

THE *Herald*

FALL 2014
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A PUBLICATION OF **EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



Eastern Christian Graduation

2014





EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

“IN PURSUING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST, WE WILL...”



These words are the preface to Eastern Christian School's Statement of Core Values, a set of attributes that we aspire to have every member of our school community live out in their daily lives. This graduation issue of **The Herald** is a chronicle of life in our school during the second semester of the 2013-14 school year, a period culminating in a week of wonderful celebration in which we marked the accomplishments and contributions of students, faculty, and staff at major milestones in their academic careers and their working lives.

As you read this issue, please consider this collection of stories in the light of this set of core values to which our school community is aspiring each day.

Seek Truth - Each day our students engage in the exhilarating, challenging work of learning about our God's incredible creation. This issue will take you inside just a few of their studies as they learn of the wonders of this nation and reflect the beauty of God's creation through art.

Serve Others - One of the most noble purposes of a Christian education is to prepare the students entrusted to us to serve others in the service of God's Kingdom. Take a glimpse into how this goal is accomplished through the MAD Project work of our middle school students.

Embrace Community - Eastern Christian School is a community like few others in the world! This issue welcomes you into the community celebrations held to mark important milestones in the lives of our pre-schoolers, fourth graders, eighth graders, and the members of the Eastern Christian High School Class of 2014 as they move onto the next level of their academic careers.

Exhibit Compassion - Compassion is one of the true markers of a Christian community. As you read the story and look at the photos of the mission trips that took place this spring, you will see the interaction of compassion and learning that will impact lives of a lifetime!

Develop Responsibility - A key lesson that our students learn each day is the importance of being responsible for themselves, their work, their school community, and the world around them. Enjoy the story of how this important attribute was internalized by our elementary and middle school students as they celebrated Spirit Week this spring.

Strive for Excellence - One of the most important lessons learned in a Christian school is the importance of striving for excellence as an offering to our God. Throughout this issue, you will see stories of our students recognized for giving their best - from the numerous academic achievements, awards, and scholarships, to excellence on the stage, and even a first-time state championship for the ECHS Girls Track Team!

We hope that you enjoy this issue of **The Herald** as we mark the joyful culmination of our 121st year of living and learning together in this very special community called Eastern Christian School!

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

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SCHOOL

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ABOUT THE COVER

Graduation photos from the middle school and high school ceremonies.

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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CAMPUS NEWS



Ruth Kuder and Dick Van Yperen

Two Familiar Faces Assume New Roles

The Eastern Christian School Association's Board of Directors have named **Ruth Kuder** to the role of high school principal and **Dick Van Yperen** to the role of middle school principal for the 2014-2015 school year. Both appointees are Eastern Christian veterans, well-acquainted with the school, possessing a strong background in teaching and educational administration.

"Having two well-known, highly experienced professionals move into these positions enables us to continue moving forward without interruption," said **Tom Dykhouse**, executive director. "Dick is very thoughtful about educational issues and has led our curriculum design efforts, the development of our faculty professional growth plan, and many of our educational initiatives. Ruth is a tremendously creative educator, who regularly thinks outside the box about new and creative ways to accomplish our mission. For example, she has provided leadership to the Student Services Office, the International Student Program, and our New York Metro Program."

The two appointees replace **Joel Uecker** at the high school and **Andrew Culp** at the middle school. Both outgoing principals accepted positions in other states, but not without making significant contributions to the school.

"Joel and Andrew both made very significant contributions to our school during their time at Eastern Christian. We will certainly miss having them as part of our school community and wish them well as they assume their new positions," said Dykhouse.

Eastern Christian has moved forward in the right direction and has recently been recognized as innovators outside of the school community through its **New Jersey State School of Character** designation. The school has also made great strides in technology integration in the class room, as well as in strengthening curriculum for all grade levels.

"Each of these efforts requires continuing attention and I look forward to working with Ruth and Dick as we focus on the theme of excellence as an offering to the Lord we serve," said Dykhouse.

An Eternal Understanding

Years ago, sitting in a classroom at Eastern Christian's Junior High School, a seventh grader focused on the words of her teacher, **Wilma Knoll**. Though most days she learned English, on this particular day, the young lady took home another lesson.

"I have a very vivid memory," recalls **Ruth Kuder**, high school principal. "I remember her challenging the students to consider why they are in school. What did they hope to do with their high school and college education? What would they do about their job and the money they made? She really pushed the conversation towards, what then? What does it all matter in the end? This really challenged my thinking as a seventh grader. I had to really consider my eternal purpose and what I was here for."

Kuder entered the Eastern Christian school system as a kindergartner at North Fourth Street Christian School. Upon graduation from the high school, she completed her undergraduate degree in history and literature at Wheaton College, going on to pursue a master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA and receiving certification as a principal in New Jersey.

Her career has traversed from serving as a journalist with Food for the Hungry International in Latin America to various progressive positions at Eastern Christian, ranging from teacher, to interim principal in 2011, to her most recent roles as vice principal of the high school and head of the international student program.

Kuder credits past positions with providing her the foundation to step

into her latest role, always remaining mindful of the "eternal understanding" instilled in her from an early age.

"A lot of experiences in my life have prepared me to be where I am right now. I have a deep passion of what we are doing and a deep knowledge and love for the high school. I am tremendously excited about the foundation that exists and the potential for the future that exists too," she said.

A mother of five – a mix of current and graduated Eastern Christian students – Kuder sees the value of Christian education, not only as an educator, but also as a parent. Her family has invested in Christian education, she says, for three reasons: the provision of a Christian worldview; Christian teachers and staff who "speak into our kid's lives"; and partnership with other believing families.

Just as Eastern Christian did for her own worldview, Kuder hopes to continue the school's legacy of excellence by approaching it from an eternal perspective.

"If you think back to what you may have learned in high school, so much of that has disappeared from your memory, but the values, the worldview, the lens from which you view the world doesn't expire," she adds. "What I hope our students come out with is that they are living lives of purpose. Their lives are a part of a greater plan. I hope they will come out with tools to understand how their work in science, in medicine, in law, engineering, or in the arts, for example, is part of a life of purpose...That they will know how their lives on a daily basis can advance the kingdom of God on earth."

The Plans He Has For Us

Tucked in the back of the association house, a row of handcrafted clay tribal figurines from Kenya rest on the windowsill of Dick Van Yperen's office. They serve as a reminder of his life's safari--one that started as a staunch supporter of public schools but led him to strongly advocate for Christian education. Ultimately, they are a reminder of God's faithfulness--how the Lord could use a school in East Africa to prepare and equip him for fourteen years of service in his home state.

