

# THE *Herald*

FALL 2012  
VOL. 53, ISSUE 2

A PUBLICATION OF **EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



# 214 *Graduates* in 2012



2012-2013  
**Annual Fund  
Appeal**  
**SEE PAGE 22**





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

## CELEBRATE!



As this issue of *The Herald* is being printed, Eastern Christian School is celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on the hot and steamy night of August 17, 1892. Even though our founders were men of great vision and foresight, it is hard to imagine that they could have foreseen the legacy that they were creating in the form of the Eastern Christian School of the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

This issue of *The Herald* reports on the exciting developments underway at Eastern Christian today, events such as

- The launch of Eagles Learning Center to provide high quality academic support and enrichment to students from EC and surrounding communities
- The renovation of the N.H. Beversluis Media Center at Eastern Christian High School to support distance learning initiatives and multi-media research
- The relocation and expansion of Eastern Christian's Early Childhood Education program
- The expansion and very intentional upgrade of our mission to transform the world by hosting international students at the high school and middle school level.

What an exciting time to be a part of the vibrant Christian learning community envisioned by our founders so many years ago!

This issue also chronicles a marvelous week of celebration held on all of our campuses in June as we marked that accomplishments and graduations of 71 high school students and 66 eighth graders, the promotion of 46 fourth graders, and the graduation of 31 preschool students. Graduation week was a fantastic week of celebration for the families of each of these students and for our entire school community as we marked the many contributions made by each one of them during the time that they had been entrusted to us by God and their families.

I hope that this issue of *The Herald* truly communicates the sense of excitement permeating our school community as we mark 120 years of God's rich blessing on the little Christian school founded on that steamy night in 1892!

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.  
Psalm 100:5 NIV*

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



# THE Herald

FALL 2012  
VOLUME 53 ISSUE 2

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Josh Bruins and Brian Vivolo



Barbara Belanus

**DON'T  
MISS THE**

**2012-2013  
ANNUAL FUND  
DONATION  
ENVELOPE**

*in the center  
of this issue!*

## ABOUT THE COVER

Diplomas or Certificates of  
Achievement were handed out to  
(clockwise from left):

Chrislee Butcher, Justin Kim,  
Maggie Albies, and Alex Culp

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

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Sandra Bottge  
Andrew Culp  
Joel Uecker



# CAMPUS NEWS



(left to right) Sophomores **Angela Varney** and **Rachel Barrett**, and seniors **Tania Avila** and **Morgan De Marco**

## Spring Break with Orphans, Widows, & the Poor

BY ELI HERNANDEZ AND MEGAN WYNBEEK, SENIORS

**T**wenty eight high school students and six teachers took part in Eastern Christian's Experiencing Missions class this spring, culminating in trips to Uganda, Honduras, and Boston. EC partnered with Touch the World, a short-term missions organization located in Wyckoff, NJ. It was the first year that EC sent a mission team to Boston, and the 4<sup>th</sup> year that EC students traveled to Honduras and Uganda.

### B O S T O N

The Boston team traveled to Lynn, Mass., a suburb north of Boston. The team's primary mission was to demonstrate to the urban poor that God's love is free; they handed out free hot chocolate, coffee, and groceries. They also prayed for the people they met while working.

The students walked through the town, trying to engage the people they met in conversation, and invited them to a Sunday church service

at East Coast International Church. The team also worked for hours on reconstructing and repainting the church building. "We cleaned a lot of stuff!" said junior **Elijah Jefferson**. "We had to move carpet tiles from the fifth floor of the church all the way down to the first floor." The team also helped to lead Sunday worship.

### U G A N D A

The Ugandan team spent most of their week in the remote village of Adak in northern Uganda, living without electricity or running water. There they worked on building a hut from the ground up, visited an orphanage, led Vacation Bible Study classes, and went on a prayer walk.

"We made the mud hut from scratch! We made the bricks, transported them, and slowly built the hut," said junior **Jeff Clark**. Construction of the hut took most of their time, and was the hardest project many of the students





Juniors **Dan Gorter** and **Dan Vivolo**



Junior **Derek Dumani**, sophomore **Krystal Rodriguez**, and juniors **Julie Van Buiten** and **Elijah Jefferson**

had ever done. "Building the hut was really hard. It was so hot, and we had to transport heavy jugs of water too. But in the end it was worth it to help out the widowed woman who lives there now," said junior **Anthony Figueroa**.

## HONDURAS

Fourteen students went to Casa Cielo Orphanage in Honduras. They gave parties for the children throughout the week, to share God's love with them. Some of the students participated in a soccer ministry, playing ball with many local youth and young adults while also witnessing to them.

Sophomore **Angela Varney** said, "My favorite part of the trip was our team. I made friendships that I am convinced will last at least throughout the rest of high school. I've never laughed so hard in one week, and I learned so much from them."

## God's Soaring Eagles

*Del Sambucetti, the Country Director for Touch the World in Honduras, worked closely with the Spring Break mission trip. He wrote this reflection for The Herald.*

A group of high school students has come down every year for the past 4 years looking to make a difference in the lives of the lost, hungry and abandoned of Honduras. They impact and touch so many lives while they are down here. They are truly God's soaring eagles.

These students are from Eastern Christian High School. For the past four years we have worked with EC's Experiencing Missions teacher **Debbie Herbst** and Eastern Christian on training and developing these students into true warriors for Christ. They come down with a servant's heart. Through their class, Debbie has empowered these young people with the Word and a hunger for missions. Eastern Christian has been a beacon of light here in Honduras. They have been involved in feeding the hungry, ministering in the local hospital, going into public schools and sharing the love of Christ, building an extra room in a school that was quickly running out of room, working alongside a sports ministry which helps young men become men of God and not fall into lives of drugs, violence, and crime, and painting an entire orphanage with 24 children.

They have truly been eagles flying high, providing shade to the weak, hungry, and abandoned. Some of these students still continue to come down to us, even after they have graduated and are now in college.

Eastern Christian has sown good seed and is reaping a harvest of young men and women that are God's gems. We love having them and are eternally grateful for the impact they have had on our lives. We want to thank you Eastern Christian; continue to fly high and we will see you next year!

# Making a Difference

**E**astern Christian Middle School students impacted their local communities again this year with their Make A Difference (MAD) projects. Every grade in middle school partnered with a local

organization, and tried to answer an essential question about a topic the organization was involved in. The project required students to research, brainstorm, fundraise, and put their faith into action.

## FIFTH GRADE: BUILDING COMMUNITY

BY KATE SKROBALA, SENIOR

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class partnered with Habitat for Humanity Paterson to study their theme of "Building Community." The students researched and learned about Habitat for Humanity globally, while also focusing on the local Habitat for Humanity Paterson.

The class participated in the annual Hammering for Habitat event, where they raised money for the wood beams used in building local houses. Students signed the beams before hammering them into sections which will be used to build houses in Paterson.

Students also helped landscape two houses built by Habitat for Humanity in Paterson. First, students created proposals for the landscaping project. In March, they held a Donor Day in the Middle School Gym. Students presented their proposals to local businesses, explaining what equipment they would need and why their project should be funded. The local businesses donated all that was needed and more. Teacher **Naomi Braunius** said, "I was touched by how much our community donated."

In May, the class worked together with high school students for two days to put their plans into action at the homes in Paterson. Mrs. Braunius said, "It was a big eye-opening experience. It brought tears to my eyes seeing our kids embracing the school motto and core values."



*The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class landscaping in Paterson*

## SIXTH GRADE: HOMELESSNESS

BY KEITH RING, SENIOR

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Make A Difference project focused on the effects of homelessness, drugs and alcohol. They partnered with the Good Shepherd Mission, an organization to help homeless people get off the street and back on their feet in Paterson.

Before starting with Good Shepherd, the class went through the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. In the end of the year presentations about MAD, many students spoke about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and learned how to say no and stay away from them.

After they had completed their course, they began fundraising. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders took the money they earned through candy sales and other fundraisers to Walmart, and bought everyday items for the clients at the Good Shepherd Mission.

One night the students went to the Mission and served dinner to the clients. After dinner they served brownies and ice cream. The students were excited after seeing how happy their ministry had made the people they served.



## SEVENTH GRADE: BEING MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

BY TOM LACY, SENIOR

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders partnered with the Children's Therapy Center (CTC) Upper School in Midland Park to ask the question "What does it mean to be made in God's image?"

The highlight of the project was the day EC visited the CTC. The students at the CTC ranged from 11-13 years old, the same age as many of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade ECMS students. Each EC student was paired up with a buddy from the CTC. This was the first time that many students saw what each of the disabled children had to go through every day. They

spent the day singing songs, playing games and reading books together.

"I loved going to CTC. I've always been nervous about people with disabilities, but my buddy was so sweet. I got a new perspective on children with these conditions," said **Abbi Johnson**.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders also held a "Compassion Day," where the students simulated having a disability to get a first hand experience about what it's like to accomplish every day tasks while being disabled.

## EIGHTH GRADE: FIGHTING POVERTY

BY SARAH BRUINOOGUE, SENIOR



*David Hefty and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at a car wash*

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Make A Difference (MAD) partnered with New Hope Ministries, a food bank and community outreach ministry in Prospect Park, to learn about physical and spiritual poverty.

The class held a car wash on May 5, raising \$1,000 for New Hope. They also held a work day at the New Hope office, spending the day cleaning, planting a garden, and packaging food.

The girls planned a special activity for the female clients of New Hope. They held a spa night at Bridgeway Community Church. **Jeanne Didio** said, "We did their hair and makeup. It was a really fun time and it was a good experience for everyone."

The whole eighth grade also spent time recording themselves reading children's books, in order to build a library of audio books for New Hope.

Not only did the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have to go out and do hands-on learning to help people, but they also had to write a research paper and put together a portfolio. The focus of the research paper and portfolio was to try to incorporate all of their academic subjects into their MAD learning experiences.

**Kyle Dykstra** said that working with poverty-stricken people, "brought me closer to God."

## The New Eagles Learning Center

When does learning happen? Does learning only happen from 8:15am to 3:00pm, 183 days a year, September to mid-June?

Of course not! We are always learning as we interact with others and form relationships, and as we interact with the circumstances of life and persevere by faith. However, while learning is not confined by scheduled hours in a classroom, it is best facilitated through mentoring, coaching and teaching by others who have mastered what we want to learn.

Eastern Christian School's newest educational endeavor, Eagles Learning Center (ELC), will provide the experts, teachers, mentors, and tutors that students from Eastern Christian and surrounding communities need to maximize their learning experiences. By providing personalized learning plans that will set achievable short and long-term goals and tracking learning based on those goals, ELC will enhance each student's learning experience at an affordable price.

Rising out of both international students' needs and parents' inquiries regarding test preparation support, ELC was conceptualized to meet the demand for after-school education. It is scheduled for official launch in fall 2012 with a full menu of academic services ranging from test preparation programs to academic support. Overall, ELC will provide a wide range of quality learning opportunities in the form of academic after-school programs. All the programs will be customized for a variety of levels (basic vs. intensive) and settings (group vs. semi-private/small group) as well as individual tutoring as determined upon private consultation with students, teachers, and parents.

Offering enrichment and remedial programs for middle school students, and SAT/ACT prep, English Language Learning, tutoring, and additional specialized courses for high school students, Eagles Learning Center will be open every school day after school into the evening and will have Saturday hours during the school year. When school closes for the summer break, ELC will have daily summer hours. Programs will take place both in the middle school and in the high school.

Want to know more? You may contact ELC Director **Susan Chang** at [susiechang@easternchristian.org](mailto:susiechang@easternchristian.org) or go to [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) and click on Eagles Learning Center.

