

# THE *Herald*

SPRING 2015  
VOL. 56, ISSUE 1

A PUBLICATION OF **EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

## TOGETHER



### Courtyard Project

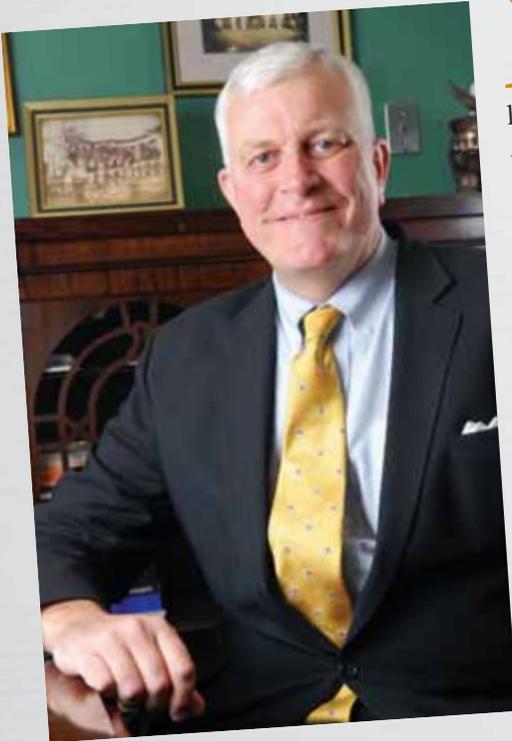
- A. Concrete paver learning areas
- B. Raised planters
- C. Greenhouse
- D. Future perennial beds
- E. Asphalt walkway





EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

## TOGETHER...



**E**astern Christian School is not a group of buildings, a collection of books and computers, or a group of independent individuals who gather together solely for their personal benefit. We are, rather, a living, breathing community of interdependent Christian brothers and sisters – people who learn with and from each other and depend upon each other for our very existence. In the words of 1 Corinthians 12, we are “made up of many parts; and though the parts are many, ...[we] form one body.”

This issue of *The Herald* celebrates that sense of unity and interdependence and reports on all of the things that we do as a school community – together! From the critically important work done by hundreds of volunteers in our school buildings and in supporting ventures, such as **ditto** and the TRIP program, to the amazing renovation of the high school courtyard, accomplished through the vision, skill, and hard work of community volunteers and student laborers. From the rich opportunities resident in Eastern Christian’s new church / community partnerships, to our wonderful everyday partnerships with parents who dedicate their time and expertise to enriching the learning of our students from preschool to high school.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Herald* as we take an in-depth look at the theme of “Together” in this very special community called Eastern Christian School!

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



EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

# THE Herald

SPRING 2015  
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# Contents

<b>CAMPUS NEWS</b> .....	2-12
<b>FEATURE: TOGETHER</b> .....	13-18
<b>ASSOCIATION NEWS</b> .....	19-20
<b>ALUMNI NEWS</b> .....	21-25
<b>ANNUAL FUND</b> .....	26-28
<b>DESIGNATED GIFTS</b> .....	29-30
<b>SPORTS</b> .....	40-45



12

Make Music  
page 12



41

Boys' Varsity Soccer  
page 41

## ABOUT THE COVER

An aerial picture of the courtyard in January: The courtyard project at the high school was started in earnest last spring thanks to the work and generosity of dozens of businesses and individuals. The new space, when finished, will include a growing space and an outdoor classroom, among other features.

The Herald is a bi-annual publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Eastern Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education.

The Herald is mailed free of charge to over 8,000 alumni, families, and friends of the school.

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

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# CAMPUS NEWS



*Andy Genuario and Hannah Leegwater walk in the refurbished doors.*



*Christopher DeRooy, Ryan Shepperd, Lydia Rossi, Faith D'alessandro and Jayden Feliz enter the newly redone facility on the first day.*

## Elementary School Gets a Lift

In the mid-1960s, Eastern Christian erected a new elementary school building on a quiet cul-de-sac in Midland Park. The property at Baldwin Drive included—among many other features—a state-of-the-art heating system with 65 percent efficiency and walls of single pane, plate-glass windows.

While curriculum continued to evolve with the changing generations, the building remained largely the same for nearly fifty years. The old boilers—now only operating at 50 percent efficiency—were still cranking out heat to the millennial generation, who gazed out the exact same windows parents and grandparents had looked through when they were kids.

Times have changed.

When students re-entered the building after the summer of 2014, they were greeted with a revitalized look and many updated features. The project was completely funded through donations to the Capital Campaign.

“In about nine weeks, the building built in 1965 was transformed into a school that looks like it was built in 2014—all of this without a dollar coming from tuition. In fact, our renovation should have a significant impact on future utility expenses, actually saving operational dollars and allowing more tuition money to go directly to education,” said **David Visbeen**, executive director for the Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association and former president of Visbeen Construction Company, the general contractors for the job.

New bathrooms were installed in 2013 as part of the first phase of the project. Among the many changes this summer, new windows, exterior doors, ceilings, floor tiles, lights and boilers were installed. The school also upgraded the electrical service to enable the possibility of air conditioning in the future, as well as painted corridors and classrooms.

Many of the upgrades increased energy efficiency. For example, the new heating system is rated 95 percent efficient. The recently installed LED lamps consume only 17 percent of the electricity of the old bulbs and have a life expectancy of 40 years. Motion detectors turn lights off when there’s no motion in the room.

“The physical environment of the school plays a big part in student learning. Students are comfortable and stimulated in classrooms that are inviting and clean. Learning is enhanced in classrooms that are well lit and appropriately warm,” said **Sandra Bottge**, principal.

She added, “Students were thrilled when they came to school on the first day. They loved the freshly painted classrooms and hallways, pencil signs, doors and windows. They played guessing games in each room to see what was renovated. One student came up to me on the first day of school and said, “I love our new school!”



*Nathan Im, Dirk Denenkamp and Patrick Reitsma come excited for a new year.*

# Learning from 9/11

**A**nthony Johnson's memories are vivid, emblazoned in his mind like snapshots: A black cloud, empty shoes, ash mixed with bank notes. Yet it isn't only images he recalls from that day. It's also the sounds: An officer, yelling at the media; the noise of the towers coming down; and of course, the screams.

As a reporter for WABC TV (and current EC parent), his impulse was to drive toward the World Trade Center on 9/11 to cover the story of a plane crash. Blocked by a police officer from getting too close, he momentarily ducked into a deli with his cameraman. In that brief moment inside the eatery, the earth shook as the tower crashed down, the sky turned pitch black, and New York City changed forever.

Anthony Johnson's testimony is one perspective out of many shared with students during **Paul Beverly's** 9/11 SOAR. SOAR, which stands for Student Opted Academic Resources, is a time each day when high school students enrich their learning through a variety of class offerings. In its third year, the 9/11 SOAR continues to draw a large crowd of students.

Beverly first introduced the idea of the SOAR on the tenth anniversary of the tragedy – 2011. He had attended a workshop at the 9/11 Tribute Center the summer before and felt stirred to do something more, he said.

"I hope from a content perspective, [students who attend this SOAR] will have an understanding of what happened on 9/11 and a little understanding of why it happened. From a faith perspective, I hope that kids will hear stories of people with great faith who have lived through these tragic events. I hope they will learn how their faith sustained them and how they became stronger," said Beverly.

Students commit to attending the classes for the full eight to ten weeks it's offered. Each week, a different guest with a unique 9/11 story speaks. The official class culminates with a visit to the 9/11 Tribute Center and the memorial, although students in the past have spun off independent



*Anthony Johnson addresses students during the 9/11 SOAR*

studies afterwards. **Ann Van Hine**, former EC parent and a 9/11 widow, always serves as the school's tour guide.

Beverly added, "When Ann Van Hine tells her story to our students, there's always a silence in the room. I don't know how else to describe it. They are so deeply moved. Kids don't know what to ask or are afraid of asking."

In addition to the student's learning, the testimonies in class have also stirred Beverly personally. "I remember that day. I personally remember fearing for our daughter, who worked across from the White House at the time—not being able to get ahold of her. So I have that memory, but I just have a real hard time with the loss, the suddenness and the size of it... I'm still trying to deal with [the scope of the human tragedy] in my own head."



*A panoramic view of the 9/11 memorial pool, taken by SOAR student Anita Karr during the field trip*

# The Princess and The Pauper



From top (L-R): **Mark Van Reeth, Skylar Brown, Adrian Brown, Vladimir Medina; Scott Steenstra, Kimona Dussard, Stephanie Avila, Matthew Matthias, Michael Vreisema; Jeanae Dedio, Hanna Furman, Alissa Sytsma, Amanda Vincenti, Abi Johnson, Francesca de Paris; Maggie Albies, Diana Ibrahim**

BY GABBY BUCCOLA '17

**T**he Princess and The Pauper, a play based on Mark Twain’s popular short story with a similar title, tells the story of two teens who switch identities.

The main difference between the two literary works is the gender of the leads. In the play version, females play the key characters, while Mark Twain’s version, The Prince and The Pauper, portrays two males.

Held November 13-15 in the high school auditorium, **Alissa Sytsma** and **Amanda Vincenti**, playing the princess and the pauper, led a diverse cast to perform the timeless tale. **Abi Johnson**, the lady’s maid, recognized several themes in the story, including societal roles and unlikely friendships.

“It was inspiring to work with such a diverse cast,” commented **Jane Okma**, director. “Every member of the cast and crew worked together to form something greater than the sum of its parts. This production was a concrete illustration of I Corinthians 12:12-26.”

## Soaring in Small Groups

**I**saiah 40:31, Eastern Christian’s theme verse for the year, reminds readers that those who “hope in the Lord” will “soar on wings like eagles.” Too often, man finds hope in counterfeits. The middle school small group program, however, exhorts its young eagles to find the better way—soar.

