



THE *Herald*

A PUBLICATION OF EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

FALL 2011
VOL. 52 - ISSUE 1

A Celebration of Learning *Graduation 2011*



2011-2012
**ANNUAL
FUND APPEAL**
SEE PAGE 20

**ALSO
INSIDE:**

- Graduation Speeches
- Meet the New Principals
- Alumni News and More!



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

ENGAGING THE MIND



Eastern Christian School's mission statement and graduate profile remind us that all children are made in the image of God and challenge us "to educate each child to the best of his or her ability and to help each child recognize the gifts that he / she possesses." Our goal is that each Eastern Christian graduate will be... "prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence [who] seeks to contribute ... to God's mission of renewing all of creation."

This issue of *The Herald* celebrates learning and the learning community that is Eastern Christian School.

It is a celebration of the achievements of our graduates and the learning that has prepared them to continue their education, to enter service on the mission field or in the protection of our country, or to begin full-time employment. It is a celebration of the phenomenal growth in skills, knowledge, and understanding that has enabled our younger students to advance their academic work to the next level. It is a celebration of the learning that has provided our students with a greater understanding of the world around them through problem based learning projects and through concrete efforts to ease suffering throughout the world.

It is a celebration of Eastern Christian's first ever system-wide accreditation and the many months invested in developing Eastern Christian's Educational Blueprint that will guide our academic endeavors for the next several years. It is a celebration of the passionate commitment and determined hard work of students,

teachers, community supporters, and administrators who dedicated countless hours to the process that led to the development and implementation of the Educational Blueprint.

It is a celebration of the people that the Lord has provided to enable learning and to make Eastern Christian School the truly unique learning community that it is. It is a celebration of the hundreds of volunteers who support our school at **ditto**, in the TRIP office, in our school buildings, and in countless other ways. It is a celebration of the current and former staff members who have dedicated their working lives to educating the young people of the Christian community, and of the financial supporters who have faithfully sustained our mission of world transforming, Christ-centered education on the threshold of one of the world's most vibrant and influential cities.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Herald* as we recognize and honor the ways that God is using Eastern Christian School to engage the minds of this generation of students for the purpose of transforming the world in the service of the Kingdom!

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



THE Herald

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EDITOR

Tim Steen

FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis '58

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Justin Van Dyke '07

ALUMNI COORDINATOR

Beth Youngsman Milkamp '75

COPY EDITOR

Heather Barr

DESIGN & LAYOUT

David Luyendyk '91
Yellow House Graphic Design
www.yellowhousedesign.com

PRINTER

Lont & Overkamp
Prospect Park, NJ

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

50 Oakwood Ave.
North Haledon, NJ 07508
Phone: 973-427-9294
Email: herald@easternchristian.org
www.easternchristian.org

ABOUT THE COVER

David Harrison and Taylor Leentjes
celebrate after the 2011 High School
Commencement.

Inset: ECMS Bible Teacher Betsy Tyvoll
addresses the 8th grade class during their
graduation ceremony.

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The 4th grade Promotion Chapel.



Mrs. Marilyn Bushman and
preschooler Andrew Wilson.

**DON'T
MISS THE**

**2011-2012
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*in the center
of this issue!*

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

Eastern Christian School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools and is a member of Christian Schools International.

Executive Director / Head of School
Elementary School Principal
Middle School Principal
High School Principal

Thomas G. Dykhouse
Sandra Bottge
Andrew Culp
Joel Uecker

CAMPUS NEWS

New Administration at the High School...

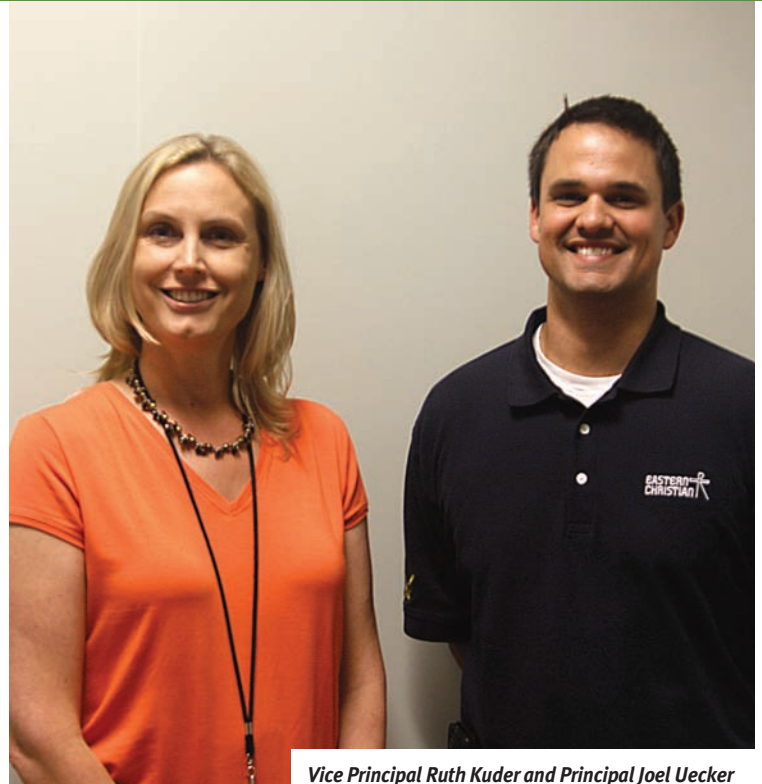
Eastern Christian School Association's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Joel Uecker** as Principal and **Mrs. Ruth Almroth Kuder '84** as Vice Principal at Eastern Christian High School, North Haledon.

Head of School Tom Dykhouse said, "We have the best of both worlds with these appointments. Joel brings to us experience as a high school principal and impressive credentials. Ruth has a strong history with the school and knowledge of the students and culture of Eastern Christian."

Dr. Uecker previously served as Principal of Norfolk Christian High School in Norfolk, VA. Prior to his appointment as Norfolk Christian's Principal, Dr. Uecker served as a teacher and coach at Norfolk Christian and at Great Hills Christian School in Cedar Park, TX. Dr. Uecker is also a qualified mental health professional, having worked with troubled teens and families in the Norfolk area.

Dr. Uecker received his doctorate in Education from Columbia International University, Columbia, SC, his master's degree in Clinical Psychology, and his bachelor's degree in Psychology and Kinesiology from Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. He is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and holds ACSI certification as a secondary principal.

Mrs. Kuder has worked in various roles at Eastern Christian since 1990. She was the Interim Principal of the High School following the retirement of **Principal Jan Lucas**. She was Dean of Students from 2006 to 2010 and was also a member of the English and Spanish faculty. Mrs. Kuder has also



Vice Principal Ruth Kuder and Principal Joel Uecker

taught ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at the Holistic Ministry Center and was a writer and editor for Food for the Hungry International.

Mrs. Kuder received her degree in History and Literature from Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Educational Administration at the University of Scranton, Scranton, PA.

Mr. Dykhouse said, "Joel and Ruth give us very strong leadership in the school going forward, following the strengths that Jan Lucas gave us for 25 years."

...And at the Middle School

Mr. Andrew Culp '98 has been appointed Principal of Eastern Christian Middle School and **Mrs. Mary Zuidema Faber '77** has been selected to replace him as the Dean of Students at the Middle School.

"At the Middle School, we have two excellent employees ready to step up and bring new leadership. Mary brings many years as a faculty member of the Middle School to her job, and already knows the students and families of EC. Andrew brings excellent credentials in innovative administration from his previous work," said Mr. Dykhouse.

Mr. Culp has served as Assistant Principal and Dean of Students at

Eastern Christian Middle School (ECMS) since 2009, where he has helped lead ECMS and Association initiatives in Core Values development and classroom technology integration.

Prior to this role, Mr. Culp was the creator, director and teacher of the Discovery Program in the Franklin Lakes Public School, where he wrote problem-based curriculum and directed curricular extension initiatives for three district elementary schools. Mr. Culp was also a core curriculum teacher in the Franklin Lakes, NJ and Timberville, VA public schools.

Mr. Culp received his master's degree in Educational Leadership from

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Principal Andrew Culp and Dean of Students Mary Faber

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The College of St. Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ, and his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

Mrs. Faber has taught and coached at Eastern Christian since 1986, serving at times as the Physical Education teacher at both the Elementary School and Middle School. Most recently, she has been the Athletic Director and PE teacher of the Middle School. In the 2005 school year, Mrs. Faber was named to the National Honor Roll of Outstanding American Teachers for her "exceptional performance in the motivation and empowerment of today's youth."

Mrs. Faber earned her bachelor's degree in Education from Gordon College, Wenham, MA. Upon graduation, she taught and coached at Gordon before coming to work at Eastern Christian.

Former **Principal Dick Van Yperen** is moving to the role of Curriculum Coordinator for the entire Eastern Christian system, giving the school a new opportunity for greater coordination of the education of all its students from preschool through graduation.

New Accreditation Benchmark

For the first time in its history, Eastern Christian School Association has been accredited as an entire system, from preschool to 12th grade. The formal confirmation and certificates from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools were received in late May, following last year's onsite visit by the Middle States team.

"This is an affirmation that EC is a top quality institute of education, from the earliest classes of preschool through the graduation of our high school seniors," said **Head of School Tom Dykhouse**.

System-wide accreditation is not required for a private school, but Eastern Christian chose to take advantage of the Middle States Accreditation for Growth process to establish system-wide goals. "To achieve our goals, we need to be thinking holistically across an entire 15 year spectrum of students," Mr. Dykhouse said.

The accreditation process is an arduous multiyear undertaking, requiring a period of self-study, establishing institutional statements, and setting goals for the future. All of this process was overseen by internal coordinator, **Mrs. Marla Stout**.

In order to maintain Middle States accreditation, EC needs to keep working. Mrs. Stout said that this is not just a report that sits on a shelf, but is an ongoing process. Primarily, Eastern Christian must make progress on the three goals it established during the process: increasing student performance in literacy, in numeracy, and in leadership. Action plans have been created for all three goals, and reaching benchmarks and testing students



are required as part of the plan.

The relationship between Eastern Christian and the Middle States Association has developed in other ways beyond the accreditation. This year during the fall opening staff in-service, Middle States administration will visit the school. President Dr. Hank Cram and Associate Director Jacqueline L. Gilbert will address the faculty and staff, inspiring and commending the work of Eastern Christian employees.



Sophomore **Justin Miller**, **Noah Ruitenbergh**^{'11}, **Chad Miller**^{'11}, and junior **Ethan Ruitenbergh**.

New Service Team Unites Students

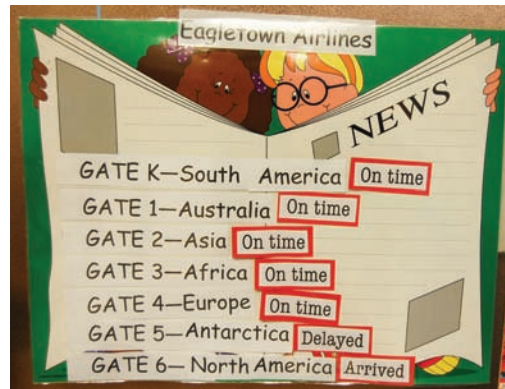
Thirty-five high school students from Eastern Christian and Hawthorne Christian Academy (HCA) teamed up on June 4 to raise money and awareness for a common cause. Together, the students ran and dribbled basketballs on a four-mile course from Eastern Christian High School to Buehler's Cultural Center & Pool in North Haledon and back. Students were sponsored for their participation, and all the money raised was given to International Justice Mission, an organization that combats modern-day slavery around the world.