## A Break from Class, An Opportunity to Serve



Sophomores **Kathryn Post** and **Cheryl Steenstra**

BY SARAH BRUINOOGUE, SENIOR

On Friday, May 18, EC High School students participated in an all-school Service Day. There were 19 different service projects that reached out to the community to help others through physical labor or building relationships. Some of these groups stayed at the school, while most went out to various towns. Students signed up for the project of their choice.

Some groups went through Prospect Park and Goffle Brook Park picking up trash, while others helped the EC Elementary School students with their annual Field Day. There were students that helped landscape the front of school, and some that went to New York City with the Relief Bus, an organization that serves food to homeless people on the streets. One group went to the Memorial Elementary School in North Haledon to read to and play with the kids. Junior **Vanessa Veenstra** said that she loved it so much that, "it solidified my decision to be an elementary school teacher!"

The new student-led service organization Generation Hope helped the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with their Habitat for Humanity project in Paterson. They received a lot of insight in witnessing the personal lives of the residents there. "It was a great learning experience and it put into perspective the things that we take for granted," said junior **Tom Lacy**.

Every group did something unique to reach out to others. At the end of the day, the students came back to participate in a chapel service, where every group had the opportunity to share what they did. It was easy to tell by the smiles on the students faces that everyone had a good day. Students said they were proud to be witnesses for Eastern Christian and to put their faith into action.



# Students Generate Hope

Junior **Tom Lacy** went to the nurses' office one day this spring during math class. He admitted later it wasn't because he was feeling ill, but that he wanted a break from class. He then had a striking realization that he took a lot for granted: he started thinking of all the children in the world that didn't even have a chance to attend a math class.

For Tom, this epiphany demanded action. Soon, he and junior **Andrew Fiedler** had a plan for a new non-profit organization called Generation Hope. Throughout the spring, the students in Generation Hope created opportunities for service: raising money for immediate local needs, sponsoring a clothing drive, and more. Their most ambitious project this spring was holding an American Red Cross blood drive inside the ECHS gymnasium.

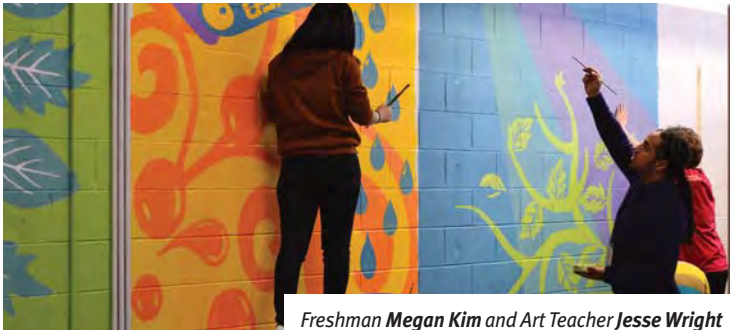
The blood drive took place on May 11. All told, the faculty, staff, and students of Eastern Christian were able to donate 40 pints of blood. According to the Red Cross volunteers, each pint is able to save the lives of three people.

Generation Hope has plans to continue as a non-profit organization larger than an EC student group. Already, its impact has been felt in many lives throughout northern NJ.



Sophomore **Bethany Kuiken**

# High School Media Center Renovations



Freshman **Megan Kim** and Art Teacher **Jesse Wright**

The Eastern Christian graduate profile articulates a vision of the outcomes the school desires to see reached in the life of every graduate. Specifically, graduates of ECHS "...will think critically, exhibit curiosity and develop the discernment that will enable him/her to confidently and intentionally strive for excellence in every endeavor." All programs at Eastern Christian need to contribute to this very important outcome, so that our students are prepared to honor Christ by transforming the world.

A 21<sup>st</sup> century media center is a vital tool for seeing this vision become a reality. It was for this reason that Principal **Joel Uecker** met with former High School Media Center Specialist **Ben Kuiken** and Director of Operations **John Belanus** in September, 2011 to discuss multi-faceted improvements to the Media Center. The space was in need of a new

floor, updated and mobile technology, updated literature, and furniture which will better facilitate these improvements. With the help of freelance designer and Spanish Teacher **Claudia Cortes**, plans were conceived and drawn. Media Center Aides **Laurie Genzink** and **Jean Huntington** were instrumental in preparing for the updating of reading materials. This team spent the bulk of the 2011-2012 school year planning for a significant summer makeover.

The summer of 2012 will bring a beautiful new floor to the media center, along with new technology, and a new Media Center Specialist **Ruth Rudd**. The N.H. Beversluis Media Center Media Center is to be a space where students collaborate with one another, perform research, learn how to read critically, and work in groups.

This project is done without the help of any tuition money and made possible by generous donors in the school community. The ECSA Foundation Office has announced the receipt of an anonymous donation of \$25,000 to be applied toward the cost to renovate the Media Center. According to Dr. Uecker, this gift represents approximately one half of the total funds needed to complete the planned renovations. God has been so gracious in His provision for our school. If you would like to join this effort and help EC fulfill its mission in the lives of students, please contact ECSA Foundation Director **Garry Nieuwenhuis**. We hope you get a chance to see our new media center soon!



## Thanks to Atlantic Stewardship Bank

At a recent regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Eastern Christian School Association (ECSA), representatives of the Board of Directors of Atlantic Stewardship Bank (ASB) presented Eastern Christian School with their annual generous donation from the Bank's corporate tithing program. Atlantic Stewardship Bank has been a strong and consistent donor and supporter of Eastern Christian from the very beginning of the bank's existence, for which we are most grateful.

Presenting the check are (l-r) **William Hanse**, Chairman, Board of Directors, ASB, **Nicholas Kuiken**, President, Board of Directors, ECSA, **John Steen**, Member of the Board of Directors, ASB and **Thomas Dykhous**, Head of School, ECSA.

## Exploring Core Values

BY HEIDI LINEWEAVER, SENIOR

The elementary school students studied the six "Core Values" of Eastern Christian in depth this spring in their Problem-Based Learning (PBL) project.

The six core values are: striving for excellence, serving others, exhibiting compassion, seeking truth, embracing community, and developing responsibility. Each grade level was assigned a core value and created a project to put their value into action.

The Kindergarten classes were assigned to "embrace community." The Kindergarteners wrote invitations to the neighbors near school to invite them to their Christmas chapel. They also prayed for their communities and hoped that they would learn the true meaning of Christmas.

The first graders learned the value of serving others. They studied natural disasters, and raised money to support families who were affected

by recent disasters by having a bake sale.

The second graders exhibited compassion through their work on saving endangered animals. Each student studied an endangered animal and created a diorama. They then presented their diorama museum to the public at the school open house. They sold pencils to raise \$200 for the World Wildlife Fund.

The third grade researched both historical and modern figures who "strove for excellence" during their lifetimes. Similarly, the fourth grade class studied the value of seeking truth by studying important figures of history that sought truth.

All of the classes shared their projects with the whole school during a chapel in April, and each student became better aware about the school's core values.



# Preschool is Moving

Exciting changes are taking place in Eastern Christian Preschool in preparation for the 2012-2013 school year. Preschool classes are moving into three classrooms in a dedicated Primary Program wing at the elementary school. This move allows more flexibility in scheduling the 3-Year-Old, 4-Year-Old and Junior Kindergarten classes to meet parent needs. Classrooms will be refurnished and decorated for September 2012. Half-day and full-day kindergarten options are also available in Eastern Christian's Primary Program.

Preschool classes will run from 8:35-11:30. Three year olds can take classes for 2 or 3 days a week and 4-year-olds have classes for 3 or 4 days per week. The junior kindergarten program will be in session every weekday. For all ages, there are options for early drop off, lunch time programs, and afternoon care through 6pm.

An Early Childhood Team of teachers, parents and administrators recently completed a comprehensive review of Eastern Christian's early childhood program and made recommendations to expand and restructure the program. This recommendation was approved by the ECSA Board of Directors and will be completed in several phases over the next few years.

Eastern Christian's Primary Program mission is "to provide a quality Christian learning community which nurtures each student's God given curiosity into a love of learning. We will provide a safe and secure environment for transformational academic, social, emotional, cognitive, physical and spiritual growth. The program will strive to develop partnership with parents and families resulting in each child's growth and development."

# Have Music, Will Travel

BY MEGAN WYNBEEK, SENIOR



*The Honors Choir at Legacy Mall in Dedham, MA*

Spring has been a very busy season for the music department at Eastern Christian. In addition to the annual end of year concerts at the middle and high schools, many special performances filled up their schedules.

The new High School Honors Choir worked all year on fundraising for a spring trip to Boston. Choir Director **Suzanne Kraai** and Accompanist **Sharon Vander Heide** led the group of 17 students on the tour from May 4 – 6. The weekend began on Friday, with the choir performing at Lexington Christian Academy and Whitinsville Christian Academy. It continued when the group performed several songs at the Legacy Mall in Dedham on Saturday, and ended after leading worship at Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church on Sunday morning. In addition to scheduled performances, "we performed wherever and whenever we could, just to anyone who would listen," said sophomore **Joshua Ashkanazi**.

The Middle School and High School concert bands, orchestras, and concert choirs all performed in front of judges on trips to Six Flags Great Adventure. At a scheduled time throughout the day, each ensemble performed a selected piece for the judges at an area high school. The rest of the day, the music students got a well-deserved break at Six Flags. All six ensembles from EC received the top "Superior Performance" ranking.

On April 27, the New City Kids Church choir from Jersey City, NJ, joined with EC High School concert choir for a special fundraiser at New City's benefit concert. The New City choir and EC Concert Choir sang two songs together, "Just as Soon" and "Trouble Don't Last." The EC Honors Choir sang "Crown You With Praise" with New City. Junior **Gabriella Silverstein** enjoyed working with the students from New City. She said, "It was very interesting because we balanced and complemented each other in ways that were new to us as a choir."

# HIGH SCHOOL



## A Vision for the Class of 2012

There was a palpable excitement in the High School gymnasium on June 13 throughout the 2012 Commencement, from the opening strains of “Pomp and Circumstance,” through the whoops and cheers of family members as the 71 graduates received their diplomas, to the energetic closing prayer by **Ben Kuiken**.

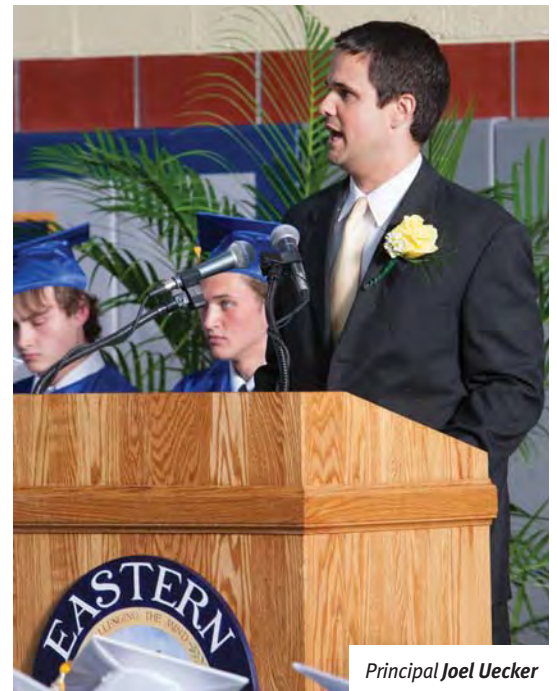
The excitement and spirit of joy was evident in the speeches, the songs, and the celebration that followed outside as family and friends congratulated the newest EC alumni.