Meeting every other week through June, middle school small groups are delving deep into the themes presented in Isaiah 40. “We are focusing on the year’s theme of “hope in the Lord”, as opposed to hoping in other things, such as our stuff, ourselves, etc.,” explains small group adviser and middle school Bible teacher **Betsy Tyvoll**.



**Maddie Ritsema, Tara Casey, teacher Betsy Tyvoll, Madison Wynbeek, and Aidan Miller.**



*Seventh and eighth grade small group leaders at the small group training retreat: **Jaelyn Vincenti, Morgan Vulpone, Jenna Brooks, Justin Kuiphoff, Brayden Vogel, Sydney Moore, and Angela Mo** (not facing camera).*

Small group leaders are chosen among seventh and eighth graders; interested students complete an application process; teachers provide input; and a small selection of faculty and staff make the final decision.

The commitment expected from leaders is substantial. Leaders meet every other week for breakfast and attend meetings twice a week. In addition, a full-day retreat in the fall provided necessary training.

“We engaged in group-building activities, prayed and worshipped together, went over some curriculum-related matters and allowed time to practice leading discussion and group prayer,” says Tyvoll. “We finished with a charge about the responsibilities involved with discipling peers.”

# Day at the (African) Museum

In the book of Matthew, chapter 28, Jesus exhorts his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations.” At the Problem-Based Learning (PBL) kick-off chapel on September 16, 2014, students learned about the gospel and its use in missions, as well as how it applies to this year’s school-wide project.

For a second year, the elementary school is working with the **Steen family**, currently missionaries in Tanzania.

PBL is a style of learning where real-world, authentic problems and questions are considered, discussed, analyzed, researched and explored. Last year, the question the school looked at was: How can we support the Steens when they are in Tanzania and we are not? This year, the school is focusing on the question: How can we continue to support the Steens by transforming our school into an African museum?

“I love watching our students participate in our school-wide PBL project. They collaborate well with their peers throughout the PBL process. They always amaze me with their creative solutions to some challenging real life issues,” said **Sandra Bottge**, principal.

The study of Africa will translate into many additional areas of exploration, ranging from geography, to culture, to nature. Students will also answer why it is important for the Steens to continue their work in Africa; in particular, what it means to bring “good news.”



*Rachael DeRooy, James Torres and Austin Vander Pyl*

Teacher **Karen Baitzel** defined the gospel message as good news, choosing colors to symbolize various aspects of the pre-Christian and Christian life. Ultimately, she said, “The punishment for sin is death, but because God loves us so much, he provided a special way for God to wash away our sins.”

The special chapel time concluded with children creating salvation bracelets to remind them of the gospel message.



*Marjorie Kingslow*



*Charlie Denekamp*



*Zachary Soder and Sarah Castro holding up their bracelets*

# The No-AP School



Advanced Composition class

As prospective high school parents and students navigate the competitive college prep landscape and consider various schools, certain metrics are used in an attempt to compare and contrast the academic rigor of the institutions. Frequently, these searches center around statistics—like graduate college placement percentage, student/teacher ratio, and Advanced Placement offerings.

When I toured Eastern Christian High School for the first time and put on my “prospective family hat,” I asked the familiar questions about these same, traditional metrics. I learned that ECHS places an excellent 93% of graduates in college programs. I learned that ECHS has a desirable 11:1 student:teacher ratio. And then I learned that ECHS offers zero AP classes.

Initially, this shocked me.

For a school claiming to provide an excellent academic education that is preparing students to transform the world, this seemed contradictory. When I learned the school intentionally veered away from AP courses, I was even more skeptical.

But as I learned what ECHS does offer for college preparation, I re-engaged ECHS with renewed vigor. I have come to realize two things: ECHS is committed to providing the best education possible, and AP classes may not be all they are cracked up to be.

## Project Acceleration: PA, not AP

Let’s take a look at the ECHS college prep program: Project Acceleration.

### What is Project Acceleration?

Project Acceleration is a dual-enrollment program with Seton Hall University, which enables students to earn up to 22 college credits while still in high school. EC Project Acceleration teachers are state-certified and serve as adjunct professors at Seton Hall University. Project Acceleration teachers hold a master’s degree in their area of expertise.

### What courses are included in Project Acceleration?

Courses currently include Calculus, Honors Chemistry, Advanced Composition, English 3 Honors, English 4 Honors, US History 1 Honors and US History 2 Honors

### What does Project Acceleration cost?

Each college credit costs \$75 through Project Acceleration. Seton Hall University’s on-campus undergraduate rate is \$996 per credit. This program may allow students to accumulate enough credits to graduate a semester early.

### What are the differences between a Project Acceleration and an Advanced Placement course?

	Project Acceleration	Advanced Placement
Learning	Concept-driven (Learn through the entire semester) Course terminates in June (10 months)	Test-driven (Learn information for one big test at the end) Early May test date (8 months)
Credits	Credits granted with a C or above earned in class	Credits granted with an AP exam score of 3, 4, or 5
Teacher Qualifications	State certified Master’s degree Adjunct professor	State certified

This is an abbreviated version of an original blog post by Rudi Gesch, director of marketing and enrollment. To read the full version or subscribe to the blog, visit <http://www.easternchristian.org/about-ec/blog/>.

# Hilsner [greetings] from Denmark

BY ABI JOHNSON '17



A Danish student interacts with EC student **Samantha Boonstra**

In every school, the sound of chattering students echoes through the hallway. At Eastern Christian, this chatter is often in several different languages. For a brief time in October, one more language was added to the already-diverse 'cultural soup' that makes up the high school.

On Oct. 1, more than 30 Danish students visited Eastern Christian, exploring aspects of American culture and connecting with young believers from another nation. At the same time, Eastern Christian students and leaders experienced Denmark culture and grew in their faith.

Former student **Tom Zabriskie** became a teacher at the Djurslands Efterskole, a Danish Folk School. Several years ago, Zabriskie emailed to see if it was possible for his students to visit America through his old school. Finally, the arrangements were made with the help of Principal **Ruth Kuder**, Director of Extended Education **James Anderson**, and Learning Center Director **Luke Van Denend**.

Efterskole shares a philosophy with other Danish Folk Schools: provide teenage students with a Christian-based, liberal arts education in an environment similar to an American boarding school. The mission statement of the evangelical Djurslands Efterskole is: "To nurture our young people's potential to take responsibility for their own lives, respect their fellow human beings, and to live in joy and wonder at the life God has given us. We hope to prepare our students for life: academically, personally, and spiritually."

Because the Djurslands Efterskole students will live together for the next few years, school leaders saw an American trip for ninth and tenth graders as an opportunity to build unity and cohesion, in addition to exposing them to United States culture and the English language. "This trip was also about having fellowship with other believing students," Kuder added. "Hopefully some Danish students were changed by their exposure to the American Christian community."

Activities included service projects and devotions provided by area churches, a day on the EC high school campus and a trip to New York City.

Danish students were surprised by some of the aspects of American culture. "Everything's cheaper and bigger. You drive a lot. People are very friendly here," said Danish student **Benjamin Flinta**.

More important than the differences, both American and Danish Christians celebrated the similarities. "I feel like God is with me wherever I go," said Danish student **Jenny Weber Jørgensen**. "I'm happy that there are Christians all over the world."

Anderson added, "Hosting believers from other nations offers a tremendous opportunity to grow and learn about the global body of believers and helps us all better understand one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Developing a culturally sensitive worldview and experiencing cross-cultural engagement serves to strengthen the body of Christ globally while also challenging and affirming faith on a personal level."



EC student **Brianne Remy** works with a student from Denmark.

# Let Us Go to the House of the Lord

As the end of October neared, preschool staff geared the children up—not for Halloween—but for church week. An annual tradition for more than 20 years, students engaged in week-long events as an exciting introduction to church life and history.

As part of the week, junior kindergarten students visited Faith Community CRC, where a student's father—**KC Vande Streek**—serves as pastor. They toured the building, learned more about worship and the Bible and discussed roles at the church.

In addition to a field trip for the oldest preschool students, classes learned from Pastor **Tom Henion**, associate pastor of Living Word Reformed Church. He sang songs and spoke about tools he uses as a pastor, including his GPS.

Students also sat in the fourth grade Reformation Day chapel, shared prayers and made churches with stained glass windows.

"This was a very special week," said **Kathy Faasse**, preschool teacher. "We have a few future choir singers, teachers and deacons in our class."



*Pastor KC Vande Streek, with his son Channing, speak to junior kindergarten students.*

## "American" Parents head to Harvard

On a brisk November Day, **Ken and Cathy Lagerveld** packed up the car and made the nearly five-hour trek to Cambridge to attend Harvard Parents Weekend. They went out for supper, attended a sports game, and toured campus. The scenario seems typical for parents of college students, but in the case of the Lagervelds, their children were already grown and married. They were there to visit someone else: A young lady whose parents were in China.

Four years ago, the Lagervelds decided to open their home to **Kylie Zhang**, a tenth grade international student from China. Although Zhang moved to Arizona the following year, the trio kept in touch.

Zhang was the first student the Lagervelds hosted. "Ken and I were both a little nervous about accepting a total stranger into our home, especially one

that didn't speak English very well. We were most surprised," says Cathy. "Kylie is a very loving and outgoing girl. She immediately fit into our family – not only our immediate family, but our extended family as well. She also gained a new American Nana and Pop and a Grandma, as well as several more aunts and uncles."

The warm feelings were mutual. Zhang shares, "I was most surprised at their entire acceptance and welcoming of my entrance into their family and their life. I thought it would take some time for us to get used to each other due to the cross-cultural experiences, but we got along very well pretty [quickly]. Since then, they have been treating me as their daughter."

This year, 26 families have opened their homes to international students from China and Korea. The Lagervelds currently host two students who have been at their home during the past two school years. "We always like to joke with them that we want to be invited to their weddings some day. Hopefully we will be able to do that," says Cathy.