Students at HCA brainstormed the idea initially, and hoped to get many area schools to participate. When HCA contacted Eastern Christian, EC members of the new mission-focused student group MIST (Mission, Inspire, Serve, and Teach) were ready to respond and organize the event.

Sharon Visbeen^{'11} and **Amanda Boonstra**^{'11} started MIST in 2010 to create more opportunities for student-led service projects. **Athletic Director Steve King** helped organize and sponsor the group. MIST's first project on February 11 was an exciting success. They invited EC Elementary School students to a high school basketball game, and gave them t-shirts and played games on the court at half-time. Over 60 energetic fans filled the Elementary School student section, and enjoyed a hula hoop relay race and crabwalk race at half-time.

By forging new bonds between schools and between the EC campuses, MIST promises to be a valuable opportunity for student leadership at the High School.

Welcome to Eagletown Airport



Eastern Christian Elementary School was transformed into the Eagletown Airport this spring, as students used Problem-Based Learning (PBL) to study topics from across the globe. The hallways were decorated with arrival and departure boards, and students walked through a "security check-in" when they arrived on the first day of the project on March 2nd.

Each grade had a different continent to study, and the doorways to each classroom were decorated as departure gates for their destinations.

Furthermore, each class studied a particular problem found on each continent, and over the course of the two month project, brainstormed and implemented solutions to those problems. In PBL, students are highly motivated to learn as they try to solve the problem presented to them.

The 4th grade traveled to Europe, where they considered how Christians in Europe should respond to world hunger. The third graders traveled to Africa, and learned how the countries there can fight disease. The second graders were assigned Asia, and they studied how courage can help them fight injustice. The first graders studied Australia, and learned about endangered species there. The Kindergarten class traveled to South America, where they were educated about the problem of unclear drinking water.

On the final day of the Eagletown Airport, each class reported what they had done in a school-wide chapel, and they held an open house to display their projects. As students traveled to each classroom in the school, they had their passport books stamped. While visiting the continents, students would do activities portraying the specific continent. For example, in "Asia," students had the chance to work with Chinese numbers, use chopsticks, and make origami. In the gym, an inflatable "jungle" obstacle course gave students a chance to exercise.

Eagletown Airport was a huge success! Students not only learned geography, culture, and biology, but they also discussed how God would want them to respond to real problems in the world.



First graders explore EagleTown

Middle School MAD



Middle Schoolers, parents, and friends at the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge.

BY HEATHER VAN LENTEN, SENIOR

The Middle School Make A Difference (MAD) projects came to an end in the middle of May, when each grade presented what they had done to make a difference this year. Each grade focused on a different problem in society, and each grade excelled in finding new and creative ways to make local, significant steps toward solving those global, complex issues.

This year, the eighth grade studied poverty. **Angely Montilla** said, “I thought poverty was rare, but I learned how bad things really are and that we take things for granted. So many kids were grateful and thanked us over and over again for the work we did.” The eighth graders worked often with New Hope Community Ministries, planting a garden, organizing the food bank, and working with the clients of the ministry. One group of eighth grade girls gave manicures to the neighborhood women. The eighth graders learned that they can help people in poverty by doing the littlest things.

The seventh graders focused on helping people with disabilities. They coordinated with students and parents from 7th and 8th grade to participate in the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge 5K. Teachers, parents and students ran through the Lincoln Tunnel to raise money for the Special Olympics. The seventh graders also visited the Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat (ECCR) where they learned about the operation of the retreat, and they played bingo and bowled with the residents.

Trent Braen said, “Before going to the ECCR I thought that it was just a place for them to stay, and that they don’t do anything there. After I went, I found out how much the Retreat’s staff is trying to help the residents.”

This year, the sixth graders worked on helping the homeless. One way they helped was by raising money for ministries that help the homeless. One of these fundraisers allowed Middle School students to wear “hoodies” in school (hooded sweatshirts normally are a violation of the school dress code), if they paid a dollar. With the money they raised, they bought items for some homeless people at church homeless shelters, organized the materials in backpacks, and distributed them at the shelters. They also received donations of clothes and other items from **ditto** to give to the homeless.

The fifth graders this year focused on bodily health. They presented what they learned to the elementary school students. On one side of the elementary school gym, they set up an obstacle course to promote body health, and they taught the students about the importance of exercise in staying healthy. They also divided students into small groups to teach them another form of exercise – dance.

Hannah Hagedorn said, “People need to learn how to eat healthy and take care of their bodies.”

Another form of bodily health is first aid. A group of the fifth graders went to the Wyckoff Ambulance Corps. “We learned about first aid and learned CPR. We saw the inside of an ambulance, and even rode on a stretcher,” said **Sarah Vincent**.

Overall, this year MAD was a big success. The students learned great life lessons about helping people in their own communities. Many organizations have been helped by the Middle School this year, and they are all grateful for the work that they have done.



EC HS students sing in front of the new mural.

EC Video Wins Award

By Josh Davidson, senior

A recent video made by Eastern Christian High School students and faculty took second place at the Passaic County Film Festival in the “High School Music Videos” category. The video, produced and directed by Eastern Christian art teacher **Mr. Jesse Wright**, is a short film about a student singing a song while walking to Eastern Christian High School. The student, played by **Rachael Coba '11**, travels by famous landmarks in Passaic County on her walk, and meets other students involved in music or artistic creations. The footage of this journey is intercut with scenes of high school students painting depictions of each encounter onto a mural, which was created on the wall of the Eastern Christian High School cafeteria.

There were 44 submissions in the Passaic County Film Festival, which took place on April 12. The EC student-made film, entitled “MUSIC and ART – BE CREATIVE!,” was well liked by the judges. Mr. Wright said, “It was amazing to see so many different people and gifts come together for the project.” Mr. Wright and his team of students worked on this award winning video during the SOAR activity time each day during the fall semester.

This was not Mr. Wright's first video. With the help of students, he has made six other videos in the past two years that vary in theme and focus. Some of his videos service the school, while some others service the community. They all showcase God-given talents and often promote social awareness of global problems. These videos can be viewed on the Eastern Christian web site.

Mr. Wright also said, “Having a small taste of victory, we're going to come back ten times as hungry for next year!”

Relief for Japanese Earthquake Victims



Middle Schoolers make paper cranes.

BY AMY MARTIN AND DIANA KLEINMANN, SENIORS

Intimidating statistics and heart breaking pictures shrouded the front page of every newspaper March 12th when Japan had not only suffered a horrific earthquake but also braved a devastating tsunami. These images prompted action on the part of many Eastern Christian students and faculty.

“I’m from Japan,” explained sophomore **Dajia Qian**. After the earthquake hit, Dajia desperately tried to get in contact with his family. Finally after some time, Dajia heard that his father had decided to stay in Japan to help while his mom and brother had moved to China temporarily where it was safer. Dajia had donated some of his own money to Japan, trying to help in any way that he could. However his fellow students in **Mrs. Esther Kim's** ESL class felt as though they needed to do more. They wanted to not only help Dajia and his family, but also the others in Japan that were dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake.

“They are an amazing group of kids that just came together and were willing to help, be active, and supportive,” said Mrs. Kim about her third block ESL students. However these eager students have only been in the US studying, on average, three months, and they did not want a language barrier or lack of connections to lower their chances of success. The class joined forces with the Micah Challenge, a group of students who frequently set up fundraisers and raise awareness for a wide range of charities. Together, they purchased wristbands that had the words, “Pray for Japan” engraved into them and sold them at the High School during lunch. The money raised went to World Vision.

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In addition, from April 18th to the 21st, students from Eastern Christian Middle and High Schools took part in the “Cranes for Kids” project, a project headed by Oshkosh B’Gosh. For every origami crane (historically a symbol of hope in Japan) that was sent in to its stores, this company donated an article of clothing to children in Japan.

Mrs. Ruth Rudd, the Middle School Media Center teacher, took the initiative to participate in this program once she discovered it via Facebook. Announcements and emails were quickly sent out to the students, explaining what they could do to help. Mrs. Rudd said, “After that, students got excited about it and passed it on everywhere. Many of them put it on their Facebook pages. The kids who already knew how to make cranes, and the ones who just learned, taught others how to make them.” Every grade level participated in this program. The high school students sent 120 cranes to the Middle School. One 7th grader, **Sam Kuder**, already knew how to make cranes and brought in over 200! In only 4 days, students collected 1,008 cranes. The cranes were well received by excited employees when Mrs. Rudd delivered them to the Oshkosh B’Gosh store in Paramus.

Eastern Christian Wins Green Award



Vice Principal Ruth Kuder, Passaic County Freeholder **Bruce James**, **Director of Operations John Belanus**, and **Foundation Executive Director Garry Nieuwenhuis**.

Wyckoff and North Haledon. The Elementary School started producing power in the spring. In June and July, the final work was completed at the Middle School in Wyckoff and the High School in North Haledon.

The award was presented to ECSA at a Green Building Design and Energy Conservation Techniques conference at William Paterson University. EC was nominated for the award by Sun Farm Network, the solar panel contractor that installed the panels for EC.

Over the summer, the contractor installed monitors in each of the schools in prominent locations so the students can observe the system in operation and witness the benefits of the solar system. According to **Director of Operations John Belanus**, the ECSA project coordinator, this will be a daily learning experience for the students in the three school buildings.

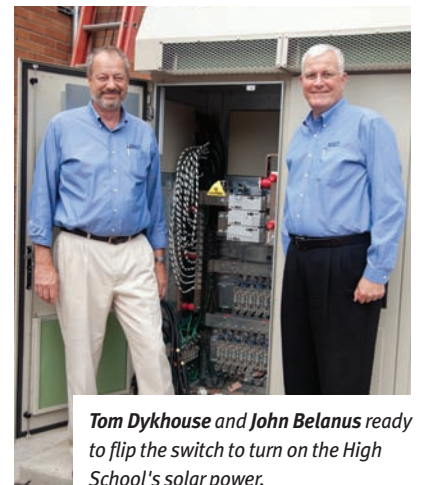
Eastern Christian was awarded a Green Building Design Award from the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders on June 22. This award is in recognition of Eastern Christian’s implementation of alternative/green power technology in the new solar system on the high school building in North Haledon.

Eastern Christian’s installation of solar panels has been completed on all three EC campuses in Midland Park,



Morgan De Marco

Eastern Christian High School senior **Morgan De Marco** participated in the 2011 US Naval Academy (USNA) Summer Seminar program. This was a fast-paced experience for high achievers who completed their junior year in high school and are considering applying for admission to USNA after graduation. Congratulations Morgan!



Tom Dykhous and **John Belanus** ready to flip the switch to turn on the High School’s solar power.

HIGH SCHOOL



On June 15, Eastern Christian awarded 95 graduating seniors with their diplomas at the 2011 Commencement. Retiring Principal **Jan Lucas** gave the Commencement Address, and graduates **Dawn Wang** and **David Kang**, the class co-valedictorians, also spoke at the ceremony. The following text contains highlights of their speeches. The speeches, in their entirety, can be found online at www.easternchristian.org.

Leadership in a Vibrant Learning Community: A High School Principal's Reflections

JAN A. LUCAS

Members of the Eastern Christian Class of 2011, faculty and support staff, administrators and Board of Directors, parents, relatives, alumni and friends; I have chosen to direct our thoughts on leadership this evening with particular emphasis on the demonstrated leadership of each of the graduating seniors surrounding me. We need a community, a learning community, to help us understand the significance of our own leadership gifts.