The Class Song this year was a medley, put together by Class of 2012 members **Diana Kleinmanns** and **Natalie Rhoads**, of “Be Thou My Vision” and “You Make Beautiful Things.” In introducing the song, faculty advisor **Phil Verrengia** summarized the themes of the night when he explained how the songs both reflect on God’s provision in the past and also call on God’s aid for the future.



Senior **Diana Kleinmanns**, English Teacher **Dominic Rivera**, and seniors **Josh Davidson** and **Heather Van Lenten**

Natalie Rhoads gave the valedictory speech on those same themes. She said that standing at the end of high school and looking toward the future is like “when the scarecrow in the *Wizard of Oz* says that the Emerald City is “This



Principal **Joel Uecker**



way and that way.' With almost seven billion people on the planet, there are a lot of different paths. Neither I, nor the scarecrow, have that many arms. Needless to say, our future holds a lot that we do not know." Natalie said that despite the uncertainty, Christians do not need worry, as the "responsibility to figure it all out does not fall on us." She concluded, "The never-ending question of 'Which Way?' does not have to be answered by us. Let us cherish our time at Eastern Christian and use it as a guide for the future. Let us, Class of 2012, be a class that seeks the Lord first, and that lets Him guide us, advise us, and watch over us. If we will do that, there is no imagining what He could do through us."

Although English teacher **Marla Stout** retired last year, she has continued to work with the senior Humanities class via video distance learning. It was Mrs. Stout's dedication and thoughtfulness that inspired the Class of 2012 to ask her to be their commencement speaker. Mrs. Stout asked the class to consider the image of fog lights in the darkness for guidance in their lives as Eastern Christian alumni. She said, "Most of us live in a fearful fog at times. We're anxious about college, a career, finding the right someone for our lives. We're anxious about decisions we need to make. We're anxious about people we love." She continued, "Fog lights and lighthouses are meant to light our paths to safety. If we choose to look for the path that God has for us, He will reveal it – sometimes where we least expect it – sometimes in the form of lessons learned from broken eggs or broken faces. And as we stumble along, we will touch others who will see the light bouncing off us."

As a reminder of the guidance the Class of 2012 has already received, the ECHS faculty concluded the ceremony by singing a blessing from Proverbs 3.



**Natalie Rhoads**



(from left): **Jeremy Bongiovanni, Cassie Chambers, Hailey Fritzsch, Jon Englishmen, and Ashley Scott**



**Marla Stout**

# Eastern Christian Awards

The following scholarships were awarded by Eastern Christian High School to members of the graduating class. It does not include scholarships and awards from other sources. In total, the Class of 2012 was awarded over \$2,000,000 in scholarship money, averaging nearly \$25,000 per student.



from left: Nathan Minchen, Janet Braen,  
Dr. Joel Uecker, Julia Rivera, Lee Emmack-Rivera

## Art Department Award

Joon Hee Han  
Ashley Scott

## Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Abigail Troast

## Business Department Award

Luke Everson

## Choral Award

Tania Avila  
Joshua Davidson

## Christine White Memorial Scholarship

Heather Tanis

## Drama Award for Excellence in Lighting and Sound

Nicolas Onove

## Eastern Christian Scholastic Writing Award

Natalie Rhoads

## English Department Excellence in Writing Award

Cassandra Chambers

## French Language Award

Natalie Rhoads

## The Harold Phillips Vocational Scholarship

Natalya Suizzo

## Henriette & Kathryn Houseward Vocational Scholarship

Natalya Suizzo

## High School Faculty Award

Diana Kleinmanns

## Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award

Diana Kleinmanns

## John Philip Sousa Award (Band Award)

Elizabeth Mulcock

## Journalism Award

Heather Van Lenten

## Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Heather Tanis

## Mathematics Award

Natalie Rhoads  
Ameer Halim

## Overall Musical Achievement "Arion Award"

Diana Kleinmanns

## R. Bruce Van Hine First Responders Award

Heather Tanis

## Richard J. Vander Plaats Service Award

Morgan De Marco

## Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Julia Rivera

## Spanish Language Award

Jacob Shotmeyer

## Technology Department Award

Nicolas Onove

## Valedictorian Recognition

Natalie Rhoads

# State and National Award Winners

## President's Education Awards - Gold Certificates

Natalie Rhoads  
Ameer Halim  
Abigail Troast  
Cassandra Chambers

Nicholas Onove  
Emily Lotz  
Bethany Gorter  
Diana Kleinmanns  
Jeremy Bongiovanni  
Min Jung (Jenny) Jo  
Luke Everson

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Casey Dykman  
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Joon Hee Han  
Joshua Mas  
Kelly Sietsma  
Natalya Suizzo

## National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars

Natalie Rhoads

## New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipients

Jeremy Bongiovanni  
Ameer Halim  
Nicholas Onove

Cassandra Chambers  
Jenny Jo  
Natalie Rhoads  
Bethany Gorter  
Diana Kleinmanns  
Abigail Troast  
Emily Lotz



# the Class of 2012



**Tyler Albies**  
Messiah College (Pa.)



**Christopher Antonovich**  
Champlain College (Vt.)



**Alexis Arruti**  
Liberty University (Va.)



**Tania Avila**  
Calvin College (Mich.)



**Jonathan Bjorndal**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Jeremy Bongiovanni**  
The College of New Jersey



**Matthew Botbyl**  
Penn State University



**Adriana Brandes**  
Northern Arizona University



**Noah Brown**  
Rutgers, The State University of  
New Jersey



**Chrislee Butcher**  
Word of Life Bible Institute (NY)



**Briana Caro**  
Fairleigh Dickinson University (NJ)



**Yeni Cha**  
Indiana University - Purdue  
University Indianapolis



**Cassandra Chambers**  
Centre College (Ky.)



**Brandon Chrinian**  
Wheaton College (Ill.)



**Samantha Clark**  
Kutztown University (Pa.)



**Joshua Davidson**  
Ramapo College of New Jersey



**Nicholas De Blasio**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Garret De Block**  
Ramapo College of New Jersey



**Morgan De Marco**  
Florida Southern College



**Anthony DiGiorgio**  
Ramapo College of New Jersey



**Casey Dykman**  
William Paterson University (NJ)

# HIGH SCHOOL



**Shannon Dykstra**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Jonathan Englishmen**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Luke Everson**  
Bentley University (Mass.)



**Hailey Fritzsich**  
East Stroudsburg University (Pa.)



**Sarah Gabriele**  
Houghton College (NY)



**Bethany Gorter**  
Calvin College (Mich.)



**Nicole Gorter**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Gianna Gravinese**  
Passaic County Community College (NJ)



**Stephanie Haddad**  
Montclair State University (NJ)



**Ameer Halim**  
Stevens Institute of Technology (NJ)



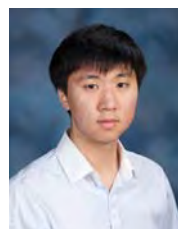
**Joon Hee Han**  
Pratt Institute (NY)



**Daniel Hook**  
William Paterson University (NJ)



**Katelyn Ivacic**  
Cabrini College (Pa.)



**Soosan Jang**  
State University of New York at Stony Brook



**Min Jung Jo**  
Northeastern University (Mass.)



**Sun Guk Kim**  
Seton Hall University (NJ)



**Diana Kleinmanns**  
Messiah College (Pa.)



**Guy Laroche Gnakpa**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Hee Yeoun Lee**  
Long Island University (NY)



**Nathaniel Leentjes**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Alexis Limatola**  
Nyack College (NY)



**Emily Lotz**  
Parisian Beauty Academy (NJ)



**Amy Martin**  
Nyack College (NY)



**Joshua Mas**  
Monmouth University (NJ)



**Taylor Mincey**  
Seton Hall University (NJ)



# HIGH SCHOOL



**Robert Mitchell**  
Valley Forge Christian College (Pa.)



**Elizabeth Mulcock**  
Calvin College (Mich.)



**Uchenna Okosa**  
Kean University (NJ)



**Nicholas Onove**  
Seton Hall University (NJ)



**Sarah Postma**  
Messiah College (Pa.)



**Dylan Renicker**  
University of Alabama



**Meredith Resetar**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Natalie Rhoads**  
Liberty University (Va.)



**Julia Rivera**  
High Point University (NC)



**Faith Schmitt**  
Harold Washington College (Ill.)



**Ashley Scott**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Charles Shotmeyer**  
Stevens Institute of Technology (NJ)



**Devin Sickles**  
University of Texas at Tyler



**Kelly Sietsma**  
State University of  
New York at Cortland



**Brandon Steinginga**  
University of Mary Washington (Va.)



**Courtney Steinbruch**  
Calvin College (Mich.)



**Natalya Suizzo**  
Iona College (NY)



**Heather Tanis**  
Liberty University (Va.)



**Kristen Traub**  
Marist College (NY)



**Abigail Troast**  
Seton Hall University (NJ)



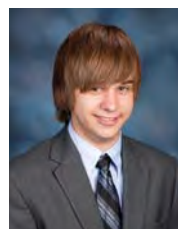
**Heather Van Lenten**  
William Paterson University (NJ)



**Michael Visbeen**  
University of Hartford (Conn.)



**Madison Wells**  
Missions



**Dylan Westra**  
Bergen Community College (NJ)



**Jessica Wisse**  
Calvin College (Mich.)

# MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Front Row:** Naomi Valentin\*, Bradley Leentjes\*, Nicole Aoki\*, Mark Van Reeth, Amanda Vincenti\*, Joseph Post, Jesse Blanco, Steven Davis, Kimona Dussard\*, Christopher Mann, Andrew Kuiken\*, Kyle Dykstra\*, Maggie Albies, William Woodfin III, Matthew Rief\*, Evan Quintero, Nicole Tartini, Timothy Sullivan II, Laura Carey\*, Anthony Ghaly, Kelsey Veenstra, William Bishop\* **Middle Row:** Timothy Fink, Emily Mulcock, Calvin Gorter, Sarah Schmitt, Joshua Groenewal, Michelle Sie, Jonathan Hartensveld, Kristen Sieverts\*, David Hefty, Kelly Tanis, Jonathan Veenstra\*, Rachael Tanis\*, Jonathan Hook\*, Alissa Sytsma, Carter Heerema, Carlin Sietsma\*, Mitchell Haddad\*, Caitlin Shurminsky\*, Devin Graham, Anita Samuel\*, Bryan Lineweaver\*, Sarah Martin **Top Row:** Jacob Veenstra, Brandon Parker\*, Jessica Barna, Matthew Bottge, Daniel D' Urso, Jeanae Dedio\*, Adam Dykstra, Kelly Dykman\*, Caleb Engelhard, Sara Leegwater, Jason Englishmen, Emma Hagedoorn\*, Samuel Veenstra\*, Michael Vriesema, Bradley Schipper\*, Mackenzie Wieggers\*, Trent Braen, Samantha Boonstra\*, Richard Boodaghian, Ashley Van Boerum, Nathaniel Kuiphoff **Not Pictured:** Chelsea Campbell\* (\* denotes a Presidential Award recipient).

## Celebrating Growth and God's Blessings



Dr. Terry Allen

On the evening of June 14, sixty-six 8<sup>th</sup> graders, their teachers and their families celebrated four years of growth and learning at the Eastern Christian Middle School graduation ceremony.

Principal **Andrew Culp** gave the Graduation Address. In it, he spoke of the difference between “changes” and “growth.” He said, “While change is inevitable, growth takes a bit more intentionality.... So the question is, not how can you stop change, or how can you start change, but how can you affect growth. Because so often in life, moments of importance are not about change, but about whether or not you will choose to grow.” He said that in order to grow, you need to challenge yourself and to know yourself. He told the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, “As you leave these doors, see yourselves as sons and daughters of the King. Have a clear understanding of the hope you were born into and the glory of your rebirth. Know yourselves, and in



Caitlin Schurminsky





*Sarah Schmitt (center)*

that power and understanding, choose to grow yourselves.”