Students and host families often share a special bond for years to come. Host families are responsible for providing for basic physical and spiritual needs of the students under their charge. This includes meals, transportation to student activities, and a private bedroom. Students also attend church with the family.

Zhang offers this advice for families who are considering hosting. "Be open to the foreign culture and tolerant to the differences that international students may bring with them to America." She adds, "I see Ken and Cathy as my American parents...their support is definitely one of the reasons why I got into Harvard. It was an honor for me to have had them over that weekend."



*Kylie Zhang and the Lagervelds during parent's weekend at Harvard.*

# They Fought For Us

As the buses dropped off students for the beginning of the school day, a line of chairs in the elementary school gym were set up and marked “reserved” for veterans and relatives. The school had sent an open invite via email for its Veterans Day chapel. ECES staff hoped for at least five or six veterans to join in worship.

By the start of chapel, the first row of reserved chairs was completely full, and veterans spilled into the rows behind. The group included great-grandfathers, grandfathers and fathers who served in WWII, Korean and Vietnam wars, as well as operations in Iraq. Many branches of the military were represented, including the US Army, Navy, National Guard and Coast Guard.

The audience watched a short video titled “I fought for you,” which visually depicted the price of freedom in a way that younger children could relate to. Students then presented the veterans with hand-made cards and red, white and blue carnations to show their thankfulness.

“Veterans fought for our freedom. Because of their service, we can live in a country where we can make choices and people don’t control us,” said **Sandra Bottge**, principal. “We have freedom to go to church and to worship God the way the Bible tells us.”

Bottge tied in religious freedom to “another kind of freedom—our freedom in Christ.” She expounded on several verses from John, 1 Peter and Isaiah to illustrate the seriousness of sin, the sacrifice of Christ and the “freedom that comes from forgiveness in Christ.”



Veteran **Michael Tanis**, who served eight years in the US Army, and daughter **Brielle**



**Kelly Jeon** opened chapel with a violin solo.



Veterans **Jim Oosting** and **Robert Vander Pyl** receive cards from their granddaughters.



WWII veteran **Joseph J. Sciacca** with his two granddaughters, **Katherine** and **Kayleigh Marshall**



Veterans and students gathered together for a group photo after the chapel service.

# The Green Christian School



An eagle's view of the Eastern Christian high school roof.

Everywhere you look today, green initiatives are en vogue. But for Christians, green initiatives aren't a trend or even anything new. "Going green" has been our call since the Garden of Eden. One of the innovative features of Eastern Christian School is how seriously this mandate is taken.

Easily the biggest green initiative in the school's history, all three of Eastern Christian's campuses are solar powered. Eagle Solar LLC, a for-profit company owned by Eastern Christian, provides both electricity and a new source of revenue from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Credits. In 2011, Eagle Solar installed 1800 panels across its three campuses. Since inception, 1.9 million kilowatt hours of electricity has been generated – the energy equivalent of 150,000 gallons of gasoline.

One of the main things those solar panels feed? Lighting! The school has recently taken on-campus lighting to the next, greener level. We're in the midst of a multi-year investment in LED light bulbs to replace fluorescents. This project requires the reworking of our electrical systems, and an investment up front, but, over the 40+ year lifespan of these bulbs, (which give off 8 percent more lumens and consume 83 percent less electricity than their older, duller fluorescent counterparts) they will pay for themselves many times over.

Although these initiatives are some of the most noticeable to visitors,

the school has aimed to conserve resources many other ways. Among them, filtered water bottle stations feature a "green ticker" that counts how many plastic water bottles are saved by using refillable water—so far the school has saved more than 50,000. The adoption of a Google Doc system and digital admissions process has saved paper by millions of sheets. And cleaning and ice removal supplies are environmentally friendly.

For those who don't necessarily get excited about "going green," we might consider another kind of green- money. Not only are these

initiatives good for creation and sustainable for the future, they save our school money today- and lots of it! For example, Solar Power annually produces Eastern Christian School approximately \$250,000 in combined energy savings and revenue from the sale of Green Energy Credits.

While these green initiatives have positioned EC well in the present to run an efficient affordable school system, the primary focus is on sustainability for the future. We take pride in setting an example for our students that God's majestic Creation matters- and that their future matters! We don't measure our mission in years – we measure it in generations!

*This is an abbreviated version of an original blog post by Rudi Gesch, director of marketing and enrollment. To read the full version or subscribe to the blog, visit <http://www.easternchristian.org/about-ec/blog/>.*

Annually, Eastern Christian School benefits to the tune of \$250,000 in combined energy savings and revenue as a result of the solar energy initiative

# Weight Room: Bigger and Better

BY ALONDRA BRANCATO '17

Instead of typewriters, room 1 now houses equipment such as ellipticals, a stationary bike, an incline bench press, and a new rowing machine. The space also includes a white board for health class lessons and a large mirror along the length of one of its walls.

The new weight room, unveiled this September, was relocated from beneath the bleachers to room 1 for many reasons. It is one of the largest classrooms in the school. It is also at the end of the hallway, directly across from the gym entrance and connected to Athletic Director **Barry Veenstra's** office.

Veenstra explained what triggered the idea of relocating the weight room. "First and foremost, there was the need to impress students with the importance of personal fitness and show them that the school is committed to helping them achieve it. It is bigger, brighter, better ventilated, holds more equipment, and is more inviting," says Veenstra.

Students agree. A frequent user of the weight room, junior **Jonathan Canales** says the new room is much more comfortable. He says the atmosphere is better, and less muggy. Jon adds, "The old weight room was so crowded that you were afraid you might hit somebody or yourself. Now, we have enough room to actually work out. We had [the weight room]



*Trent Braen, Michael Vriesema and Sam Veenstra ready room 1 over the summer for its new use as a weight room.*

before, but we were not able to give our best ability."

The old weight room—underneath the bleachers – is now used as a storage space for athletic and PE equipment.

Veenstra adds, "It makes me smile to see students using it during class, lunch, and after school. It was worth it."

## New Appointments Announced at EC

The Eastern Christian Board of Directors announced two new appointments effective January 26, 2015. **Daniel Lazor** has been appointed to the position of Eastern Christian Middle School Principal, replacing **Dick Van Yperen**, who will return to his former position as Director of Curriculum & Instruction. **Barry Veenstra** has accepted the position of Athletic Director, having served on an interim basis the first semester.

Lazor comes to Eastern Christian having most recently served as Elementary School Principal at Yongsan International School in Seoul, Korea. He received his bachelor's from Cornell University, his M.S. from Fordham University and an M.Ed from Baptist Bible College. Currently, he's pursuing a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Bath in Bath, England.

He, his wife **Michelle**, and their six children recently relocated from Seoul to Northern New Jersey.

Barry Veenstra stepped into the role of Athletic Director, having served at Eastern Christian for more than 32 years. Before assuming interim Athletic Director leadership, he was the high school's physical education and health teacher, and has coached soccer, basketball and softball at high school and middle school levels during his tenure.

Aside from being an Eastern Christian alumnus, Veenstra graduated from Calvin College. He has received many honors as coach, including leading the 2007 girls soccer team to a state championship.

Barry and his wife, **Debi** (a member of the ECES faculty), reside in North Haledon and attend Emergence Church in Totowa.



*Daniel Lazor and his family*

# Learning to be MAD

Created nine years ago, the Make A Difference (MAD) program enables middle school students to partner with local non-profits, using their time and talents to make a difference in the community. The school has forged relationships with various organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and New Hope Community Ministries. Students work on service and fundraising projects throughout the year.

This year's program was unveiled to the fifth through eighth graders during a memorable chapel in November.

As a lead-up to the chapel, the number "three" began appearing throughout the school. As students asked for a reason why the number appeared and multiplied, they were answered with, "what do you think?"

The chapel brought more surprises when teachers **David Brewer**, **Everett Henderson** and **Ben Kuiken** transformed into the Three Stooges. The Three Stooges humorously portrayed how they might try to make a difference—ultimately failing. At the end of the play, three students representing faith, hope and love confronted the stooges, challenging them to make a difference by three essential traits outlined in scripture: faith, hope and love.



*The Three Stooges—teachers **David Brewer**, **Everett Henderson** and **Ben Kuiken**—flanked by middle school students **Annika Westra**, **Brianna Poliandro** and **Henry Poliandro**.*

The chapel introducing the MAD launch was based on 1 Corinthians 13:13, where Paul writes, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Each grade will finish its final MAD projects in May. In the meantime the number 3 will continue to serve as a reminder. "Now when students see the number 3 around the middle school, they have a vivid picture of how faith, hope and love are at the heart of our desire to make a difference in our community," said **Dick Van Yperen**.

# String and Make Music

Despite research linking music instruction with increased overall academic performance, more than 1.3 million elementary-aged students do not receive musical instruction at school, according to a 2012 report published by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Eastern Christian remains committed to instruction in the fine arts. One notable program at the school is its vibrant—and growing—string program, which currently includes 97 participants ranging from second grade through high school.

The string program started in 1971 under the direction of **Kay Andreas**. In the 1980s, it moved to an after-school format, but was brought back into the school day around 2000. **Cathy Clark** currently leads the program, traveling to all three campuses each week.



***Steven Molina**, **Sofia-Vesti Graine** and **Jesse Yohannan***



***Matthew Soder** and **Julien Arcay***

"Quite a few students have gone on to a professional career or have become active in their churches and communities as a result of starting in the string program of Eastern Christian," says Clark.

One former Eastern Christian string student, **Todd Van Beveren**, currently directs the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra. Each year, current students participate in the orchestra's Festival of Strings, which typically draws more than 100 young musicians from area schools.

At the elementary school, 24 second-graders have joined the program this year, as well as five older students new to the school. At that age, instruction is limited to violin. Middle school students, however, begin to diversify into other instruments—cello, viola and base.