It is clearly evident to the faculty and staff that each graduate has demonstrated leadership in their decision-making and influence of others affirming significant character development.

The 4MAT language of learning that Eastern Christian has adopted challenges teachers to always include a student exhibition or culminating project in the plan for a unit of learning. Taking action becomes the exhibition of Leadership. Here is a short list of exhibitions of character observed at school which document leadership:

- Putting one's own agenda aside to support a peer in need
- Praying and sharing personal faith perspectives in Block 1 devotions
- In athletics, promoting the team - not one's own accomplishments
- Personally promoting God-honoring sportsmanship – as players and fans



Principal Jan Lucas

- Learning a new student is lonely – and inviting the student to eat lunch together
- Openly praying with a staff member right in the hallway
- Bringing issues of perceived injustices to the principal
- Sharing the love of Jesus Christ with 175 children at our Christmas Festival
- Joining a mission trip to Honduras or Uganda
- Raising money to support people in need globally
- Challenging peers to grow in faith – through active involvement

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- in the Bible and Worship class, planning and producing chapels
- Taking the risk to find professional help at school for a friend with an eating disorder or an addiction
- Working through grief during the tragic deaths of two teachers within one month last year – and then quickly focusing care to support peers
- Boldly proclaiming Jesus as their Lord and Savior to peers and adults at school



Kyle De Jong '11

As a young parent I can recall times, upon receiving some complimentary feedback about the behavior of one of our children, when I was a bit skeptical. Especially when the behavior at home at that time just didn't match. And so I can understand some of you in the audience saying, "Every member of this graduating class a leader? I haven't witnessed that behavior in my son or daughter!" Or perhaps you are experiencing an Eastern

Christian graduation for the very first time and are thinking, "How can a school believe that every member of this senior class is a leader?"

But, let me share some insight from our annual Christmas Festival that invites 175 first graders from a Paterson elementary school the first Friday in December to begin our Christmas celebration. Invariably a whole new group of students rise to the status of leader that, quite honestly, have often been a surprise to me as well. These are students who are experts at demonstrating how to be a loving "big brother" or "big sister" to one of our guests. It is obvious that they have the gift for making a younger visitor feel valued and loved, and they exhibit it enthusiastically.

Other students delight in improvising a host of room decorations that transform our school into a Winter Wonderland. They think nothing of lugging Christmas trees, lights and decorations from home for decorating rooms to the delight of our young guests. Another group spends countless hours outside of school choreographing the dance and designing a sing-along for the Christmas celebration assembly to kick off the day's events. Some others demonstrate leadership in serving food or caring for crying kids or cleaning up at the end of the event. These students not only show us how it's done with intention and passion, but they also encourage their peers to follow suit. Leadership!

I am an Eastern Christian alumnus. It was exactly 50 years ago this June that I received my diploma in a very different high school climate in a very different culture. This school has always been blessed with a staff with a love for students and learning. Both faculty and support staff members must be deeply committed to serving as disciples of Jesus Christ in order to be considered for employment at Eastern Christian. So what is

different 50 years later? The most obvious difference is the world in which these students have grown up. Consider the advances in technology alone that appear so rapidly that adults are easily overwhelmed, yet students take in stride.

The rock steady assurance that we can celebrate this evening is that God continues to equip Eastern Christian High School students with the conviction and strength to meet the challenges of culture no matter how daunting. Students' capacity grows to enable them to make their way through the culture maze with a new tool set and new skills. That is God's promise to continue to nurture discernment in students from generation to generation.

Wednesday chapel worship consistently affirms the transformation that students continue to accomplish. I recall many conversations with parents and grandparents who, as EC alumni, would visit chapel and share their amazement at the significance of student leadership and the passion for worship in chapel. These visitors often replied, "I never realized that high school worship was so inspiring. I kept thinking that chapel was the same as when I went to school here. I am so glad to be here!"

Students participating in the design of Eastern Christian's strategic planning initiative were intent on including Leadership as one of the three main objectives for the next seven years. When teachers said, "We have

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Madeline Kosten '11 and Katie Johnston '11



Mr. Phil Verrengia conducts the Class Song.

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always encouraged leadership. It is a given in an Eastern Christian education,” students responded, “If we are not intentional about developing leadership it can easily be ignored. Students need to be challenged to rise to their leadership potential.”

Class of 2011, your leadership continues even as you challenge yourselves with a vision for the future, as you leave the Eastern Christian High School learning community and move on to an extensive variety of new

ones. Pay attention to God’s leading you to new opportunities for leadership as many of you move on to new learning communities that do not include core values of faith in Jesus Christ. Be assured that your gifts of leadership will be challenged, but always for God’s purposes. Boldly lead in the Spirit of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and your life will be blessed with significant purpose!



(l to r): Dan Van Lenten '11, Sam Braen '11, Brianne Traub '11, Adam Struyk '11, Dara Veenstra '11, Angel Jones '11, Kris Chin '11



Board President Nick Kuiken and Jessica Hoogerhyde '11

Hands and Feet

BY DAWN WANG

In Chinese culture, “hands and feet” mean brothers and sisters. I think the same can be said of the class of 2011; just as how all of us are united as brothers and sisters in Christ, we are also a unified group of unique individuals who, for many of us, have grown up together since preschool.

What really unites the class of 2011 as hands and feet, or brothers and sisters, at the core is this sense of communal love fostered by years of interactions amongst the class. I will use myself as an example. A lot of things have happened to me because of my classmates over the years. Because of the humanities classes, I have realized that it is fun to have debates with people about politics, as long as my opponent isn’t our beloved Mr. Paul Beverly, because he always wins. Because of Mrs. Andrews’s math classes, I have discovered that I love writing mathematical proofs with a burning passion, and that I dislike exponents with about an equal intensity. Because of Mr. Verrengia’s chemistry class, I have learned that, no matter what your lab partner says, always aim for a cooler flame when you’re heating up anything containing even one drop of hydrocarbon-related substances. And, most of all, because of the love and compassion that received me the first moment I walked into EC community eight years ago not knowing a single person or a single word of English, I am able to become who I am today. So I’d like to officially thank my friends and the class of 2011 for accepting me and for everything that I have achieved over the past eight years, because without you guys, none of that would have been possible.

Now comes the part where we should feel inspired, and this shouldn’t be hard. Over the last couple weeks of each semester, worldview presentations were going on. I’ve heard all

of the senior teachers commenting that these presentations were, by far, the most authentic and touching ones done by the class of 2011, and that when we watched each presentation, we showed more attention and interests than during any other presentations our classes have done over the years, though none of these worldview materials would appear on any exams. I think that alone should be a lesson to be remembered as we continue our journey in the years to come. These presentations were extraordinary and touching because they were us, they were real, they were personal; there was passion shown through each presentation. Metaphors for life like a roller coaster, doing back flips, planting flowers, a stage, or a sports game represent our passions, personalities, and the unique talents God has blessed us with, and because of these personal elements in an ordinary, 15-minute speech, a presentation suddenly became convincing, live, and powerful. Let us not forget this. Embrace every task, no matter how trifling it may seem, that you undertake in the future. Put your heart into it, and transform



Dawn Wang '11

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the project into something that represents who you are, what you love, and what makes you special. That way, people will listen, and they will remember, as if your hands have etched permanent handprints in the lives of everyone you touched.

More than two millennia ago, Confucius once said, "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." More recently, Dr. Seuss said, "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." By being ourselves with our unique qualities and talents, we, the class of 2011, have left handprints on the school in more ways than anyone could imagine. Some have blessed the class with their compassionate personalities, some with their amazing athletic or artistic skills, some with their Christian examples and ways, and some with their infectious laughter. We have given each other the best gifts we could possibly offer by being who we are and by sharing our talents and passions. We have certainly left handprints on each other's lives and on the school.

BY DAVID KANG

I had started high school with a choice, the choice to go to public school or Eastern Christian. Four years, thirty-two finals, sixteen quarter projects, and an infinite amount of happy memories later, I am happy to say I made the right decision. It was the fellowship here at EC that drew me away from the public school system of my own town. Gladly I can say that only at EC could I have taken part in such wonderful friendships and meaningful faculty relationships, some of which were started just this year. It is this openness and warmth that marks the most distinguishing characteristic of Eastern Christian: the love of Christ. No graduate here can deny that this school offers more than just academic subjects. I'd wager all of my meager savings from TD Bank to say that every student at Eastern Christian can expect a display of the love of Christ. Whether in the classroom, in the hallway, around the cafeteria, or right outside because of fire drills caused by smoke machines, Christ is always just around the corner.

Now, imagine all the good that can be accomplished if we shared this



David Kang '11



Taylor Lee '11 and the Class of 2011 in the recessional.

spirit of community outside the walls of EC. Imagine how much of Christ's love can be spread if 97 graduating Eastern Christian seniors shared just a part of what they experienced in high school.

Paul says in the book of Romans, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!" To the class of 2011, I challenge all of you to keep this verse in mind when next September rolls around. With graduation, we will be taking our identities, our worldviews if you will, with us to college, to work, and to the Armed Forces, where we will again embark on yet another incredible adventure. In a matter of weeks, 194 individual feet will be scurrying all over the country and the world. Tomorrow will bring the first day of the rest of our lives, when hopefully all of us will be able to let our identities flourish, take root, and demonstrate the love of Christ. Let us live up to the title of our class song, "Chosen Generation," and really

become the feet, all 97 pairs, that carry the Good News. Whether we're in Michigan or California, Rwanda or Afghanistan, South Korea or right here in New Jersey, we are sure to be a generation that leaves lasting footprints.



Linda, Jacob, and John Vander Wiele

EC Graduates

There was a lot of celebrating going on in the classes and the homes of Eastern Christian faculty and staff this spring. Over 10% of this year's graduating class were children of Eastern Christian employees! Congratulations to the many parents and children celebrating this occasion:

From the Elementary School:

Owl's Nest teacher **Cyndi Visbeen (Ryan)**;
4th grade teacher **Donna Hoogerhyde (Jessica)**;
Kindergartener teacher **Nancy Johnston (Katie)**;
PE teacher **Debi Veenstra (Dara)**;
Kindergartener Aide **Sue Boonstra (Amanda)**;
1st Grade Aide and Office Receptionist **Linda Vander Wiele (Jacob)**.

From the Middle School:

Resource Room teacher **Pam Kosten (Madeline)**.

From the High School:

Vice Principal **Ruth Kuder (Andrew)**;
Science teacher **Kathy Kim (Emilee)**;
PE teacher **Barry Veenstra (Dara)**;
Dean Office Manager **Sandra De Marco (Joseph)**.

From the Association Office:

Business Manager **Jackie Streelman (Katie)**.

the Class of 2011



Kirsten Anderson
Seton Hall University (NJ)



Dae Ho Bae
College in Korea



Alaia Baldwin
Westmont College (CA)



Amanda Boonstra
Bloomsburg University (PA)



Chad Boonstra
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Timothy Boonstra
Bergen Community College (NJ)



Samuel Braen
Northeastern University (MA)



Jeremy Braunius
Wheaton College (IL)

Eastern Christian Awards

The following scholarships were awarded by Eastern Christian High School to members of the graduating class. It does not include awards from other sources. In total, the Class of 2011 was awarded over \$2,000,000 in scholarship money.



David Kang '11 is awarded the Christine White Memorial Scholarship by Walter and Sandra White.

