

THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*
Volume 63, Issue 2

CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2022!

Feature
Cloud of Witnesses: EC Heroes

FALL 2022

Great Cloud of Witnesses



The September issue of the *Herald* presents us with the opportunity to reflect on the successful completion of the 2021-2022 school year and on the accomplishments of our graduates who celebrated milestones in their academic careers.

This particular group of graduates were called on to persevere in a unique way through the challenges of the past three school years. We are grateful for the support of the “great cloud of witnesses,” a few of whom are profiled here, and who represent the thousands of individuals who have been committed stewards of their time, talents and treasure in supporting Eastern Christian School.

As we look ahead to the 2022-2023 school year, we are excited for what God has in store for us. We are celebrating ongoing growth in our school community, with another year of historic enrollment. We have welcomed new staff, who are exceptionally well qualified and committed to our mission.

We will continue to pursue excellence in all things and look forward to enhanced programming in our academic and college advising and food services. We are eagerly anticipating the completion of our new turf field and practice track in the late fall and are considering ways in which our facilities can accommodate a growing student body.

This school year, we will be focusing our hearts and minds on Psalm 145:13b, “The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does” (NIV). We are eager to explore God’s many promises to his people and are grateful that we serve a God who is faithful to all his word.

Ruth Kuder '84
Executive Director and Head of School



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SCHOOL

THE HERALD

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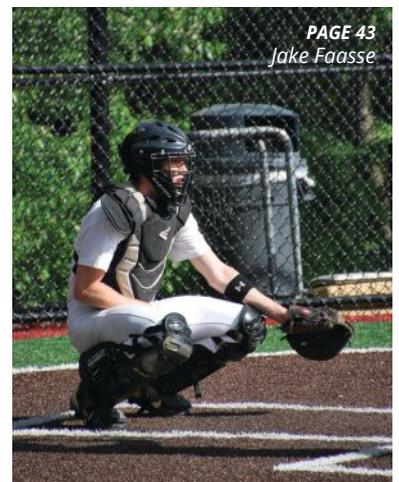


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The Herald is a bi-annual publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Eastern Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education. **The Herald is mailed free of charge to over 6,500 alumni, families, and friends of the school.**

Our address database is always being updated. If you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Herald*, please contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association office and we will be very happy to update our database accordingly.

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Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 11 lists a number of biblical characters who were commended for their faith.

And in Hebrews 12, the author reveals the purpose for publishing these short narratives was for our encouragement: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...”

Likewise, the Eastern Christian community is comprised of countless individuals past and present who have walked by faith, upheld by the promises of God. And so this spring over social media, Eastern Christian School asked our community to tell us about these individuals: the specific people in our midst who inspire others, encourage others, and support others along their journey. Here are the results, and the stories of just a few of the people in our great cloud of witnesses.



DONNA FURREY

“Donna Furrey teaches a class of 25 2nd graders with a willing and positive attitude. She designs creative challenges to motivate her students, which often includes special events and competitions.

Donna communicates with parents in such a way that shows she truly values the part they play in their children’s education. Donna’s commitment to Christian education will have a lasting impact on all her students.”

Decades ago, a science teacher at Eastern Christian Middle School named Hedwig Lucas was doing more than teaching science. As Dr. Donna Furrey recalls, she was also “sowing into my life in an incredible way. I don’t know what I would have done without her.”

It was this early, transformative relationship with a teacher that set Furrey on her own path toward education. “My passion is teaching. My passion is to make a difference in a kid’s life,” she says. “I want to see our children know and love God in a really neat way. Kids are going to remember the teacher who encouraged them, challenged them, loved them...and that’s what Christian education is all about.”

In addition to her early ties at Eastern Christian, Furrey grew up in a Christian home and was challenged by her pastor as a young person to try one year at a Bible college. One year

turned to more, and she graduated from Northeastern Bible College with a degree in Bible and elementary education. She earned two master’s degrees at William Paterson College and a doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University, and has been involved in Christian Education for the entirety of her adult life.

However, Furrey has only been employed with Eastern Christian for two years as an elementary school teacher. She served as teacher and principal of Ringwood Christian until the school closed, a tenure that lasted 42 years. “When it closed, Sandy [Bottge] asked me to come and cover a maternity leave for third grade. I did it as a favor...and I just fell in love with them and just loved being at EC. So when I finished, she offered me the job, and I just jumped in.”

Whether at Ringwood Christian or Eastern Christian, Furrey is a champion of Christian education.

“Only Christian school teaches the truth—God’s truth. It is a battle, and Satan never gives in easily. We need to protect the hearts, minds and lives of our young people, and you couldn’t invest better.”

Furrey says that in her 44 years of service in Christian education, her job has never really felt like a job. “The whole trip has been watching God do incredible things. It’s a really exciting, neat adventure to walk with the Lord through the whole thing.” She adds, “The work is not done when they leave you. You are still making an impact long after they leave your classroom. They begin to apply what you’ve taught in their own lives. When you go to a church and sit in the pew, and you hear the preacher, who used to be your student, preach—or when you see a father find the Lord at a school musical, families change, families come to the Lord—that’s it. You can’t get paid for that.”



RALPH RYPKEMA

“With the shortage of teachers and substitutes at the high school, you will often find Ralph covering classes, sometimes multiple classes at once. He has a willing servant’s attitude and a kind heart. It’s hard to say how ECHS would have gotten through the spring without Ralph.”

There aren’t too many substitute teachers who also hold 15 US patents. But there’s at least one, and he currently works at Eastern Christian School.

Ralph Rypkema, an EC alumnus, enjoyed a 30-year career working as a research and development chemist, as well as working in product development with a specialty in surface cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants. In addition to his satisfying professional life, he also served as a mentor to teenage kids for VIP, Volunteers In Protective Services of Bergen County.

“I’ve always enjoyed sharing knowledge with others, especially kids,” he shares. “I always enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing kids advance. When I retired, I decided I wanted to work with kids.”

In 2011, Ralph heard Eastern Christian was looking for substitute teachers, but they had a greater need in transportation. So he earned his CDL and worked as both bus driver and substitute. As COVID raged on and so did absences, Ralph Rypkema became a daily presence at Eastern Christian, a kind and familiar face, and an EC hero.



LYNDA VINCENTI

“Lynda Vincenti runs the MS Media Center and never hesitates to help students, all of which she knows by name, find

a good book. She also runs reading incentive programs, organizes pizza and Chick-fil-A lunches, and Hands Dirty Day, adding special delight and memorable fun to the students’ days. Lynda can often be found subbing in classes, helping teachers and students with tech questions, or volunteering in other areas and PTO programs. It’s an understatement to say that Lynda makes the MS a better place to be!”

“In one of my engineering jobs one of the engineers asked me what exactly my job was,” shares Lynda Vincenti, who used to work as a quality and engineering liaison for manufacturing and technology companies. “I told him my job was to make his job easier.”

After having her family, Vincenti traded in her engineering hat to become a full time-mom and part-time school volunteer. It wasn’t as dramatic of a move as some may think. Although it’s in a completely different setting, Vincenti’s job, still, is to make other people’s jobs easier, plugging in where there is need. Currently, she serves in the middle school media center and as a middle school substitute.

Although her children are now older—two have graduated and one is at the high school—Vincenti enjoys working at the middle school because, in her words, “there’s plenty to do!”

Vincenti says she is passionate about serving and believes serving others is how she best glorifies the Lord. Her willingness to “fill a hole” is how she landed up in the middle school media center. “Since much of my time is spent in the media center helping students find books, they are always very surprised to find out I’m an engineer who loves math and didn’t care for reading at all when I was their age.”

Like so many at Eastern Christian, what keeps her motivated is the community of people, no matter what the task. “We only knew one other family when we entered EC, but we felt welcomed right away. Since then, I’ve built many friendships with the staff and families that I value and appreciate,” she says. “[I] love the teachers and the way they support each other.”



FLORENCE NIEUWENHUIS

"Florence exemplified Christ to staff, students, and the EC community. In her former role as educator and ECMS principal she demonstrated gifts of leadership, a tireless work ethic, compassion and a strong desire to bring the best education practices to the students. She did this all while most importantly remaining close in her relationship to Christ through prayer and Bible reading. Sharing God's word with her staff was paramount."

Although she's been retired for more than 15 years, Florence Nieuwenhuis is still doing what she loves: teaching. Today, that teaching happens at New Hope Community Ministries and at Ridgewood Public Library with adult ELL students. But for decades, it happened at Eastern Christian.

"I've always had a desire to be a teacher," she shares. "I'm passionate about teaching and excellence in education. Even now, I have that same motivation for my ELL students, taking those people into my heart and my home and sharing my faith with them."

Her faith is a driving force in her life. Nieuwenhuis grew up in a Christian family and recalls the church always being part of her life. Believing

in Jesus even as a little child, she remembers making a public profession of faith at 13 years old after her father passed away.

Along with home and church, Eastern Christian was also heavily influential. Enrolled as a kindergartener at Midland Park

"I'm passionate about teaching and excellence in education. Even now, I have that same motivation for my ELL students, taking those people into my heart and my home and sharing my faith with them."

Christian School (one of the grammar schools that would soon consolidate to become Eastern Christian), she graduated from Eastern Christian, and then went on to earn a bachelor's and master's in education. She also married her high school sweetheart, Garry, and just celebrated her 61st wedding anniversary.