High school students can choose to participate in the string orchestra, chamber orchestra, or both.

Clark sees a number of benefits related to learning a string instrument. "Participating allows them to positively experience music. It's also promotes discipline, the use of fine motor skills, and works different parts of the brain... Children's first experience with a musical instrument should be positive. I want music to be an influence in their lives."

# TOGETHER

f /EasternChristianSchool

Our most popular social media channels, the EC facebook page has over 2,200 unique "likes." We share all of our website articles and blog posts on facebook and twitter so that our website content is more accessible.



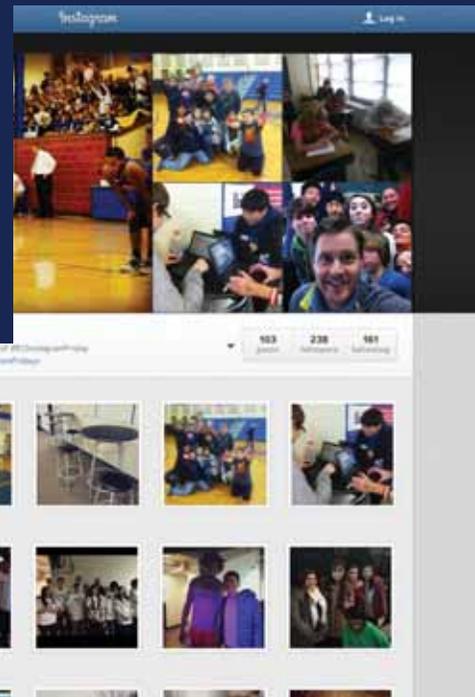
YouTube /EC1892

Eastern Christian's YouTube channel has had over 12,000 video views. Home to 47 unique videos. With over 6,000 views, our most popular video by far is our "Do Life Big" video from this fall.



## EC Gets Social

One way that the Eastern Christian community can stay together is through social media. If you are interested in engaging EC's mission, or even just keeping up with what's happening on our three campuses, then we would strongly encourage connecting with us. In Facebook, YouTube, EC has four very active social media channels. Give us a like, a retweet, a favorite, a subscription, or a follow! We love to stay connected with the greater EC community and these channels are a great way to do this!



@EC1892

While we're pretty sure that Eagles don't "Tweet" in nature, they do tweet on twitter. Join over 200 followers on our school's twitter channel @EC1892. Or, if you want to stay up to date with EC Athletics, check out the Athletics twitter account @EC\_Eagles for real-time scores and highlights of Eagles Athletics.

@EC1892

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then our newly opened Instagram account is worth a couple hundred thousand words! Every Friday, we turn our Instagram Account over to an EC teacher. They take and post real-time pictures of their day as part of our "Instagram Fridays" promotion.



*The courtyard blanketed in snow after an early season storm.*

## When the Lord Builds

**W**hen the Lord instructed Moses to erect the tabernacle, his instructions were specific, indicating details such as the acacia wood for the frames and a cherubim design woven into the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

His holy work was carried out by skilled workers such as Bezalel, described by the Lord in Exodus 31 as being filled with “the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.”

Throughout the Bible, there are examples of the Lord using uniquely gifted individuals, working together, to accomplish His plans. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul reminds the church “there are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work” (1 Corinthians 12:6).

**Anne Bazanowski**, high school science teacher and coordinator of the courtyard project, has seen the Lord’s hand at work in the courtyard of Eastern Christian High School. Largely unused throughout Eastern Christian’s history, fifteen businesses and dozens of student and community volunteers have come together to re-invent the space over the past year. Bazanowski hopes the new space will engage students academically and spiritually, while also providing a platform to serve others outside of the school’s walls.

“It needs to be focused on the Lord,” she says.

There are four main areas of the courtyard. When completed, an outdoor classroom will enable teachers to bring learning outside on an as-needed, rotational basis. The growing area, which includes five large, raised beds and a possible refurbished greenhouse (in discussion), will provide food for local food pantries and opportunities for nutrition, cultural and science education.

“The planting bed is four times larger than I initially expected. I believe the Lord wants us to grow food. Justice concerns are something really big on my heart; specifically, hunger locally and globally. The courtyard garden needs to have an outward application,” she says. “The junior class has already asked to grow food and donate to food pantries.”

A corner patio will serve a dual purpose of quiet study during the school day and an outside social area during lunch. A lawn space completes the design. “My vision for the lawn and circular space would be to have this as a quiet, contemplative space used for journaling, poetry reading, thought and prayer. We also talked about a Shakespearean garden—planting flowers that are named in Shakespeare plays, as well as utilizing art students for sculptures.”

Interestingly, what to do with the courtyard has been a discussion on-and-off for many years. The 1972 ECHOES yearbook shows juniors breaking up and clearing out asphalt in the inner courtyard. More recently, students cleared out poison ivy that had invaded the area. Despite sporadic periods of interest and effort, the courtyard has remained unused.

A student article written by **Dianni Hall** in the November 2013 issue of the EC Times provided the spark igniting the latest effort. Her article shared some of Bazanowski’s vision, along with the roadblocks that had stopped progression. **Glenn Jacobsen**, owner of Jacobsen Landscape Design and Construction, saw the issue at Cornerstone Christian Church and passed it to ’09 graduate **Matt Touw**. They called the high school in December and offered to help. By April, several other contractors joined in and in May, Braen Supply committed to donating the masonry materials, “by far the single, largest piece of the project,” shares Bazanowski. “I don’t know what happened, but the owner, **Janet Braen**, heard our story and said I want to help you. That was totally God.”

Such a large-scale project doesn’t come without significant material and labor costs. In the case of the courtyard, “everything has been donated,” says Bazanowski. “One of the things that has really struck me is the absolute kindness and generosity of the contractors – the Godly men and women who are in this community and the graciousness and kindness they exhibited, coming and giving of their all, expecting nothing in return.”



*Sergio Harris plants the final azalea bush next to the outdoor classroom.*



*Jon Veenstra, Michelle Silvestri, Jake Veenstra and Sam Veenstra look on while Scott Steenstra prepares the foundation for the retaining wall around the outdoor classroom.*



*Volunteers Henry Mestrallet, Kyle Dykstra, Scott Steenstra and Tanner Allen move pavers into place for the new corner patio. Professionals from Ken Steenstra Landscaping were able to work very quickly laying pavers for the new patio because of the initial volunteer work.*



*Because the only access in is through a standard door, Downes Tree Supply donated rental of the largest crane in the area to lift large equipment and materials into and out of the courtyard.*



*Student volunteers work with teacher Anne Bazanowski to pull weeds around the newly installed planting beds.*



*Brianne Remy, Abigail Rodriguez, Bryan Lineweaver and Kyle Dykstra work on a rainy Saturday morning to dig a trench for the arborvitae along the outdoor classroom.*



*In early August, Kyle and Glenn Tynan donated their masonry skills to build the retaining wall around the corner patio.*



*We invite students to donating articles. The juniors use picks and shovels to clear out the asphalt in the inner courtyard.*

*The courtyard made a cameo in the 1972 yearbook. The text says, "The juniors use picks and shovels to clear out the asphalt in the inner courtyard."*

## Eastern Christian thanks the businesses and organizations that have come alongside the school to revitalize the courtyard:

Abma's Farm  
 Borduin Paving  
 Braen Supply  
 Cedar Hill Nursery  
 City Green, Inc.  
 Downes Tree Service  
 Duffy's Landscaping & Design  
 East Coast International Church  
 Farmside Landscape & Design  
 Glenn Tynan Masonry  
 Horizon Landscape Company

Jacobsen Landscape Design & Construction  
 Ken Steenstra Landscaping  
 Kuiken Brothers Company, Inc.  
 Matt Braunius Lawn & Landscape  
 Peter Raymond Wells Architect, LLC  
 Twin-County Irrigation  
 Servants Heart, ministry of  
 Cornerstone Christian Church  
 Stonington Gardens  
 Whole Kids Foundation

# TOGETHER



*PTO meets at the elementary school after chapel.*

## Completing the Puzzle

**A** mother pulls slices of pizza from a carton and serves them to hungry students. A father walks the playground monitoring recess. A grandmother marks a shirt for \$2 and brings it on to the retail floor. A group of students stay after school to spread mulch.

Alone, these tasks may seem ordinary, insignificant. Together, they add up to something huge.

Eastern Christian volunteers contribute approximately 20,000 hours of labor every year. Their collective work provides additional streams of income, supports teachers and staff, and cultivates a warm and welcoming atmosphere for students and guests. The value of their time and talent is conservatively estimated at \$250K annually.

“Sometimes it’s easy to lose sight of all that’s happening and the incredible impact those people are having in the life of our school,” says **Tom Dykhouse**, executive director. “All of these volunteer contributions, even though they may be seemingly small, added together make a huge impact on our school community. EC is an organization that functions the way it does because of our volunteers. We couldn’t do it without them.”

Volunteers at EC serve in a variety of ways, sometimes bringing projects to fruition that could not have happened without specific expertise. For example, the Eagles Solar transaction utilized banking, engineering and construction volunteers, as well as deep discounts from a law firm.



*ditto relies on its volunteers.*

**ditto**, the upscale retail store operated by Eastern Christian, contributes 150K to the school each year and operates with 1046 volunteer hours per month. The store also donates to a separate fund, the Angel Fund, which provides for Eastern Christian families in crisis from the loss of a parent, debilitating illness or job loss.

“There is so much going on, it’s mindboggling when you start to make a list,” comments Dykhouse “From all of Eastern Christian, thank you, because we couldn’t do it without you.”

Are you wondering about some of the hard-working volunteers around the school, looking for motivation or a place to plug in? Volunteers come from all walks of life and serve in a wide variety of ways for many different reasons. Here’s what some of this year’s volunteers have to say about volunteering for the EC community...