Art Department Award

Taylor Lee

Bible and Life Award

Paige Rainville

Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Ryan Visbeen

Choral Award

Katie Johnston

Christine White Memorial Scholarship

David Kang

Drama Award

Katie Johnston

Eastern Christian Scholastic Writing Award

Marina Youssef

English Department

Excellence in Writing Award

Jeremy Braunius

French Language Award

Katie Johnston

The Harold Phillips

Vocational Scholarship

Kyle De Jong

Henriette & Kathryn Houseward

Vocational Scholarship

Sharon Visbeen

High School Faculty Award

Paige Rainville

Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award

Ryan Visbeen

John Philip Sousa Award

Victoria Westra & Adam Struyk



Vice Principal Ruth Kuder, Janet Braen, and College and Career Counselor Nathan Minchen award Meghan Vander Plaats '11 the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Ethan Brown

Mathematics Award

David Kang

Orchestra Award

Kristen Lindsay

Overall Musical Achievement "Arion Award"

Dawn Wang

R. Bruce Van Hine First Responders Award

Tom Ursetti

Richard J. Vander Plaats Service Award

Jessica Hoogerhyde

Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Meghan Vander Plaats

Spanish Language Award

Sarah Sessa

Stringer Nursing Scholarship

Kirsten Anderson

Technology Department Award

Kevin Post

National Award Winners

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars

David Kang
Daniel Onove
Dawn Wang

President's Education Awards

Marina Youssef
Jacqueline Santhouse
Emilee Kim
Victoria Westra

Noah Ruitenber
David Kang
Dawn Wang
Paige Rainville
Katie Johnston
Ryan Visbeen
Kevin Post

Jaclyn Jacobs
Dara Veenstra
JoEun Park
Jessica Hoogerhyde
Meghan Vander Plaats

Daniel Onove
Steven Ha
Anna Van Schepen
Kristen Lindsay
Jay Choi
Brianna Traub
Taylor Leentjes

Jake Choi
Katie Streelman
Taylor Lee
Nicole Chau
Jonathan Snack
Andrew Kuder
Brandi Bushman

Sarah Sessa
Madeline Kosten
Jeremy Braunius
Christopher Schipper
Katherine Kim
Sam Braen

H I G H S C H O O L



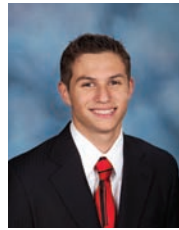
Michelle Brello
Loyola University (MD)



Ethan Brown
William Paterson University
(NJ)



Brandi Bushman
The College of Charleston
(SC)



Rodrigo Bustamante
Penn State University,
Altoona



Nicole Chaux
Fordham University (NY)



Yeon Tae Chin
Parsons, The New School of
Art (NY)



Jay Choi
School of Visual Arts (NY)



Jun Hee Choi
University of Minnesota at
Twin Cities



Kristen Ciccolella
Rider University (NJ)



Elizabeth Clarkin
Saint Joseph's University (PA)



Rachael Coba
Seton Hall University (NJ)



Emily D'Amelio
Montclair State University
(NJ)



Kathleen D'Urso
Texas Christian University



Kyle De Jong
Lincoln Technical Institute
(NJ)



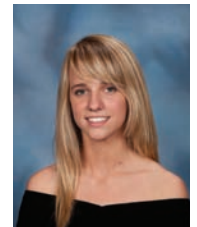
Scott De Jong
University of Connecticut



Joseph De Marco
United States Marine Corp -
Infantry



Amanda Fenners
Bergen Community College
(NJ)



Nora Furbeck
Sacred Heart University (CT)



Christopher Gregson
George Mason University
(VA)



Leah Groenewal
University of the Sciences in
Philadelphia (PA)



Sung Eun Ha
Polytechnic Institute of New
York University



Gyu Hyun Han
Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey



David Harrison
Rider University (NJ)



Eugene Hill
Work Full Time



Jessica Hoogerhyde
Calvin College (MI)



Mark Hook
Undecided



Craig Jacobs
Nyack College (NY)



Jaclyn Jacobs
Rider University (NJ)



Katherine Johnston
Messiah College (PA)



Angel Jones
Penn State University,
Greater Allegheny

H I G H S C H O O L



David Kang
Richard Stockton College of
New Jersey



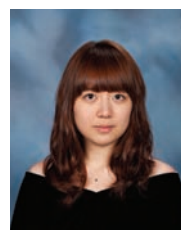
Jessica Keavney
Union University (TN)



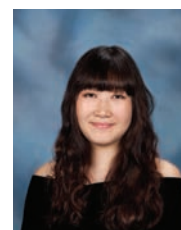
Rachael Kemp
YWAM Mission Outreach
(Brisbane, Australia)



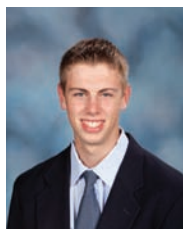
Emilee Kim
The College of New Jersey



Jee Young Kim
University of Illinois - Urbana-
Champaign



Song Yi Kim
College in Korea



Jordan Klingler
St. Thomas Aquinas College
(NY)



Madeline Kosten
Richard Stockton College of
New Jersey



Andrew Kuder
Wheaton College (IL)



Brian Kukol
Dordt College (IA)



Faith Lauter
Seton Hall University (NJ)



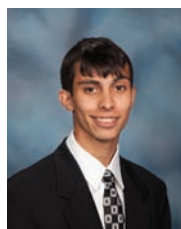
Taylor Lee
Richard Stockton College of
New Jersey



Taylor Leentjes
Rowan University (NJ)



Mackenzie Lewis
Biola University (CA)



Matthew Lim
Savannah College of Art &
Design (GA)



Kristen Lindsay
Towson University (MD)



Courtney Martin
Bergen Community College
(NJ)



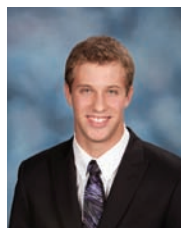
Chad Miller
William Paterson University
(NJ)



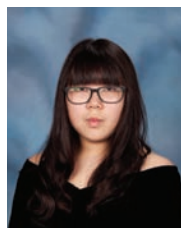
Kyung Ryul Min
Manhattan College (NY)



Jill Ommundsen
Nyack College (NY)



Daniel Onove
Montclair State University
(NJ)



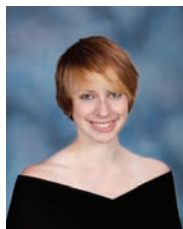
Ji Sun Park
College in Korea



Jo Eun Park
Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey



Samuel Pecoraro
Ramapo College of New
Jersey



Elisa Pfeiffer
Ramapo College of New
Jersey



Kevin Post
New Jersey Institute of
Technology



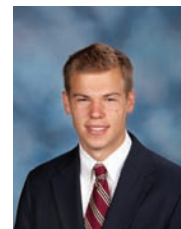
Danielle Quintero
Quinnipiac University (CT)



Paige Rainville
William Paterson University
(NJ)

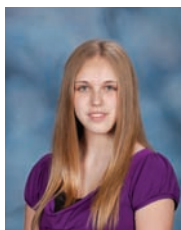


Deborah Rodriguez
Ithaca College (NY)



Noah Ruitenber
Calvin College (MI)

H I G H S C H O O L



Jacqueline Santhouse
University of the Sciences in
Philadelphia (PA)



Christopher Schipper
University of the Sciences in
Philadelphia (PA)



Sarah Sessa
Gordon College (MA)



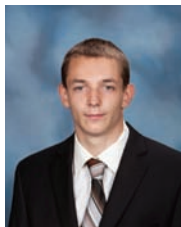
Jonathan Snack
McDaniel College (MD)



Kathryn Streelman
Calvin College (MI)



Adam Struyk
United States Coast Guard



Cody Ten Kate
United States Marine Corp



Lyke Teshome
New Jersey Institute of
Technology



Linnea Topp
Passaic County Community
College (NJ)



Amanda Touw
Clear Group Talent for Acting/
Dance/Modeling (NY)



Brianne Traub
University of the Sciences in
Philadelphia (PA)



Parker Tubman
Ramapo College of New
Jersey (NJ)



Thomas Ursetti
Montclair State University
(NJ)



Daniel Van Lenten
Passaic County Community
College (NJ)



Anna Van Schepen
Houghton College (NY)



Meghan Vander Plaats
Ramapo College of New
Jersey



Jacob Vander Wiele
Work Full Time



Rachel Varney
Bergen Community College
(NJ)



Dara Veenstra
Calvin College (MI)



Ryan Visbeen
Calvin College (MI)



Sharon Visbeen
Ho-Ho-Kus Eastwick College
(NJ)



Allison Vriesema
Calvin College (MI)



Meredith Wallace
Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey



Dawn Wang
Princeton University (NJ)



Michaela Westra
William Paterson University
(NJ)



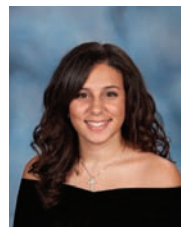
Victoria Westra
Calvin College (MI)



Allison Woodfin
Wheaton College (IL)



Nicole Woudenberg
Berkeley College (NJ)



Marina Youssef
Siena College (NY)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Eastern Christian Middle School Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony was held on June 16. During the ceremony, Middle School Faculty spoke to the students about their past 4 years, as well as their future. Retiring Principal **Dick Van Yperen** gave the Commencement Address. Valedictorian **Devin Hulsebos** gave the Valedictory Address. The following text contains highlights of their speeches.



Top (l to r): *Jeffrey Versnel, Blair Bohuny*, Hana Schwartz, Cole Elsaesser, Erin Van Lenten, Edward Hayes*, Emily Maura, Luke Pecoraro*, Kate Klingler, Jason Van Goor, Hannah Postma*, Devin Hulsebos*, Rebecca Martin**. Middle: *Caitlin Duffy, Andrew De Block, Sarah Kate Caliguire*, Joshua Touw, Mella Teshome*, Caleb Becker, Megan Kim, Timothy Keavney, Morgan Herman*, Matthew Sorrentino*, Amber Taylor, Justin Davis, Virginia Barlow, John Onufer**. Bottom: *Robert Piluso*, Patricia (Jolie) Wolyniec, Tyler Balkema*, Angela Montilla*, Tyler Doeher, Erin Klingler, Esther Galo*, Corey Abma, Stephanie Avila, Joel Smid, Jayna Van Buiten*, Joshua Haddad, Taylor Herman*, Cameron Silverstein, Taylor Faber**. Not Pictured: *Milan Cammorta*.
*Presidential Award Recipient

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN

Well, this is it. There you are, looking good, sitting in a place of honor surrounded by friends and family who are proud of how you are growing. We all want to celebrate your growth and the promise of future growth in high school.

That is why graduations tend to be full of words. At graduation time we use words to express our emotions, our encouragements and our thankfulness. Tonight, you have heard words of reflection from a teacher from each of your four years at ECMS. Embedded in each reflection was an emphasis which expressed a common theme. Did you hear the common theme?

"Make the most of every opportunity"

In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul wrote this advice which would fit as wise advice for graduates of all levels:

"Be very careful...how you live – not as unwise but as wise **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Your parents made the difficult decision to enroll you in Eastern Christian Middle School so that as you grew in knowledge you would grow in your understanding of God's purpose for you to live wisely and faithfully, making the most of every opportunity given to you. Tonight, we are affirming your growth and challenging you to continue to grow.

At this intersection of your life when you are crossing over to the next stage of learning in preparation for a lifetime of learning, can I get you to look backward for a moment? You have heard anecdotal evidence of how you as a class made the most of opportunities while in middle school.