Caitlyn Shurminsky, as the valedictorian, also spoke to her class about changes. She said that over the past 4 years, “our physical changes have been obvious; hopefully so are our spiritual changes.” Using the school theme verses of Colossians 3:1-17, Caitlyn gave examples of how her class had shown these spiritual values, by participating

in their projects to help the homeless, showing kindness to one another, and by being examples of Christ’s love during athletic competition.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade ensemble of musicians also reflected on the school theme when they sang “Live Like That” by Sidewalk Prophets. The refrain in the song says, “I want to live like that and give it all I have, so that everything I say and do points to You.” Mitchell Haddad, the salutatorian, offered the prayer for the graduates.

Many teachers and administrators also had the chance to speak to the graduates, giving them encouragement and congratulations on their growth. Dean of Students Mary Faber provided the introductory remarks of the evening. Teachers Liesl Botbyl, Terry Allen and Joyce Breur reflected on their experiences teaching this class. High School Vice Principal Ruth Kuder welcomed the class to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in her closing remarks, and Head of School Tom Dykhouse closed the evening in prayer.



*Jon Hook and Kelly Tanis*

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun



*A night out at Spa 23 is an annual tradition for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Jason Englishmen and Matt Bottge celebrate with their classmates.*



*EC parent and coach TJ DeGeyter addresses the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at their annual breakfast.*



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



*The ECES Class of 2012 (alphabetically): Maeve Barclay, Bridgett Boonstra, Leah Boonstra, Molly Boonstra, Joshua Borduin, Jenna Brooks, Nicole Bucci, Ryan Carey, Hailey Carson, Tara Casey, Matthew Cook, Tobin Cummins, Chase DeJong, Jeromy Delgado, David DeVries, Liam Duffy, Kiandra Dussard, Naomi Engelhard, Amanda Faber, Analyse Figueroa, Rebecca Hagedoom, Zoe Higby, Zechariah Kaehr, Justin Kim, Joshua Kinahan, Michael Kuehlke, Emma Lapinsky, Luke Martin, Dylan Olsen, Benjamin Parker, Brianna Poliandro, Elise Reitsma, Madison Ritsema, Tyler Rumsey, Cara Shotmeyer, Emily Steen, Victoria Sweetman, Hope Urdang, Brayden Vogel, Caitlin Westra, Mark Whittingham, Elijah Yohannan, Kailee Yunker, John Zuidema*

## A Chapel of Reflection and Celebration

Every year at the Elementary School, a Bible verse is chosen as a school theme, and much of the learning throughout the year is incorporated into that theme. Chapel talks, classroom projects, and music class songs are all based around that theme.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Promotional Chapel on June 12, Principal **Sandy Bottge** reminded the class about the themes they had studied since they were in kindergarten. To the students, these were not just repetitious verses void of meaning, but rather rich Bible lessons filled with the memories and emotions of their elementary school careers.

Also during the chapel, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders sang “Oh No, You Never Let Go” as a class to their families and friends. The younger students sang the year’s theme song “Colossians 3:17” as a farewell blessing to their schoolmates.

These reflections, memories, and songs explain why the 4<sup>th</sup> grade promotion is not simply a graduation ceremony. It is a chapel service: a time of worship, prayer, and thankful hearts.

It is also a time to celebrate the achievements of the class. At the start of the chapel, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders performed on recorders, playing “Hot Cross Buns,” and “Row, row, row your boat.” **David De Vries** gave a demonstration of one of the harder songs the 4<sup>th</sup> graders learned, playing “Ode to Joy” as a solo.

All forty-six 4<sup>th</sup> graders were awarded Certificates of Achievement and were promoted to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade by their teachers **Carol Byrna** and **Donna Hoogerhyde**. Middle School Principal **Andrew Culp** welcomed them to the Middle School and closed the chapel with prayer. The memories and lessons they learned in elementary school will never be forgotten.



*Dylan Olsen and Donna Hoogerhyde*



*4<sup>th</sup> graders singing “Oh No, You Never Let Go”*



*4<sup>th</sup> graders performing the “Core Values Rap”*



# PRESCHOOL



**Row 1:** Ava Higby, Eli Higby, Jake Dembowski, Jonathan Steensma, Avery Peters, Grace Dalessandro, Hannah Kim **Row 2:** Cole Higby, Andrew Genuario, Kirsten Braunius, Samantha Barna, Rebecca Ross, Hannah Leegwater, Caleb Hosier **Row 3:** Charlie Denenkamp, Anika Trommelen, Connor Carson, Rachael De Rooy, Avery Magato, Olivia Lee, Nicholas Brigliadoro, Kayleigh Marshall **Row 4:** Keera Pienaar, Diella Tarkang, Taylor Douma, Benjamin Vander Eems, Alex Culp, Charlotte Bushman, Maxwell Sheikh, Abigail Hendrickson  
**Not Pictured:** Christian Moy, Noah Nam

## Preschoolers Do Everything For God

**O**n Tuesday, June 12, thirty-two 4-year-old preschoolers had their very first graduation at Eastern Christian. It was a fun heartwarming occasion, filled with praise to God. It was also filled with energy and smiles, from the excitement of the opening procession, through the enthusiastic songs, to the proud faces after the students received their diplomas.

The theme verse of EC this year was from Colossians 3:17: "Whatever you do, do it for God!" The children certainly embraced this verse during

their singing which was complete with motions and props. This year the group sang six songs, led by their music teacher, **Nancy Martin**. The songs were "Colossians 3:17," "Every Move I Make," "The Butterfly Song," "You are My All in All," "In Our Lives, Lord, Be Glorified," and "Jesus Loves Me."

The teachers were proud to recognize each student's academic progress this year by awarding them with their diplomas. Certainly, these young students modeled their verse, doing everything this year for God!



*Keera Pienaar holds up a sign while the preschoolers sing*



*Kayleigh Marshall and Nicholas Brigliadoro*

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## ditto: A Blessing Beyond Measure!

Approximately two years ago, the doors of our new upscale resale store known as **ditto** of North Jersey LLC in North Haledon were opened. To be sure, we did so with some apprehension, as the sheer size of the location was far larger than we had been used to at our former location in Hawthorne. We were also concerned whether or not people would support this venture with good quality used goods. Would there be enough buyers out there to support the operation? After all, we took on a sizable amount of debt to convert the space into the attractive store that it is today, and we had other overhead such as rent and utilities to be concerned with.

It seemed as if each time an obstacle was placed in our way, a way was opened for us to proceed. Many times during the months of planning, we were reminded of God's faithfulness and of His provision for us in so many ways. Time and time again we were encouraged to proceed in faith, with the enthusiastic support of all concerned.

Early on we were led to our wonderful Director, **Eric Hawn**, who became the "go to" person on a daily basis for operational questions, display ideas, and pricing suggestions, as well as being the "answer man" for the hundreds of questions that come up on a daily basis from customers and volunteers alike. Early on Eric determined that each day at **ditto** would begin with devotions with the early morning volunteers, so that we never lost sight of the fact that God's blessing on **ditto** was not only appreciated but needed on a daily basis.

When the doors of **ditto** were opened for business in mid September 2010, we were amazed at the outpouring of donated goods, as well as the number of people who stopped to look around and shop for bargains. Since that day, we have never looked back. We have witnessed unprecedented support from the broader community as well as from Eastern Christian School supporters. No one who shops or donates at **ditto** has ever expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the profits of **ditto** are for the benefit of Eastern Christian School.

In order to operate a store such as **ditto**, you need help – lots of help each and every day. We solicited a group of volunteers who would help with the sorting and processing of donations, some who would be customer service representatives, some who would do minor repairs and refinishing, some who would do the bookkeeping and others who would help with the cleaning of the store. Since volunteers typically are available only on specific days and for a specific time period, we needed a large number of dedicated people to step forward and help out during the six days per week that the store is open for business. Currently we have over 130 volunteers registered to help us run this operation with about 70 of the volunteers being regular and consistent volunteers.

One of the many reasons for opening **ditto** was to develop a steady stream of income for the benefit of Eastern Christian School. Stepping out in faith, the organizers of **ditto** determined that in addition to paying the monthly operating expenses of the store, they wanted to donate at least \$75,000 of the profits to ECSA at the conclusion of the first year of operation. Not only



*Over 65 **ditto** volunteers attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual volunteer appreciation dinner on May 17 at the **ditto** store. This event, sponsored by the **ditto** Advisory Board, was a wonderful evening of fellowship and recognition of the many hours that the volunteers have donated to **ditto** this past school year. Over 14,000 volunteers hours were donated by nearly 80 volunteers from September 2011 through April 2012. Since the opening of **ditto** in September of 2010, gross sales at **ditto** have exceeded \$690,000. In addition to paying for operating expenses and loan repayments, this has produced \$150,000 in donations to Eastern Christian School. Thank you volunteers for your incredible service to Eastern Christian School!*

were they able to do that, but they were also able to donate an additional \$4,000 to several local nonprofits that provide vital services to the community.

The store continues to grow in popularity both in the community and general North Jersey area. Donations of goods are at an all time high, and profits after current expenses and the reduction of long term debt will permit a donation of \$100,000 to Eastern Christian at the end of this current year. Gross sales for the current year are expected to approach \$500,000 which is incredible for an operation selling thousands of items under \$10 each.

While there are many reasons to be very optimistic about the future of **ditto**, the fact is that we cannot continue to operate at this level without adding to the dedicated core of volunteers at **ditto**. Some of our volunteers have been supporting Eastern Christian in one way or another for many, many years and some are just not able to keep up the pace any longer at an active organization such as **ditto**. They need to know that a new and younger generation will follow in their footsteps and continue the mission of faithfully supporting the school that they love and serve.

**ditto** has been a source of blessing beyond comprehension to our volunteers, our customers, our donors and above all to Eastern Christian School. May God continue to bless **ditto**, its workers, and those who benefit from its ministry!

*Submitted by Garret G. Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director, Foundation for Eastern Christian School*



# TRIP: A Blessing for All!

When Eastern Christian School was first presented with the details of a TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) program, there was a concern about it being "too good to be true." Fortunately for all concerned, there were several committee members who were convinced that this could be a viable program at Eastern Christian and that we should embrace it as a potential resource for the school as well as a direct benefit to our parents.

Today we can't be thankful enough that the TRIP program was embraced by the EC community 18 years ago. TRIP has been a blessing each and every one of those years.

Consider the following facts:

- We currently have 190 families participating in the program.
- Those families that received tuition credits during the 2011-2012 school year received an average of \$520 in credits to their tuition account.
- We recorded \$1,600,000 in gift card sales for the year, which provided a total of \$66,466 in tuition credits and \$16,633 for the operating budget of the school.
- For the school year just completed, we paid out a total of \$81,000 in tuition credits from all of the components of the TRIP program.
- Future families have accumulated over \$105,000 in tuition credits which will be available in future years for tuition payments. Future families include not only families who do not yet have their children in Eastern Christian, but also current parents who are saving their credits for a "rainy day."
- The TRIP program, with all of its components, donates in excess of \$20,000 to the general operating budget of the school annually – yet another way to offset tuition increases.
- The Small Business Voucher program encourages business owners to sign up for the program and offer a discount for their services to the TRIP customers. These businesses would then donate a specific percentage of the total pretax sale or a flat amount to Eastern Christian. This past year, Eastern Christian received a total of \$3853 from this program, \$2884 of which went to tuition credits.