A turning point for Van Yperen occurred in 2000. After serving as the English department head and on the curriculum team at missionary school Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya for four years, Van Yperen was invited to serve as the high school principal, but his wife wanted to return to New Jersey.

"We resigned from Africa Inland Mission and I began to look for a job. I found an opening at Eastern Christian to be an elementary school principal," he said. "Although I was a secondary teacher, I felt prepared and I discovered that I love serving in the elementary school. I knew Christian education at that point. I understood it and I understood the issues that surround it. I see now, looking back at those years, Rift Valley prepared me for this role that I never anticipated I would be in."

Van Yperen spent his early years at Ridgewood Public School. Upon graduating with an English degree from Taylor University and a Master of Art of Teaching English from Fairleigh Dickinson University, he returned to Ridgewood High School for 25 years to teach and coach. "Ironically, during those years of teaching at Ridgewood, I made strong arguments advocating for public education versus private Christian education with my best friend, who was an EC graduate," he added.

His first memory of Rift Valley Academy and of Christian schooling was in 1989, five years before he became a full-time missionary, when he and his family traveled there for a one-year sabbatical. The school served 500 students, including his three children--two daughters and a son. "We had a wonderful year there and I saw the powerful contrast that it provided to public education."

Since first coming to Eastern Christian fourteen years ago, Van Yperen has worn the hats of elementary school principal, middle school principal, curriculum coordinator and director of curriculum instruction. This year, he continues in his role as director of curriculum instruction and is excited to work again at the middle school.

"The middle school is an exciting and engaging learning community where our students are learning in a developmentally appropriate way with a strong, unified staff. The emphasis we want to continue to have is to create a learning environment where there is structure yet freedom for students to grow," he said. "We will continue down the path of striving for excellence."

Middle School Students Get MAD

There are many ways to make a difference, ranging from coloring bicycle safety pages with preschoolers, to working with developmentally disabled children, to preparing dinner for the homeless. This year's middle school students have been engaged in all those activities and more, thanks to the school's thriving MAD program.

"Our Make A Difference program has been evolving over the past eight years in the middle school. While we have always sought to incorporate service learning into the experience, it has really formalized over the past eight years," said **Andrew Culp**, principal. "Its goal is to partner with local non-profits, ministries and organizations to allow students to use their classroom learning and personal gifts, skills and interests to make a demonstrable difference."



Liam Duffy poses with a young friend during Free Cone Day in Ridgewood. Proceeds supported Habitat for Humanity.

MAD encompasses a variety of skill sets, like problem-solving and critical thinking, as well as serving as a platform to live out the call to transform the world.

Each grade level works with a specific organization. Fifth graders raise money for St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital by holding bicycle safety classes for preschool children, and then orchestrating the ECES Trike-A-Thon. Sixth graders partner with Habitat for Humanity, which included attending the Hammering for Habitat event at the Center City Mall in Paterson. Seventh grade students served children at the Children's Therapy Center, while eighth graders completed a number of projects and activities to benefit New Hope Community Ministries.

"In the process of both the learning and the actual service, students' hearts and spirits are being nurtured and the gospel is being preached, to ourselves and to a broader community," said Culp.



Fifth grader Elizabeth Botbyl and teacher aid Ruth Henion assist Jr. kindergarten students Logan Wilson and Ryan Miller.



Nico Cortes and Jack Trevisan inside New Hope Community Ministries' food pantry.



Jaclyn Vincenti working with her buddy at The Children's Therapy Center.

Fourth Grade Investigates The States

BY KATHRYN MAE POST '14

Have you ever wanted to visit every state in the country? Have you yearned to see the awe-inspiring size of the Grand Canyon, the majesty of Mount Rushmore, or the beaches in Hawaii? On March 6, guests at Eastern Christian Elementary School were able to visit every corner of the nation when they enjoyed the state projects created by fourth grade students.

After selecting their states out of a hat, the students researched their states for one month in school. Then they took their projects home and completed the presentations on their own. There are five topics that each student covered in their presentations: geography, history, culture, economics, and government. The research was shared at a presentation night, occurring March 6.



Aiden Mader

The research was shared at a presentation night, occurring March 6.

"We've been doing the states project for around nine years," said fourth grade teacher Donna Hoogerhyde. "Part of the fourth grade curriculum is the study of the United States."

Fourth grader Rachel Post, who studied North Dakota, said, "The most interesting thing about my state is the International Peace Garden. It's on the border of America and Canada, and it has both a Canadian flag made out of flowers and an American flag made out of flowers."

Her sibling Sean Post, also in fourth grade, learned about Arizona: "The best parts of my state were the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, and Dateland. Dateland has 50 thousand acres of dates!"

Teachers were pleased with the results of the projects. "I like to see the kids learning and being excited about something new," said fourth grade teacher Carol Byma.

Not only do students learn about their own states, they also discover things about all the other states by listening to their peers. The presentations are a wonderful way to learn about the states because they have both an oral component and a visual component. Bringing food that represents certain states is also very popular.

"This project enables children to gather information about their states and gain interest in different states," said Rachel. "I think that everybody learned a lot!"



Rachel Post



Sean Post



Jack Veenema



Capri Kuiken



Dallas Pollock



From Top, L-R: Kathryn Post, Jason Van Goor, Aaron DeRosa, Qichen "Will" Fan, Kelsey Veenstra; Middle: Mark Van Reeth, Carter Heerema, Rebecca Martin, Tianqi Xie, Sarah Martin, Mengying Xing; Bottom: Seonjae Cho, Rebecca Shin, Angela Varney, Kaitlyn Jung, Holly Silva, Angely Montilla, Sandy Ibrahim, Yuri Ko, Yaxin Chen, Taylor Herman

Students Win Top Honors

One of the main priorities of Eastern Christian staff and faculty is to encourage working with excellence. Throughout the school year, students in various classes tested their work against other high school students locally, across the state, around the nation, and even throughout the world. Twenty-five students and one teacher took home honors in their respective disciplines this year.

NJPAC ART SHOW 2014

Art I students, under the direction of art teachers **Jesse Wright** and **Donna Aceino**, were entered into the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's late winter and winter juried art shows. A panel of judges selected pieces from all over the state for the exhibit.

Selected exhibitors (winter):

Tianqi Xie
Kelsey Veenstra
Taylor Herman

Selected exhibitors (late winter):

Seonjae Cho
Matthew Van Eck
Yuri Ko
Kaitlyn Jung

AENJ YOUTH ART MONTH 2014

Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ) Youth Art Month hosts a prestigious opportunity for art students from around the state. Each month, six pieces of artwork are selected by a panel of art teachers to represent the county. State winners are showcased in the YAM exhibit at State House in Trenton.