Let me ask the hard questions, "What percentage of your best did you invest in middle school? 100%? If not, why not? Did you do your best in eighth grade? If not, why not?" Notice, I didn't ask you if you got all A's. Many of you achieved impressive grades in middle school, but reality is not about grades.

How you answer the question "Did you do your best?" will have everything to do with your future as you look ahead with resolve about

how you will live "not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity... understanding what the Lord's will is."

Now look forward four years. Four years from tonight, you will be sitting at your high school graduation, a much bigger inter-

section of your life. What will your answer be to the questions then? God is going to provide many opportunities for learning and growth in the next four years, but it will be up to you to make the most of those opportunities.

So, knowing that it will be impossible for you to remember all the words spoken to you tonight, I want to give you the simple challenge that is in Ephesians 5:16 – "Make the most of every opportunity." MTMOEO.

The next time you feel like quitting or compromising say to yourself MTMOEO. When you think the homework is too much or the test will be tough or the athletic practice hurts too much, tell yourself MTMOEO.

Because repeating the statement or the acronym MTMOEO is not magical, I want to point out the three components that will create the pathway to making the most of every opportunity.

#1) Faith your fear. Yes, I know that faith is not a verb, but it should be. Fear will always be the first barrier to making the most of every opportunity. Remember God's words to Joshua,

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Living by faith is the antidote to fear.

#2) Love God and others as yourself. Love replaces fear when we turn it outward. True love always wants the best for its object. When you love God with all your heart, mind and strength and you look "not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others," you enter the zone of making the most of every opportunity.



Principal Richard Van Yperen

continued to page 17

continued from page 16

#3) Persevere through pain. Every challenge which requires your best will present a pain barrier. Anything worth achieving will create a certain amount of pain which will tempt you to quit. Persevere through that pain. As a track athlete in college and later as a high school track coach, I learned that disciplining the body is painful, but personal bests only come through perseverance. However, the most pain I have ever experienced was the brain pain I felt in college because I had not learned to discipline my mind in high school.

I can think of at least two times this past year when I saw you practice these components of making the most of every opportunity.

I found how the boys' basketball team persevered this season inspirational because the 8th grade boys overcame the pain of adversity and the temptation to quit by remaining faithful despite discouragement. Instead of focusing on individuals, you chose to love each other as a team, and your perseverance through the pain of losing produced a very satisfying end to the season. You made the most of your opportunity to play and excel through the end of the season.

I was also impressed and inspired by the 8th grade girls MAD project of ministering to the women of New Hope Ministries one evening this spring. Together you faithfully and fearlessly gave your time to others you didn't know, ministering with your hands as you lovingly and unselfishly served the women when you could have settled for just raising some money. Instead, you stepped into the lives of more than 20 women and blessed them. Thank you for making the most of that opportunity.

When I was your age, I wish I had Christ-centered teachers and coaches reminding me to make the most of every opportunity because I have more than a few regrets from not making the most of opportunities God placed in my life. You have been privileged to have parents who have sacrificed to give you a Christian education and exposure to committed Christian educators at ECMS. Tonight we are convinced you are prepared to make the most of the next opportunities to grow with support from parents and family members. We all have great hope for you and your future, and we all are praying that you will understand what the Lord's will is for you as you move to high school.

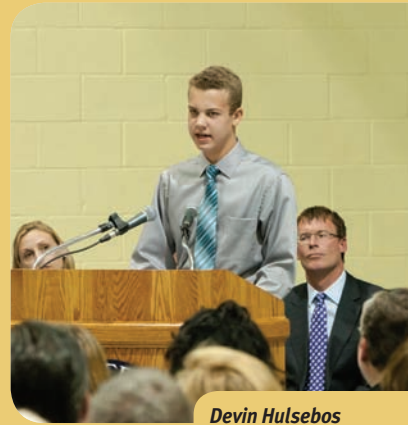


Jayna Van Buiten, Esther Galo, Erin Klingler, Emily Maura, Virginia Barlow, Blair Bohuny, Erin Van Lenten, Taylor Faber, Mella Teshome, Rebecca Martin, Sarah Kate Caliguire, and Morgan Herman.

Change Your Attitude

By Devin Hulsebos

We are gathered here tonight to celebrate the accomplishments of the eighth grade class of 2011. Our four years at Eastern Christian Middle School have been filled with challenges, fun, learning, and growth. We came into the Middle School as 5th graders. Back then, the school seemed huge. We needed to look up at our teachers, and we were nervous about getting demerits. Now, four years later, the school seems small, many of the teachers need to look up at us, and most of us have gotten very involved with the demerit system.



Devin Hulsebos

However, we are grateful for the time we have had here. Our school theme this year was taken from Philippians 2:1-11. Listen to the first five verses.

"If you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

We, as teenagers, are often spoken to about our attitudes, with a majority of these talks about having to CHANGE our attitude. I think my class knows that at some point in our lives we have had to change our attitudes, and if we all put effort into it, we can succeed.

Pastor Charles Swindoll once said, "I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my successes or failures. It is more important than what people say about me, my circumstances, or my position. When my attitude is right, there is no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme and no challenge too great."

Just imagine how big a difference it would make if we all had the same attitude as Jesus Christ. Therefore, I would like to challenge my class to three kinds of attitudes that can help us achieve this goal.

The first attitude is a thankful attitude. We, the class of 2011, most certainly have a lot to be thankful for. First, we'd like to acknowledge all of our families and friends, especially our parents, who have come here tonight. We are so thankful for all that you have done these past four years. It is by your help, encouragement, and prayers that we got to where we are tonight.

Another attitude toward being more like Jesus Christ is having a hard-working attitude. As we look forward to high school, we know that we have many challenges ahead, but if we have an attitude of perseverance and giving our best in what we do, we will succeed. God has given each of us different talents and abilities. While some of us prefer to kick a soccer ball, others prefer to draw or paint. While some of us dance or play an instrument, others are better at shooting a basketball. I encourage all of us to put forth our best effort in everything we do as we move on to high school.

Finally, we need to continue to have a loving attitude. This includes being loving to our friends, and those who need our love. This past year, my class did an end-of-the-year project known as MAD, which stands for "Make A Difference." The eighth graders researched the issue of poverty. Poverty, as you may know, is a huge problem in the world, including our own country. Therefore, our class decided to do little things to help stop the spread of poverty. We helped New Hope Ministries in Prospect Park, by cleaning their facilities, digging a garden, and hosting a hot dog lunch sale at school. All of the money was donated to New Hope. We should continue to look for ways that we can show God's love towards others.

We, as a class are grateful for these past four years of Christian education. We pray that we will continue to develop our attitudes to be more like Jesus Christ. We can do this by having a thankful, hard-working, and loving attitude. If we do this, we will become men and women who make a difference in our world.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Elementary School Chapel on June 15 was a special Promotion Chapel for the EC 4th graders as they leave the Elementary School. This year's school theme "Lead by Example," was put into practice by the 4th graders as they led the chapel in music, enthusiastically playing their recorders and singing seven songs before being awarded certificates for their achievement. Principal Sandra Bottge reminded them in her talk of the Bible verse themes of each of their years at the Elementary School. Highlights of her speech follow.

BY PRINCIPAL SANDRA BOTTGE



Mrs. Donna Hoogerhyde and Aidan Johnson

When you came to kindergarten at Eastern Christian, one of the first things your teachers read to you was our spiritual theme passage of Hebrews 11:1 and 6. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to

him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." We learned that faith is the foundation on which we build our character and foster our relationships and that **by faith** we can lead godly lives.

In first grade we studied Ephesians 4:32. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." We learned important life lessons about our relationship with God and how that impacts our relationships with others. This is a hard verse to live out in our daily lives. I have always appreciated your willingness to talk about your relationships, to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others.

In second grade we considered God's great love for us. We thought about how we should respond to that love and we learned how to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength. We can't give God most of ourselves, holding on to parts of our sinful nature, we have to give God all that we have.

Head, heart and hands was our spiritual theme in third grade. We learned that in order to know God in our head, we have to spend time with him daily, reading his word and praying to him. When we truly know God, we will love him with all our heart and store up our treasures in heaven. Loving God will also grow in us a desire to serve him with our hands and our lives. We saw evidence of this in you when you reached out to earthquake victims in Haiti in 3rd grade and helped the children in St. Jude's hospital like you've done for many years.

This year we learned how to lead by example. We read the words of Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." In this passage, Joshua was preparing to take



(back) Luke Nash and Jared Post. (front) Henry Poliandro, Cassidy Langenfeld, and Christian De Block.

on a leadership role with the Israelites. Moses, his mentor, was doing just what your teachers have done with you over the years - sharing words of wisdom in preparation for God's calling. We know that God is calling you and all Christians to lead others to him by the way you live your life.

We have seen evidence of your leadership ability this year. Every one of you served on 4th grade service teams. Many of you volunteered to serve on the 4th grade drama team or lead us in a chapel prelude by sharing your musical talents. You led our school in several chapels, honoring our Veterans, teaching us how to follow God's signs, and performing the 4th grade musical where you reminded us to let our lifesong sing to God. You showed great leadership when you read to your kindergarten reading buddies and planned special activities for them.

You even showed leadership when there were conflicts among you in your classrooms or on the playground. You worked together to resolve your conflicts. You were honest with each other; you supported each other, and you prayed together.

You started out your journey at EC learning about godly characters who lived by faith. You took that firm faith foundation, added kindness and compassion, learned how to give God your heart, soul, mind and strength, and served God with your head, heart and hands. Now in 4th grade you've come full circle, studying godly characters again, this time learning to lead by example.

My prayer for you as you move on to middle school is that you take your strong leadership skills and continue to be an example to others. I pray that you will take the many Bible verses you've memorized over the years and hide them in your heart. They will be your guide as you make all kinds of decisions in your life. And finally, I pray that you will always sense God's presence. Remember that you can be strong and courageous because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.



(back) Angela Mo, Ben Maura and Clay Krause. (front) Christina Tartini, Kristen Kim and Gwen Van Goor.

PRESCHOOL



(Back row:) Sarah Onufer, Grace Sehulster, Elizabeth Vander Plaats, Emily Vanden Assem, Jonathan Nichols, Matthew Gupko, Sylvia Holst, Lucas Genuario, Jayden Glavin, Kayleigh Jeltema, and Charlotte Bushman. (Middle) Hannah Roberts, Jill Bavagnoli, Andrew Wilson, Charlotte Steen, Jeremy Amos, Jamie Kim, Olivia Dunwoody, Lilya Salerno, Sophia Kim, Charlotte Van Goor, Charlie Veenema, and Mackenzie Wynbeek. (Front) Hannah Visbeen, Ben Vander Eems, Keera Pienaar, Joshua Mun, Nicolas Hendrickson, Lukas Faasse, Nicholas Brigliadoro, Audrey Collins, Thomas Winkler, Sarena Lee, and Avery Magato. (not pictured: James Wiegiers and Majorie Kingslow.)



(Back) Sarah Onufer, Grace Sehulster, and Elizabeth Vander Plaats.
(Middle) Hannah Roberts, Jill Bavagnoli, and Andrew Wilson.
(Front) Hannah Visbeen, Ben Vander Eems, and Keera Pienaar.

The Eastern Christian Preschool and Junior Kindergarten ended the year with two special highlights: the annual picnic on June 3 and the Graduation Ceremony on June 14.