TRIP continues to be a valuable component of the financial program at Eastern Christian. We are constantly reviewing TRIP to see where the school and the parents can better benefit from being involved. At the beginning of the new school year we will once again make an aggressive pitch for more parent participation in the program. If you would like more information about our TRIP program, please visit our website at [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) and click on the TRIP link under "Donate Now." You may also contact TRIP Coordinator **Faye Dyksen** at 973-427-9294 Ext. 210.

## Long Term Employees Honored at Eastern Christian

On May 29, Eastern Christian School Association honored 20 employees at a desert reception in recognition of their years of service to Eastern Christian School.

In recognizing this year's honorees, Head of School Tom Dykhous mentioned that a recently completed Employee Satisfaction Survey confirmed that our employees are dedicated employees who are committed to their students and to Eastern Christian School. This year's group of honorees certainly confirms that finding, in that collectively they represent over 280 years of service to Eastern Christian ranging from 5 years of service to 35 years of service.

Service Awards for 5 years of service were presented to: **James Anderson, John Belanus, Sandy De Marco, Thomas Dykhous, Laura Gorter & Debbie Hammond**

Service Awards for 10 years of service were presented to: **Liesl Botbyl, Jena Fisher, Geraldine Gallagher & Ruth Kuder**

Service Awards for 15 years of service were presented to: **Mildred Cameron, Laurie Genzink, Donna Holly & Lynn Veenstra**

Service Awards for 20 years of Service were presented to: **Jay Nelson & Jane Okma**

Service Awards for 25 years of service were awarded to: **Janyce Bandstra, Barry Veenstra & Audrey Vogel**

A Service Award for 35 years of service was awarded to: **Raymond Roberts**

We congratulate the honorees and pray that they will continue to serve our school with distinction for many more years.



Italy & France  
Spring Break  
March 20 - 29, 2013

Venice  
Florence  
Paris

These are just some of the cities you will explore with EC Faculty member Manny Lindemulder. This trip is open to EC students, parents and supporters and is limited to a group of 52 travelers.

This trip is organized through Educational Travel which has organized highly successful educational tours since 1994. Their tour directors are extensively trained. Local guides will be at the various sites and on city tours. Hotels are three- and four-star hotels centrally located - which means more time sightseeing!

Meals are carefully chosen to reflect local cuisine.

Breakfast and a three-course dinner each day is included.

For more information including pricing and tour itinerary, please visit: [www.educationaltravel.com](http://www.educationaltravel.com) and logon using the following:

Username: EasternChristian

Password: Europe2013

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



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

## THE ANNUAL FUND AND YOU: PERFECT TOGETHER!

As you receive and read this issue of *The Herald*, the Eastern Christian Foundation staff is busy preparing the 2012-2013 ECSA Annual Fund appeal. Our 120 years of providing Christian education has enabled us to develop a mailing list that now exceeds 7,000 households comprised of alumni, parents, grandparents and friends. While the largest part of our support base continues to reside in North Jersey, we also have supporters living in all of the states in the US, as well as in 22 foreign countries. As we receive updates from our alumni from time to time, we are beginning to witness the fruits of many years of educating our students to become transforming agents for Jesus Christ --- not only locally but internationally as well. The global reach and impact of Eastern Christian students is very real! It is a humbling thought that our alumni are actively serving the church, their communities and in some cases government agencies as a result of the education initially received at Eastern Christian School.

Based on internal data, an average of 20% of our students are able to attend Eastern Christian because others are willing to carry a portion of the tuition burden for these families by their generous contributions to the Annual Fund. They do so because they believe that what they read in Galatians 6:2 applies to them where it states, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Perhaps some of our alumni that are serving with distinction throughout the world today were themselves beneficiaries of committed supporters to Eastern Christian School.

Today the need for community support for our school is even greater than before. The rising cost of Christian education and the lingering sluggish economy certainly are factors to consider when parents are faced with the financial implications of a Christian education. By supporting the ECSA Annual Fund, you will be making the choice easier for these parents as you will be providing a safety net for them in their quest to provide a Christ-centered education for their children.

Shortly you will be receiving the appeal letter in your mailbox with a response card for you to complete and return or you can complete the response form enclosed with this issue of *The Herald*. We hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can participate in this appeal this school year and thereby "fulfill the law of Christ."

May God richly bless you and your gift!

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis  
Executive Director  
Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association

## With Your Gift... Make a Difference

Research has provided a "Top Ten Reasons People Give to Charity" list as follows:

- #10 Religious Beliefs
- #9 Guilt
- #8 Interest in the Mission
- #7 Recognition
- #6 Self-preservation or Fear
- #5 Tax Considerations
- #4 Obligation
- #3 Pride
- #2 Pressure

**The Number One Reason... Someone Asked!**

While we would love the opportunity to personally meet with each one of our supporters and ask for their support, based on the fact that our supporters live in all of the 50 states and in 22 foreign countries, this is obviously not realistic for Eastern Christian to accomplish on our own. What we can do is to use the means available to us such as *The Herald* to present our financial needs and pray that God will incline the hearts of those who are able to continue to support our school. Another very effective way for us to reach out to our supporters both locally and around the US is through the affiliation we have with the Barnabas Foundation.

If you would be interested in discussing a Planned Gift to Eastern Christian School such as Life Income Agreements (Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust) or you would like to consider an

Estate Gift to Eastern Christian School, please feel free to contact either Garret G. Nieuwenhuis, Eastern Christian School Director of Planned Giving at 973-427-9294 (gnieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org) or Steve Baker, Barnabas Foundation estate planner and attorney. Steve can be reached directly at 616-956-1232 or via email at sbake@barnabasfoundation.com. By making a legacy gift to Eastern Christian School through your will or estate plan, your bequest will be your everlasting testament to your belief in Christian Education as it has been presented for 120 years at Eastern Christian School!

We look forward to hearing from you as we continue this mission of Challenging the Minds, Nurturing the Spirits and Transforming the World at Eastern Christian School.



# EVENTS

## 2012 Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala - Best Ever!

After many years of coordinating EC's annual fundraiser – Auction Elegance – the Auction Committee put their heads together and came up with a new theme, a new approach and lots of new items for the guests to bid on in both the silent and live auctions.

Sporting casual attire, some with more bling than others, 286 supporters came to the Tides in North Haledon on April 19 to experience the first Denim & Diamonds themed event - which turned out to be a huge success!

In addition to a delicious buffet dinner, the guests had an opportunity to view over 200 silent auction items. There were also 35 live auction items which were presented by auctioneer John Dollar in a lively and entertaining way. Some of the Live Auction items included vacation getaways to Ocean Grove, Myrtle Beach, Chesapeake Bay, Vermont and Florida. Also available were NY Giants tickets, NY Rangers tickets and autographed items!

At the end of the evening we were able to report a net profit of \$60,000 to be donated to Eastern Christian School – nearly \$24,000 more than the previous year. What made this event so different? A number of factors, not the least of which was the enthusiastic, totally re-energized Auction Committee. In addition, we had strong sponsor support and EC Board and EC Foundation Board support in acquiring high quality, desirable items for the auction. The committee is anxious to replicate this success in 2013 and have already started planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Denim & Diamonds Auction gala!

Thank you volunteers for a great job and incredible commitment to Eastern Christian School!



*Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala introduced a new aspect to the evening – a Diamond Dig! High school students staffed the sand box, overseeing participants as they scooped for gems. The “Diamond” prize was a \$500 giftcard to a local jewelry store, and the “Denim” prize was a \$250 giftcard to Nordstrom. Pictured: Doug & Marianne Bushoven and students Rachael Tanis and Maggie Albies.*



*Auction guests had an opportunity to purchase a Denim Pocket which contained a surprise gift card. Pictured: Laura Gorter pondering which Denim Pocket to select from high school students Brooke Leentjes and Francesca Quintero.*



*EC's Golf Outing this year was at Black Bear Golf Club. Always a fun aspect to the outing is the Putting Contest! This year the golf outing raised \$25,000 for EC - Thanks to all our sponsors and players!*



*The weather does not stop EC golfers from enjoying a great event!*



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Alumni Transforming the World

In the Spring 2012 issue of *The Herald*, we featured alumni and friends of Eastern Christian from around the globe that are actively “transforming the world.” Of course, many EC alumni continue to serve God and his calling to build His Kingdom on a daily basis, whether in a corporation, a classroom, at church, or in their families. Here are some additional interviews with alumni.

### Ireland: Jim Grosser

**Jim Grosser** retired this summer after a long career in the ministry around the world. He graduated as the valedictorian of the 1965 class, and from there graduated from Wheaton College and Gordon-Cromwell Theological Seminary. One of his first assignments was as a missionary to Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

For 25 years, Jim and his wife Ann-Elise were at a church they planted in Carlton, Mass., where they also raised their family.

Jim said, “In 2005 I accepted an invitation to become the organizing pastor of a small mission church in Carrickmacross, Ireland. Ann-Elise and I have been involved in teaching, training, and leading this young congregation through early phases of church growth. Two years ago the fellowship was able to purchase and remodel its first church building, and last year we called an Irish pastoral intern, who will replace me as pastor.” In Ireland, Jim was pleased to run into EC alumna **Joan Hoogerhyde '09**, also working in Carrickmacross with Touch the World.

Jim has many memories of how EC teachers prepared him for a career as a pastor. He said, “Through 40 years of preaching I have often thought how grateful I am that my 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>- grade history teacher, **Roger Veenstra**, made a special effort to teach us the useful skill of outlining! For 40 years

his outlining method has helped me organize and clarify every sermon I have preached!

“In 11<sup>th</sup> grade my English teacher, **Dorothy Anderson**, virtually coerced me to take the position of editor of the student newspaper, *The Envoy*. That writing and editing experience has also been extremely valuable through a lifetime of ministry.

“**Milo Okema**, my 11<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade history teacher, opened my mind (and many other young minds) to the world beyond the somewhat sheltered Christian community of Bergen and Passaic Counties. He challenged many of our preconceptions and prejudices and helped us to see a larger world through more compassionate and Christ-like eyes!”

In conclusion Jim said, “I am thankful for the education, based on a thoroughly Christian worldview, that I received at Eastern Christian. While I was growing up, my parents often hosted international students and foreign visitors in our home, sometimes for extended periods. I am also grateful for the opportunities I had in college to travel internationally on a Central American missions trip and a European choir tour. I believe exposing EC students to cross-cultural experiences, even locally, is an important part of their education.”

### Nigeria: Timothy Palmer

**Timothy Palmer** works for Christian Reformed World Missions in Nigeria. He graduated from Eastern Christian in 1969, and also earned degrees from Calvin College, Calvin Seminary, the Free University of Amsterdam, and the University of Aberdeen. Since 1984, he has been teaching at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria with World Missions. There, he trains pastors and theology educators in Nigeria.

In recalling EC's impact on his education, Timothy credits **Herr Leraar** for boosting his German language knowledge, which opened him up to a larger world beyond New Jersey. Timothy said, “Global awareness is vital as we strive to participate in God's global kingdom.”



*Jim Grosser (2<sup>nd</sup> from right, 2<sup>nd</sup> row) and his church*



## Japan: Nathaniel Rudd

**Nate Rudd** graduated from EC in 1999, and after attending Messiah College, has worked in Information Technology in unique situations. First, programming a database for TIME magazine and as a missionary in Japan. He said, "I am a missionary at Christian Academy in Japan and work as one of the technology coordinators. Most of my time is spent programming various improvements to our school information system database, but I am also in charge of maintaining the school's servers as well as occasionally helping staff with various technology issues. I am also the head coach of the HS and MS Cross Country teams."

Nate recalls the lessons he learned at EC through extra curricular activities as well as the classroom. He said, "I was a member of the sound and lights crew. I learned a lot about being presented a problem and having to come up with a solution. I also learned what it meant to have and take responsibility, for both the successes and the failures that I made."