County and state winner:

Jae Hee Lee

PASSAIC COUNTY FILM FESTIVAL

The Passaic County Film Festival features a juried exhibition of films from students and independent filmmakers who either live, work or attend school in Passaic County. As part of a filmmaking SOAR, students entered the festival.

Official selection finalist: "Impact for the Good"

Mark Van Reeth
Carter Heerema
Aaron DeRosa

SCHOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARD

Running for nearly 100 years, this annual contest receives more than 185,000 submissions of student art and writing in 28 categories. The awards are presented by the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

Dual recipients of gold and silver:

HyoJin "Rebecca" Shin
Yoojung "Ellie" Choi

TRIG*STAR COMPETITION

Students in Deborah Andrews' Precalculus class entered the national Trig*Star competition, an annual competition focusing on trigonometry and sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. Nearly 700 students participate from 18 high schools within New Jersey. Winners are chosen at the school level, local chapter level, state level, and finally at the national level, with monetary prizes at each level.

School winner:

Qichen "Will" Fan

AMERICAN SCHOLASTIC MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION MONTHLY COMPETITION

Although a United States organization sponsors this monthly awards competition, students compete internationally. This year there were approximately 215 American schools and 82 international schools that participated. The Eastern Christian math club team earned the second place division.

Top school scorer:

Yaxin Chen

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL J-DAY

Drawing nearly 700 entries this year, Ball State University in Indiana sponsors a national contest enabling high school students to receive recognition for outstanding work in student journalism. The school took home awards in four categories. Student work was also entered in a separate, monthly contest, where one student was lauded.

News Story, Superior (top honor):

Sarah Martin, "Anniversary gift for the Apols"

Feature News Story, Excellent:

Angela Varney, "Eastern Christian's most embarrassing tradition"

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Sports Story, Excellent:

Dianni Hall, "Olympian close to home"

Personality Feature, Honorable Mention:

Kathryn Mae Post, "Meet Mr. Boonstra"

Ball State University Journalism Workshops Monthly Contest

Honorable Mention, Feature Story

Holly Silva, "Boys surveyed on modesty"

involves researching a historical topic revolving around a specific theme. Work is judged by professional educators and historians.

Regional winners:

- Rebecca Martin*
- Jason Van Goor*
- Sandy Ibrahim*
- Angely Montilla*
- Mengying Xing*

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Taught by **Jim Uitermarkt** and **Jane Okma**, the Junior Humanities class competed in the regional New Jersey History Day competition. The contest runs nationwide with more than half a million participants each year and

NEW JERSEY HISTORY DAY

Patricia Behring 2014 Teacher of the Year:

Jane Okma, one of two state winners

Gymnasium Doubles as Art Museum



Tyler Dykhous next to the Georgia O'Keefe-inspired display.

Eastern Christian Middle School's gymnasium was transformed into an art museum on March 20. The Second Annual Fine Arts Festival featured works of art and musical performances from middle school students.

"This year, the students were really looking forward to it," said **Brenda Leentjes**, art teacher for K-8. "Sometimes students think their work isn't worth anything. Things get pushed to the side. But in this art show every student can show off their work. It's a motivator."

New this year, one display featured acrylic-painted pizza boxes by the fifth grade class. The project, inspired by artist Georgia O'Keefe, involved students painting a plant or flower and then applying a Bible verse to the box. Leentjes said this was her favorite display. "The students really enjoyed this project," she added.

One of these students was fifth grader **Tyler Dykhous**, who was in attendance with his family. His painted box featured flowers in a field. The accompanying verse was the school's theme for the year, Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not onto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will keep your paths straight."



Sixth grader **John Zuidema** was also in attendance. His favorite piece was the weaving project he created, featuring a vibrant pattern. "It was the first time I felt good about something I made in art," he said, "It was my favorite because I was fast and good."

Although most of the projects around the room were completed during art class, other subjects were represented through creative ways. Like many other fine arts events, guests were serenaded with classical music from a number of middle school students.

Surprises awaited as one walked through the room. A 3D model of Palestine during the time of Jesus, created by eighth grade Bible students **Madelyn Langelaar** and **Rebekah Parker**, greeted guests shortly after entry. And perhaps more surprisingly, math was incorporated into the gallery. Pre-Algebra's wall featured scaled 2D and 3D models of the room 14 classroom, drawn by eighth graders **Anthony Avila**, **Melody Crimeni** and **James Dolio**.



P is for Parents in the Classroom

BY ROBYN STEGINK '14

In its second year, the Jr. kindergarten parent reading program introduced children to the love of reading while connecting parents and other loved ones to the classroom environment. The program, coined "R" is for Reading, kicked off the same week the class learned about the letter R.

"It started with an invitation to parents to read their child's favorite book. Most of the parents – we've had moms and dads – read one or two of their child's favorite books. We've had a few parents read a book that was one of their childhood favorites. This year, we also had a few grandparents and Pastor Mary Stegink from Ridgewood CRC read," said teacher **Kathy Faasse**.

Some of the highlights included an acted out version of Tacky, the Penguin. The children also enjoyed a Spanish version of Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you Hear?, as well as a story about a dog named Jingle in



Denise Kiernan and her daughter, Eleanor, read to Jr. kindergarten students.

Jingle's Good Deed.

"I love the parent involvement in the classroom," Faasse said, "The kids love to have their parents visit and it fosters a love of reading."

Solving Real-World Problems

Creative problem solving starts early at Eastern Christian. Every year at the elementary school, the faculty engages students in a Problem Based Learning (PBL) project. "In a PBL, students are presented with a question or problem that they must work together to answer or solve. PBL allows students to take ownership of their learning and think deeply and creatively," said **Sandra Bottge**, principal.

This year's school-wide PBL connected to the year's verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, as well as to **Tim and Stephanie Steen** and their children, an Eastern Christian family who left for Tanzania to serve as missionaries at Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC).

Children in all grades were posed with two separate questions: How can we walk alongside the Steen family as they Trust, Know, Yield, and Go? and, If we're not in Tanzania, how do we go with the Steens?

The solutions took on many different forms. Fourth grade students created gospel story puzzles for distribution in Tanzania. The puzzles included John 3:16. Students in the after-school program prayed for the eventual recipients.

Two grades tied the alphabet into their PBL projects. Third graders crafted "ABC" Bible booklets featuring 26 Bible verses to use as a witnessing



Second graders serve up lemonade and iced tea as part of their PBL project.

tool. Meanwhile, kindergarten created an ABC book that touched on taking care of God's earth, while also writing letters about Jesus.

First grade focused on prayer, encouraging other grades to pray with posters and checklists. Second grade put their energies into fundraising, orchestrating a lemonade and iced tea sale during recess.