The theme for the school year was “Lead by Example,” and the students actively participated in showing leadership by sending cards and care packages to **L. Cpl. Harrison Bruining '06** and his battalion, who were serving in the United States Marines in Afghanistan. As a special treat, Bruining was able to visit the class at the picnic to personally thank them for their work. The picnic also included a lot of fun crafts and games, led by EC Middle School students.

At the graduation ceremony, the preschoolers led by example as they energetically sang and acted out motions to many songs, directed by their music teacher **Mrs. Nancy Martin**. The pride in the achievements of these four and five years was evident in their faces as they walked across the stage and received their diplomas from teachers **Mrs. Marilyn Bushman** and **Mrs. Kathy Faasse**.



The preschoolers and L. Cpl. Harrison Bruining '06

FOUNDATION NEWS



Eastern Christian School Association

50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

WHY AN ANNUAL FUND DRIVE?

Each year as we discuss the launch of the Eastern Christian Annual Fund drive, questions come up regarding the necessity of the Annual Fund drive, who participates in it, and why they participate. These are good questions and deserve to be addressed in order to fully understand why we will hold an Annual Fund drive again for the 2011-2012 school year.

Consider the following: The approved budget for the new school year will be \$8.8 million of which 74%, or \$6.5 million, is expected to be funded by tuition and fees. The remaining 26%, or \$2.3 million, must come from a variety of income sources such as Endowment Fund earnings, Annual Fund contributions, transportation fees, facility rentals, Athletic Boosters events, grants, retail store (**ditto**) sales, Eagle Solar electricity sales, Eagles Camp fees and *The Herald* advertising income. By far the largest income source of this income is the Annual Fund, which for this new school year requires us to raise \$845,000 from various fund raising events and appeals. Our total non-tuition income represents approximately \$3,000 per student. In other words, without a successful Annual Fund appeal as well as the other fundraisers throughout the year, EC's per student tuition would increase almost \$3,000 per student!

Who benefits from the Annual Fund? The short answer is all families of EC students benefit from the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is a means of keeping tuition affordable for our parents by not passing on the ever increasing cost of Christian education entirely to them. Some of the funds raised through the Annual Fund are used to assist those families who are unable to pay their full tuition obligation. Approximately 20% of our families requested some level of tuition assistance this past year and Eastern Christian made nearly \$900,000 in scholarship awards available to these families so that their children could remain in our Christian School. As you can see, the Annual Fund plays a significant role in the lives of many families with children attending Eastern Christian.

A letter of Appreciation: Consider a letter that the Scholarship Committee recently received from a parent whose son began EC in Preschool, and is now in high school. The family's financial situation has changed so that they are no longer able to pay the full amount of the required tuition. The family was considering the difficult decision of whether to enroll their son in public school rather than apply for financial aid at EC. The family was encouraged to apply for aid and they are most grateful to the supporting EC community that provided the funds so that their son could continue his education at Eastern Christian. The mother goes on to say that she did not know who to thank for this gift and wants all those who played a part in the process to know how deeply she appreciates the help her family received.

This is the kind of letter that encourage us to continue to seek the necessary resources so that parents such as the one who wrote this letter will not have to make the difficult decision of whether or not to take their child out of Eastern Christian for financial reasons.

How can you help? For these reasons and many others we plan to continue to seek all the financial resources available to us to keep tuition reasonable and support parents with a bona fide financial need. This includes a 2011-2012 Annual Fund appeal which will shortly come to each of us. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us to help others. No matter the amount, your gift and your prayers for Eastern Christian are appreciated and coveted.

Thank you for your steadfast support!

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis

Executive Director

Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association

2011 Service Award program

On Tuesday evening, May 31st, the 2011 Service Award program took place at The Barn at Faith Community CRC. A total of 30 employees were recognized for their years of faithful service from 5 years through 20 years. Also recognized were 17-year veteran high school teacher **Mrs. Marla Stout** and 31-year veteran middle school teacher **Mr. Ralph Hutton**, both of whom retired from ECSA at the end of the school year.

In his opening remarks, **Head of School Thomas Dykhous** indicated that the collective years of employment at EC of the honorees was 325 years. When you add to that the years of service of the retirees, including former High School Principal **Jan Lucas** who retired in February 2011, we celebrate over 400 collective years of dedicated and devoted service to Eastern Christian. Mr. Dykhous mentioned that the results of a recent Employee Satisfaction Survey completed at EC revealed the that we have a very loyal and dedicated staff who enjoy their work at EC very much. This group of honorees certainly epitomize that. He congratulated all the honorees on their accomplishments and hoped that they would continue to nurture our students in a distinctively Christian manner for years to come.

Each honoree was presented to the audience by his/her principal or supervisor with appropriate words of commendation and a recognition of accomplishments. In addition, each honoree was presented with a token of appreciation from the Board of Directors of ECSA.

The following employees were honored for their years of service:

5 Years

Donna Aceino

Heather Barr

Christina Bucci

Claudia Cortes

Mary-Kate

Hagedorn

Katherine Kim

Mirian Lopez

Nancy Martin

Giovanni Russo

Jacqueline Streelman

Nancy Tartini

Justin Van Dyke

Wayne Vriesema

10 Years

Adam Culp

Cynthia Flim

Donna Hoogerhyde

Brenda Leentjes

Lynda Pasqueretta

Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee

Tim Steen

Linda Vander Wiele

15 Years

Joyce Breur

Paul Laauwe

Debra Veenstra

20 Years

Joel Apol

Kathy Faasse

Rhonda Klein

Daniel Martin

Stanley Vandenberg

Cynthia Visbeen

EC SPRING FUNDRAISERS SAVE THE DATES!



Friday, March 9, 2012
EC Scholarship Dinner
6:30pm
Brick House, Wyckoff, NJ

Enjoy wonderful fellowship,
a delicious dinner
and guest speaker.

All proceeds benefit the
ECSA Scholarship Fund

Thursday, April 19, 2012
Denim & Diamonds
EC's Auction Gala
6:30pm
The Tides,
North Haledon, NJ

A Silent & Live Auction will give
guests many bidding opportunities!

All proceeds benefit
the ECSA Annual Fund.



scenes from the ditto volunteer appreciation dinner



Barbara Joustra Gorter '82, David Visbeen '74, and Helen Joustra '54



ditto Director Eric Hawn

REMEMBER ECSA

Make an investment in our future!

Eastern Christian's Gift Annuity program is growing because alumni like you are deciding to give back to their high school alma mater, and as a result a difference is being made in the lives of our students!

A Gift Annuity is a contract between you and Eastern Christian School which exchanges a gift to ECSA for an annuity (guaranteed lifelong income) to you with ECSA as the ultimate beneficiary.

For more details about this creative way to improve your retirement income while at the same time supporting Eastern Christian School, contact Garret G. Nieuwenhuis, Director of Planned Giving at ECSA at 973-427-9294 or via email at: garrynieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org.

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 signed into law on December 17, 2010 extended the IRA Charitable Rollover gift provision for the years of 2010 and 2011. The Act permits IRA owners age 70 1/2 or older to make direct transfers from IRAs to a charity. You have up to December 31, 2011 to make qualifying transfers. (Transfers for the purpose of funding a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust are NOT permissible under the Act).

ditto Honors Volunteers

As **ditto** enters its 10th month of operation, we continue to see God's blessing on this special ministry of Eastern Christian each and every day.

Faithful volunteers continue to provide their labor of love on a daily basis. Recently the Foundation Board of Directors and the **ditto** Board thanked the nearly 100 volunteers with a catered "appreciation dinner" in the store. It was fitting and timely that our volunteers received a well-deserved recognition for the hundreds of hours that have been provided since the opening of the store last September. The outpouring of community support is overwhelming! We are so appreciative of the hundreds of quality items that are donated to us day in and day out. We are also humbled by the financial results and very pleased to be able to meet our commitment to Eastern Christian in a timely manner. Sales of goods have exceeded expectations, with nearly 60,000 pieces of clothing sold during the past nine months. Sales for the month of May nearly reached \$35,000 or an average of \$1,400 per day that the store was open. To God be the glory, for the great things He has done!

If you haven't visited **ditto** yet, plan to do so soon and see for yourself what a wonderful place it is. While you are there, discuss the possibilities of volunteering a few hours a week. We really could use the help! Don't forget, student volunteers can use their summer volunteer hours towards their Faith In Action requirements at ECHS.

As we are hearing more and more around town lately, "see you at **ditto**."

TRIP — A Reliable Partner for EC



Karen (De Ritter) Knorr'82, TRIP Coordinator Faye (Tolsma) Dyksen'70 and EC Parent Shona Pollack at the Friday TRIP Store.

Did you know that EC's Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP) is a regular contributor to the EC annual budget, in addition to providing benefits to the families that use the program? As a result of outstanding fiscal management of the TRIP program, the Eastern Christian School Association receives a yearly contribution of at least \$20,000. This is a significant contribution and much appreciated in these difficult economic times.

Eastern Christian TRIP continues to be a popular way for parents to supplement their tuition obligations. EC purchases major food and retail store gift cards at a discount. By purchasing these gift cards through EC, parents may be able to apply up to 80% of the discount as a tuition credit. Current usage varies due to family size and other factors, with tuition credits in May ranging from a low of \$1.00 to a high of \$1,000. Over 100 families received at least a \$100 credit in May 2011 based on their purchases for the past 6 months. Tuition credits are applied twice a year, in May and November.

From September 2010 through the end of the month of May 2011, the TRIP office processed in excess of \$1,400,000 in sales represented by 3,986 orders from 436 "customers." Although it may not be obvious from these statistics, there is a lot of volunteer work that goes into making this program so successful. To produce these results, we rely on our dedicated TRIP coordinator, **Faye Dyksen**, and the faithful volunteers who make sure that we always have the proper inventories of gift cards on hand. There are regular volunteers who come in every Thursday to fill the orders received from the parents, and there are also volunteers on Friday who assist our customers with their pickups and payment arrangements. Some of these volunteers have been assisting us for years, for which we are most appreciative.

As we start to plan for a new school year, we will once again be making an appeal to all our parents and their families and friends to participate in TRIP. The benefits are obvious and we would sincerely like to see all of our families be a part of this program. If you have not participated in the

past, seriously consider doing so for the 2011-2012 school year. Not only will you benefit from your participation but Eastern Christian will benefit as well. This is truly a win win program!

For more information on the Eastern Christian TRIP program, visit www.easternchristian.org and click on the TRIP link under "Support EC."



Germany
Spring Break
March 21 - 29, 2012

Berlin - 2 days
Weimar - 1 day
Heidelberg - 2 days
Munich - 2 days

Explore these historic cities with EC Faculty members Manny Lindemulder, Joel Apol and Ji Young Kim. This trip is open to EC students, parents and supporters of EC and limited to a group of 52 travelers.

Trip Highlights

Buchenwald Concentration Camp - incredibly moving experience to see
Weimar - a beautiful old city & home of scholars Goethe and Schiller
Erfurt - a charming town known as the City of Flowers
Wartburg - was a place of refuge for Martin Luther for two years
Neuschwanstein Castle - built for the mad King Ludwig II

Additional Information

For more information including pricing and tour itinerary, please visit: www.educationaltravel.com and logon using the following:
Username: lindemulder
Password: germany2012

Please feel free to call EC's Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 with any questions.

EVENTS



Close to 300 guests enjoyed Auction Elegance. A great night of fellowship and fundraising for EC!



Guests had a variety of theme baskets, tickets, vacation get-aways and more to bid on.

Thank You!

Our sincere thanks to the following businesses that generously helped to underwrite Auction Elegance.