Except for adjunct teaching at William Paterson University in the summer, Nieuwenhuis spent her entire career at Eastern Christian. She taught fourth and fifth grade before becoming a middle school principal in the 90s, a position she held until 2006. Never one to rest on her laurels, she joined with Bergen County Special Services a year after retiring. In the past several years, she keeps busy studying Spanish and Dutch for personal enrichment.

Of her time at EC, she shares she is most grateful for "the camaraderie and the joy in working with other Christians. And just the joy in the mission of Eastern Christian—being part of something big and having the privilege of sharing God's word with the next generation."



CHELA OWOUR

Nominated twice: "Chela is a kind person and treats students of all ages with love and respect. My elementary students look up to her as a leader. They admire her friendly personality."

"Chela leads and mentors her fellow ABIDE students with grace and courage. Younger students look up to her and she inspires me."

Sometimes, events that occur nationally profoundly affect us personally. This was the case for Chela Owour, high school senior and Kenyan ex-patriate, as she grappled with the death and aftermath of George Floyd—a man whose skin color looked like hers. Owour, a self-described deep thinker, saw this event as a

catalyst that fueled her personal passion to embrace diversity and teach others to do the same in her sphere of influence.

"I realized [the issue of diversity and inequality] was important to individuals of color. And in order to



MANDI POST

“Mrs. Post practically always has a smile on her face when interacting with students. She always has time to explain things or have a conversation with you. She makes people laugh, is personable, tells relatable stories and is deserving of a ‘hero’ title.”

On its website, Christian Schools International includes a section on biblical worldview. Member schools acknowledge that “Christian education is firmly rooted in God’s Word and God’s world,” and that “a biblically informed curriculum points to God as the source of all truth.”

It is a tremendous blessing to send children to a school where its science teachers acknowledge God as creator and sustainer of the earth. And this is a personal passion for high school science teacher Mandi Post, who says as she’s matured in her own faith, her passions have also matured. She explains, “When I was younger, my passion was to explore God’s world. I wanted to be outside. Then I wanted to tell people about God’s world, and now, I want people to see more about God in it.”

She adds, “First, I wanted people to know things, be able to have experiences, but now, at the very root of what I want is for people to know about God, to know that they are loved by God, and to connect that with their interaction with their natural world.”

Enamored with the outdoors since childhood, Post’s journey to faith also began as a young child. “Growing up surrounded by Christian influences, my faith was very academic. I went to Christian school, went to catechism classes, to Sunday school, memorized Bible

verses for school, and learned the right answers. I knew ‘all the stuff,’” she says.

However, a pivotal moment came in her faith when she was older. “There was a Reformation Day service and I remember committing my life to the Lord, and he took my grandpa the next morning,” she says. “I had [just] said I was all in...part of me was angry, but part of me was ‘okay. You said you were with me in everything.’ I learned in that moment I had to lean on God through difficult times.”

Post adds, “I have been blessed to serve alongside so many other wonderful faculty members here at EC. They have different perspectives, expertise, and experiences that create a rich environment in which to work and learn.”

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help the community, we have to heal the wounds and forgive because it is important to not do anything in anger,” she says.

Owour is a leader in many ways at Eastern Christian, serving as National Honor Society Secretary, in student council and as a leader in the classroom. But most importantly to her, she is also a founding member of ABIDE, a group that seeks to “heal together” and celebrate culture. Reflecting on her own journey moving to the United States and desiring to find belongingness while struggling with loneliness, she shares, “One thing people of color struggle with [in a primarily white environment] is not hearing stories that celebrate our cultures.” She adds, “All the things we have done, as far as bulletin

boards and events to celebrate various cultures, heritages and backgrounds, have uplifted people who felt like they didn’t belong. It is a way to say that you are part of this community and we see everything you bring to the table.”

In addition to diversity, Owour is also passionate about environmental sustainability. In the fall, she heads to LIM College to study fashion merchandising. Already fluent in three languages and working on a fourth, Owour credits four teachers with pushing her further in pursuit of the global values of loving and serving God and neighbor. Specifically, she appreciates teachers Marci Roniet, Leah Genuario, Melissa Troast and Esther Kim who helped challenge her “to think of the world outside of who we are and really teach us with their full potential.”



APRIL ADIN *Nominated twice: "April is one of the most generous people I know. Not only does she generously give food and thoughtful treats to students and staff who stop in at the front office, she is also generous with her encouragement. She has been a real blessing to EC."*

"April always has a warm, welcoming face when entering the high school. Her presence in the main office is one of calm and nurturing. We are blessed to have her at Eastern Christian High School."

April Adin's early walk with the Lord was characterized by one word: fear. The second oldest in a family with five children, she witnessed her younger brother succumb to leukemia at the age of four. "When a sibling dies in your early childhood, it has a profound impact on your worldview," she shares.

She says that she knew Jesus as comforter and friend "from as early as I can remember," but her relationship with God the father "was more complicated. I didn't

understand how I could love a God I was told to fear." As an adult, Adin had a profound experience that would turn her life around. "Taking walks in nature opens my eyes to God's creation and has helped me experience God in a more intimate way. It was on one of these walks that I stopped in my tracks, caught my breath, and was overwhelmed with the knowledge that my Heavenly Father rescued me. I heard him clearly: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine' (Isaiah 43). I literally and figuratively walked



DEBI VEENSTRA *"Debi tirelessly provides the highest quality physical and health education for our elementary schoolers. On top of her back-to-back classes, Debi can often be found engaging with the kids at recess. Debi is always ready with a listening ear and an encouraging word for fellow staff members as well. Her attitude and commitment to excellence are a blessing to the school."*

One might argue that Eastern Christian School is in Debi Veenstra's blood.

"We moved to New Jersey when I was in second grade. I graduated from EC, then returned to teach kindergarten the year I

graduated from college. My dad graduated from EC, I met my husband Barry through EC, our

four children attended EC pre-school through HS, and now two of our grandchildren attend EC," she shares.

"...not until I was taken out of my comfort zone did I realize how much God meant to me and that I needed to make the decision to live for Jesus on my own."

Interestingly though, Veenstra—who teaches PE at the elementary school—says her most pivotal faith experience happened during one of the rare moments where Eastern Christian wasn't in her life. "When I was in 9th grade, my dad took a sabbatical from preaching at Midland Park CRC to attend the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama. For the first time in my life, I was in a public school...growing up

as a pastor's kid, I attended church twice a Sunday, attended a Christian school and had a Christ-centered home life. Of course I was a Christian, right? Well, not until I was taken out of my comfort zone did I realize how much God meant to me and that I needed to make the decision to live for Jesus

on my own. It wasn't because my parents were Christians, but because Jesus died for me," she shares.

Today, Veenstra is known for her creativity in integrating classroom curriculum and physical education, co-founding Eagle Sports Camps with her husband, EC athletic director Barry Veenstra, and remaining a faithful steward of the Lord through many years at ECES.

She shares, "I have the privilege of using my gifts everyday... sharing my passion for play, staying healthy, and collaborating with my wonderful colleagues. Teaching at EC allows me to share my faith with students and their families."

into my true identity as a child of his in that moment,” she shares.

At Eastern Christian High School, Adin serves as Deans’ assistant, a position that puts her in a central position at the school. A creative soul who once attended the LaGuardia HS of Music & Art and the Performing Arts in Manhattan, Adin quickly found a new place for her artistic expression, and that was in investing in people.

“We can use the gifts God gave us no matter where we are in this moment. God gave me a generous heart and genuine love of people. I feel compelled to reflect God’s love for the people I meet by encouraging them and giving generously, using my artistic and intuitive nature to bless them. This is my small part in helping others tap into their identity in Christ. I want them to feel the love of their heavenly father in a visceral way. When we feel fully known and loved by him, we become whole. My faith has made me brave, and I desperately want that for others too,” she says.

“I FEEL COMPELLED TO REFLECT GOD’S LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE I MEET BY ENCOURAGING THEM AND GIVING GENEROUSLY, USING MY ARTISTIC AND INTUITIVE NATURE TO BLESS THEM. THIS IS MY SMALL PART IN HELPING OTHERS TAP INTO THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST. I WANT THEM TO FEEL THE LOVE OF THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER IN A VISCERAL WAY. WHEN WE FEEL FULLY KNOWN AND LOVED BY HIM, WE BECOME WHOLE...”



TERRY ALLEN

“He inspires deep critical thinking for his students and is passionate

about the subject he teaches.”

The year was 1968. Apollo 8 became the first manned craft to orbit the moon in anticipation of Neil Armstrong’s historic moon landing the following July. And in the same year, a young Terry Allen prepared for a different launch, starting his teaching career in Salem, Oregon. Eventually, in 1990, he and his family would land in New Jersey.

Dr. Allen’s legacy as a teacher and coach now spans 54 years, with 32 of those spent at Eastern Christian Middle School. During that time, he has taught middle school social studies, Bible, American history and philosophy. He has also earned a master’s in teaching middle school philosophy, as well as an Ed. D. in pedagogy, with an emphasis in philosophy for children.

“I am very thankful to teach in a community that is truly Christian in belief and practice.

Our parents have our back and vice versa. There is care and forgiveness.

Families make a very significant commitment to have their children

here, and they do so because they value the beliefs and perspectives of those who find the Bible and Christian teaching so important in each of our lives. Every day we as teachers know that we are involved in a vital and important ministry, in partnership with the families of our students. It is a journey worth taking.”