## LYNDA VINCENTI

A familiar face to the middle school media center, Lynda Vincenti has served the school for more than four years, checking books, aiding teachers and orchestrating special projects. She is also the newly minted middle school PTO leader.

As a new parent four years ago, Vincenti began volunteering to learn more about the school, its teachers and students, and the “environment in general.” The more she helped, the more she found she enjoyed it. “I also see how much the teachers love and support the students and I like that I have the opportunity to give back to them,” she says.

## MARGO AOKI

After reading an Eastern Christian bulletin asking for help, Margo Aoki signed up three years ago to work at **ditto**. She currently works in the back room, pricing items and prepping them for sale at the store.

## EMILY BOASORTE

A relatively new volunteer, high school student Emily Boasorte serves at **ditto** in a variety of ways, from sorting clothes and bringing them to the store floor, to assisting with the cash register. She started this year because she was looking to fill her time “with something good,” adding, “I love the EC community and I love what I do.”

Boasorte says, “the community is God-oriented and it always makes me feel welcomed.” For anyone considering serving as a volunteer, “they should do it! It’s a fun and good way to spend your time.”

## KAREN KNORR

An alumna from 1982, Karen Knorr is still involved at Eastern Christian. She works in the TRIP office two days week selling gift cards and processing orders. It’s a job she’s done for more than ten years, and one, she says, fits nicely into her schedule.

Consideration of the community spurs her to continue volunteering. “I’ve appreciated what other volunteers have done in the past when I myself, and my own kids, went to EC,” she shares. “It’s a good way to stay and be connected to the EC community.”

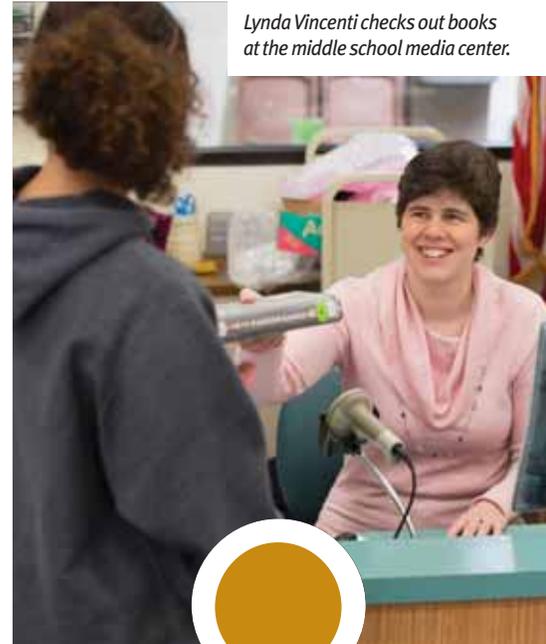
## GERALD BANDSTRA

Although he’s a retired teacher, Gerald Bandstra still spends most school days walking the halls of high school. When he isn’t substitute teaching or meeting friends for breakfast, he’s volunteering in the school’s resource room, assisting students with math and science during the first block of the day. Bandstra also served on the school board and on committees of the board.

He began volunteering more than five years ago. “When God gives you some abilities you should use them. No one in the Bible retired from their work,” he says.

He adds, “It is a joy to be around EC. The students are marvelous. I really like the way that they are kind and helpful to each other.”

*Lynda Vincenti checks out books at the middle school media center.*



## LAURA STEENSTRA

When her oldest child began pre-school, Laura Steenstra began volunteering at Eastern Christian—a journey that has lasted 14 years to-date. Although her roles have varied considerably, she has spent substantial time working on the auction committee for the Foundation for ECSA.

“I have served on the auction committee for a long time because EC fundraisers are a huge part of what controls tuition. Volunteers play a vital role in making each event a success,” she says. “I have always felt that volunteering just goes along with a Christian education since the funds are not always there to hire all the help that is needed.”

Steenstra sees volunteering as a natural extension to the Christian school experience. “It is rewarding to take an active part in your child’s education... volunteering at EC allows you to use your time to help provide that great Christian education you want for your kids, provide a positive example for them, and honor God at the same time—how can you not participate?”

## SHARON VISBEEN

Sharon Visbeen has served as the elementary school PTO president for the past three years, also volunteering during other events, such as pizza day and teacher collaboration Wednesdays.

“I started volunteering at school as a way to see and support my children during the day when they were at school. Being at school gave me a chance to see how they act, who their friends were, and to be a support to their teachers,” she shares.

“I continue serving because I love EC. I love the teachers, the administrators and the community. It is a wonderful place to be a part of. I have made some wonderful friends serving together at EC. I feel so blessed that my children attend here so I want to serve to help build the community, support my children’s teachers and let the teachers know how much they are loved and appreciated. I also want my children to understand the blessing that EC is to our family by seeing my service.”

## KEN RITSMAN

A father of elementary school students, Ken Ritsma serves as the morning playground duty coordinator and a playground supervisor before school. Early morning volunteers enable teachers the opportunity to attend staff devotions and prepare for the day while children play outside before school. The time commitment is approximately one or two mornings per month.

“I was drawn to this opportunity because it gave me some extra time to spend with my children and their friends, and it worked well with my schedule. Working regular business hours doesn’t give me many opportunities to volunteer during the school day, so I was excited that there was an opportunity to still be involved in the school community and help out before I go in to work,” he says.

Ritsma sees volunteering as an integral part to child rearing. He adds, “As a parent, leading my children to Christ, I understand how important it is to be involved in their lives and to be intentional about getting to know their environment and who they are interacting with.”

# TOGETHER



Executive Director of New Hope Community Ministries **Phil Beverly** with Bridgeway Pastor **Anton Brown** and **Tom Dykhouse**.

## Partnerships Provide Exciting Opportunities

BY ABI JOHNSON '17

In early August, leadership from Eastern Christian and from Pilgrim Church in Paramus signed a partnership that has the potential to impact EC's future.

Founded in 1997, Pilgrim Church is Presbyterian, with a 2,300-member Korean-American congregation. Pilgrim Church leadership desired a Christian learning environment for its 700 children every day of the week. While praying about and considering opening a school of their own, leaders discovered EC, a school that not only held the same Christian values, but was dedicated to providing a faith-based education.

After meetings throughout the summer, a Memorandum of Understanding was written, and, in August, signed in the Middle School Media Center. This document states what the partnership will entail, including an agreement that faculty will inform the Pilgrim Church congregation about Christian education, and Pilgrim Church senior pastor, Paul Yang, will encourage members to send their children to EC. The memorandum also included a joint-use agreement.

"I think there are huge opportunities for both Pilgrim Church and EC. The leaders of Pilgrim Church believe it is very important for their kids to have a Christian education, which we will provide. An opportunity for us is that we have an area church excited by this partnership and supporting us by sending kids, financially supporting us, and providing us with people with many different talents," said Executive Director **Tom Dykhouse**.

In addition to its relationship with Pilgrim Church, Eastern Christian also announced the Urban Christian Education Partnership this fall, a joint venture between Bridgeway Community Church, New

Hope Community Ministries and EC. In the 2014-2015 school year, the partnership has brought nine new children to Eastern Christian. Students are chosen via a nomination process and Bridgeway Church undergirds the financial commitment of tuition with scholarship support.

EC's mission is engaging the mind, nurturing the spirit, and transforming the world. "In order for us to succeed in that mission we need to have the students to work with," Mr. Dykhouse explained. "A larger student population allows us to engage with more families, to offer broader programs, to make a bigger impact... to a certain extent, our ability to be a transformative influence as a school depends on how many students graduate and where they go. I think it really offers us a great opportunity to fulfill the mission we've been called to. In this case, more is better."



Pilgrim Church Pastor **Paul Yang** and EC Board President **Nick Kuiken** shake hands while members of both communities look on.

# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## Garret G. Nieuwenhuis Retires, Again.

In June of 2008, The Development Office and the Strategic Fund Raising Committee of the Board of Directors officially became The Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association. Until that time, fund raising and development was the responsibility of a part-time staff under the direction of the Superintendent. In 2008, the Board of Directors determined that it was time to hire an individual whose only focus would be fund raising and development.

That same year, Garry Nieuwenhuis had retired from Valley National Bank as First Senior Vice-President of Marketing. Throughout his career Garry had volunteered for numerous organizations, but none with more dedication than Eastern Christian School. Garry served several terms as a member of the Board of Directors and he served on numerous committees including Finance, Endowment, and Capital Campaign. In 2008 he was serving on the Strategic Fund Raising Committee when EC began the search for someone to lead The Foundation.

In October, 2008, Garry became the first Executive Director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian School. During his tenure as Director, Garry efficiently led The Foundation staff in planning projects, directing fund raising, serving in leadership at **ditto** of North Jersey, and developing alumni relations and planned giving. Most recently, EC was able to complete nearly \$2,000,000.00 in capital improvements on the three (3) campuses without impacting tuition thanks to Garry's leadership in the capital campaign.

On September 30, 2014, Garry retired once again having served as Executive Director for six (6) years. For more than 45 years, Garry has been serving the Eastern Christian community and he will continue to serve as a member of the **ditto** Board of Directors. His dedication to Christian education has been formidable. All of us will miss his enthusiasm, wit, and his passion for Christian education and specifically for Eastern Christian. We wish Garry God's richest blessing in the years ahead.

## #ECGivingTuesday

Giving Tuesday was started in 2012 by the New York 92nd Street Y and the United Nations Foundation as a response to commercialization and consumerism in the post-Thanksgiving season. Each year since, participation has grown and this year it is estimated that more than \$35 million was donated globally to hundreds of non-profits.

Early in November we began to consider a simple social media campaign for #ECGivingTuesday. In very short order, we had a plan in place, a website set up, and our communications ready to go. We kicked off our campaign with a Facebook post and some emails on Tuesday, November 25. On Monday, December 1 our "sign boys" were at each campus holding signs to tell everyone that "Tomorrow is #ECGivingTuesday". And the buzz began.