"In Cross Country with Coach **Joel Apol**, I learned the importance of personal improvement. Of course, at the time, I thought that winning an ice cream for beating my goal was all about rubbing it into the faces of those who didn't. Since implementing this incentive with my own team, I can clearly see my runners more driven to succeed."

Nate said that EC students need to continue to move towards cultural understanding in their lives. He said, "EC has a history of inviting speakers to chapel that have a global perspective and I would continue to encourage that.

Students can continue to get a taste of what different cultures are like through these speakers. I would encourage EC students to take the next step beyond awareness and into understanding. While living in another country is one way a student understands that country, there are also many opportunities to witness other cultures even in New Jersey. I would also encourage EC students to apply for their college or university's study abroad program if they are able.

"I remember the Japanese tea ceremony that was held at EC when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We brought our own cushions to sit on and we all sat in the gym and had tea, ate seaweed and other Japanese foods. While that was a taste of Japan (quite literally), living in Japan and understanding the culture is much more meaningful and eye opening than sipping bitter tea and eating crispy seaweed with critical 4<sup>th</sup> grade peers."



*Nate Rudd and his family*

## Japan: Jane Brinkerhoff

Graduating from EC in 1970, and then from Wheaton College, **Jane Brinkerhoff** is now a missionary living in Japan. She said, "I'm a missionary doing evangelism and discipleship in preparation for church planting and establishing churches in unreached areas of Japan. This usually means teaching the Bible, but also includes lots of hospitality, child raising classes, singing classes, ministry in handicapped homes, etc."

Jane credits her love of the Bible to her Christian education. She said that the most meaningful memories of EC were "Bible classes that enthused me about God's Word, and teachers whose lives and words showed their love of Christ in whatever subject they were teaching."

She also was inspired by service opportunities, and believes that they are important for EC students to gain a deeper level of Christianity. She also believes that students should interact with missionaries, to give them a sense of global awareness. She said, "Invite missionaries to speak to classes and individuals. If they have a particularly interesting presentation, then invite them to the chapels as well."



*Jane Brinkerhoff (left)*

## ALUMNI PROFILE



Jo Winters

## An Interview with Jo Winters

**J**o Kort Winters '46 was the first woman to be elected to the EC Board of Directors in 1977. This spring, seniors **Sarah Bruinooge** and **Heidi Lineweaver** from the EC Times student newspaper visited Mrs. Winters at her home in Wyckoff, NJ to interview her for the paper.

Jo Winters was born in Iowa, and moved to NJ as a child when her father took a call to be a pastor and missionary at a church in Hoboken. She said, "There were no Christian Schools in Hoboken, and he wanted to move here more where there were." Her father passed away when she was 14, and the family moved closer to EC schools. "I went to Eastern Christian for a year and a half. I graduated when I was quite young. I took an extra Bible course in order to get all the equivalent of what graduates needed," Winters said.

After attending Calvin College, Winters moved back to New Jersey. She was a school teacher in Prospect Park before she married John Winters, who she met at Calvin. They had five children, all of whom attended Eastern Christian.

Winters said that she was elected to the Board of Directors twice overall. She served on the Education Committee and was often responsible for personnel matters. She said, "There were times where I would interview teachers, pupils, and future teachers, and review some of the teaching materials."

Winters remains humble about her status as the first woman Board member, often forgetting it as significant. She told a story about when she realized it was important. She said, "About seven years ago, we were visiting

with friends for somebody's birthday. John Steen said, 'Well, I want you to know we have an important person here tonight. We have the first woman elected to the Eastern Christian school board.' I thought, 'Well, who would that be?' and then I thought, 'Oh yeah, that's right. It's me.' Asked if she thought of herself as a piece of Eastern Christian history, she said, "I guess I would have to be. I was the first woman, but then there were more and now there are many!"

Winters said that she didn't encounter any problems as the only woman on the Board, even though she served with 19 men. "My ideas were listened to. I was just an equal to the rest of the members. Plus we had five children in the school, so we had first hand information as to what was going on."

Winters said that when her children left for college, they moved all over the world, a pattern she sees for many who sent their kids to Eastern Christian. "Living around the corner has ceased to be a way of life for many families. We have a couple of sons that are doctors, but they didn't come back here to be doctors. My children travel all over and take on all kinds of positions. They are scattered all over the place, none of them within 500 miles of each other. We have a daughter who is a missionary in France."

"Christian schools are what make New Jersey, New Jersey for us. My time on the Board was very interesting. I think the Lord blessed the work," Winters concluded.



## Teachers Take Advantage of Learning Opportunities

EC teachers spent a busy summer preparing for the next year and continuing their training as professionals. According to Director of Curriculum **Dick Van Yperen**, at least half of all the EC teachers were involved in summer professional development, from graduate classes to intensive two-day workshops. Thirteen teachers spent a total of 78 hours studying the new Common Core Curriculum Standards.

High school social studies teacher **Paul Beverly** was awarded a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He attended a week long investigation of the history of segregation and then the civil rights movement in Atlanta, Georgia. The seminar brought together 40 teachers from around the country to visit the sites of segregated Atlanta, as well as meet leaders in the Atlanta part of the civil rights movement. Each day they visited

sites connected to Atlanta's "color" history. Beverly said that one memorable moment was "sitting in historic Ebenezer Baptist Church (the church Dr. King and his father, 'Daddy' King pastored), listening to a sermon of Martin Luther King, Jr. I came away from this workshop with a wealth of materials to incorporate in my US History and American Studies classes."

High school journalism teacher **Tim Steen** was awarded a Fellowship from the Reynolds High School Journalism Institute. He spent 2 weeks in Reno, Nev. studying the core tenets of journalism and the skills needed to produce a top-notch student publication, primarily online with multimedia tools. Steen said that despite 12-hours of learning each day, it was "actually both great fun and a great opportunity to compare strategies with teachers across the country and to polish my own journalism skills."

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# Margaret Spoelstra Appointed to Order of Canada

BY MONICA DEREGT

*This article on Margaret Spoelstra '76 was originally printed in The Banner, and is republished here in its entirety with their permission.*

**M**argaret Spoelstra, a member of First Christian Reformed Church in Toronto, Ontario, is being recognized for her ongoing work and advocacy for individuals with autism.

On December 30, 2011, Spoelstra and 36 others were announced as the newest members appointed to the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honors, in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding achievement and dedication to community.

Spoelstra, executive director of Autism Ontario, is receiving the appointment for her lifelong career to further awareness and understanding of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The news of the appointment came as a complete surprise to Spoelstra, as nominations are kept anonymous. She said at first she was speechless and felt undeserving, but it was very moving to know that people thought she should be nominated.

"I am simultaneously honored and humbled," she said. "The people who do the hardest work are the families of people with ASD. They are the ones deserving this recognition, and it is an honor to represent them."



Spoelstra went on to express her excitement that this public recognition of the work she and her colleagues have been involved in may help Canadians better understand and respond to their fellow citizens with ASD.

"Although it's a personal honor, this is also recognizing the importance of the ongoing relationship-building that we are working toward. We want to make Canada a better place for people with autism and their families."

An awards ceremony will take place in Ottawa in the spring.

# 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.*

## THE 1990'S

Keara and **Steven Choka '93** announce the birth of a son, Mason Taj on 3/22/12.

**John F. Borduin '97** received an MBA from the Cotsakos College of Business of William Paterson University. John was presented with the Outstanding MBA Graduate Award, as well as the Dean's Graduate Award. He was also inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Society and was presented with the Excellence in MBA Award and the Beta Gamma Sigma Alumni Medallion. John previously graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and received his BS degree in Aerospace Engineering. He is employed at G.E. Aviation in Whippany, NJ. John and his wife, Lisa, reside in Augusta, NJ, and are expecting their first child in July.

**Michael Susen '97** was married on April 26, 2012 in St. Lucia. Michael and Suzan reside in Haledon, NJ.

Manny and **Lori (Spyckaboer) Intorrella '98** announce the birth of a son, Emmanuel Chase on 4/12/12. He joins big sister Briana.

Jill and **Michael Conlon '99** announce the birth of a son, Ethan Dylan on 11/1/11. He joins sister Aubrey (age 3).

## THE 2000'S

**Jill Schuurman '00** and Jason Formicola were married on February 11, 2012 at Cedar Hill CRC in Wyckoff, NJ.

Ryan and **Renee (Bogertman) Texer '00** announce the birth of a daughter, Kayla Grace on 6/26/12.

**Jonathan '01** and **Rachel (Vriesema) Kuperus '00** announce the birth of a daughter, Stella Frances, on 6/26/12.

**Laurie (Susen) Overton '01** and her husband Steve have moved back to New Jersey after several well-appreciated years living in

Colorado Springs, Colo. She is happy to again be near her family and to be back in her home state. They now reside in Long Valley, NJ.

Erin and **Ryan Fischer '02** announce the birth of a daughter, Hadley Elizabeth on 6/16/12. She joins big brother Greydon Edward.

**Keith Spoelstra '07** graduated from Calvin College and has joined Terrie O'Connor Realtors in Wyckoff, NJ. The Broker/Manager of that office is **Ron Pruiksmas '85**.

**Stacy Foschini '07** recently graduated from William Paterson University with a BA degree in Psychology. Stacy is engaged to Steven Battaglia from Hawthorne, NJ and is planning a 2014 wedding.

Ian Zacharias and **Melody Lyman '07** were married on June 22, 2012 at Covenant CRC in North Haledon, NJ. They are residing in Haledon, NJ.

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

## REMEMBERING

**Marcus Van Wyck** of Kalamazoo, Mich. on 3/11/12. Marcus was a graduate of EC Elementary School and also served EC as a Board Member. He moved to Kalamazoo in 1976 and was a member of Westwood CRC.

**Dorothy (Walkotten) Sweetman '26** of North Haledon, NJ on 3/11/12. A graduate of Barnett Hospital School of Nursing, Dorothy was active in Christian Nursing Service in various hospitals. She was a member of Bridgeway (First) CRC in Haledon, NJ.

**Sarene (Miller) Osenga '28** of North Haledon, NJ on 5/22/12. "Rene" was a life-long member of Midland Park CRC, serving as church secretary for 25 years and was active in many church activities.

**Elizabeth (Klapmust) Postma '29** of North Haledon, NJ on 3/24/12. Elizabeth lived in Indiana before moving to North Haledon in 1997.

**G. Aleida Garehan '31** of Alhambra, Calif. on 8/4/2011. A retired Registered Nurse, Aleida was a long time member of La Grave CRC in Grand Rapids, MI.

**Herbert Soodsma '31** of Kentwood, Mich. on 4/13/12, just one month short of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a member of the Trinity United Reformed Church in Caledonia, Mich.

**Catherine (Van Hoff) Veenema '34** of North Haledon, NJ on 4/11/12. She was a member of Unity CRC in Prospect Park, NJ and active in many church activities.

**Henrietta (Soodsma) Vander Plaat '36** of Fair Lawn, NJ on 4/12/12. A former Registered Nurse, Henrietta was a member of Old Paramus Reformed Church in Paramus, NJ.

**Gertrude (Heerema) Baker '38** of Westminster, Md. on 1/24/12. She was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church in Westminster, Md. where she was active in their music ministries.

**Rev. Marvin Meeter '41** of Wyckoff, NJ on 6/8/12. He served his country in the US Army during World War II. He was the Pastor of several Reformed churches in New York, New Jersey and Michigan. He was a member of Faith Reformed Church in Midland Park, NJ.