Allen’s faith story began with a conversion experience as a sophomore in high school. “After hearing the gospel as a young teenager and realizing my need for salvation and unreadiness for death, I accepted Jesus as my savior in

Wheaton, Illinois,” he says. “Through the word, I came to understand what it means to know and love God as a person, not just a distant power with rules, promises and warnings—a living and authentic relationship that daily seeks His face is what we are after.”

As a teacher, his passion has been to practice a pedagogy of asking, and not just of telling. It involves philosophical dialogue in a community of inquiry and seeks to encourage students to listen to others and to think well for themselves. “Every student has the capacity for reasoned thinking. By asking questions and encouraging students to give good reasons for their claims, their own voices become a regular part of the classroom. Their confidence as thinkers increases.”

He adds, “Much of teaching is relational, and teachers must respect their own limits and vulnerabilities as well as those of the students they are privileged to teach. The true teacher is neither a crusader nor a prophet, but a philosopher who is able to wonder about life’s meaning and mystery together, never putting a cap on their own or others’ learning.”



MINSEOK CHO

“Minseok serves the community by gathering volunteer students from the National Honor

Society and the National Math Honor Society to mentor underprivileged children and help them with their homework. Minseok used his mathematics skill to tutor and help middle school and high school students with their Math classes and SAT preparation.”

Minseok (Kevin) Cho remembers exactly where he was when he had a moment of awakening: 432 Park Avenue in New York City. It was at this street address where he was confronted with two contrasting images simultaneously: a penthouse above him and homeless men on the street below. And in that moment, a passion to reduce polarization in society was birthed.

“When I got back to school, I tried to use my talents to help other people who don’t have opportunities like me. So the first thing I did was I started math tutoring,” he shared. Cho started individually tutoring middle school students, and then led the Math Club tutoring program. After receiving a perfect score in math on his SAT, he also went on to tutor for the SAT. “I started tutoring students here because SAT tutors are so expensive and not everyone can afford it.”

Cho, an international student from South Korea, was originally interested in Eastern Christian School partly because of a desire to learn about God. Yet he shares that his faith has recently grown deeper, and his faith journey, interestingly, is attached to his SAT. During COVID, he spent much of his time studying and enjoying the fruit of his accomplishments—which included 4 perfect AP scores and a 1530 on his SAT. “Every day I worked so hard, and before I went to sleep, I would imagine the scores I wanted. I was very proud of myself. I was really proud—I had the sense that I did it all by myself in my room.”

However, Cho shares that God began to work on his heart and attitude. “I came to realize it wasn’t me at all, but it was God, next to me, giving me strength... Before, I thought leaning on God was a weak thing; I had a sense that I did it all by myself. But now I ask God for strength.”

As a senior, Cho’s desire to help solve polarization has evolved from a passion to help in school to a “whole world perspective.” After learning about the proliferation of food borne illness among the poor in Indonesia, Cho set to work creating an innovative lunch box to address this issue. His design was picked up by international NGO Africa Asia Development Relief Foundation. Understanding his target audience couldn’t afford an expensive solution, Cho also partnered with a vocational school in Indonesia, which enables students to practice valuable skills while also ensuring low-cost production.

The product will be sold at a fair this summer to test the market. Cho adds, “Where do I see myself in the future? I see myself in the far future leading an NGO and continuing the Project Safety Lunch Box. I think if I just keep on taking these little steps, hopefully someday I will be an influential person who tries to provide equality of opportunity.”



LYNETTE MATTHEWS

“She works so hard and volunteers for everything to make it just perfect and to make a better EC community. Also, [I nominate her] for helping with the stuff for staff members and students.”

Lynette Matthews’ life journey started on the other side of the world. Born to a Christian family and raised in South Africa, she moved to New Jersey 16 years ago on account of her husband’s employer.

“Earning my American citizenship was a phenomenal achievement. Growing up, I experienced American influence through TV and music. Never in my wildest dreams, did I ever think I would visit America, live in America, or actually become an American citizen. I have lived in America for 16 years, and this July I celebrate my 9th year as a citizen,” she shares.

When her two younger daughters first enrolled in Eastern Christian PreK and Elementary School, Lynette shares “she was impressed with the culture of the school” and a few years later, she agreed to lead the elementary school PTO. As her daughters, Olivia and Erin, grew, so did her involvement. Lynette is currently the co-leader of the middle school PTO and is working with administration to launch a high school PTO program next year.

“I’m passionate about my family and want the very best for them. Whether getting the family ready for school/work each day, supporting the PTO, or running our household, I try to use my organizational skills to God’s glory,” she says.

Although she personally attended public school as a child, regarding her decision to pursue Christian education for her children, she shares she is “most grateful that my children are in classrooms with teachers who I know love them and have their best overall well-being at heart and are teaching them about Christ. I love that they are also able to meet other students with the same Christian values as ours. To me, EC feels like a family.”



TRISHA VIRGA

“Trish Virga is a hard worker with a servant’s heart. She is always willing to volunteer to organize and run events. Sometimes Trish even literally runs in an event like the Fun(d) Run where she does laps with each grade level to provide encouragement and support. Trish and her PTO teams have renovated the preschool and elementary school playgrounds over the past several years. Our students are thrilled to play on the new structures and in the gaga pit. They had fun planning the next phase of playground renovation with our nature playground.”

In some respects, Trish Virga owes her life to a car accident that almost took it.

Although she became a Christian at the age of five, her life and faith were dramatically altered at the end of her junior year in high school. “It really took a turn when I was visiting colleges and my family and I got into a bad car accident. I shouldn’t have made it,” she shares. As she recovered, she says, “I realized God clearly saved me for a purpose. And from there it was like, where you want me to go, Lord, I will go.”

Her journey led her from California to New Jersey in 2018. Having owned three franchise gyms previously, Virga, now transplanted in New Jersey, “jumped into the PTO because

I wanted to quickly get to know the EC community and get plugged in.”

A year later, Virga became the ECES PTO president. “I got so excited about the PTO [because] I saw a need to be that vehicle to bring family and community together and to serve our community to bring change,” she says.

Still passionate about wellness and fitness, Virga was instrumental in spearheading the launch of an outdoor playground for the ECES campus, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2022. The playground will feature activities designed to nurture students’ whole well-being, and will feature elements such as a treehouse, circle swings, and sitting stumps.

“This particular project will glorify the Lord because we are working together to build this as a community, leaving a legacy for the generations to come. It will bring God joy, glory, and honor as the children delight in God’s nature and engage their bodies in physical play as well as imaginative play”

In addition to activities connected with the PTO, Virga also regularly prays for the community. She adds, “My biggest prayer is that we would be a community that walks boldly in our faith, one that loves with reckless abandon, that we would hide God’s word in our hearts and that we would teach our kids to do the same; to live by faith and not by sight, how to live in the world but not be of the world.”



DAVID DYKHOUSE

“He was president of the EC Board of Directors when I was on it, sometime in the 80s. By profession he was an attorney, but he devoted much of his time to EC.”

The Wyckoff campus stands as a legacy to those who served on the board in the late 80s and early 90s. Serving as vice president from 1987-1988 and 1991-1992 and president from 1988-1989 and 1992-1993, David Dykhous was part of a years-long, “great team effort...to re-imagine the EC middle school, design additions to the Wyckoff campus to make it work as a true middle school, close and dispose of the building on North 8th Street in Prospect Park, raise the remainder of the funds needed for construction, and transition from where we were to where our vision was taking us,” he explains. His board membership spanned nine years.

Besides his work with Eastern Christian, his life story is one of working “shoulder-to-shoulder” with many partners, colleagues, clients, mentors and colleagues, he says, adding that “Every single thing in my life that someone might possibly have thought of as my accomplishment has been accomplished in collaboration.” A 1967 EC graduate, Dykhous went on to Calvin College and then the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He’s practiced law at the same firm since 1975.

Although he credits many mentors who helped him in his faith and career walk, one standout from Eastern Christian High School was his US history teacher, Mr. Milo Okkema. “In addition to learning a great deal of history from him, I came to understand, for the first time in depth, that the teachings of Jesus have profound social, economic and political implications. In a sense, I have been exploring and living out that understanding ever since.”

Dykhous appreciates the school for its “durable faithfulness of vision and sacrifice from generation to generation.” Of his involvement, he adds, “It was indeed a juggling act, but, for me, it was also following in the footsteps of ancestors I admired going all the way back to my great-grandfather—one of the founders of the institution now known as Christian Health—and continuing through the generations in service to church, community and Christian school.”

We know there are many more individuals to celebrate! Would you like to celebrate another member of the EC community for being an inspiration? Send your nominations to Herald@easternchristian.org and we may feature your nominating quotes in our final Cloud of Witnesses blog. EC reserves the right to edit/omit submissions.

High School Commencement

The Graduating Class of 2022



On the evening of June 15, the graduating class of 2022 took the stage for a night of remembering the past, reflecting on the present, and looking forward to the future.

This year's commencement speaker, history teacher **James Uitermarkt**, took students on a journey through all three of these themes with his speech titled, 1386 days.

"Join me as we look back and remember God's faithfulness to these graduates, reflecting on their experiences at EC and celebrating their accomplishments," he said. "Your education at EC, the formative experiences you have had through the power of the Holy Spirit, are shaping you to be more Christ-like. You have been equipped for service in God's kingdom."

Weaving stories of past and present, he ended with this challenge for the future: "What is Christ calling you to be in the world? You are being invited into something that is so much bigger than what you might have chosen for yourselves. God is calling you to actively participate in the work of his kingdom, as disciples of Christ."