Early on #ECGivingTuesday we began to see the donations come in. It was great fun to watch the website as our donor counts increased and the dollars crept toward our goal of \$10,000.00. By 6:00 PM we had reached the halfway mark and the first of our two challenge grants kicked in. By 10:00 PM, we had made our goal and that triggered a second challenge grant. Over the next few days, some additional gifts came in bringing our total for the event to \$14,000.00.

This was an amazing response by the EC community to our first social media fund raising campaign. We saw a total of 248 donors and an average gift (excluding the challenge grants) of about \$30.00. Nearly one-third of our faculty and staff participated and there were many first-time donors as well. Thanks to our challenge grant donors and to each and every one of you who participated, #ECGivingTuesday was a GREAT SUCCESS!

## Thank You To Our Generous 14-15 Business Drive Sponsors!

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R & R Truck Maintenance, Inc  
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Waldwick Printing Co.

# Fashion Show Recap

The 2014 Fashion Show Luncheon and Silent Auction was held at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ on November 1 with over 200 people in attendance. Prior to the start of the show guests enjoyed a delicious luncheon and had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items or browse vendor tables with a variety of clothing and accessories. EC students, parents, and teachers modeled fashions from area boutiques. EC parent Patti Peretti worked tirelessly to organize the event soliciting the vendors and boutiques, helping prepare the models and presenting the fashion show commentary highlighting trends and helpful fashion tips.

Thank you to all the models, volunteers, and guests who made the event a success and special thanks to Patti for using her gifts to bless EC through this event. The Fashion Show raised \$11,000 to support Eastern Christian Schools.



## Upcoming Fundraising Events

### **Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala**

Thursday, April 9, 2015

The Tides Estate, North Haledon, NJ

### **Golf Outing**

Monday, May 18, 2015

Black Bear Golf Club, Franklin, NJ

### **EC 5K Event**

Fall 2015

## 2015 Beefsteak

The annual Athletic Boosters Beefsteak dinner was held Jan. 28 at the Brownstone with 270 supporters enjoying a great meal and fellowship. This year, the event honored cheerleading. Many former cheerleaders attended, including **Kay (Postma) Veenstra '42**, the 'oldest' cheerleader in the room and **Nancy (Leesman) Eardley '70**, who traveled from Michigan to attend.

Students **Lyndsey Smith '15** opened with prayer and **Maggie Albies '16** and **Nicole Aoki '16** sang the National Anthem. Thank you to **Jeanne (Steenstra) Bushoven '76** who coordinated a very entertaining program and also to **Ben Spoelstra '81** and **Roger Steinginga '80**, co-chairs of the event. All proceeds from the evening will support EC's Athletic programs.



Kay (Postma) Veenstra



Former E.C. cheerleaders

# 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.*

**Betty (Lanting) Gonzales Bowers '49** has authored a book, *A Public Health Journey* which is available on Amazon.com.

**Agnes (Lindemulder) Fisher '61** has a new novel out, *A Sound of Rushing Water*. Her books are available on her website, <http://www.inkwellproductions.com> and soon to be on Amazon.

**Warren Van Wyck '70** was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives this past November. He was previously appointed to the chamber in 2013. He is a member of the General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee and a primary sponsor of 60 bills.

**Marcia Kuipers '84** recently competed on "Jeopardy" which aired on 12/30/14. When asked, "Did your EC education/experience play any role in preparing you for Jeopardy?" Marcia replied, "It was my EC teachers who instilled in me the love of learning, who encouraged my natural curiosity for facts and data, who challenged me to dig below the surface of basic information, all of which led me right to Jeopardy."



**Tom Henion Jr '04** was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America on 9/7/14. He is currently an Associate Pastor of Living Word Reformed Church in North Haledon.

**Brian Knorr '05** is Assistant Professor of Physics at the Florham Campus at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Brian received his MS and PhD from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.

**Erica (Lotz) Braunius '08** graduated in May 2014 from Rutgers University with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. She is employed by Genesis Rehab at the Christian Health Care Center, Wyckoff, NJ.

**Sarah Galo '09** is an intern on the Open Team with the US-branch of the Guardian. She works on the social media accounts, along with writing features for the Arts section.

**Scott De Jong '11** was selected by the LA Dodgers in the 2014 Major League Baseball draft this past June. Scott played 4 years of baseball at EC and continued playing at Felician College where he was named Player of the Year in the conference. He began his professional career in the Dodgers' Arizona league in Glendale, AZ and starts spring training there in March.

*continued on page 22*

## Paige Rainville '11



Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to study a town that has many ties to the community of Eastern Christian. An anthropology professor of mine asked me in the summer of 2012 to join him and a group of students in a community study of Prospect Park, NJ. As a sophomore in college, this was a unique opportunity to conduct research as an undergraduate. I was chosen because of the quality of my work in this professor's class, much attributed to my experience in the Humanities courses of Eastern Christian. After making my decision to join the research team, I jumped into the project, not realizing how closely related my own experiences would be to that of this small town. It turns out that many of my friends' parents and grandparents had grown up there, including some of my soon-to-be in-laws, and I was able to learn about what life was like in the earlier parts of the 20th century from those who lived through it. Conducting interviews with members of the Holland Home and even having informal conversations with those who heard of the project led the team to learn a vast amount of information about Prospect Park. As our project continued, I was pleasantly surprised to see the roots of my own high school found in this small town. The Christian faith was a huge part of this community, and my Christian education would not have been what it was without the pioneers of Prospect Park who came before me. Our research has been compiled into a book, titled *Images of America: Prospect Park*. The chapter that I wrote is on religion and how it really served as a foundation for the borough. I am a co-author of this book, and it has been my pleasure to share the history of a foundation that still impacts lives today!

The book is part of the *Images of America series – Prospect Park* available at Amazon.com

MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

Evonne and **Kevin Heerema '95** welcome Madison Marie on 7/26/14.

Catherine & **Ken Belanus '96** welcome Mason John on 07/13/14. He joins Ryan (5) and Kaitlyn (3).

Jon and **Rebecca (Vander Eems) Denekamp '98** welcome Rachel Praise on 11/6/14. She joins 3 big brothers, Charles, Dirk & Everett.

Kimberly and **Eric Veenstra '99** welcome Madelyn Grace on 6/21/14.

Kristen and Craig Borduin '00 welcome Elliot Karel on 7/12/14. He joins Chloe (age 5) and Charles (age 3).

Emma and **Bill Faasse '00** announce the birth of Abigail Louise on 2/24/14. She joins Liam (age 4).

Dave and **Heather (Bushoven) Troupos '01** welcome Bennett Andrew on 1/6/15. He joins big sister Alexandra (age 2).

**Jacob '02** and **Jillian (Berry) Tuit '05** announce the birth of Emma June on 9/27/14.

Ross and **Erin (Veenstra) Selby '02** welcome Taylor Michelle on 2/1/2014.

Kelly and **Brian Van Der Heide '02** welcome twins, Smith Hendrick and Reese Elizabeth on 12/3/14. They join Sawyer (age 1).

Ashley and **Tom Henion, Jr '04** welcome the birth of Noah Thomas on 9/16/14.

**Dan '04** and **Kelley (Greenfield) Westra '05** welcome Emma Faye on 12/24/14.

**Philip '05** and **Jenna (Hulsebos) Beverly '05** announce the birth of Sienna Mae on 7/18/14.

Marcos Marti and **Lauren De Jong '05** were married on 11/8/14 in Puerto Rico.

**Jay Everett '06** and Jessica Patterson were married on 10/19/14. They reside in Rahway, NJ.

**Peter Braunius '07** and **Erica Lotz '08** were married on 10/25/14. They live in Prospect Park, NJ.

**Dan '07** and **Bridget (Soodsma) Rainville '07** welcomed Ava Jean on 8/23/14.

Alex Carnes and **Allison Faber '09** were married on 7/13/14. They reside in Glendale, AZ.

**Kendall Everett '09** and Amy Baxter were married on 7/19/14. They are living in Haledon, NJ.

Kevin Boss and **Allison Vriesema '11** were married on 7/5/14. They live in Hawthorne, NJ.



Peter Braunius and Erica Lotz

REMEMBERING ...

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

FORMER FACULTY

**Lillian Eiten of Wellsburg, Iowa** on 1/10/15. Miss Eiten taught Latin and English at Eastern Christian High School from 1963 to 1979 and served as English Department Head Teacher for many years. She also directed many of the high school drama productions.

**Joanne Sweetman** of Grand Rapids, Mich on 10/31/14. Joanne taught grades 3 & 4 at Passaic Christian School and grade 4 at North 4th Street Christian School in the 1960's.

ALUMNI

**Emma Schuil '35** of North Haledon, NJ on 10/24/14. She was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.

**Agnes (Bush) Steenland '36** of Silver Spring, Maryland on 12/27/14. Agnes taught in the Eastern Christian School Association from 1967 to 1977 as a kindergarten teacher at North Fourth St. School and grades 1 & 2 at Passaic Christian School.

**Petronella "Nellie" (Haagsma) Venhuis '36** of Grant, Michigan on 12/11/14.

**Elmer Jeltjes '40** of Wyckoff, NJ on 9/5/2014. He served his country in the US Coast Guard during WWII. Elmer was an active member of Hawthorne Gospel Church.

**Harold De Roo '42** of Holland, Mi on 8/7/14. Rev. De Roo graduated from Western Theological Seminary. He was the pastor of many churches as well as serving as Youth Director for the Reformed Church in America.

**Edward Nyland '42** of Freehold, NJ on 11/14/14. Ed was a proud US Navy WWII veteran who served in the Silent Service, a name given to the submarine service in the Pacific Fleet.

**Kenneth Tanis '42** of North Haledon, NJ on 9/10/14. Ken served his country during WWII in the US Army Air Corps. Ken was a member of Unity CRC, in Prospect Park, NJ. He demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service on various committees for his church, Eastern Christian School, and the Holland Christian Home.