Even the preschool participated.

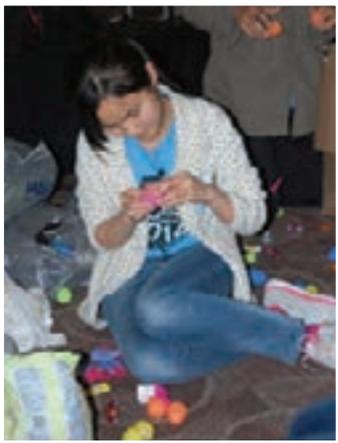
All three preschool classes collected money to fill bags of love, which featured candy, trinkets and stickers that proclaimed Jesus' love. In the end, 130 bags of love were shipped to HOPAC for distribution to students.

"After reading the Steen's blog and learning about their life and work in Tanzania, students came up with many clever ways to help," said Bottge. "As we're learning about the Steen's life and work in Tanzania, we're also learning about African life, culture, animals, geography and recycling."

Missions at EC

More than 50 ECHS students used their spring break vacation to participate in short-term missions trips. Partnering with Touch the World, Eastern Christian sent teams to Uganda, Puerto Rico and Lynn, MA as part of its Experiencing Missions program. There were also several students who went to Ghana through Living in Christ (LinC) youth group.

LYNN, MA



Kelsey Li places candy inside a plastic Easter egg, along with a Sunday service invitation from East Coast International Church, Lynn, MA. Teams distributed the Easter eggs throughout Lynn's business district.



Joel Apol, along with **Katelyn Taylor** and community members, stand in the foyer of a three-story Victorian home the EC team helped restore during their week of ministry. The home was recently purchased by East Coast International Church to house students attending the church's Academy of Urban Ministry.



Senior **Hannah Flim** surrounded by village children in Ghana. Nine EC students traveled to Africa with Living in Christ (LinC) youth group. In addition, EC Alumni **Allison Dykstra '10**, **Don Dykstra '82**, **Alyssa Kuiken '10**, **Eric Martin '05**, **Sara Schipper '10** and **Kelsey Spoelstra '10** served as leaders. One of their projects in the village involved installing a sewage system.

PUERTO RICO

Junior Mengying Xing poses with a camper to complete a craft



EC teamed with **Iglesia Biblica de la Gracia**, a church in Puerto Rico that has recently launched an after-school program providing a safe place for local kids after school. The students helped facilitate programming in the afternoons and spent the mornings building an addition to one of the camp buildings.

UGANDA

In Uganda there are many small villages filled with children. High school seniors **Joshua Ashkinazi** and **Nick Steiginga** take time out to play with children in Adak village. The team stayed at the Touch the World Dream Center in Adak, located within the city limits of Gulu, Uganda.



Students in Uganda worked alongside **Consi**, a local woman who suffered with polio, to build a hut before rainy season. The hut will provide a new, safe home for her and her two children.



From Front, L-R: Bobby Peretti, Christina Caviasco, Kathryn Post, Josh Ashkinazi, Cheryl Steenstra, Jesse Ojeda; Jen Streeleman, Hanna Furhman, Tara Kleinmanns, Briana Rumsey, Amanda Vincenti, Sarah Mulcock, Matt Matthias; Skylar Brown, Adrian Brown, Rachel Ziegler, Esther Galo, Corey Abma, Jeanae Dedio, Megan Hickey, Krystal Rodriguez, Alexa Anderson, Jessica Barna; Sylvia Yoon, Ali Systma, Scott Steenstra, Ashley Knudsen, Doug Davis, Jason Van Goor, Taylor Herman, Alivia Ball; Rachel Schultz, Emily Thomas, Maggie Albies, Kaitlin Shurminsky, Alyssa Shurminsky, Morgan Abma; Rachel Girimonte, Naomi Valentin, Kristen Casey, Kimona Dussard, Nicole Martin, Mackenzie Wiegers, Stephanie Avila, Robyn Stegink, Abi Phillips, Rebecca Martin, Alyssa Botbyl, Abby Johnson, Elizabeth Kuipers, Sarah Martin

Pie a Teacher Day

By Carla Whittingham '14

Eastern Christian Middle School students celebrated Pi Day – 3.14.2014 – with an innovative idea aimed at having fun and helping others.



Eighth grader **George Foley** seizes the opportunity to pie a teacher.

The eighth graders organized a Pi Day fundraiser to support New Hope Community Ministries. Students bought tickets for \$1 each to win the opportunity to pie a teacher. In addition to the much-anticipated opportunity, teachers designed educational activities, investigations and experiences to enhance the

students' understanding of Pi and provide context for the day's events.

In regards to 'Pie a Teacher', "All of the teachers were really awesome. I got to pie Mr. Kuiken. They were all really good sports," said eighth grader **Christina Piluso**, one of the students who won the prize. Teachers volunteered their faces for pie target practice. **Ben Kuiken, Laura Kuehlke, Joyce Breur, Cindy Flim, Marc Spoelstra** and **Terry Allen** participated.

The organizers used the money they raised to donate frozen food and fruit. According to its web site, New Hope Community Ministries is a "faith-based, non-profit community development corporation dedicated to working with low-income residents of Haledon and Prospect Park, NJ."

As a result of the Pi Day fundraiser, ECMS raised \$198.

A Fiddler on the Roof of Eastern Christian

BY BRIANA RUMSEY '14 AND HYUN JIN REE '14

Fiddler on the Roof opened to rave reviews, with a performance on March 13-15 with more than 70 students participating in some capacity.

This classic musical is about Jewish tradition and love. It centers around a poor milkman and father, Tevye, and his five daughters, played by seniors **Cheryl Steenstra, Christina Caviasco, Tara Kleinmanns, Briana Rumsey** and sophomore **Amanda Vincenti**. Portrayed by senior **Joshua Ashkinazi**, Tevye struggles to let his daughters make their own choices. By his side is his wife, Golde, played by senior **Kathryn Post**.

"Fiddler on the Roof is such an enticing musical because it's a deep, meaningful story with a comedic tone. It is such a great musical with such timeless values," said Joshua.

He added that this particular show took on additional significance. He explains: "For me personally, it has a different appeal. Fiddler on the Roof also ties in with my heritage. My father was a Russian Jew who was born in the Soviet Union a few years after World War II. Fiddler on the Roof takes place in a small community of Jews within a much larger community of pre-communistic Russia. My father, along with his parents and their parents before them, and so on, all lived in Russia throughout these time periods."

The play was directed by **Jane Okma** and musically directed by **Suzanne Kraai**. The rest of the production team included **Rob Flim**, pit orchestra director; **Ji Young Kim**, technical director; **Lauren Panzica**, choreographer; and **Jesse Wright**, set design and construction.