Atlantic Stewardship Bank
Bushoven & Company
Cedar Hill Nursery, Inc.
Martin Orthodontics
Post & Kelly Electric Co.
Reiner & Company
Sales Consultants of Northern Jersey, Inc.

Vander Plaats – Vermeulen Memorial Home
Visbeen Construction Company
Wayne Tile Company

Paddle Sponsor
Ashley Furniture HomeStore

EASTERN CHRISTIAN'S GOLF OUTING – MAY 23, 2010



Eastern Christian High School Golf team members challenging the event participants on hole # 14 at Black Bear Golf Club.



Golfers greeting each other at the start of the 2011 EC Golf Outing! A great day was enjoyed by all.

A Special Thank You to the following sponsors!

Platinum Sponsor

Atlantic Stewardship Bank

Gold Sponsors

Regency Wealth Management, LLC
Visbeen Construction Co.

Silver Sponsors

Abbey Carpet & Floor of Hawthorne
Ashley Furniture HomeStores
Brooks LTD Builders
Bushoven & Company
Columbia Bank
Kuiken Brothers
Martin Orthodontics
Reiner Group, Inc
Sales Consultants of Northern Jersey, Inc.

Wayne Tile Co., Inc

Wells Fargo The Private Bank

Lunch Sponsor

KJB Fireplaces

Hole Sponsors

Baker & Hoogerhyde LLC
Belmont Grill
Borduin Paving
Cedar Hill Nursery
CS Stucco & Plaster
De Jong Landscaping
Deer B Gone
Downes Tree Service
Duffy's Landscape & Garden Design
Dykhouse Capital Partners
High Mountain & Maple Eyecare Centers
Home Supply

Jim Wynbeek Landscaping
Ken Steenstra Landscaping
Lakeland Bank
Leegwater Electric
Lioncartingnj.com
NY NJ Trailer
Peak Environmental Inc. – Ken Nieuwenhuis, Pres
Post & Kelly Electric Co
Progressive Brick ServiceMaster / Northeastern
Sietsma Landscape Operations
Stonington Gardens – Jim Nieuwenhuis, Pres
Terrie O'Connor Real Estate – Jeff Vander Molen
Teschon, Riccobene & Siss
The Castle Fun Center
Van Grouw & Associates



Save - the - Date

EC Sports Booster's
Fall Golf Outing

Friday, October 21

Walkill Golf Club

For more information, contact
EC's Foundation Office at 973-427-9294
or email: events@easternchristian.org

ALUMNI NEWS

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

1960s

Glenn Mesaros '68 has accepted a new position as Senior IT Engineer with Emcore Corporation in Albuquerque, NM. Glenn has moved to New Mexico after living 25 years in Minnesota. He welcomes you to contact him at gmeszaros6@comcast.net.

Paul Stam '68 is the GOP Majority Leader in the North Carolina State House of Representatives. According to *The Charlotte Observer*, he has filed a bill which would allow parents to receive a refundable tax credit from their county to offset private school costs. He has served 6 terms in the House representing Wake County.

1990s

Tina Arnoldi '90 is Director of Information Management at Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina. Realizing that many nonprofit organizations struggle with technology and lack of funds to pay for support, she co-founded the Palmetto Technology Hub (PATH) which is a group of local computer experts who lend free technical help and advice to nonprofit organizations. They were recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Google Inc. Charitable Giving Fund. This grant will enable PATH to provide marketing and operations resources to area nonprofit organizations that are struggling with their technology and lacking the funds to pay for support. Tina adds, "Through this grant, we can continue to lead efforts in our community to make sure that nonprofits get the tech help that they need to continue to run their organizations. In just one year, our volunteers have been able to help a growing number of nonprofits with a variety of tech and web-related needs, and proceeds will help fund a part-time coordinator and other operating expenses."



Drs. Jodi and **Garry Vermaas '90** and family will be living in the Middle East as of September 1, 2011. Garry is the Executive Director of Business Development in the Middle East/India region. Garry and Jodi have three children, Garret (age 8), Jolyn (age 6) and their adopted daughter from China, Shiya (age 5).

Gregory Jost '93 is Deputy Director at University Neighborhood Housing Program in the Bronx, NY.

Michael '93 and **Elizabeth De Jong '98 Van Lenten** announce the birth of a son, Nathaniel John on March 3, 2011.

Tara and **Bill Cook '94** announce the birth of a son, Daniel Richard Cook on December 28, 2010. Daniel joins big brother William (age 3).

Kevin Heerema '95 and Yvonne Parra were married on June 18, 2011 in Manchester, VT. They will be residing in Austin, TX.

Steffany A. Baptiste '95 and **David Henion '06** were married on October 30,



In Memorium

~ Jessie Dykhousse Vogel '45 ~

Jessie Vogel passed away on February 23, 2011. She was employed by Eastern Christian School from 1964 to 1997 as a bus driver. She served the school as Transportation Coordinator from 1982-1990. Her granddaughter, Kristine Vogel Minnich shares the following memories:

It is no easy task to get a first time bus rider, but Jessie had her ways of helping those frightened children. One student, on his first day of school, was nervous about leaving his mother and held tightly onto her leg. Along came Jessie, who climbed out of the bus to talk to the young man. She sweetly scooped him up under her arm and told him, "Say goodbye to your mom." Jessie knew the family from church, and later that boy's mom became a bus driver!

If you knew Jessie, you knew she was passionate about several things – her faith and family, to name a few. "Having six children and 18 grandchildren, it's no wonder a few of them were passengers on her bus. One time, there was just one child left to drop off when Jessie began singing her heart out. The child asked if she was in her church's choir, which made Jessie proud that someone finally recognized her talent. Her response was "No," to which the child said, "Thank goodness!" Jessie always said, "The Bible says make a joyful noise, not sing in tune."

There are many stories like this that one could tell about Jessie Vogel. She spent 33 years working as a bus driver and transportation coordinator. She was involved in many things revolving around Eastern Christian, and especially driving a school bus. She's remembered by many friends, her brother, 6 children, 18 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

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2010. The couple reside in Paterson, NJ.

Andy '95 and Rachel Scarpa '99 Steen announce the birth of a son, Asher David on February 28, 2011.

John and **Lisa Beverly '96 Branum** announce the birth of a daughter, Melody Elizabeth on May 29, 2011 surprising everyone with by 5 weeks early!

Peter '96 and Janeen Peters '01 Ten Kate announce the birth of a son, Peter James on April 4, 2011.

Karen and **Josh Christoffels '98** announce the birth of a daughter, Miriam Joy on March 30, 2011. She joins older brother Levi.

Allison Lindsay '99 and Peter Morin were married on March 18, 2011. They reside in Arlington, VA.

2 0 0 0 S

Derek and **Julie Heerema Ferwerda '00** announce the birth of a daughter, Mackenzie Grace on April 2, 2011.

Kristina Belanus '02 and Daniel Vande Vrede were married on June 11, 2011. They are residing in Hawthorne, NJ.

Brian and **Katherine Everett '02 Bolkema** announce the birth of a son, Caden Wayne on March 18, 2011. He joins sister Mikayla (age 2).

Kim Lindsay '03 and Erik Brown were married on June 4, 2011. They reside in Virginia.

Ashley Kaye and **Tom Henion Jr '04** were married on May 30, 2010. They reside in Riverdale, NJ.

Ryan and **Kim Bushoven Olsen '04** announce the birth of a son, Ethan on April 12, 2011.

Alyssa Smith '06 and **John Van Buiten '05** were married on April 23, 2011. They are residing in North Haledon, NJ.

Meghan Van Hine '05 and Kyle Sensenig were married on May 28, 2011. They reside in Ephrate, PA.

The Foundation Office has learned of the following deaths of these alumni and former staff members since our last issue of The Herald.

R E M E M B E R I N G ...

Hester De Vries '22, age 101, of North Haledon, NJ, on April 14, 2011. Born in

Passaic, Hester was a long time resident of Clifton before moving to North Haledon in 2002. She was a member of North Side Christian Reformed Church.

Gertrude (Kamp) Foster '24, age 99, of Grandville, MI, formerly of Paterson, NJ, on June 10, 2010. Prior to moving to Michigan, Gertrude was a member of First Christian Reformed Church of Haledon.

Johanna (DeLeeuw) Thompson '29 of Wyckoff, NJ, on March 2, 2011. A graduate of Hackensack Hospital School of Nursing in 1931 as a Registered Nurse, she retired as the Supervisor of Nursing at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Sidney Bush '33 of Grand Rapids, MI, April 22, 2011. Sidney was a member of First Reformed Presbyterian Church and was an instructor at the Crossroad Bible Institute.

Robert C. Dansen '34 of Green Pond, NJ, and Naples, FL, on January 18, 2011.

Minnie (Bush) Smith '36 on February 6, 2011. Minnie lived most of her life in Passaic, NJ, before moving to Vernon Township 10 years ago. She was a member of the Bethel Reformed Church in Passaic.

Jewel (Belanus) Snyder '36 of North Haledon, NJ, on June 5, 2011. A member of the Preakness Valley United Reformed Bible Church in Wayne, Jewel participated in many of their activities and organizations.

Edward Fylstra '37 of North Haledon, NJ, on April 26, 2011. Edward served his country during World War II in the US Army. He served Eastern Christian School Association as a Board Member from 1958 through 1960, and was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church, Wyckoff.

Lee M. Vanden Handel '44 on February 19, 2011. After joining the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, Lee served in the Pacific Theater until the close of World War II. He graduated from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. His fascination with radio broadcasting led him to a long career in the industry.

James Voorman '45, of Midland Park, NJ, on February 5, 2011. James served in the US Navy in World War II and was a lifelong resident of Midland Park.

Jessie (Dykhouse) Vogel '45 of Wyckoff, NJ, on February 23, 2011. Jessie was employed

for 33 years by Eastern Christian School Association. (See sidebar) She was a member of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in North Haledon.

Grace Dorothy "Dot" (Ruit) Vriesema '46 of Wyckoff, NJ, on February 14, 2011. Dot was a member of the Covenant Christian Reformed Church, North Haledon.

Charles "Chuck" Spoelhof '48 of Grand Rapids, MI, on December 18, 2010. Charles worked for Eastman Kodak Company, retiring in 1986. He helped develop optics, cameras, film and processing techniques used in everything from commercial cameras to reconnaissance missions to space exploration. After his retirement, he worked on the commission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. He worked closely with Calvin's engineering department and was honored with Calvin College's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006.

John "Jack" Stelpstra '51 of Jenison, MI, on April 12, 2011. John served as a board member for Jenison Christian School and the Christian Rest Home. As a lifetime member of the Christian Reformed Church, he faithfully served as Deacon, Elder, and Sunday School teacher, attending Madison Square CRC for the last 17 years. John and his wife served as foster parents for Bethany Christian Services for many years.

Garret Van Der Weert '52 of Wyckoff, NJ, on May 13, 2011. Garret was a deacon at First Christian Reformed Church in Haledon and later served as an elder and Church administrator for Midland Park Christian Reformed Church. He served as a board member for Eastern Christian School Association from 1991 through 1994.

John "Jack" Hulsebos '54 on April 11, 2011. John was a former member of Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Paterson, NJ, where he served as a deacon and usher, and he was presently a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church, Wyckoff. He served his country in the United States Army.