**Marion (Dykstra) Paterson '45** of North Haledon, NJ on 6/16/2014.

**Barney Sweetman '46** of Fairfield, NJ on 12/23/14. Barney was a member and elder at Ebenezer Netherlands Reformed Church in Franklin Lakes, NJ.

**Josephine (Kort) Winters '46** of North Haledon, NJ on 9/20/14. Jo was a lifelong member of the Christian Reformed Church.

**James Lont '47** of Grand Rapids, Mich on 5/14/14. He was a graduate of Calvin College Seminary and was the pastor of churches in MN, IL and served as Director of the Young Calvinist Federation.

**Cornelius "Neil" Bushoven '49** of North Haledon, NJ on 12/22/14. He was a member of the Cedar Hill CRC in Wyckoff.

**Marilyn (Pelgrim) Fischer '49** of Pensacola, Fl on 2/4/2013.

**William Zuidema '50** of Haskell, NJ on 9/8/14. He was a lifetime member of Unity CRC in Prospect Park, NJ.

**James Wisse '50** of North Haledon, NJ on 10/6/14. He served his country during the Korean War in the US Air Force. He was a member of Covenant CRC, North Haledon, and previously at Northside CRC, Clifton.

**Henry “Jupe” Joustra ’51** of Hawthorne, NJ on 12/17/14. He was a member of Unity CRC in Prospect Park and a volunteer with the Hawthorne Fire Company for 56 years.

**Christine (Tanis) Vos ’52** of Georgetown, Mich on 10/31/14.

**Mae (Bangma) Rienstra ’55** of East Stroudsburg, PA on 10/13/14. She attended the Shawnee Presbyterian Church, and worked with her husband as a Retiree Chaplain for retired pastors, spouses, and/or their widows in the Reformed Church In America.

**Julia (Dyer) Van Heemst ’56** of Hawthorne, NJ on 6/22/14. She was a member of Cedar Hill CRC, Wyckoff, NJ.

**Wilma (Struyk) Tamboer ’58** of Vero Beach, Fl and Brielle, NJ on 7/9/14. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Vero Beach.

**Garry Hazen ’58** of Inlet, NY on 6/18/14. He served his country in the US Army.

**Bernard Malda ’58** of Bloomingdale, NJ on 9/21/14. He was a member of The Gideons International.

**Elizabeth (Vereb) Meyer ’58** of Hollywood, Florida on 10/5/14.

**Judith (Lehmer) Cooper ’62** of Fort Collins, CO on 7/23/14. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins where she was a member of the choir for many years as well as having served as both elder and deacon.

**Paul De Witte ’64** of Wyckoff, NJ on 8/11/14.

**Edward N. Kuiken ’66** of Midland Park on 6/13/14. He served in the U.S. Army and fought in the Vietnam War.

**Barry Hoekstra ’74** of Alexandria, LA on 9/26/14. Barry graduated magna cum laude from Centenary College of Shreveport in 1989, and went on to Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary of Evanston, Illinois, where he earned a Master of Divinity in 1992. At the time of his death he was senior pastor at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church of Shreveport.

**Ellen (Spalt) Faber ’86** of North Haledon, NJ on 7/5/14. Ellen was a member of Cedar Hill CRC of Wyckoff, NJ where she served as Sunday school teacher, GEM’s Counselor and Children’s Church leader.

**Daniel Sikkema ’01** of Mt. Dora, FL on 10/4/14.

## Remembering Former Board Members

*Over the years, our community has been blessed by many dedicated volunteers who gave of themselves to advance the mission of Christian education. In remembering the following individuals, we gratefully acknowledge their contributions as members of the Eastern Christian School Association Board of Directors.*

### **Cornelius “Neil” Bushoven**

Neil served on EC’s Board of Directors during 1975-1978 and again from 1991-1993 during which time he was Board President (91-92) and Treasurer (92-93). He also served on the Finance Committee, Salary and Policy Committee and the 100th Anniversary Committee.

### **Josephine (Kort) Winters**

She was the first woman to be elected to EC’s Board of Directors in 1977 and served from 1977 through 1980 during which time she also served on the Education Committee

### **James Wisse**

Jim was a ECSA board member from 1968-1970.

## 2015 REUNIONS

### *Class of 1965: 50-YEAR REUNION*

Anna Mae Bush reports that survey replies continue to come in. Tentative plans are to have a reunion in Michigan in September, and in NJ in October. For more information, please contact Anna Mae at [annamaebush@gmail.com](mailto:annamaebush@gmail.com) or 195 Suffolk St, Pentwater, Mich 49449.

## REUNION UPDATE

### Are you a member of one of the following classes?

2005 – 10 yr	1995 – 20 yr	1990 – 25 yr
1985 – 30 yr	1980 – 35 yr	1975 – 40 yr
1970 – 45 yr	1965 – 50 yr	1960 – 55 yr

***If so, 2015 is your year for a reunion! It’s not too early to get started.***

***Let us know if you are willing to help - call EC’s Foundation Office at 973-427-9294; email: [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org) or connect online at [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) and click on Alumni in the upper right corner.***

***We look forward to hearing from you!***

REUNION UPDATE

# Class of 1994: 20-Year Reunion



Six classmates from the Class of 1994 gathered at Pellegrino's in North Haledon in June, 2014. The gathering was small, yet sweet and so much fun. We laughed, shared some funny memories and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company.

*From L to R: Brandon Van Dyke, Bonnie Mulcock Van Dyke, Kimberly Vermeulen Belisle, Sara Sonderfan Heerema, Michael Heerema, Annette Morgan, Brett Morgan, Tara Cook, Bill Cook.*

## Attention Class of: 1955, 1950, 1945, 1940, 1935

EC's Foundation Office will host a luncheon again this year for these combined years in anniversary of their graduations on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at Eastern Christian High School. If you have not received information in the mail, please contact the Foundation office or email: [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org)

# Class of 1964: 50-Year Reunion



*Members of the Class of 1964*

Class of 1959 held their 55th Reunion on Friday, July 25, 2014 at Ossy's Cafe in Hawthorne, NJ.

REUNION UPDATE

# Heritage Years

Wednesday, June 25, 2014, members of the Class of 1939, 1944, 1949 and 1954 were invited to gather in Eastern Christian High School's cafeteria for a luncheon and time of fellowship. Although no members from the Class of '39 were in attendance, classmates George & Verna Belanus sent their regards and noted that they celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 28, 2014! Several of those attending arrived from out-of-state. It was a great time of fellowship and reminiscing. The Eastern Christian Alumni Office thanks all of the supporters that attended as well as those who could not attend, yet sent a note of support. Garry Nieuwenhuis, then Executive Director of the Foundation for ECSA reviewed for the attendees the history of Christian education in North Jersey from its earliest beginnings in 1892 to the present. Since all who attended graduated from Eastern Academy, special attention was focused on the years from 1954 to the present when the name Eastern Academy changed to Eastern Christian School.



**Class of 1949: Seated (L to R):** Milo Veenstra, Susan Sonderfan Schuyler, Ann Sybesma Bushoven, Betty Lanting Bowers. **Standing:** Bert Bysterbusch, Ivan Tanis, Herman Kuiken, Edward Van Schepen, Albert De Roo.



**Class of 1944: Seated (L to R):** Diena (Minnema) Unrath, Betty (Tanis) Vander Plaat, Raeanna (Dyksen) Dykhouse. **Standing:** Edward Hoogstra, Mildred (Wisse) Link.



**Class of 1954: Seated (L to R):** Julia Belanus, Charlotte Sinke Elzinga, Kenneth Kline, Richard Schuurman, Arlene Dobbelaar De Vuyst, Helen Jans Joustra, Kathleen Smid Gorter, Robert Struyk, John Stellingwerf. **Standing:** Anna Jean Cook Leegwater, Anna May Van Breda McGrogan, Ethel Tanis Baum, Grace Roukema, Irene Veenema Groenewal, Ann Smith Herring, Annamae Huizing Hulsebos, Fred Lanting, Lois Van Althuis Lyman, Jane Vermaas Malyfyt, Eunice Meyers Broersma.

# ANNUAL FUND

## What Is The Annual Fund Anyway?

**In the short amount of time I have been the Executive Director of the Foundation for ECSA, I have repeatedly heard the question: “What is the Annual Fund anyway?”**

And the question isn't a new one. Years ago, serving as a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees, we often discussed the fact that many, especially new EC families, were confused by our Annual Fund appeals. So let's see if we can clarify things just a bit.

No one's Eastern Christian tuition, that's right no one's, pays the full cost of their education. We all know that EC provides a significant amount of scholarship to families that apply for assistance. What many of us don't realize is that even those who pay full tuition are not paying the full cost of their education. There is a GAP between the cost of education and full tuition. For the 2014-2015 academic year, that GAP is almost \$2,000,000.00.



Together these activities make up The Annual Fund. Your participation in any one of these events or appeals blesses each and every student at Eastern Christian by reducing tuition. Without your generous support, many families could not afford Christian education and those who could, would be paying considerably more than they do today.

# ANNUAL FUND DONORS

January 14, 2014 – January 12, 2015

*We thank the following donors who have generously contributed toward achieving our Annual Fund goal and provided resources to the Scholarship Fund and/or Angel Fund to continue our mission of providing quality Christ-centered education at Eastern Christian School.*

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*continued on page 28*

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# DESIGNATED GIFTS

June 11, 2014 – January 13, 2015

Thank you to all who made donations to support Christian education at EC. During this time period, gifts given in memory or in honor of a loved one totaled \$21,171.00. All gifts are placed in Eastern Christian School's Endowment Fund unless otherwise indicated.