Valedictorian **Daria Mitri** titled her valedictory address, The Beauty and Pain of Time. A personalized look at experiencing high school through the lens of a pandemic, which she described as "a rollercoaster of beauty and pain,"

"...CELEBRATE WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND LOOK FORWARD TO PERSEVERING AND GROWING STRONGER THROUGH BOTH THE BEAUTY AND PAIN OF TIME."—Valedictorian Daria Mitri



GRADUATIONS



“You are being invited into something that is so much bigger than what you might have chosen for yourselves. God is calling you to actively participate in the work of his kingdom, as disciples of Christ.”
—James Uitermarkt

Mitri emphasized the importance of community, and her gratefulness for the Eastern Christian community in particular. Regarding her first impressions as a transfer student mid-way through freshman year, she shared, “In the following five months, I learned that EC was in fact a very tight knit community, but also that everyone was very welcoming.”

Mitri ended with thanksgiving for principal **Phil Verrengia**, and an exhortation to her class: “I know that this entire class will continue to achieve great things in life. As you leave here today, celebrate what you have accomplished and look forward to persevering and growing stronger through both the beauty and pain of time.”





The Class of 2022

IN THEIR HEARTS HUMANS PLAN THEIR COURSE, BUT THE LORD ESTABLISHES THEIR STEPS. —Proverbs 16:9



Sydney Adams



Benjamin Adamson



Dylan Alexandre



Gabriella Angelucci



Julien Arcay



Matthew Barna



Jadan Belen



Seth Binkele



Sydney Bolt



Allison Borduin



Lia Callahan



Minseok Cho



Christopher Cruz



Macey Davis



Isabel Dennis



Zachary DeVries



Daniel Emmick



Jacob Faasse



Thomas Fantuzzo



Jayson Farraye



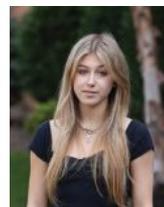
Daniella Fernino



Olivia Fishburn



Michael Forrest



Katelyn Foster



Luis Goenaga



Wilner Gonzalez



Elona Gorter



Henry Hagedoorn



Yilin He



Sydney Heinold



Evan Hopeck



Jael Jean-Louis



Brandon Jo



Christy Kim



Timothy Kim



Kayla Kingston



Annemarie Kretzing



Capri Kuiken



Ruby La Bianca

GRADUATIONS



Daniel Lazor



Elizabeth Lopez



Joanna Mas



Cameron Melone



Trinity Mickens



Daria Mitri



Jayden Montero



Tehillah Mwenya



Chela Owuor



Geunho Park



Luke Parker



Anthony Pino



Rachel Post



Sean Post



Sophia Prol



Zhi Wen Qiu



Leah Quill



Elle Rishko



Faith Rivas



Jared Rivas



Jariroodha Sears



Griffin Stansel



Joshua Steen



Marla Takla



Rebekah Thomas



Isaiah Torres



Alicia Ulaikere



Luke Van Goor



Jack Veenema



Ayana Villanueva



Benjamin Visbeen



Joseph Vivolo



Huanchang Wang



Joshua Yoon



Yuchuan Zhang



Lizhe Zhang



Hanbin Zheng



He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

—Ecclesiastes 3:11

Congratulations to our EC Grads!

Class of 2022 Awards

Department Awards

Art Department Award

Olivia Fishburn

The Da Vinci Award (for Excellence in the Art and Technology Departments)

Joseph Vivolo

Hanbin Zheng

Bible and Life Award

Luke Parker

Journalism Award

Luke Parker

Technology Department Award

Benjamin Adamson

World Language Award

Zhi Wen Qiu

STEAM Excellence Award

Joshua Steen

English Award

Macey Davis

English as a Second Language Award

Geunho Park

Mathematics Award

Joshua Yoon

Science Award

Timothy Kim

Daria Mitri

Joshua Yoon

Social Studies Award

Daria Mitri

Physical Education Award

Luke Parker

John Philip Sousa Band Award

Christy Kim

The National School Orchestra Award

Allison Borduin

Joanna Mas

The National School Choral Award

Daria Mitri

Tehillah Mwenya

Arion Award

Brandon Jo

ECES 2022 Faculty Award

Luke Parker

Valedictorian

Daria Mitri

Athletic Awards

ECES Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Gabriella Angelucci

Luke Parker

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Rachel Post

Athletic Department Golden Eagle Award

Gabriella Angelucci

Jacob Faasse

PCCA Senior Athlete of the Year

Gabriella Angelucci

Evan Hopek

NJIC Sportsmanship Award

Allison Borduin

Luke Parker

President's Education Awards

(Alphabetical Order)

Sydney Adams

Benjamin Adamson

Gabriella Angelucci

Matthew Barna

Jadan Belen

Allison Borduin

Minseok Cho

Zachary DeVries

Daniella Fernino

Olivia Fishburn

Luis Goenaga

Henry Hagedoorn

Yilin He

Sydney Heinold

Evan Hopek

Jael Jean-Louis

Brandon Jo

Timothy Kim

Christy Kim

Kayla Kingston

Capri Kuiken

Ruby La Bianca

Daniel Lazor

Elizabeth Lopez

Joanna Mas

Trinity Mickens

Daria Mitri

Tehillah Mwenya

Chela Owuor

Geunho Park

Luke Parker

Rachel Post

Sophia Prol

Zhi Wen Qiu

Leah Quill

Faith Rivas

Joshua Steen

Rebekah Thomas

Jack Veenema

Joseph Vivolo

Huanchang Wang

Joshua Yoon

Yuchuan Zhang



Allison Borduin

School and Community Scholarships

Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Allison Borduin

Henriette & Kathryn Houseward Vocational Scholarship

Daniella Fernino

Geunho Park

Rebekah Thomas

Hoitsma-Jeffer Award

Daniel Lazor

Excellence in Creative Writing Award

Olivia Fishburn

Excellence in Scholastic Writing Award

Joanna Mas

Excellence in Mathematics Award

Timothy Kim

Class of 2022 Colleges

Class of 2022 Total Scholarships: **\$7,471,840.00**



Joshua
Yoon

Albright College
Anna Maria College
Aquinas College
Arcadia University
Auburn University
Baylor University
Bergen Community College
Berklee College of Music
Berry College
Binghamton University
Bloomfield College
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Boston University
Butler University
Cabrini University
Calvin University
Carnegie Mellon University
Castleton University
Cedarville University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
County College of Morris
Drake University
Drew University
Duquesne University



Rebekah
Thomas

Eastern University
Florida Memorial University
Furman University
Geneva College
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus (Georgia Institute of Technology - Engineering)
Gordon College
Grinnell College
High Point University
Indiana University-Bloomington
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte
Johnson & Wales University-Providence
Kean University
Keene State College
Keystone College
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Lafayette College
Lebanon Valley College
Liberty University
LIM College
Lynn University
Manhattan School of Music
Mannes College The New School for Music
Marist College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marywood University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Messiah University
Michigan State University
Mitchell College
Molloy College
Montclair State University
Neumann University
New Jersey City University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New Jersey Institute of Technology (Newark College of Engineering)
New York University
Nichols College

Northeastern University
Northern Vermont University-Johnson
Norwich University
Nyack College
Ohio State University-Main Campus
Otis College of Art and Design
Pace University, New York City Campus (Dyson College of Arts and Sciences)
Pace University, Westchester Campus
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus
Pepperdine University
Pratt Institute-Main
Quinnipiac University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
Rockland Community College
Rowan University
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Rutgers University-Newark
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Salve Regina University
Savannah College of Art and Design-Atlanta
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seton Hall University
Siena College
Skidmore College
Southeastern University
Southern New Hampshire University
St. John's University-New York
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stockton University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
SUNY at Albany
SUNY Buffalo State
SUNY College at Oswego
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Oneonta
Susquehanna University

Syracuse University
The College of New Jersey
The College of Saint Rose
The University of Tampa
University at Buffalo
University of Bridgeport
University of California-Berkeley (College of Engineering)
University of California-Riverside
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Lynchburg
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor



Jack
Veenema

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of Scranton
University of South Florida-Main Campus
University of Washington-Seattle Campus
Webber International University
Wheaton College
Wilkes University
William Paterson University of New Jersey

Middle School Promotion

Class of 2022



The Middle School Promotion took place on the evening of June 16 at the North Haledon Campus.

Although the school is located a distance away from the Lone Star state, **Dr. Dan Lazor** began his address by exhorting students to “Remember the Alamo.” He relayed the story of the Texas legend, which included a tale about Colonel William Barrett

“WILL YOU FOLLOW JESUS?”

—Dr. Dan Lazor

Travis drawing a line in the dirt and stating: “I now want every man who is determined to stay here and die with me to come across the line.” He asked his men to choose their fate: surrender and leave the Alamo, or cross the line and join him in defending the compound to the death, no turning back.”

Drawing parallels to both our Christian walk and the 8th grade Spruce Lake trip, where students were asked “Will you follow Jesus?” Lazor ended



GRADUATIONS



with this challenge for the graduates: “I am calling you once again and repeating the words of Christ—to deny, to pick up, and to follow—and I do that by drawing a line in the dirt—calling you to step across and be committed to that calling!”

Similarly, student speaker, **Jack Meserole**, challenged his fellow classmates from Mark chapter 12: “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 like this: Love your neighbor as yourself.” He added, “I truly believe this class has lived out this Bible verse in our middle school years, and I hope that we will continue to do so into and through our high school years.”