Okma added, "The show was an amazingly collaborative effort. Students, teachers, and parents worked together to create something larger than the sum of its parts. The show illustrated the wisdom and truth of I Corinthians 12:12-26."

Celebrating School Spirit

BY KATHRYN MAE POST '14

If a visitor wandered into the halls of Eastern Christian Elementary School during the third week of March, they would have been greeted with a swirl of brilliant colors and contrasting patterns; third and fourth graders sporting suspenders, wigs and hair dye; and perhaps even a teacher wearing a tutu. The mood was festive from March 17 through March 21, as both the elementary school and middle school participated in theme days to show their school spirit.

"We're having spirit week to build unity and have fun, which coordinates well the week before spring break," said **Debi Veenstra**, physical education teacher and special events committee member. "Just as we are one body in Christ, we need to do things together and cheer each other on. It's good for both school and life to be fun."

At the elementary school, each day introduced a new theme. Monday was green day, followed by EC colors day, wacky day, hat day, and pajama day.

Wacky day proved a favorite for many students. "Getting to be wacky was the best part because we can do things that are different," said fourth grader **Allison Borduin**.

Students embraced their "wacky side" in different ways. Second grader **Charlotte Van Goor** brought some color to the playground by wearing a rainbow-colored wig. "I'm wearing a clown outfit because it's



Second grader **Grace Wall** shows off her funky pink headband and wide-rimmed glasses.

wacky Wednesday. Today is my favorite day because it's funny because everybody dresses weird," said Charlotte.

Fourth grader **Zach DeVries** sported fire-engine red hair. "My hair isn't naturally this color. I got hair dye with a mascara brush for hard to reach places. I chose red because it is my favorite color," he added.

While this was the first year for spirit week at the elementary school, it was the second year for middle school students. They participated in other spirit days, such as sports jersey day and throwback-Thursday.

Eighth grader **Jo-Jo Bucci** said that "spirit week brings liveliness and a friendly atmosphere." He went on to say that "it is a fun tradition that future students will enjoy."



Fourth graders **Julien Arcay**, **Matthew Barna**, and **Hank Hagedoorn** dress to impress on Wacky Wednesday.



Second grader **Charlotte Van Goor** wears a fun wig for Wacky Wednesday during spirit week.



Fourth graders **Zach DeVries** and **Anya Veinberg** take a break from the playground to pose with red and green hair.

HIGH SCHOOL



Introducing the graduating class of 2014

High School Graduation

On Wed., June 18, a crowd packed the gymnasium to celebrate the class of 2014, a group of 76 young men and women characterized by their varied talents in academics, sports and the arts.



Abi Phillips

Appropriate in a year where the girls track team earned state championship honors, the theme for the night centered around finishing the journey of faith well. The class song was Jeremy Camp's "Walk By Faith"; the Valedictory address was titled "Relentless Pursuit"; while the commencement address focused on "Staying the Course."

"Pursuing Christ is never easy. It takes a willingness to rebel against the patterns of this world and purposefully seek a higher calling. In this way, Christian are already waging an uphill battle," said **Kathryn Mae Post**, valedictorian.

Kathryn expounded on the race imagery of Philippians 3:10-14, drawing from her personal experiences in cross-country. In the state meet at Holmdel Park, she relayed about the "nearly vertical" incline toward the end of the course, followed by another hill. "Let me tell you from personal experience, it takes every ounce of effort not to stop and walk up that second hill. Yet if we stop to walk, we are no longer 'pressing on towards the goal to win the prize,'" she said. She connected this earthly race with our spiritual race, saying, "Even when we face situations that are impossible to understand, we must continue to relentlessly pursue Christ," adding that at the same time, "before we even decide to pursue Christ in our lives, he is already pursuing us."



Sohyun Kim and Hyun Jin Rhee proceed down the aisle



Kathryn Post presenting the valedictory address

High School College and Career Counselor **Jesse Struck** served as this year's commencement speaker. In keeping with the race imagery, he urged students "to continue pressing on as you leave Eastern Christian, with your eyes fixed firmly and exclusively on Christ."

He closed, "As you commence this next stage of life as aspiring educators, engineers, nurses, military officers, graphic designers and the like, it is my

prayer that in all things, Christ will remain preeminent – that all other ventures and ambitions would be subject to his lordship and used for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Graduates, be exceptional at whatever you do, for in doing so, what finely tuned instruments you might be in his hands. Imagine what an impact you could make for the kingdom!"



Jesse Struck speaking to the graduates during his commencement address



The Class of 2014



Seth Alexander
Alicea



Alexa Marie
Anderson



Joshua David
Ashkinazi



Aaron Matthew Ball



Jonathan David
Boonstra



Joshua Mark
Breeman



Rachel Leah
Campbell



Jeremiah Noel
Castro



Christina Rae
Caviasco



Lydia Haley
Cheesman



Yaxin Chen



Seonjae Cho



Jae Hoon Choi



Yoo Jung Choi



Matthew Leon Clark



Douglas Joseph Davis



Hannah Grace Flim



David George Foley



Dianni Faith Hall



Zachary Rocco Hebel



Megan Hickey



Tianhe Huang



Sohyun Kim



Tara Anne Kleinmanns



Carolyn Olivia Kosten



Abigail Jane Kuder



Bethany Grace Kuiken



Daniel Jaeho Kwon



Marisa Alicia Lacy



Jae Hee Lee



Matthew Alexandre
Lee



Ye Ji Lee



Qifeng Li

HIGH SCHOOL



Danielle Victoria
Mardini



Connor Scott Milkamp



Justin Christopher
Miller



Sarah Victoria Mulcock



Jesse Caleb Ojeda



Jordan John Pellegrino



Robert Bourne Peretti



Abigail Charissa
Phillips



Marcus Giovanni
Picciotto



Kathryn Mae Post



Enfeng Qiu



Hyunjin Ree



Krystal Alexis
Rodriguez



Briana Nicole Rumsey



Michael Frank Sessa



Hyo Jin Shin



Alyssa Joy Shurminsky



Holly Ann Silva



Cheryl Alexa Steenstra



Robyn Elaine Stegink



Nicholas Jon Steinginga



Jennifer Lynn
Streelman



Jenna Elizabeth Struyk



Holly Beth Tanis



Jennifer Leigh Tartini



Emily Rose Thomas



Sandra Pamela Torrez



Brittney Amber
Van Boerum



Matthew Jasper
Van Eck



Richard Calvin
Van Harken



Kayla Sue Van Lenten



Angela Grace Varney



Alyssa Johanna
Veenstra



Kendra Lyn Visbeen



Andrew Patrick Westra



William Michael
Westra



Carla Sheree
Whittingham



Rebecca Sherry
Wiegars



Priscilla Andokwaa
Winstron-Laryea



Hantao Zhang



Donger Zhu



Rachel Janice Ziegler

Class of 2014 Awards

Department Awards

Art Department Award

Jae Hee Lee (Jaden)