**Daniel Kamp '42** of Las Vegas, Nev. on 2/4/12. He served with the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during World War II. In 1996 he moved to Nevada from San Juan Capistrano, Calif. For over 40 years he sang in church choirs. A memorial service was held in the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, Calif.

**Agnes (Bush) Kuiken '42** of Midland Park, NJ on 5/20/12. She was a member of the Midland Park CRC where she was active in



many church activities.

**Jeanette (Sytsma) Beaudoin '43** of North Kingstown, R.I. on 12/16/11. A graduate of Calvin College, Jeanette lived in New York City for 37 years before retiring and moving to Rhode Island in 1989.

**Hilda (Tuit) Borduin '43** of North Haledon, NJ on 5/17/12. Hilda was a bus driver for EC from 1977 to 1993. She was a member of Cedar Hill CRC in Wyckoff, NJ.

**Gerda Beversluis '45** of Wyckoff, NJ on 4/28/12. She taught at EC Elementary School. Gerda was a member of Covenant CRC in North Haledon, NJ.

**Roberta (Spoelhof) Bruinooge '46** of Prospect Park, NJ on 1/23/12. Roberta was a member of Unity CRC, Prospect Park, NJ and a former member of Richfield CRC and Lodi CRC, where she was an organist for 25 years.

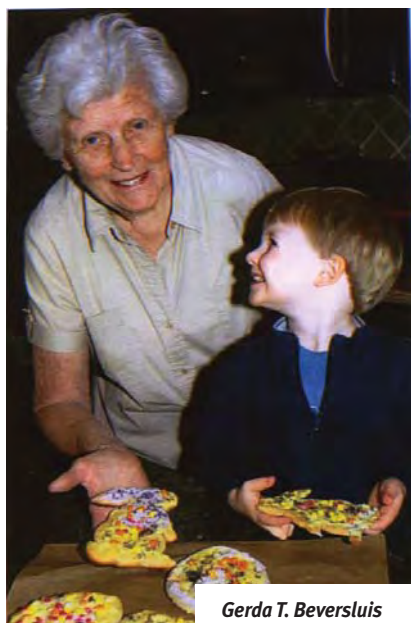
**Thys Rienstra '48** of Saylorsburg, Pa. on 2/25/12. He served his country in the Army during the Korean War. Thys was a member of the Mt. Eaton Church in Saylorsburg, Pa.

**Joan (Atema) De Bruin '48** of North Haledon, NJ, formerly of Hawthorne on 3/20/12. In her early career she was a teacher at Eastern Christian School. Joan directed many choirs, participated in many worship services as a soloist and taught piano lessons. She was a member of Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ.

**Henrietta "Rita" (Dykstra) Baker '57** of North Haledon and Little River, SC on 1/25/11. She was a former nurse at The Holland Home in North Haledon, NJ. Rita was a member of Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ and Calabash Presbyterian in Calabash, NC.

**David Crossman '02** of Apollo Beach, Fla. on 4/12/12 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. After graduating, David served in the US Army as an EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Technician until 2006. During his military career, which included two tours in Iraq, he was awarded the Bronze Star. Following his military career, David continued to work for various military government contractors and was attending Hillsborough Community College, Fla.

## In Memoriam: Gerda T. Beversluis



*Gerda T. Beversluis*

**O**n April 28, 2012, Gerda Beversluis, age 85, a former Eastern Christian Elementary School teacher and substitute teacher for many years, went to be with her Lord and Savior.

Gerda, born in Prospect Park, New Jersey, was the youngest in her family of 10 children, which included six brothers and three sisters. She is survived by her sister, Anne Etterbeek of Wyckoff, as well as her extended family of more than 120 nieces, nephews, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews spread out throughout the country.

Gerda was known for her winning smile, her adventurous spirit and her commitment to her large family. Not a person to adapt to technology, she maintained contact with her family and friends "the old fashioned way" with personal hand written notes, telephone calls and personal visits. She was known for her generosity as well as being a very caring, fun-loving and active person. Gerda traveled extensively both in the US and abroad, frequently on her own. One of her favorite trips was to Israel in 1990 as part of a group from Eastern Christian School, who traveled there with former EC Bible teacher **Ray Vander Laan**.

Although never married, she lived a full and rewarding life, always giving thanks to God for the opportunities that were afforded her and for the strong family ties that she maintained throughout her life.

Gerda, as well as her late brother **Nicholas Henry Beversluis**, were an integral part of the faculty and administration of Eastern Christian School for many years. We are deeply grateful for her faithful service and for her loving and caring spirit which was shared with all.

*editor's note: Anne Etterbeek passed away on July 20.*

## REUNION UPDATE

## The Class of 1955



**Front Row (L to R):** Henry Amos, Bill De Jonge, Mae Bangma Rienstra, Joan Hommes Zuidema, Ruth Van Ek Visbeen, Adrian Visbeen.  
**Back row:** John Steen, Dick Schipper, Peter Kreeft, Dick Watz, Ed Jaasma, Bill Van Dyke, Bob Jeffer, Jim Little, Ted Faber and John Vermaas.

The Class of 1955 held a gathering on June 15 at Ozzie's in Hawthorne, NJ. In addition to great fellowship, 16 classmates enjoyed an update about current events at Eastern Christian by Head of School **Tom Dykhous**. Classmate Dr. **Peter Kreeft**, Professor of Philosophy at Boston College and at the King's College in New York City, spoke to the group on the topic of ten important lessons he learned at ECHS that are still with him today.

Peter commented, "In all ten of these things, it is really only one thing that brought us here tonight. It was not chance, or fate. It did not just happen, like a rainstorm. We came – some of us from very far away – for a reason. We deliberately gave up other things that we could be doing now, other places we could be, other people we could be with, to be here now. It cost something to come here. It cost more for some than for others, but it cost something for everyone....The only reason people do this is love....And of course that means that we came here because we love God. Because God is the source and creator of all time and all life and all people and all things lovable. Everything that we love begins in God...."

"This reunion is a little foretaste of that great reunion that awaits us if we know the Way to Heaven. And that is the single most precious gift our school, and our teachers, and our friends and our parents and our families and our churches have given us: the knowledge of Him who is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life."



## REUNION YEAR CLASSES

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

## 2012 REUNIONS

*Class of 2002: 10-YEAR REUNION*

Please contact **Emily (Van Hine) Small** at [emily.a.small@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.small@gmail.com) or **Deborah (Ramirez) Campise** at [deborah\\_e\\_campise@hotmail.com](mailto:deborah_e_campise@hotmail.com) for updates.

*Class of 1992: 20-YEAR REUNION*

Date: Saturday, October 6, 2012 at Portobello's in Oakland.  
If you need additional information, please contact **Pam (Steiginga) Struble** at [pgstruble@yahoo.com](mailto:pgstruble@yahoo.com) or send a Facebook message!

*Class of 1987: 25-YEAR REUNION*

Date: Saturday, October 13, 2012 at Pellegrino's in North Haledon.  
For more information, contact **Scott Martin** at [smartindmd@aol.com](mailto:smartindmd@aol.com) – please be sure Scott has your up-to-date contact information!

*Class of 1952: 60-YEAR REUNION*

Date: Wednesday, September 12 at Pellegrino's in North Haledon.  
An informal gathering will take place at 12 noon. There has been a great response – if you were unable to attend, but your plans have changed, please don't hesitate to come! Contact **Clix Van Der Wiele** at 845-300-4164. Clix adds, "Since our reunion is the day after 9-11, please wear red, white and blue!"

## 2013 REUNIONS

*Attention Class of 2003*

Your 10-Year Reunion will be here soon! Now is the time to put together a planning committee. Please send a quick email to EC's Foundation Office at [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org) if you are willing to help.

*Class of 1993: 20-YEAR REUNION*

**Jennifer (Meyer) Ross** has begun the process of reaching out to classmates for ideas for next year's reunion. The Facebook page is "Eastern Christian Reunion" with the second name being Jenn Meyer Ross. Please contact Jenn with ideas about location/price/time and also ideas for a service project. Back in 2003, the class worked with Habitat for Humanity in the morning, followed by the reunion that evening.

*Class of 1973: 35-YEAR REUNION*

The reunion is in the planning stage! Please be sure that **Maribeth (Van Der Plaats) Vriesema** has your up-to-date contact information. She can be reached at [maribethvriesema@easternchristian.org](mailto:maribethvriesema@easternchristian.org) – watch for a Facebook Page for the class to be created very soon!

*Class of 1958: 55-YEAR REUNION*

The reunion is in the planning stage. Contact **Garry Nieuwenhuis** at [garrynieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org](mailto:garrynieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org) with your updated contact information and if you are willing to help.

**Send us your news!**

**Return to: The Herald, Eastern Christian School,  
50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508**

Names(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Alumni News ☐ Reunion Information ☐ Alumni Profile ☐ Change of address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# DESIGNATED GIFTS

JANUARY 16, 2012 – JUNE 14, 2012

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

*During the time period of **January 16, 2012 to June 14, 2012,***

*EC received **256 gifts** given in honor or in memory of a loved one totaling **\$13,346.71.***

## *☞ In Memory of ☞*

### **Douglas Ackerman**

James & Judith A. Abma  
Gerald H. & Janyce C. Bandstra  
Stanley Blom  
Gertrude W. & John H. Borst  
George & Carol Bosma, Dave Bosma,  
Matthew & Kevin Bottge  
Judith & Raymond F. Bottge  
Sandra J. & Robert F. Bottge  
Helen M. Breure  
Jane F. de Waal Malefyt  
Thomas G. & Linda Dykhous  
Rev. David & Charlotte Hanson  
Nancy & John Hemrick  
Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis  
Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta  
Ronald & Rita Popjes  
T. James & Jean Richmond  
Ronald E. & Marilyn Stonehouse  
Samuel H. & Marion L. Sybesma  
William & Ann H. Sytsma  
Peter V. & Judith B. Van Grouw  
John Van Lenten, Jr.

### **Anne Aupperlee**

Robert & Elizabeth Aupperlee  
Robert N. & Joyce Breur  
Susan J. & Kenneth Dyer  
Simon & Judith Elzinga  
Kevin J. & Donna Hoogerhyde  
Rhonda Klein  
Helen Smith  
Ralph & Nancy Wiegiers  
Audrey Wispelwey

### **Peter C. Aupperlee**

Barbara Aupperlee  
Dr. & Mrs. Donald P. Aupperlee  
J. George & Connie Aupperlee  
James & Ruth Aupperlee  
Robert & Elizabeth Aupperlee  
Bruce & Kandis Brandecker

Doris Breur  
Susan J. & Kenneth Dyer  
Charlotte & Andrew Elzinga  
William & Kathy Faasse  
Carolina E. Hartog  
Erin Honey  
Betty Kearns & Bill Green  
Eleanor Kooreman  
Nicholas & Jane Lindemulder  
Jeffrey & Theresa Moeller  
Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis  
John & Catherine Ponterio  
David & Marjo M. Reitsma  
Alice & Stuart Struck  
Ivan C. & Alice B. Tanis  
Betty F. Tolsma

### **Gertrude Baker**

Wilma J. Tuit

### **Gerda Beversluis**

Alice & Clarence Baker  
Laurence Beversluis  
Richard C. Beversluis  
John & Judith Bosloper  
Charles E. & Ann Fisher  
Carolina E. Hartog  
Carol L. & Ralph J. Hondert  
Horst Family  
Gary & Shirley Kok & family  
Richard M. & Laurie Kuiken & family  
Daniel Minkema  
Katherine Veenstra  
Doris J. Villarreal

### **Hilda Borduin**

Braen Stone Industries  
Roy D. & Jeanne R. Bushoven  
Keith D. & Beatrice S. Davis  
John H. & Doris M. Dyk  
Richard & Mary Ann Green  
Barbara Halma  
Catherine Havlin  
John & Karen Klaashoft & family