“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 like this: Love your neighbor as yourself.” —Mark 12:30-31



Elementary Graduation

Third Grade Promotion Chapel



The voice of a third grader rang out over the excited crowd: “Welcome to our last chapel as third graders on the elementary school campus.”

With this welcome, more than 50 third graders took the lead on the morning of June 14, serving their peers and parents as hosts of the final elementary school chapel. After a student-led introduction, the students sang a selection of music, reflected on spiritual themes from the past, and shared different ways they have grown more rooted in Christ.

The day was a celebration of learning and faith, as well as a joyous sendoff for the third graders as they journey to a new campus. The students remembered themes from years’ past, such as Name Above All Names, from their kindergarten year, and then brought it to the present theme, which was Rooted in Christ.

Examples included: “I am deeply rooted in Christ by reading my Bible,” and “I am deeply rooted in Christ by talking to my family about God.”

The morning ceremony closed with an invitation to sing the familiar hymn, On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand, a good reminder to the intergenerational audience of

our shared heritage as believers and a great recap of the entire chapel: “I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.”



“I am deeply rooted in Christ by talking to my family about God.”

—student example of living out the school theme





Preschool Graduation

Preschool Closing Ceremony

As the lyrics *Hosanna* rang out through the gym, the youngest students at EC set a joyful tone for the beginning of graduation season.

The first closing ceremonies on June 7 were held in the Eastern Christian Elementary School gym and included everything one might expect from our preschoolers: songs, large body movements, ribbon banners, and of course, lots of cuteness.

The ceremonies this year were split into four events, representing four different preschool

In Pre-K3...students were honored for individual character traits such as contentment, flexibility, initiative and courtesy.

In Transitional Kindergarten, students were recognized for what job they wanted in the future.

rooms: the Duckling class, the Starling class, the Peacock class, and the Penguin class. Every service celebrated what students had learned throughout the year, honored the ways each student was made in God's image, and pointed back to the Lord.

Among the audience favorites, students received individual awards, which varied depending upon the classroom. In Pre-K3, for example, every student received an "Award where we see you acting like Jesus." Students were honored for individual character traits such as contentment, flexibility, initiative and courtesy. In Transitional Kindergarten, students were recognized for what job they wanted in the future. Some were laser-specific, like 'zookeeper', while others kept their options open, like 'grown-up'.

Even the littlest among us used their talents to bless their community on June 7. As one class sang to end their service, "May God bless you and keep you. May you know God loves you and gives you peace. We say goodbye like this."

Celebrating the Graduates

Special Moments from the 2022 Graduations



Adamson family



Partey family



Kuiken family



Melton family



Cook family



GRADUATIONS



Steen family



Veenema family



Duca family



Jim Uitermarkt, commencement speaker

Providing Light to EC

By Soo Brown, Executive Director, Foundation for EC

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5:16

If you've been to our Wyckoff campus recently, you may have noticed that it is brighter than before. The gym, media center, lobby, and several classrooms have been upgraded with energy efficient LED lights. At our high school, the cafeteria also has new lighting and the library is next on the list along with future plans for outdoor security lights. The amazing thing is that ALL these upgrades have been in-kind gifts by a current EC parent who prefers to remain anonymous.

Gifts in-kind are not new to EC and we are so thankful for each that we've received. Our school has been blessed by many alumni, friends and families who have used their personal and professional resources to support our school, including most recently with many auction items for our Gala.

In June 2021, the Wyckoff campus received an email with the subject "Donation to middle school" with an offer to install new LED lights in the library and gym as well as a donation of the required materials and labor. What an incredible and unexpected gift! Without any prompting, the father reached out to bless his daughter's new school with resources available through his business. He has reached out to EC multiple times since that first installation and has continued to provide lighting upgrades all as FREE in-kind donations and without ever being asked! In a recent email exchange expressing my thanks, his humble response was, "I cannot take credit. The Lord directs me, but thank you."

When discussing the initial theme of this issue of The Herald as "A Cloud of Witnesses", this donor came to mind immediately. He is a humble man and does not want any recognition or credit so it took some effort to have him share his story. He shared that he is simply a believer in giving and doesn't want to tell others what to do but hopes that his actions speak louder than words. He acknowledges he is so blessed and thankful to the Lord for everything. When he was at the school, he looked around and saw the opportunity to help

and just did his part. It was an encouragement and reminder that the Lord truly provides. He moves in the heart of His people to take action and to share the blessings that we have through Him.

The father was concerned about coming across with any appearance of boasting. He shared that the ultimate recognition is in the Lord knowing what he is doing with His blessings. Although not all his employees are believers, he shared that everyone knows that the success of the business is all thanks to the Lord. He referred to it as a "company driven by divinity" and that his entering the lighting business before the "green energy shift" is also a testimony of the Lord's divine orchestration.

So what led him to this generosity? In 2021, his middle school aged daughter transferred to EC from a local public school. His family had some concerns about the current public school environment and although she had been raised to be God-centered, her parents wanted to give her the best opportunity to be surrounded by other students with similar beliefs. "She belongs to God anyway but we had the means to provide her with a better Christian education and we wanted to give her the best opportunity." Once at EC, he saw an opportunity to help using his profession and resources.

Our school is a ministry and we are here to educate and raise His children in His truth to be able to go out and serve Him. Please pray not only for the school but also about how you can be used by Him to bless our students and our school. The Lord has placed YOU in this community for a reason.

"[The Lord] moves in the heart of His people to take action and to share the blessings that we have through Him."

If you want to help but are not sure how, please contact foundation@easternchristian.org or (973) 427-9294.

The Steen Family

Steadfast Heroes



The Dutch word “steen” is used for “stone castle,” so it seems fitting the Steen Family comes with a few heroes.

Lambert Steen, born and raised in Holland where he lived in

the late 1800s amidst hardship and religious persecution, boldly traveled by boat for six weeks through treacherous waters before reaching the New Jersey shore around 1890.

Lambert Steen was a tall man with great strength of character. Like other immigrants, he knew the best chances for his children’s survival, physically and spiritually, would require teachers who would guide them by God’s word. He set out with other parents to create a Christian school. Due to his ability to persuade others to join him, Eastern Academy, EC’s precursor, was birthed in 1892, to which he and his wife, Carrie, sent their ten children. Their son John had been the first to attend Eastern Academy as well as the first of five of their offspring to attend Calvin College.

“My grandfather helped start EC and my father, John Senior, taught and coached here for a few years. My father was especially proud of his student, Bill Spoelhof, who went on to become the President of Calvin College for 25 years. After earning a master’s degree from NYU and a Ph.D. from the University of PA, my father went to work for my grandfather, Lambert Steen. Rather than teach History at Annapolis, as originally had been planned, my father submitted to his father’s request to manage his textile mill. He was loyal to his father,” explained John’s son, John Lambert Steen.

“My father put his personal interests aside to honor his father’s request. His parents (my grandparents) were saints, helping countless people in many ways, so my father laid down his own plans.”

John Lambert Steen, proudly bearing his grandfather’s name as his middle name, shared that he entered the brand new EC high school

building in 1954. He was a senior and member of the first graduating class in 1955.

John L. Steen and his wife Carolyn, known as “Candy,” are also heroes. Behind the scenes, they have provided scholarships to EC students, Calvin Seminary, and Calvin College students. They embody the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, “It is more blessed to give than receive.” They make their gifts joyfully, thrilled their support has changed the trajectory of students’ lives.

“One grandmother told us, ‘You changed my grandchild’s life by sending her to EC,’” John shared. They have met some of the students they’ve supported over the years, such as the Ethiopian missionaries who were blessed to be students at Calvin Seminary, and then returned to eastern Africa to help build the Kingdom of God.

“THEY EMBODY THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, “IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE.” THEY MAKE THEIR GIFTS JOYFULLY, THRILLED THEIR SUPPORT HAS CHANGED THE TRAJECTORY OF STUDENTS’ LIVES.

They have also chosen to donate a portion of their estate through their will to benefit the Endowment Fund of Eastern Christian. “Candy and I have chosen to make this bequest to EC because the school did a good job with our three children. The school laid a strong base for our kids who went there from kindergarten through twelfth grade. I would encourage other people to consider including EC in their wills because it’s truly about giving back. Giving back is the foundation that the school established in my life, not only educationally, but also spiritually, and ethically,” said John.

The Steen Family members are steadfast heroes to EC for their selflessness, dedication to our school, and desire to help current and future students.

If you are interested in becoming a hero to students by including EC in your will, please contact Maura Byrnes at maurabyrnes@easternchristian.org or call her at (973) 310-0413.

Society 1892

Faithful Witnesses Since the 19th Century

The 1892 Society was established several years ago as a way to honor those individuals supporting the next generation of Christian leaders at Eastern Christian through planned legacy gifts. There are currently 43 members of the 1892 Society who represent alumni, as well as parents and grandparents of students. These participants are heroes to our students because they pledge to include EC in their estate plans, offering amazing opportunities for future generations of students.

New members of the 1892 Society are welcomed throughout the year. Some members work directly with Foundation Office staff, while others work privately with their financial advisors and estate attorneys. Either way, it is helpful to inform the Foundation Office that you have included EC in your will, so that you can be included in the 1892 Society and properly acknowledged, and receive the full range of benefits.

“In 1892, faithful Christian witnesses left a legacy when they founded EC. Today, caring and selfless donors leave a legacy by supporting the Endowment Fund through estate planning. Tomorrow, students will create a legacy by transforming the world for Jesus Christ,” remarked Ruth Kuder, head of school.