Bible And Life Award

Bethany Kuiken

English Department

Excellence In Writing Award

Kathryn Post

Eastern Christian Scholastic

Writing Award

Tara Kleinmanns

Drama Award

Josh Ashkinazi

Journalism Award

Dianni Hall

Technology Department Award

Andrew Westra

Spanish Language Award

Alyssa Shurminsky

Mathematics Award

Jeremiah Castro

John Philip Sousa Award

(Band Award)

Michael Sessa

Orchestra Award

Sarah Mulcock

Choral Award

Kathryn Post

Overall Musical

Achievement "Arion Award"

Liam Westra

Athletic Department Awards

ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award; Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete

Matt Van Eck

Kayla Van Lenten

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Kathryn Post

Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award

Bethany Kuiken

Abigail Kuder

Kayla Van Lenten

New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Abigail Kuder

North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award

Matt Van Eck

Bethany Kuiken

School and Community Awards

Valedictorian Recognition Peter D. Borduin Memorial Music Scholarship

Kathryn Post

Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Holly Tanis

Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Matt Van Eck



Seniors **Matt Van Eck** and **Bethany Kuiken**, recipients of the North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award, along with Athletic Director **Steve King**, recipient of the NJIC Athletic Director of the Year Award.

Christine White Memorial Scholarship

Alyssa Shurminsky

R. Bruce Van Hine First Responders Award

Connor Milkamp

Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Jenna Struyk

Elise Gorter Endowed Scholarship

Jennifer Strelman

The Harold Phillips Vocational Scholarship

Matthew Clark

Henriette & Kathryn Houseward Vocational Scholarship

Alyssa Veenstra

Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship Award

Tara Kleinmanns

Richard J. Vander Plaats Service Award

Michael Sessa

High School Faculty Award

Bethany Kuiken

State and National Award Winners

President's Education Awards - Gold Certificates

Alexa Anderson
Rachel Campbell
Jeremiah Castro
Christina Caviasco
Jae Hoon Choi
Yoo Jung Choi
Hannah Flim
David Foley
Zachary Hebel

Megan Hickey
Tara Kleinmanns
Carolyn Kosten
Bethany Kuiken
Yeji Lee
Sarah Mulcock
Jesse Ojeda
Robert Peretti
Abigail Phillips
Kathryn Post
Enfeng Qiu
Michael Sessa
Alyssa Shurminsky

Cheryl Steenstra
Robyn Stegink
Nicholas Steinginga
Jennifer Strelman
Holly Tanis
Emily Thomas
Sandra Pamela Torrez
Angela Varney
Alyssa Veenstra
Carla Whittingham
Rebecca Wiegiers
Rachel Ziegler

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholar

Jesse Ojeda
Bobby Peretti

New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipients (Top 15%)

Kathryn Post
Jesse Ojeda
Cheryl Steenstra

Alyssa Shurminsky
Jennifer Strelman
Robert Peretti
Rebecca Wiegiers
Jeremiah Castro
Megan Hickey
Tara Kleinmanns
Holly Tanis
Robyn Stegink

Herff Jones Principal's Leadership Award Recognition Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Kathryn Post



Sarah Mulcock, Robyn Stegink and Jen Streehman

Class of 2014 Colleges

The Class of 2014 reported their college acceptances and post-graduate plans to the College and Career Office. All together, they reported being accepted to more than 120 colleges and universities.

Andrews University
 Arcadia University
 Belmont University
 Bergen Community College
 Boston University
 Caldwell College
 California College of the Arts
 California State University, Los Angeles
 Calvin College
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Cedarville College
 Chicago State University
 City University of New York
 Colgate University
 Columbia University
 County College of Morris
 Drew University
 Eastern University
 Elizabethtown College
 Elon University
 Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Felician College
 Fordham University
 George Mason University
 Gordon College
 Grove City College
 Hamilton College
 Hartford University
 Houghton College
 Illinois Institute of Technology
 Indiana University at Bloomington
 Iona College
 Ithaca College

James Madison University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Juniata College
 Kean University
 Kutztown University
 L'Abri Fellowship International
 Liberty University
 Lincoln Technical Institute
 Long Island University - Brooklyn
 Loyola University of Maryland
 Lycoming College
 Lyndon State College
 Marist College
 Marywood College
 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
 Messiah College
 Miami University in Oxford
 Michigan State University
 Monmouth University
 Montclair University
 Musicians Institute of CA
 New York Institute of Technology
 New York University
 Northeastern University
 Norwich University
 Oral Roberts University
 Orange Coast College
 Otis College of Art and Design
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 Parsons, The New School of Design
 Pennsylvania State University
 Plymouth State University
 Pratt Institute
 Purdue University
 Quinnipiac University

Ramapo College of New Jersey
 Regent University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rhode Island School of Design
 Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
 Rider University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rowan University
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 Saint Elizabeth College
 Saint Louis University
 Saint Peter's University
 Santa Barbara City College
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 School of the Museum of Fine Art
 School of Visual Art
 Seton Hall University
 Southern Adventist University
 State University of New York at Albany
 State University of New York at Binghamton
 State University of New York at Cortland
 State University of New York at New Paltz
 State University of New York at Oswego
 State University of New York at Stony Brook
 Suffolk University
 Syracuse University
 Temple University

The College of New Jersey
 The College of Saint Rose
 Towson University
 Trinity Christian College
 Union College
 University of Albany
 University of California - Riverside
 University of California - Santa Cruz
 University of Delaware
 University of Maryland
 University of Nevada - Las Vegas
 University of San Francisco
 University of Scranton
 University of Southern Maine
 University of the Sciences
 University of Washington
 Utica College
 Valley Forge Christian College
 Valparaiso University
 Virginia Wesleyan College
 Washington & Jefferson University
 Washington & Lee University
 Washington Adventist University
 West Virginia University
 Wheaton College
 William Paterson University



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Presenting the middle school class of 2014