## *In Memory of*

### **Margaret Archard**

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*continued on page 30*

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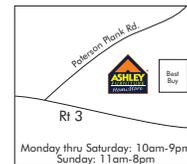
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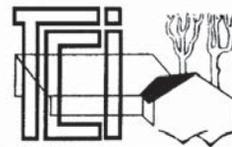


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# EC SPORTS

## 400 Wins

BY LINDSAY HOPE '17

**B**arry Veenstra has achieved 400 wins during his coaching career. The milestone win came during a girls varsity soccer game in the fall.

Veenstra began coaching in 1981. "I have been doing this a long time and I've coached a lot of good players," he said. In regards to the game that gave him his 400th win, he added, "I was pleased with how well the team played. There was a nice crowd there and I wanted them to show what they could do. We had struggled against Manchester the first time we played them so it was good to see some quality defense, passing and finishing." The soccer team beat Manchester in overtime 3-2 during the first meeting. In the second meeting that led to the 400th win, EC beat Manchester 4-0.

"I was aware that the next win would be the 400th win, but I did not think anyone, except maybe my wife, was keeping track," Veenstra said. "As I walked across the field to where the spectators were, I saw all the former

players there. I was overwhelmed by their support and congratulations."

Past and present players had a lot of encouraging words for the dedicated coach. Sophomore left midfielder **Alyssa Botbyl** described Coach Veenstra as "someone to look up to. I admire his time and his love for the sport." Sophomore stopper **Brenna Duffy** added, "He has taught us to reflect Christ, and to be a good sport. It's not winning or losing, it is soccer."

Sophomore goalie **Brooke Van Lenten** said, "Thank you for always believing that I can do better, and I can be a better player at all times, and also for being a friend and a coach."

Mr. Veenstra is the interim athletic director for this school year, and also coaches girls varsity basketball. In addition to coaching, he serves as the high school health and physical education teacher.

Congratulations coach!



# That's the Spirit



8th grade students pose for a picture during the rally.



Sixth graders **Rachel Baker** and **Karlee Bordin**

Sept. 18 was a good day to be a middle school eagle. Fifth through eighth graders celebrated the opening of middle school fall athletics with a high-energy pep rally complete with games, music and lots of cheers.

In addition to the typical activities expected at a pep rally, the middle school version included a variety of competitions in a 'Pro. vs. Joe' format. The 50-plus athletes in attendance were pitted against the rest of the school, competing in events such as relay races, football tosses, and 'sky catcher'—a

game unique to the school that involved catching a punt from **Marc Spoelstra**, physical education teacher. The teams ended the competition with a tie.

The pep rally "creates a special time for ECMS athletes to be recognized for their work, but it's much more than that when the whole school comes together to celebrate as a community," says Spoelstra. "That community building is what makes school sports so much fun for everyone."

The middle school celebrates with a pep rally bi-annually. The second rally took place in January to usher in the basketball season.

**Boys Varsity Soccer:** The boys finished the year with a 4-15-1 record. Exciting games of note included the back and forth tie with Glen Rock and the comeback win vs. Pompton Lakes when **Jake Veenstra** scored with 10 seconds left to tie the game before **Adam Dykstra** scored the winning shot in overtime.

Players receiving All League recognition included juniors **Jason**

**Englishmen** (1st Team), **Sam Veenstra** (2nd Team) and **Richard Bruffy** (2nd Team); and senior **Danny Figueroa** (Honorable Mention). Jason and Sam also received Honorable Mention for Passaic County.

Thank you parents, friends, alumni, and all the faithful blue and gold supporters for helping make this a fun season of soccer for the team.

-Coach **Marc Spoelstra**



**Danny Figueroa**



*Lyndsey Smith*

**Girls Varsity Soccer:** The girls finished with a record of 11-9-1 despite fielding the youngest lineup in team history. Five of their losses were by one goal to high quality programs, including Glen Rock, Pompton Lakes and Park Ridge. Exciting wins over Rutherford, Lodi, and Passaic Valley in the county tournament and a home win in the state tournament marked a fun season for the team.

Sophomore **Erin Vander Plaat** (1st Team All League and All County) led the league and county in scoring with 26 goals. Sophomore **Brianna Altamuro** (2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County) led the team with 11 assists. Senior captain **Lyndsey Smith** (1st Team All League, 2nd Team All County) anchored the defense in front of sophomore **Brooke Van Lenten** (Honorable Mention All League and County) who recorded 8 shutouts on the season. With nine starters returning the future looks bright for the Eagles! -Coach Barry Veenstra



*Blair Bohuny*

**Girls Varsity Tennis:** Coming into the season I didn't know what to expect and the girls were unsure how they would compete in our league this year. Feeling optimistic and hopeful, they realized a few weeks into the season that they would be a challenge for most of the teams they would compete with. We ended up with a winning record in our league of 7-6 and an overall record of 10-7 (including a few non-league games and our state match).

I am very proud of what our team accomplished this year, having a few Varsity returners from last year and a handful of girls who hadn't played at this level of competition. It was a fun and sunny season, with only our last game being played out in the rain. I am so grateful to have been the coach this year and am looking forward to next year.

End of season honors include: 2nd Team All County and 1st Team All League: **Blair Bohuny**; Honorable Mention All County: **Caitlin Shurminsky** and **Rachel Schultz**; Honorable Mention All League, **Rachel Schultz**. -Coach Amy Hulsebos



Emma Hagedoorn and Jayna Van Buiten

**Girls Varsity Volleyball:** Varsity Volleyball ended its season at the state tournament level with a loss to Paul XI. Senior setter **Jayna Van Buiten** had 3 aces and 12 assists during the final match, keeping EC close during the first half of the match. Junior **Emma Hagedoorn** had 4 blocks and held Paul XI's middle hitter at bay throughout most of the game. Overall, volleyball ended its season with a 6-16 record. Jayna Van Buiten and **Nicole Aoki** took home league and county honors, while senior **Anita Karr** received honorable mention in the county.

Seven dedicated seniors will be graduating from the program. We look forward to next year where Junior Libero Nicole Aoki and middle hitter Emma Hagedoorn will surely step up to fill some big shoes.  
-Coach Steffanie Honore



Carter Heerema

**Boys Cross Country:** Boys cross country finished the season 2-6, led by captain **Carter Heerema**. The season concluded with an impressive run at states, where the team placed 14 out of 23 teams.

“The boys improved all the way through the season. They definitely had their best meets at the county, EC invitational, and the state meets. The highlight for the guys was their state meet; everyone did great. We even got some personal bests,” said **coach Joel Apol**.

Post season, Carter Heerema earned 2nd Team All League and Honorable Mention All County.



Kelly Bosloper

**Girls Cross Country:** The girl's record was 5-4, and the lady Eagles also came in eighth place during The Passaic County Cross Country Championships. **Kelly Bosloper** individually placed 20th that race, earning 2nd team All County. “The season was a lot of fun with lots of improvement. There were, however, injuries and illnesses that kept our team from its highest potential. A highlight for the girls was our win against Pompton Lakes, where we had most of the whole team with us that day,” said **coach Joel Apol**.

In addition to earning county honors, sophomore Kelly Bosloper earned 1st Team All League. **Hannah Campbell** was named Honorable Mention All County, and senior **Erin Van Lenten** led the team as captain.

# Eastern Christian's Got Spirit



*Fans of all ages join the spirit squad in a line dance during halftime.*

BY KRISTEN CASEY '17

Imagine sitting in the stands and watching a basketball home game. Bleachers are packed and the game is tied with a few seconds left. Then suddenly, the top player steals the ball and runs down the sideline. The crowd screams as the player takes a shot at the 3-point line. The buzzer goes off and – swish. The crowd goes wild as the spirit squad leads the way and the mascot encourages fans to their feet.

This year, students decided it was time to bring back cheerleading in the form of a Spirit Squad club. With about 15 members in the club, Alisa Engelhard started the group with the goal of bringing more fans to

the games. The basketball season kicked off this year with some changes aimed at involving more fans.

“I hope to get fans to come to games and to be more encouraging,” said Engelhard. “Next year, we hope to be an athletic team.”

Freshman **Lesley Bond** and sophomore **Ashley Silva** are both members of the spirit squad. They are really excited to build school spirit. Ashley has been cheerleading since second grade for her town, Wayne, and for her former school. “I was going to do track but since I already do dance, I thought it was too much. I wanted to be more involved with the

school,” said Ashley. Lesley said, “I haven’t cheered but I have danced. I’m looking forward to just having a lot of fun.”

To prepare, the club has practiced many cheers by themselves, as well as with the newly formed pep band, an announcer, and music. They are cheering for both the girls and boys home basketball games and have come with many ideas for the season. Some of these ideas include selling merchandise, selling food, and having a team shirt-gun for home games.

“I like going to games and supporting the school,” said Ashley.



*The boys get ready for their first home game.*



*Henry Ruitenber* looks to break the tie at the free-throw line.



*Jason Englishmen* takes a shot while a packed student section looks on.

## 2014-2015 Athletic Awards

### Tennis

Blair Bohuny	First Team All League Second Team All County
Caitlin Shurminsky	Honorable Mention All County
Rachel Schultz	Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County

### Boys' Cross Country

Carter Heerema	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County
Will Fan	Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County

### Girls' Cross Country

Kelly Bosloper	First Team All League Second Team All County
Erin Van Lenten	Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County
Hannah Campbell	Honorable Mention All County

### Girls' Soccer

Lyndsey Smith	First Team All League Second Team All County
Erin Vander Plaat	First Team All League First Team All County
Brianna Altamuro	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County
Brooke Van Lenten	Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County

### Boys' Soccer

Jason Englishmen	First Team All League Honorable Mention All County
Sam Veenstra	Second Team All League Honorable Mention All County
Richard Bruffy	Second Team All League
Danny Figueroa	Honorable Mention All League

### Volleyball

Jayna Van Buiten	Second Team All League Second Team All County
Nicole Aoki	Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County
Anita Karr	Honorable Mention All County

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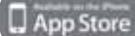
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