComing & EC5K

January 29, 2020

EC Community Beefsteak The Brownstone

Paterson, NJ



MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION www.easternchristian.org/events



The Foundation for Eastern Christian School 50 Oakwood Avenue North Haledon, NJ 07508

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EASTERN CHRISTIAN'S MISSION:

By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents in a global society.

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