Andrew Olsen utilizing his musical gifts



Melody Crimeni receives her diploma

Eighth Grade Graduates

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Gabriella Alicea | Hanna Faber | John Nayda |
| Anthony Avila | Qingyao - Bill Fan | Erik (Andrew) Olsen |
| Benjamin Bernard | Michael Ferro | Yoon-Jeong Park |
| Steve Blanco | Noah Hagedoorn | Rebekah Parker |
| Cole Boonstra | Hannah Hagedorn | Adelina Peretti |
| Garrett Borduin | Kaitlin Hefty | Christina Piluso |
| Greta Botbyl | Daniel Hennessy | Alex Saunders |
| Joseph Bucci | Richard Klas | Clayton Sietsma |
| Colby Campbell | Paige Kuipers | Allison Steingina |
| Dana Carey | Madelyn Langelaar | Hanna Sytsma |
| Seung Jin (Irene) Choi | JinSeob Lee | John Trevisan |
| Yeun Soo Choi | Sae Hae Lee | Brianne Veenstra |
| Mathew Cipriano | Megan Leegwater | Jenna Veenstra |
| Nicolas Cortes | Shannon Leentjes | Sarah Vincent |
| Melody Crimeni | Cassidy Martin | Sien Ye |
| Jason De Vries | Charity Master | Jimin Yoo |
| Joseph DiBartolomeo | Vladimir Medina | Zijian Zhang |
| James Dolio | Trevor Miller | |

**Some names omitted by parental request.*

Middle School Graduation

On Thursday, June 19th, 56 students started down the aisle as middle school students. After a celebratory service emphasizing God's faithfulness and thanking him for his mercies, they later emerged as high school students.

"Today is not only a day of looking forward to our future at high school and what is to come, but it is a time to reflect on the last four years of our lives," said **Rebekah Parker**, valedictorian. "We have come together to thank God for what he has accomplished in us and what he has brought us through."

Parker's speech delved into the four yearly themes her class focused on during their middle school careers: United with Christ, Alive with Christ, Be Transformed, and this year's theme, All Your Heart, All Your Ways. Among the lessons, "We learned not to question, 'How far can I go,' but instead to ask, 'How do I live a pleasing life for Christ?'" she said.

Principal **Andrew Culp** addressed the graduates, basing his talk on three verses: Philippians 1:6, Deuteronomy 7:9 and the school's theme for the year, Proverbs 3:5-6. He affirmed the exceptional work of the eighth grade graduates and celebrated their completion of middle school. Yet even in their completion of middle school, Culp reminded students of their continual "life in the middle."



Trevor Miller and Allison Steiginga recess after the ceremony

"This work will be carried on in you, Christ's work, growing you into the likeness of Christ until the day of Christ. So in many ways, while tonight you graduate middle school, and we certainly celebrate that, you are still in the middle; our Lord having begun his work in you, but far from having completed it."

In addition to the speeches and the presentation of graduate certificates, the grade's musical talents were showcased. Several students performed the prelude, "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay, and the eighth grade ensemble performed "Never Once" by Matt Redman during the ceremony.



Rebekah Parker addresses the crowd as this year's valedictorian

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The fourth grade class moves to middle school in September.

Fourth Grade Promotion



(Back L-R): Josh Lascano, Luke Parker, Aiden Mader, Tshahi Mombrun, Hank Hagedoorn, James Curreri; (Front) Matthew Barna, Anya Veinberg, Rachel Post

The sound of recorders filled the air as elementary school students settled into their spots for the June 17 promotion chapel. Fourth graders skillfully played The Hymn of Joy to open the ceremony, an apt choice given the celebratory tone.

Highlights of the fourth grade promotion chapel included fourth grade teachers **Donna Hoogerhyde** and **Carol Byma** reviewing the spiritual themes from preceding years. The list started with the theme from the graduating student's kindergarten year: "Head, heart, hands." The theme was inspired by Ephesians 2:8-10: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The brief review culminated in this year's elementary school theme: "Trust, know, yield, go," taken from Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Principal **Sandra Bottge** expounded on the theme for this year in her promotion speech, exhorting students from James 1:22 to not just listen to the word, but do what it says. "What does it really look like to trust, know, yield and go?" she asked the class, offering tangible ways to live the faith. She also provided examples from the school year where the class lived the words of the theme, such as regular scripture memorization and intentional service to younger students throughout the year.

This year, 29 fourth grade students participated in the promotion chapel. "Today is a great day of celebration," said **Tom Dykhouse**, EC executive director, as he addressed the crowd. "We are celebrating this milestone in your child's education."



Faith Moy



Luke Van Goor

PRESCHOOL



Preschool Graduation 2014

The haircuts were fresh. The dresses frilly. The smiles a little bit shy. And often, small hands would step out of line to spontaneously wave to mom and dad. The preschool class of 2014 did not disappoint, arriving at the Cedar Hill CRC sanctuary on June 17 amidst the adoration of parents and relatives.

The night opened with a welcome and prayer from **Tom Dykhouse**, executive director. Before the four- and five-year-old graduates received their

diplomas, they took the stage to sing a medley of songs, opening with the praise song, "Let Everything That Has Breath." As little hands lifted up to heaven, audience members may have recalled the words of Jesus in Matthew 21, "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise." The songs concluded after the children sang, "Jesus Loves Me."

During the service, **Kathy Faasse**, preschool teacher and director, shared memories made in the preschool class this year, as well as the biblical lessons learned. In particular, the children homed in on the elementary school theme of trusting in the Lord. She added, "It is our prayer that your children remember much about our wonderful year together."

The celebration ended in the fellowship hall, where the same little freshly cut heads, timid smiles and enthusiastic hands who led the worship moments before, enjoyed a different kind of blessing: cookies, brownies and cupcakes.



Ella Cadorette sneaks in a wave



Caleb Vander Wall and Andrew Nelson accompanied by Kathy Faasse

Moments from the 2014 Graduations



Briana Rumsey and Nick Steinginga



Andrew Olsen



Devin Pollock, Daniel Rinaldi



Rachel Ziegler



Andrew Nelson, Nicholas Iskander, Nathan Im, Malachi Vande Streek, Mason Libby



Capri Kuiken



Zachary Hebel



Matthew Soder



Jimin Yoo



Matt Cipriano



Julien Arcay



Henry Lee (with his brother Caleb)

FOUNDATION NEWS



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

The 2014-2015 Annual Fund for ECSA

Inserted in this issue of the Herald is the Annual Fund appeal envelope for the 2014-2015 school year. As the name implies, this is our annual appeal for support for our school from our alumni and other supporters throughout the United States and abroad.

With a budget of slightly over \$9 Million dollars for the new school year and with parents historically contributing approximately 70% by way of tuition and fees, it becomes clear that we have to raise a significant amount of revenue to keep our school operating this year.

We are grateful for some visionary ways that these funds are being raised such as from our solar energy program, our summer and after school camps program, our Eagles Learning Center, from ditto, our upscale-resale store, income from our Endowment Fund and income from a variety of fundraising events throughout the school year, all of which is non-tuition income we can rely on each year.