Donald W. Hagedorn '57, on February 13, 2011. Donald was a charter member

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Sarah Vander Ploeg, EC Class of 2003



After graduating from Princeton University in 2008, Sarah was the recipient of a Marshall Scholarship from the British Government to pursue a Masters Degree in Vocal Studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. During her 2 years in London, Sarah became involved with a Christian music group, the All Souls Orchestra, first as a violist. Last summer, she went on tour with them throughout France and Scotland as their soprano soloist. On April 2nd, Sarah was the featured soloist for their performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Sarah says, "Most professional singers look for paid 'church gigs' on Sundays, but I wanted to find a community where I could serve. I never imagined that by using my gifts to lead worship at All Souls Church, it would lead to this incredible opportunity!"

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of Flanders Valley Christian Reformed Church, Flanders, NJ, where he served three terms as an elder and taught Sunday school for ten years.

JoAnn (Van Beveren) Feasenmeyer '62 of Midland Park, NJ, on February 12, 2011.

Richard W. Suffern '66 of Springfield, VT, on January 30, 2011.

Ellen Faber '66 of Hawthorne, NJ, on April 7, 2011. Ellen was a dedicated member of the Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church, Wyckoff, where she was a member of the choir.

Carl "Chip" Stam '71 of Louisville, KY, on May 1, 2011. Carl was Pastor of Worship & Music at the Chapel Hill Bible Church (CHBC) from '72-'81 and Director of Choral Music at the University of Notre Dame '81-'91. He returned to CHBC from '91-'00. He served as the founding Director of the Institute for Christian Worship at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 2000, where he was Professor of Church Music and Worship.

Katherine Jean Jaarsma '91 of North Haledon, NJ, on May 31, 2011. She was a member of Preakness Valley United Reformed Bible Church in Wayne.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Keith Spoelstra, EC Class of 2007

When Keith Spoelstra tried out for the Calvin College baseball team as a freshman in the fall of 2007, he was hoping to make the team and play a little as a short stop. This year, Keith graduated from Calvin after playing four years as a starting pitcher, a 21-10 career record, and being part of the most successful 4 years in Calvin baseball history. In his career, Keith was named an All-MIAA Conference pitcher 3 times, and was pitcher of the week 4 times. He finished 2nd all-time in wins in the MIAA conference.

As a highlight, Keith remembered a series at the end of his freshman year against rival Adrian. The winner of the 2-game series would be the conference champion. After Calvin won the first game, Keith was called on to pitch the final game. He ended with a complete game shutout and 8 strikeouts, as Calvin won 2-0 and made it into the NCAA tournament. He also remembers a spring break game played in the Dodgers Spring facility where greats like Jackie Robinson and Sandy Koufax played. Keith's family was able to visit him and watch him play a complete game with 10 strikeouts.

More than the game highlights, though, Keith said he will cherish memories of lessons learned in up and down seasons and the Christian brotherhood of his teammates and coaches most of all.



REUNION YEAR CLASSES

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

Class of 2001: 10-YEAR REUNION

Friday, November 25, 2011 at the Paris Inn in Wayne, NJ. Cost: \$55 per person. Invitations will be going out late summer. If you have questions, please contact **Yvonne (Wisse) Gogolen** at ygogolen@hotmail.com or **Heather (Bushoven) Troupos** at troupos758@gmail.com.

Class of 1991: 20-YEAR REUNION

Friday, November 4, 2011 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, NJ

Search for "Eastern Christian Class of 91" on Facebook to join the group for updates. Contact **David Luyendyk** at david@yellowhousedesign.com or **Mark Reitsma** at mreitsma@optonline.net for more information.

Class of 1986: 25-YEAR REUNION

Friday, August 26 at Pellegrino's Restaurant in North Haledon

An informal gathering at 7pm in the upstairs room prior to the official reunion the next night.

Saturday, August 27 at Pellegrino's – Buffet Dinner. Cost: approx \$35 per person

More information is available on <http://classof86reunion.eventbrite.com> or contact **Lauran Bell (Hudson) Harrison** at echs25reunion@supportingwomen.com. We are looking so forward to seeing everyone again!

Class of 1981: 30-YEAR REUNION

A 30th Reunion is planned for **December 30, 2011**. Details will be sent to all classmates – please be sure we have your up-to-date email address so you don't miss out! Contact **Linda Mabie** at mabes25@hotmail.com for more information and/or alumni@easternchristian.org to update your address.

Class of 1961: 50-YEAR REUNION

Friday, September 23 at the Best Western Regency House in Pompton Plains, NJ. Looking forward to seeing you there! Any last minute questions, please contact **Nancy (Meyer) Wilkens** at 201-773-8442 or email her at wtwilkens@optonline.net or **Joyce Kruithof** at jkruithof@rockisland.com.

2012 REUNION YEARS

It's not too early to start planning for your 2012 reunions! If your class is not listed below, and you are interested in having a reunion, please contact EC's Alumni Office at 973-427-9294 or email: alumni@easternchristian.org

Class of 2002: 10-YEAR REUNION

A reunion committee has been formed and our 10-year reunion is in the planning stage! The reunion committee includes **Deborah (Ramirez) Campise**, **Jessica (Dykstra) Lagerveld**, **Russ Unrath**, **Emily (Van Hine) Small** and **Chanei Hollis**. If you would like to help, contact Deborah at deborah_e_campise@hotmail.com or Emily at Emily.a.small@gmail.com.

Class of 1987: 25-YEAR REUNION

A 25th Reunion is in the planning stage. We are thinking about Fall 2012 – and would welcome your ideas and interest. Please email **Laura (Struyk) Faber** at mrsma01@yahoo.com.

Class of 1962: 50-YEAR REUNION

It's time to start a planning committee for our 50-year reunion. If you would like to help, please contact **Nancy (Hartog) Ruiter** at 737-462-3770 (home) or at nruiter@aol.com or EC's Alumni Office at 973-427-9294. Please be sure we have your most recent address/email to ensure you get reunion information.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

JANUARY 7, 2011 – JUNE 17, 2011

*During this time period, **453 gifts** were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend.*

*The total amount of the gifts received in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was **\$42,751.06**.*

Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian education at EC!

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JANUARY 7, 2011 – JUNE 17, 2011

*During the period January 7 through June 17, these donors have generously contributed toward achieving our Annual Fund goal and provided resources to continue our mission of providing quality Christ-centered education at Eastern Christian School by giving **187 gifts totaling \$92,754.54** to the 2010-2011 Annual Fund.*

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The 2010-2011 Annual Fund Goal was to raise \$650,000 for Eastern Christian School scholarships and general operating expenses. As of June 17, 2011 we have raised \$540,000 toward this goal.

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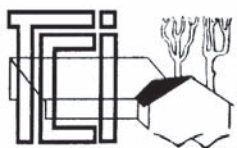
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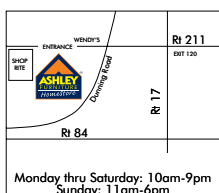
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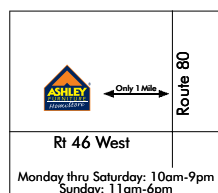
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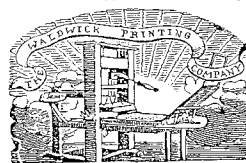
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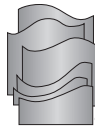
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EC SPORTS



Scott De Jong '11

Baseball: The boys' varsity baseball team ended a promising season with a record of 12-11. The year was filled with exceptional performances and close games. In both the County and State Tournaments, the team played excellently in the first rounds. In the County Tournament, the boys took on Passaic and won 3-0, but then faced top seed Wayne Valley for the 3rd year in a row. Unfortunately, the team fell out of the tournament with a 0-8 loss. In the first round of the State Tournament, the team dominated 12-0 against Saint Mary's of Elizabeth, but once again it came up against stiff competition in Round 2 and lost 0-1 to Oratory Prep.



Junior Ashley Manger

Softball: Coach Scott Grasso took on the challenge of being a new coach for the girls' varsity softball team. Most importantly, he taught the girls how to play a game that is glorifying God; in addition, he taught them many new drills and practice routines. The team had a rough start after losing key seniors last year, but they picked their game up at the end of the season. "Every team makes mistakes, but as a team we let it go to our heads. At the end of the season, we learned to shake them off and play to our best ability," said junior **Devin Sickles**.



Gene Hill '11

Tennis: First-singles player **Gene Hill** proved to be one of the best players in Passaic County, winning almost all of his games against the best of each school. Gene went into the County Tournament with a 7-0 record, and received a bye in the first round. Unfortunately, he lost a tough match in the second round 8-6 against Passaic Tech. The team also had a lot of success in the tournament, winning 4 out of 5 first round matches. "This is definitely the best I've ever done in Counties," said third singles player **Anthony Di Gorgio**.



Sophomore Bethany Van Eck

Track & Field: The girls' track and field team put on a strong team performance again this year, winning the North State Sectional Meet for the second year in a row. The team took 3rd place in the tough County Meet. Junior **Kristen Traub** won the county and state title in the 1600m. Sophomore **Bethany Van Eck** won the state title in the 100m hurdles. The boys' team earned 5th place in the North State Sectional, with strong performances all season long by junior pole vaulter **Josh Davidson**, senior long distance runner **Jeremy Braunius**, and senior middle distance sprinter **Sam Braen**.



(back) Tim Boonstra, Josh Breeman and Matt Van Grouw. (middle) Connor Milkamp, Kyle Dorsey, Ryan Vander Plaats and Jacob Shotmeyer. (front) Tom Ursetti and Luke Everson.

Golf: Sophomore **Matt Van Grouw** made an impact on the golf course, leading the team to a second place finish in the league after he placed first in his division during the league tournament. "Our biggest accomplishment was definitely when we beat Glen Rock in the County Tournament," said sophomore **Kyle Dorsey**.

Letters of Intent



Brianne Traub '11 signs her Letter of Intent with Athletic Director Steve King, Vice Principal Ruth Kuder, College and Career Counselor Nathan Minchen, and her parents, Lorraine and Keith.

Two EC graduating seniors have signed Letters of Intent to play collegiate sports at the Division 2 level. Star basketball player **Brianne Traub '11** finished her career at Eastern Christian with over 2,000 points, becoming the highest scorer in EC history, and only the 5th player in Passaic County history to reach that milestone. Brianne is attending University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Brianne has been accepted into their prestigious School of Pharmacy, and she plans to make an impact both on the court and in the classroom.

Pitcher **Craig Jacobs '11** has signed with Nyack College, becoming the fourth Jacobs sibling to play athletics at Nyack. "We are very excited about the kind of pitcher Craig is capable of becoming at this level," stated Nyack Coach Matt Cornacchione. "For a senior in high school, his poise and presence on the mound are excellent and will no doubt be a huge factor in his success here. He has a tremendous upside and will make an immediate impact with both his character and his ability."

Athletic Department Awards

Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Female – Kristen Lindsay

ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Male: Jon Snack, Noah Ruitenberg

Female: Kristen Lindsay

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Jeremy Braunius

Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award

Kristen Lindsay

Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete

Male: Jeremy Braunius

Female: Brianne Traub

New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Kristen Lindsay

MSG Varsity Scholarship:

Male: Dan Van Lenten

Female: Rachael Coba

Paterson Old Timers' Athletic Association Award:

Brianne Traub

New Jersey Interscholastic Conference

Senior Sportsmanship Award –

Male: Tom Ursetti

Female: Brianne Traub



Craig Jacobs '11 signs his LOI with members of his family who have all played sports at Nyack. back: Kristen Jacobs Coakley '01, Jonathon Harvey, Lauren Jacobs Harvey '03. Front: Chris Coakley, Brad Jacobs '02.

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