Soo Brown, executive director of the Foundation for EC noted, “Thanks to the foresight of others who have stepped up and contributed to the Endowment Fund, it is currently worth about \$10 million. The Fund generates interest of which 4.5% – \$450,000 annually – is used to enrich the education of every student, helping to underwrite art, music, athletics, STEM, missions trips, service projects, and other vital programs. The larger the Endowment Fund, the greater the impact it can have on our students as they seek to become Christ’s transforming agents.”

**INCLUDE EC IN YOUR WILL
AND LEAVE A LEGACY!**

“Many people over the age of 65 start to think more intentionally about the legacy they want to leave. When we reflect on our values, we want to invest in the people and institutions that are closest to our hearts. EC is a natural fit because this school has played such a pivotal role in our lives,” said Maura Byrnes, director of major and planned gifts for EC. “It is such a simple process to include EC in one’s will. I encourage anyone who is curious about learning how they can make a meaningful difference at EC to contact me.”

“Your will or trust is your final act of stewardship and care, a means to allocate your resources to support the people and causes you hold dear. By including charitable giving in your will, you model a legacy of generosity to your loved ones, and you help ensure that EC continues to have an impact well beyond your lifetime. By understanding your options, you can multiply the end results of your generosity in ways that are simple, flexible, cost-effective and extraordinarily powerful,” said Byrnes.

Members of the EC community, including alumni and the parents and grandparents of students, have complimentary access to trusted, biblically-based conversations with a Christian estate planner through the school’s membership with Barnabas Foundation. Since 1976, Barnabas Foundation has helped thousands of generous Christians give more effectively to the ministries close to their hearts through tax-wise charitable gifts. EC is proud to partner with Barnabas Foundation as a member ministry.

To inform the EC Foundation Office about your bequest, set up a private and complimentary meeting with a trusted advisor, or learn more about how you can include EC in your will or explore other legacy gifts, please contact Maura Byrnes, director of major and planned gifts, at maurabyrnes@easternchristian.org or call her directly at (973) 310-0413. All calls are kept confidential.



ditto Donations

Reach \$2 Million



Pictured L to R : Garry G. Nieuwenhuis (Treasurer of ditto of North Jersey), Nick Kuiken (President of the Board of Directors of EC), Soo Brown (Executive Director, Foundation for EC), Dr. Ruth Kuder (EC Head of School) Tom Dykhouse (Chairman of the ditto Board of Directors), and two EC students!

Recently the Board of Directors, staff & volunteers of ditto of North Jersey celebrated the milestone of having donated \$2 Million dollars to Eastern Christian School from the profits of ditto over the past 11 years.

In making this announcement, ditto Chairman, Thomas Dykhouse made reference to the abundant blessings that ditto has received over the years from our Faithful God and the incredible contributions from our volunteers and staff to make this gift possible. The decision to step out in faith

and undertake this project was a difficult decision for some, however many persevered and brought the dream of developing an upscale-retail store to fruition. We continue to be committed to promote and support this incredible venture and provide much needed tuition relief to all of our parents in Eastern Christian School in future years.

To God be the glory for the things He has done!

THANK YOU
for your years
of service!

EC Service Awards

5 YEARS

Stephen Bailey
Beth Wright
Carrie Johnson
Joan Santoro
Teresa Sippel
Kim Willemsen
Lynn Roukema
Meredith Kohlbrenner

10 YEARS

Dawn Heerema
Ian Zacharias
Rebekah Sankey
Diane DeRooy

15 YEARS

Sarah Vander Wall
Laura Gorter

20 YEARS

Liesl Botbyl
Geraldine Gallagher
Ruth Kuder

25 YEARS

Mary Brain

30 YEARS

Jane Okma
Daniel Martin

35 YEARS

Janyce Bandstra
Barry Veenstra

EC Milestones & Retirements

DITTO STAFF

Tim Maggiore - **5 years**
Curtis Carlough - **5 years**
Elizabeth Kelly - **10 years**
Sharon Spoelstra - **10 years**

RETIREMENT

Lisa Dykstra
Ruth Henion
Philip Verrengia
Barry Veenstra

Return of the Auction Gala!

A Record Breaking Event



After a two-year hiatus, EC's Auction Gala returned to the Indian Trail Club on April 21, 2022. This year's event raised an incredible \$160,063! This record breaking event sold out of our 300 seats six weeks before the event. The excitement and energy that evening were simply amazing!

The Auction Gala sponsors' support jumped 60 percent this year. We had more sponsors than ever before and we're so thankful as expenses were higher than expected as prices were up across the board. More sponsors, higher auction proceeds from both the silent and live auctions, fastest ticket sale ever, more volunteers than ever, and just the level of generosity all around were simply incredible.

However, the highlight of this generosity was our Fund-A-Need, which features a need at the school. This year's theme was "bringing fellowship back" after missing that for two years and our goal was \$50,000.

GOAL #1: \$35,000

Wyckoff Campus – Create a much needed fellowship and "hang out" space for students with new and highly durable furniture in the empty hallway outside our Media Center.

GOAL #2: \$15,000

Midland Park Campus – Improve the worship and community experience of our weekly chapel and other fellowship events with updated audio visual equipment for our gym.

This goal is almost DOUBLE from our last gala which raised \$25,380 in 2019. This year,

donations poured in and we hit \$52,000 in a blink of an eye. Then a very generous anonymous donor offered an additional \$5,000 dollar-for-dollar match to top it off. Although we just needed \$5,000 more for the full match, once pitched to our guests, donations kept flooding in and we quickly surpassed \$60,000. With the match of \$5,000 and additional funds that came in after the event, we raised a grand total of \$68,675! That is a 171% increase from 2019!

With the extra funds raised, the foundation was able to support two additional projects:

- 1) Sponsor the Senior Breakfast: This year's senior class wasn't able to have as many fundraising opportunities over the years with COVID restrictions, so this was a wonderful opportunity to congratulate our soon-to-be alumni.
- 2) We are able to add to the Midland Park gym A/V upgrade with refinished floors to brighten up the space. It was a much needed upgrade and the extra



funds provided just enough to cover this expense.

New to the auction this year were "Auction Experiences" and student artwork. Several staff offered experiences such as principal for a day at the elementary school, Korean cooking with a 1st grade teacher, Pedicure and Pizza with a 2nd grade teacher, and gym teacher for a day. Our high school art submission by Noah Chae sold for \$400 and our 5th grade quilt, made by our students and a grandparent volunteer, sold for \$510! Each grade also donated a class basket so we're thankful to ALL our EC families and staff for their contributions!

We had active participation from businesses and sponsors, parent volunteers, high school volunteers, staff, and the EC Foundation Board. Foundation board members helped with the Golden Eagle pin sales, promoting other items, and being spotters, while other volunteers helped in the Man Cave with the dart game. Our alumni, parents, and high school volunteers helped with both check-in and check out while some of our strong student volunteers even helped guests bring their winnings to their car at the end of the evening.

This evening could not have happened without the generous support of our entire EC Community. We thank you again all for your commitment, prayers, and support of our mission here at EC to provide excellent education Rooted in Christ!

We are already thinking ahead to next year! If you are interested in volunteering for the 2023 Auction Gala or any other community event, please contact events@easternchristian.org.

2022 SPRING GOLF OUTING



Monday, May 23, 2022, was a beautiful spring day to enjoy the sun, get in some exercise, and enjoy great fellowship all while supporting the mission of Eastern Christian School. This event was sold out five weeks in advance and our 33 foursomes of 132 golfers came together at Wild Turkey Golf Club in

Hamburg, NJ. The efforts of sponsors and golfers raised \$53,981, beating last year's EC Golf Outing which was also a record!



This event was coordinated by the Golf Committee: Kurt Faber (Chairman), Henry Hagedoorn, Dwayne Leegwater, Scott Martin, Bill Van Hoff. Thank you to volunteers Sue Leegwater and Laura Steenstra and EC seniors, Hank Hagedoorn and Evan Hopeck who helped raise extra funds at the "Beat the EC Golf Team Member" Challenge. ***Thanks to everyone for another great golf outing and we look forward to seeing you next year!***