Keller Strother, MST Services  
Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis  
Harris & Susan Semegram  
Beatrice M. & Peter Spalt  
John & Linda Tuit & family  
Margorie Tuit  
Nick & Nancy Tuit & family  
Katherine Veenstra

### **Bethany Broersma**

Eunice J. Broersma  
Lisa Tannenbaum

### **Roberta J. Bruinooge**

Robert & Irene Bazzini  
John C. & Barbara A. Belanus  
Kristen & Craig Berry  
Carol J. Bruinooge  
Berta Bruinooge  
John H. & Anita J. De Korte  
Thomas G. & Linda Dykhous  
Steven B. & Anna R. Eichhorn  
William R. & Janice Englishmen  
Epic Wealth Strategies, LLC  
Janice & Rickey Ferriola  
Louise P. Gray Trust  
Duke & Renee Hoogland  
Kessler Family  
Wilma Kohere  
Gordon & Shirley Kuipers  
Charles M. & Marjorie A. Kuperus  
Lawrence Lee & Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee  
Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis  
Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta  
Anthony & Barbara Pilipie  
William J. Ryan  
Gertrude M. Seltmann  
John & Mae Spoelhof  
Philip & Patricia Spoelhof  
Robert J. Van Staaldin  
Milo J. & Ruth Veenstra  
Irene Veltkamp

### **Joan A. De Bruin**

Gerald H. & Janyce C. Bandstra  
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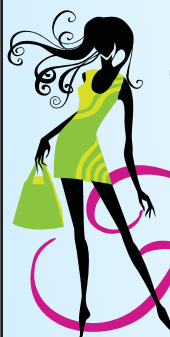
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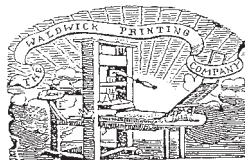
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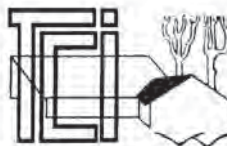
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# EC SPORTS

## Senior Athletic Awards

### *Athletic Department*

#### *Iron Eagle Award*

Kristen Traub

Morgan De Marco

### *ECHS Athletic Department*

#### *Varsity Club Award*

Jacob Shotmeyer

Kristen Traub

### *MSG Varsity Scholarship*

Heather Van Lenten

### *New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day*

Morgan De Marco

### *NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award*

Luke Everson

### *North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award*

Jacob Shotmeyer

Kristen Traub

### *Passaic County Coaches*

#### *Association Senior Scholar Athlete*

Jacob Shotmeyer

Kristen Traub

### *Paterson Old Timers'*

#### *Athletic Association Award*

Kristen Traub

### *Wendy's High School Heisman Award*

Tyler Albies

Morgan De Marco

## Winter Sports



**Boys Basketball:** Despite their 7-17 record, the boys' basketball team played a strong season, and looks like a team with a lot of potential for the future. Winning 3 of their final 4 games, the team loses only seniors **Dan Hook** and **Dylan Renicker** next year. A highlight for the school this year was a home game against rival Hawthorne Christian. The student body dressed for a "White Out," and cheered loudly throughout the game. Though EC lost, it was a night of school spirit and fun memories for the players and the students. The team was very balanced in scoring, with Dan and Dylan, as well as juniors **Matt Van Grouw** and **Cleveland McDaniel**, all scoring over 8 points per game.





Sophomore **Rachel Barrett**

**Girls Basketball:** The girls' basketball team had a strong inside game, strong shooting, and strong defense, and that balance led them to a very successful 20-6 record. The girls were Colonial League Champions, and did very well in the tough County and State Tournaments. Junior **Michelle Van Dyk** provided the inside presence, scoring over 15 points per game and tallying over 5 blocks per game. Junior **Carly Veenstra** played well from the outside, also scoring over 15 points per game, and averaging over 3 steals per contest.



Senior **Luke Everson**

**Bowling:** Led by seniors **Jon Englishmen**, **Elizabeth Mulcock**, and **Luke Everson**, the bowling team put together a memorable year at the lanes. Working each practice and match to improve their individual games, every member of the team improved their average points over the course of the season. Luke said, "I want my teammates to always realize the value of having fun and coming together as a team." He also said that Coach **Ji Young Kim** "always encourages us to do our best and helps us all improve our game."

## Winter Sports Awards

### ALL COUNTY

#### *First Team*

Joshua Davidson (Track)  
Michelle Van Dyke (Basketball)  
Carly Veenstra (Basketball)

#### *Second Team*

Elizabeth Mulcock (Bowling)

#### *Honorable Mention*

Emily Boasorte (Bowling)  
Jon Englishmen (Bowling)  
Luke Everson (Bowling)  
Abby Kuder (Basketball)  
Cleveland Mc Daniel (Basketball)  
Hana Schwartz (Bowling)  
Kristen Traub (Basketball)  
Matt Van Grouw (Basketball)  
Tyler Van Lenten (Track)  
Kayla Van Lenten (Track)  
Erin Van Lenten (Track)

### ALL LEAGUE

#### *First Team*

Dan Hook (Basketball)  
Cleveland Mc Daniel (Basketball)  
Kristen Traub (Basketball)  
Michelle Van Dyke (Basketball)  
Matt Van Grouw (Basketball)  
Carly Veenstra (Basketball)

#### *Second Team*

Abby Kuder (Basketball)  
Bethany Kuiken (Basketball)  
Dylan Renicker (Basketball)  
Keith Ring (Basketball)

#### *Honorable Mention*

Joe De Blasio (Basketball)  
Morgan De Marco (Basketball)

# Spring Sports



**Baseball:** The boys' baseball team improved over the season and ended with a final record of 9-12. The highlight of the season was an exciting come-from-behind win in the first round of the State Tournament against Queen of Peace. Down 1-4 in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, EC put six men on base in a row, including three straight doubles. The final score was 6-4. The three seniors on the team, **Dylan Renicker**, **Brandon Steinginga**, and **Dan Hook**, provided tremendous leadership throughout the season and will be greatly missed.



Junior **Ashley Manger**

**Softball:** With one senior, **Kelly Sietsma**, and a new coach, **Kevin Van der Beck**, the varsity softball team surprised their league with a solid 14-7 record and a strong performance in tournaments. "Coach Van der Beck played a major part in the success we had," said sophomore **Bethany Kuiken**. "He opened our eyes to a completely new game of softball, one of dedication and perseverance. He used softball to teach us leadership." The results spoke for

themselves. In the State Tournament, the team won their first two games with a combined score of 30-3. In the North Semifinal game against Newark Academy, a lone run in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning triggered the end of the team's season with a 0-1 loss.



Sophomore **Connor Milkamp**

**Golf:** The golf team earned a 15-10-1 record in dual meets, and placed a best-ever 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Passaic County Tournament. The team was only six strokes out of 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Junior **Matt Van Grouw** led the team with an impressive long game, finishing second individually in the County. He was tied for first place with only a couple holes remaining. Sophomore **Connor Milkamp**, and juniors **Ryan Vander Plaat** and **Kyle Dorsey** also had impressive seasons, leading to high expectations for next year's team.



Senior **Jon Bjorndal**

**Boys Tennis:** After losing their top players last year and playing in an extremely tough conference and county, the boys' tennis team had a final record of 2-9. The team was led by seniors **Brandon Chrinian**, **Guy LaRoche**, **Nick DeBlasio**, **Jon Bjorndal** and **Anthony DiGorgio**. "In the beginning of the season I was a little nervous about my skill level," said first-year player Nick DeBlasio. "But now I've earned a lot more respect for the game and I've gotten a lot better."





Junior **Tyler Van Lenten**

**Boys Track:** The boys' track team specialized in aerial acrobatics this year, with three pole vault medal winners at the State Track Meet. Senior **Josh Davidson** won the event with a school record 13'3" jump, and juniors **Andrew Fiedler** and **Kyle Coan** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively. **Cleveland McDaniel** took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the high jump. These results placed the team 9<sup>th</sup> in the State Tournament. The distance team of juniors **Tyler Van Lenten** and **Dan Vivolo**, and sophomore **Bobby Peretti** also had a strong season in the league meets.



Junior **Bethany Van Eck**

**Girls Track:** Senior **Kristen Traub** finished her remarkable career as the State Champion in the mile and 800 meter runs. She won the County and League championships in those two events, as well as in the 3200m. Junior **Bethany Van Eck** won the 100m hurdles at the State Meet. The team overall took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the County, the North State sectionals, and the State Meet. There were many contributions by team members on both the track and in the field. Senior **Morgan DeMarco** (discus), juniors **Chandler West** (100m) and **Sarah Post** (pole vault), sophomore **Kathryn Post** (3200), and freshman **Erin Van Lenten** (800m) were among the many medal-winning athletes on the team.



8<sup>th</sup> graders **Bryan Lineweaver** and **Sam Veenstra**

**Middle School Track:** The middle school track boys' and girls' teams were each 4-1 in their dual meets this year, with many strong performances. The teams had about 30 members each, and Coach **Terry Allen** has been pleased with their progress. "The team had a significant group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders...who started as 6<sup>th</sup> graders and have now developed into skillful runners, jumpers, and throwers," Coach Allen said. **Jonathan Veenstra** was one such runner, breaking the school record in the mile with a time of 5:03. Jonathan and **Trent Braen** both broke the 800m record as well. **Kelly Tanis**, in the discus, and **Emma Hagedoorn**, in the high jump, were among the leaders on the girls' team.

## Spring Athletic Awards

### ALL COUNTY

#### First Team

Kristen Traub (Track)  
Bethany Van Eck (Track)  
Matt Van Grouw (Golf)

#### Second Team

Brandon Chrinian (Tennis)  
Josh Davidson (Track)  
Ashley Manger (Softball)  
Connor Milkamp (Golf)  
Carly Veenstra (Softball)  
Chandler West (Track)

#### Honorable Mention

Anthony DiGorgio (Tennis)  
Kyle Dorsey (Golf)  
Andrew Fiedler (Track)  
Katherine Post (Track)  
Sarah Post (Track)  
Brandon Steinginga (Baseball)  
Nick Steinginga (Baseball)  
Jenna Struyk (Softball)  
Ryan Vander Plaats (Golf)  
Kayla Van Lenten (Softball)

### ALL LEAGUE

#### First Team

Joshua Davidson (Track)  
Solana Lewis (Track)  
Ashley Manger (Softball)  
Emily Maura (Track)  
Katherine Post (Track)  
Sarah Post (Track)  
Brandon Steinginga (Baseball)  
Nick Steinginga (Baseball)  
Jenna Struyk (Softball)  
Kristen Traub (Track)  
Bethany Van Eck (Track)  
Erin Van Lenten (Track)  
Carly Veenstra (Softball)  
Chandler West (Track)  
Jolie Wolyniec (Softball)

#### Second Team

Brandon Chrinian (Tennis)  
James Creange (Baseball)  
Andrew Fieldler (Track)  
Dan Hook (Baseball)  
Tara Kleinmanns (Softball)  
Bethany Kuiken (Softball)  
Cleveland McDaniel (Track)  
Dylan Renicker (Baseball)  
Keith Ring (Baseball)  
Kelly Sietsma (Softball)  
Julie Van Buiten (Softball)  
Matt Van Grouw (Golf)  
Tyler Van Lenten (Track)  
Kayla Van Lenten (Softball)

#### Honorable Mention

Blair Bohuny (Track)  
Esther Galo (Track)  
Connor Milkamp (Golf)  
Ethan Ruitenbergh (Tennis)  
Seth Statlander (Baseball)  
Becky Wiegers (Softball)

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