Alumni Celebrations

BABIES



Grant Van Buiten

Kevin & Sara (Vander Ploeg)
Harrison '03
Willem Frederick 12/28/21

Edgar & Katie (Martin)
Arocho '05
Analiya Jule 4/5/22

John '05 & Alyssa (Smith)
Van Buiten '06
Grant Matthew 4/15/22

Jay '06 & Jessica Everett
Abigail Joann 2/24/22

Brian & Tracey (Dykstra)
Sharples '06
Brian Nicholas 4/10/22

Justin '06 & Lauren Brennan
Liana Rae 4/13/22

Greg & Brooke (Veenstra)
Hagedoorn '07
Samuel Joseph 2/28/22

Ian & Melody Zacharias '07
Maylie Lanie & Gwen Olivia 4/13/22

Derek & Michelle (Van Lenten)
Gilman '07
Harper Lynn 2/6/22

Brian '09 & Kelli Van Der Heide
Crew Peter 4/18/22

Tyler '10 & Kim Westra
Ezekiel Thomas 3/30/22

Ben '10 & Becca De Waal Malefyt
Brooks Benjamin 4/24/22

Craig '11 & Victoria Jacobs
Noah Robert 12/24/21

Jake & Emily (D'Amelio)
Gorter '11
Max Robert 4/24/21

Kevin & Allison (Vrisema)
Boss '11
Logan David 5/1/22

Joe & Heather (Tanis)
De Siervo '12
Joseph Scott 3/17/22

Seth '13 & Taylor (Faber)
Stadtlander '15
Brooklyn James 4/18/22

Paul & Jessica (Schultz)
Danielson '13
Shiloh Rose 5/9/22

Ryan & Allison (Dykstra)
Snyder '10
Emery Joy 5/27/22

David '06 & Alexandra
(Van Buiten) Kuperus '09
Jack Charles 5/20/22

Ryan & Carly (Veenstra)
Racanelli '13
Miles Alexander 5/26/22

Kurtis & Lauren
(Spoelstra) Paquin '09
Blake Alice 6/9/22

Dan & Joy (Abma)
Charnesky '10
Reese Noel 6/12/22

Brad '02 & Emily Jacobs
Brooke Rose 6/16/22



Max Gorter



Joseph De Siervo



Brooklyn Stadtlander



Emory Snyder



Miles Racanelli



Abigail Everett



Liana Brennan



Samuel Hagedoorn



Noah Jacobs

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AND PARENTS ARE THE PRIDE
OF THEIR CHILDREN.**

—Proverbs 17:6

Alumni Celebrations



James & Tracy Pino

WEDDINGS

Jacyln Veenstra '05
& Anthony Mollo
6/25/22

Hannah Everett '06
& Ty Haan
5/22/22

Tracy Vanden Berg '09
& James Pino
12/31/21

Scott Bouwense '10
& Janelle Germanos
5/20/22

Dylan Renicker '12
& Vanessa Alpert
6/11/22

Gabriella Silverstein '13
& Charles Lafort
4/23/22

Kate Klingler '15
& Jonathan Bellani
3/20/22

Hannah Furman '16
& Zachary Smith - Michaels
4/22/22

Nicole Martin '17
& James Summers
6/25/22

Sara Mickens '01
& Jabaar Rivers
4/26/22



Scott & Janelle Bouwense



Jonathan & Kate Bellani



Jabaar & Sara Rivers

Changes coming to the EC Herald alumni section

Recognizing that more of our alumni now turn to social media for information on personal celebrations, Eastern Christian School will be following trends in higher education publications by increasingly shifting toward featuring updates on academics and career, such as the one provided by Suzanne (Alsum) Atteberry, class of 1993.

Please let us know about the milestones and big moments from your year, like professional accomplishments, church and ministry involvement, and advanced academic degrees. We would also like to hear stories of how the EC community has supported you in your professional and faith journey. Eastern Christian School reserves the right to edit and/or omit submissions. **Submissions can be sent to: Alumni@easternchristian.org**

A class with class: Nicole (Martin) Summers, class of '17 and third grade teacher, married James Summers on June 25, 2022. She invited this year's students to attend, and many took her up on the offer, showing up with style to celebrate their teacher's big day.



Career Update

Suzanne (Alsum) Atteberry
Class of 1993

"I serve as an ER doctor doing international humanitarian volunteer work. My husband, Nathan, and I have volunteered in many humanitarian crisis situations around the world since 2008. In 2019, we started our small non profit organization A Ripple to raise awareness and funding for our volunteer work.

Our mission through A Ripple is to provide humanitarian assistance to disadvantaged and underserved populations, refugees, and displaced persons. We volunteer our time and expertise to give medical care and WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) services, without charge and without bias, to vulnerable people in resource poor areas of the world. We support and collaborate with existing local efforts and systems in humanitarian crises situations directly and through education. We are committed to enhancing local capabilities in the form of education, as we know this is the best way to make a lasting impact. I really enjoy teaching bedside ultrasound to local practitioners as it can be a gamechanger in medical care in situations where there are no imaging capabilities.

For our recent mission in Ukraine, A Ripple was able to donate 700 tourniquets to the front lines and water filters to several hospitals that did not have clean water. I also taught ultrasound to local physicians and Nathan organized logistics for

Remembering

ALUMNI

Henry Rozema '43
Wyckoff, NJ 1/19/2022

Doris (Allman) Miller '46
Sarasota, FL 12/9/21

Donald Wisse '48
North Haledon, NJ 2/27/22
Former ECSA Board Member
1975-1977

Edythe (Prins) Wiebenga '52
Kentwood, MI 1/29/22

Clifford Lake '53
New Milford, NJ 3/3/22

Ronald Dapp '54
Hawthorne, NJ 1/26/22

Nancy (Decker) Van Beveren '64
North Haledon, NJ 2/28/22

Wayne Bush '66
Grandville, MI 4/13/22

James Woudenberg '67
Hawthorne, NJ 6/8/22

Albert Borduin '68
Pompton Lakes, NJ
5/5/22

Ruth (Rhoda) Clark '69
Fort Mill, SC 4/17/22

Jack Klappmuss '69
Alto, MI 4/30/22

Walter Sybesma '71
Grand Rapids, MI
11/12/21

Bruce Vermeulen '75
Columbus, NY 4/22/22

Nancy (Tomicki) Kehoe '86
Levittown, PA 2/16/22

medical teams. We are still fundraising for this campaign! Thank you for your interest in our work. We hope that our little Ripple will continue to spread.

I am grateful for my time at ECHS and the education, support and encouragement I received there. Thank you!"

HOME COMING 2022

HERITAGE DINNER on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

All those who graduated 50+ years ago are welcome to attend. We will be honoring the following classes celebrating milestones in 2022:

Class of 1967 - 55 years
Class of 1962 - 60 years
Class of 1957 - 65 years
Class of 1952 - 70 years
Class of 1947 - 75 years



HOME COMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 14 & 15

Alumni and Friends Golf Outing
Issac Hennessy HomeComing Soccer Game
Girls & Boys High School Fall Sports
Community Picnic
Alumni Soccer Game
3v3 Basketball Tournament
HomeComing Dance

SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2022

Tribute Gifts

Gifts received in Memory or in Honor through June 20, 2022

IN MEMORY OF

Henry Balkema

Garland & Ruth De Hoog
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James & Ruth Flechsig
Charles & Katherine Van Dyk

Albert Borduin

William & Jean Borduin
Karel & Catherine
De Waal Malefyt

Class of 1982

in memory of classmates
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Moschella

Ronald Dapp

John Borowski
Agnes & Dennis Crean
Barbara Kuiken Davis
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Ralph & Dorothy Faasse
Mary Lou & David Flitcroft
Bernard & Rena Tolsma
Randall & Debra Veenstra

Kay Drukker

John & Carolyn Steen

Donald Holwerda

Gregory & Cheryl Holwerda

John "Jack" Hulsebos

Annamae Hulsebos

Catherine R. Lindsay

Dorothy Carletta
Salim & Eleanor Dallal
George & Mary Forshay
Ruth Freudenthal
Ellen Johnson
Claudia Meer
Joseph Scala
Margaret Sisco
Herbert & Esther Snoop
Brady Ternes

James Necita

Margaret Necita

Thomas Noyes

Jean Crawford

Henry Rozema

Steve, Donna & Carson
Brown
Arlene & Leonard De Block
Ralph & Dorothy Faasse
Theodore & Nancy Faber
William & Marcia Heerema
Bernard Joustra
Joseph & Nana Labruna
William & Josephine Peters
Mark & Pamela Reitsma
Carole Roper
Rosemarie Saunders
Henry & Lois Schuurman
Karen Silverman

Marilyn & Donald Sporn
Ronald & Karen Steinginga

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Ellen Lokker & Mark Baker
Jacqueline Lokker Taylor

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Paul & Dottie Stam

Betty Tolsma

Paul & Eileen De Boer

Jessie Vogel

Kristine & Terry Minnich

Donald Wisse

Gerald & Janyce Bandstra
Lester & Evelyn Beimers
William & Willemke
Bogertman
Book My Group: Paul
DeMarco
George & Carol Bosma
Robert & Sandra Bottge
Tom Bowers
Karel & Catherine
De Waal Malefyt
Thomas & Linda Dykhouse
Mark & Linda Everett
Lois Faber
John Golden
Gregory & Cheryl Holwerda
Stephen Kimm
Rebecca Kipreos

Alfred Laauwe
Garret & Florence
Nieuwenhuis
Lynda & Thomas
Pasqueretta
Ron & Rita Popjes
Mark & Pamela Reitsma
Ronald & Nancy Sietsma
Marilyn & Donald Sporn
Bernhard & Sharon
Spoelstra
Scott & Linda Spycaboer
Samuel & Lorraine Steen
Christine & Thomas
Van Lenten
Gerald & Donna Veenstra
David & Cynthia Visbeen

IN HONOR OF

James & Sandra de Waal Malefyt

50th Wedding Anniversary
Karel & Catherine
de Waal Malefyt

Ruth Kuder

Daniel & Susan Grimm

Henry & Grace Lootsma

Judith Smith

Leonard Wynbeek

80th Birthday
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Winter Season 2022

VARSITY BOWLING

In an historic season, the 18-1 Eagles captured our first ever league and county championships, topped off by a conference championship—the best team in the 38 school NJIC! The season started with a bang when Camden Vogel rolled a 300 in an early season match against Rutherford, part of a program record 865 game (4 bowlers). Six different bowlers made first or second All-League teams while **Camden Vogel** and **Sebastiano Secades** also took home First Team All County Honors. Coach **Aaron Goldstein** was awarded “Coach of the Year” in both Passaic County and the NJIC Colonial Division.

GIRLS BOWLING

Our girls team made their program debut this season! Led by **Ella de Waal Malefyt** and **Hannah Wang**, season highlights included beating Indian Hills 5-2 and tying an incredible program (IHA) in the opening game.

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Playing in the conference’s most competitive division, the young team fell just one game short of their quest to be a .500 team but succeeded in their goal of competing as one with humility and grace. Lone senior starter and captain **Gabbi Angelucci** led a lineup that included mostly freshmen and sophomores. Junior **Juliana Hopeck** led the team in points, rebounds and blocks and returns with six other underclassmen who will contribute next season. Coach Veenstra believes if the girls continue to work on basic skills in the off season and retain their unselfish team first mentality, a .500+ season is within reach next year.



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The young varsity boys basketball team won 8 games while playing a very competitive independent schedule full of games decided in the 4th quarter. Junior **Jean Italien** averaged 12 points and started every game along with sophomore **Lucas Genuario**, who led the team in scoring at 14 points per game and paced the team with tenacious rebounding and infectious aggression

on offense. Lone senior starter **Jake Faasse** averaged 11 points per game, highlighted by a 27-point outburst and stellar defense to help defeat Wallington. With 75% of the team’s production set to return next season, the boys team looks forward to turning those close losses into wins and a positive record overall.

WINTER TRACK

This year’s Winter Track Team was a combination of underclassmen talent and senior leadership. In meets that had a separate freshmen division, EC’s runners, jumpers and throwers took home dozens of medals. **Ruslan Gorter** and **Caleb Kuperus** earned multiple golds and silvers and **Alex Culp** threatened a number of Freshman school records. Junior **Anneke Kuperus** repeated as county champion in the high jump and Ruslan earned a second team all county, also in the high jump. Four EC athletes medaled at the State Meet including Anneka, Ruslan and **Luke Parker** in the High Jump and Daniel Park in the hurdles. All season long seniors **Allie Borduin**, **Rachel Post**, **Griffin Stansel**, **Gary Guo**, **Peter Visser**, along with Daniel and Luke provided an amazing amount of leadership and assistance for coaches **Stephen Bailey** and **Joel Apol** who believe this team is going to accomplish great things in the next couple of years.

WINTER 2022 COUNTY & LEAGUE RECOGNITIONS

Winter Track

County 1st: Anneke Kuperus **2nd:** Ruslan Gorter **HM:** Rachel Post, Allison Borduin, Luke Parker, Daniel Park

Girls Basketball

County HM: Juliana Hopeck, Gabbi Angelucci
League 2nd: Juliana Hopeck
HM: Gabbi Angelucci

Boys Basketball

County HM: Lucas Genuario, Jean Italien

Bowling

County 1st: Camden Vogel, Sebastian Secades **2nd:** John Zhang
HM: Heerema, Hannah Wang, Ella de Waal Malefyt

League 1st: Camden Vogel, Sebastian Secades, John Zhang, Derrick Zheng
2nd: Tim Kim, Josh Heerema
HM: Ella de Waal Malefyt

Spring Season 2022

BOYS TENNIS

This year's 10-man roster included 5 second-year players and 5 newcomers. The season was characterized by hard work, rapid improvement, and a high degree of sportsmanship. From day one, the team pursued a goal of improving 1% per practice. This goal was well-surpassed by each team member and set a trajectory for growth which, if continued, will guarantee an improvement on this year's 4-9 record. Earning the 1st singles position, **Jonathan Dykman** logged 4 wins against opposing teams' top players. **Rand Fang** also earned 4 wins at the difficult 2nd singles position. With all 10 players expected to return to next year's squad, the Eagles will look to re-establish a prominent position in the league and county.

GOLF

With a senior heavy roster this year, the EC golf program had its strongest numbers in nearly 10 years. With a unique cast of characters, the team was able to secure 3rd place in the NJIC, the team's 4th consecutive top 3 finish. The five seniors on the team helped to anchor solid scores, averaging a 219 foursome score in 9-hole competitions, while also proving to be great mentors to underclassmen during practice sessions at the range. **Evan Hopeck** had a special performance to secure 3rd place at the NJIC tournament and his 44.3 average for 9 holes will be hard to replace on the course next year. Freshman **Joe De Luccia** will be exciting to watch develop in the coming years along with five other returning underclassmen.



LACROSSE

2022 was a memorable and landmark season for our varsity lacrosse program, finishing 11-2 and capturing our first ever division championship! Head coach **Ryan Baitzel** returned to the team and along with assistant **Mike Reed** led the boys to an undefeated league

season and a win in the county tournament. Junior middle **Michael Cook** led the team in scoring and became the first 100-point scorer in program history. Senior attack **Ben Visbeen** and pole **Sean Post** joined Michael as 1st team all-league selections and will be missed next year along with classmate Danny Lazor. With sophomore goalie **Liam Reinmuth** and many promising newcomers including sophomore pole **Lucas Genuario** and freshman attack **Luke Baitzel** amongst others contributing already, the team appears poised to challenge for another run at a league championship in their new and more challenging division next year on their brand new home turf!

SOFTBALL

Playing in their 2nd season together, the EC/HCA softball team played with a never say die fire and finished with a .500 record. They worked hard both on and off the field to improve themselves and each other, finishing the season with a .300 team batting average while slugging 7 home runs. **Elizabeth Lopez** ended her career with 588 strikeouts including over 200 this season earning her 1st team all-league and 2nd team all-county honors! **Allie Spalt**, **Brooke Talsma**, **Aline Ellis** and **Gabriella Angelucci** were also recognized for their excellent play. While Liz, Gabbi and **Capri Kuiken** will be missed next season, 11 returners provide optimism for the growth of this program.



BASEBALL

Our EC/HCA baseball team finished the season at 10-8-1 marking the second year in a row with a record above .500. Highlights included the Defender Eagles winning a Passaic County Tournament game against Eastside with a walk-off grand slam down by 3 in the bottom of the 7th! The boys also defeated Roselle Catholic in the first round of the Non-public B State Tournament with a convincing 10-3 win. EC senior starters **Jake Faasse**, **Cameron Melone**, and **Jack Veenema** along with **Zach DeVries** off the bench each played important roles in the team's success this season. **Cameron Melone** and Jake Faasse were both selected as NJIC Patriot First Team All-conference at their respective positions. Cameron also received Second Team All County recognition while Jake and junior **Luke Connelly** was recognized as Honorable Mention All County.



TRACK & FIELD (BOYS)

Coach Apol's Men's Track Team was one of the largest in recent history with 30 members, 15 of which are freshmen. Wins over Garfield, Elmwood Park and Pompton Lakes along with close losses to Lodi and Manchester put the team in 6th place in the NJIC Colonial Division. High points of the season included the Freshman County

Championships and two new Freshman Records: **Caleb Kuperus** in the 400 Intermediate Hurdles and Alex Culp in the 1600 M Run. Both **Ruslan Gorter** and **Sebastiano Secades** earned Second Team All League recognition. **Luke Parker** and **Daniel Park** earned All County Honorable Mention awards. Senior leadership from Luke, Dan, **Josh Steen**, **Griffin Stansel** and **John Zhang**, along with **Julien Arcay** whose injury has kept him sidelined, are going to be sorely missed but the large amount of returning athletes bodes well for next year's season!



TRACK & FIELD (GIRLS)

With an impressive 24-member roster (16 of which are Freshmen and Sophomores), the Lady Eagles posted 7 wins against 3 losses and finished 3rd at the NJIC Championships. Strong performances in the 400 hurdles from **Julianna Hopeck** and discus from **Jaclyn Steenstra** led a well-balanced team effort that included contributions from **Kendra Heerema**, **Anneke Kuperus**, **Katherine Marshall** and **Hannah Visbeen**. All County Awards include First Team for Jaclyn Steenstra, Second Team for Anneke Kuperus and Julianna Hopeck and Honorable Mention for Hannah Visbeen and **Kirsten Braunius**. Senior leadership from **Sydney Bolt**, **Allison Borduin**, **Rachel Post** and **Tehilah Mwenya** is going to be missed. Like the Men's team, the Ladies are very well represented by underclassmen and next year can be a big one for them. Both teams owe much of their success to a great coaching staff featuring **Lyndsey Smith**, **Tim Steen** and **Stephen Bailey**.

Boys Tennis County

2nd: Jonathan Dykman
HM: Rand Fang, David Zhang

League

2nd: Jonathan Dykman
HM: Rand Fang

Golf County

1st: Evan Hopeck
HM: Joe DeLuccia, Hank Hagedoorn

League

1st: Evan Hopeck
2nd: Hank Hagedoorn
HM: Joe DeLuccia

Boys LAX County

2nd: Michael Cook
HM: Benjamin Visbeen, Sean Post

League

1st: Michael Cook, Benjamin Visbeen, Sean Post
2nd: Lucas Genuario, Luke Baitzel
HM: Nicholas Toresi

Baseball County

2nd: Cameron Melone
HM: Luke Connelly

League

1st: Cameron Melone, Jake Faasse
HM: Jack Veenema

Softball County

2nd: Elizabeth Lopez
HM: Brooke Talsma

League

1st: Elizabeth Lopez
2nd: Allie Spalt, Brooke Talsma
HM: Garbiella Angelucci

Track County

1st: Jaclyn Steenstra
2nd: Juliana Hopeck, Anneke Kuperus
HM: Luke Parker, Daniel Park, Kirsten Braunius, Hannah Visbeen

League

1st: Juliana Hopeck, Jaclyn Steenstra
2nd: Kendra Heerema, Ruslan Gorter, Sebastiano Secades
HM: Katherine Marshall, Anneke Kuperus, Juliana Hopeck, Hannah Visbeen

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