However in order to balance our budget, we must also appeal for support for the school's Annual Fund, which this year has a goal of \$600,000. The Annual Fund is a critical component of our financing program, and one that we focus on each year as the barometer of the ability of the school to meet its financial obligations. By the time this article has been published we will have solicited all of our board members from both the Operating board and the Foundation board to make their personal commitment to this appeal before we solicit any of our supporters. Our experience over the years has been that we receive a very generous commitment from our board members which encourages us to ask you, our alumni and supporters of Christian education, to join us by considering a generous donation to this appeal as well.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your pledge or donation, or if you prefer, you may make your commitment on line. Either way, we appreciate your investment in Christian Education and your ongoing faithful support. Thank you sincerely on behalf of all of the students who will directly benefit from your generosity.

May God richly bless you and your gift!

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis
Executive Director
Foundation for Eastern Christian School

2014 Service Awards

5 Years

Jenna Beverly
Andrew Culp
Robert Flim
Stacie Veenema
Yvonne Vitale
Jesse Wright

10 Years

Michael Auteri
Karyn Baitzel
Linda Van Grouw

15 Years

Wilma Bogertman
Everett Henderson
Kenneth Koppenal
Beth Milkamp
Elizabeth Tyvol
Maribeth Vriesema

20 Years

Deborah Andrews
Ruth Henion
Cathy Lagerveld
Gloria Tenewitz

25 Years

Anne Borduin
Carol Byma
Ruth Rudd

30 Years

Paul Beverly

40 Years

Steven King
Ellen Ritsma

Retiring

Garret Nieuwenhuis
Stan Vandenberg
Sharon Van Der Heide



Stan Vandenberg announced his retirement from Eastern Christian's Transportation Dept. after 23 years of faithful service to many EC families. Stan's devotion and presence as a school bus driver will be missed by all whose lives he touched. Thank you Stan for your dedicated service to Eastern Christian School!

ditto Expansion Completed

The planned expansion of **ditto** to accommodate the increased flow of traffic and the need for additional display areas is now complete.

In early February, we negotiated for an additional 3000 square feet of space from our landlord to relocate our receiving and processing area to larger and more efficient space and to carve out a designated area for furniture display. We now have a total of 13,000 square feet from which to operate.

Now that the construction phase is behind us, we have resumed normal operations and are experiencing a wonderful reception to our expanded space.

We anticipate that gross sales for the year ending August 31, 2014 will approach \$500,000, resulting in the ability to service our debt and to donate \$150,000 to Eastern Christian School. This represents a contribution of \$207.00 for every student currently enrolled in EC. Additionally we donated a total of \$15,000 to local and community non-profit organizations as per our by-laws.

Recently we were advised by our Managing Director, Eric Hawn, that he and his wife would be moving to Texas to be near his children and grandchildren. Although this is a great loss to **ditto**, we were fortunate to have two floor managers who, in addition to two new hires, have agreed to manage the store going forward. The **ditto** Advisory Board has appointed Betsy Kelly the

Senior Manager of the group. Each manager has an area of responsibility and is able to cover for each other if necessary. We look forward to a very successful transition of leadership at **ditto**.

God continues to bless this endeavor beyond our anticipation and we are grateful for the opportunity to use our "Upscale-Resale" store to minister to those who have not been brought up in a Christian environment where we are committed to be not only a good neighbor but a witness for Jesus Christ as well.



Exciting News From Eastern Christian's TRIP Program! ONLINE ORDERING

We are happy to announce that Eastern Christian's TRIP Program has added online gift card ordering. By using this new method, you will be able to order gift cards any time from any internet-connected computer or device!

There are four ways to get your gift cards:

- 1 You can order actual gift cards that can be picked up at the TRIP store on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon. These can be paid by check, cash or PrestoPay.
- 2 You can order ScripNow which allows you to get your cards immediately. With ScripNow eCards, you can purchase and print them from home and get shopping in minutes. This method works best if you enroll in PrestoPay.
- 3 You can reuse gift cards instead of throwing them away! Use the Reload option to add money to gift cards you've already purchased from our program. If you use PrestoPay, the funds will be added to your card overnight.

- 4 The newest method is MyScripWallet. These can be downloaded to your Apple or Android device at any time! If you are shopping in one of the stores or eating in one of the restaurants that participate in this, you can get immediate eCards!

ATTENTION OUT-OF-STATE RELATIVES

Another great benefit to this program is that you can have family members sign up with their own account, and we can apply their credit to your TRIP account. It will even work with out-of-state families, as long as they use the ScripNow, Reload, or MyScripWallet and they are signed up for PrestoPay.

PrestoPay is the online electronic funds transfer system offered through ShopWithScrip. It's easy, secure, and allows you to skip the hassle of paying with cash or checks. There is a \$0.15 convenience fee per order when using this method.

To place your gift card orders, you need to first create a ShopWithScrip account. Call Sharon Spoelstra, TRIP coordinator at (201) 650-7056 to get started or if you have any questions!

EVENTS

Denim & Diamonds Auction



Karen and Kevin Kuiphoff browse the many silent auction items available.



Some of the items available in the silent auction.

The Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala was held on May 7, 2014 at the beautifully renovated Tides Estate in North Haledon, NJ. Nearly 300 guests enjoyed a lovely buffet dinner while bidding on many unique items and gift certificates in the silent auction. After dinner a live auction was held, offering tickets to a Broadway show, golf outings

and sporting events, one-of-a-kind experiences, vacation getaways, and much more.

The 2014 Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala raised \$58,000.00 for Eastern Christian. Thank you to our Auction Committee, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Donors.

Annual EC Golf Outing



Pictured are Tom Dykhous, Head of School and EC golf team members Sung Namgung and Scott Steenstra at the "Beat the EC Golf Team Member" hole.



One of the favorite contests is the Putting Contest. Pictured are Dr. Scott Martin (putting), Ken Steenstra and Steve Heerema.

The annual EC Golf Outing was held on Monday, May 19, 2014 at Black Bear Golf Club in Hamburg, NJ. Golfers enjoyed a delicious lunch and a wonderful day of golf and spirited contests under beautiful sunny skies. The outing was followed by a delicious

buffet dinner. The event was a wonderful success and raised over \$32,000.00 for Eastern Christian School. Thank you to the golf committee, sponsors, and all the supporters who helped make this outing a success.

Restaurant Fundraisers

A new fundraising experience was added to the calendar this year. Each month a fundraising night was held in conjunction with a different area restaurant. Restaurants donated a percentage to EC when customers presented a flyer for the event. The fundraisers have been a wonderful community experience and a delicious way to support EC. The Restaurant Fundraisers raised over \$1,200.00 for EC.

Let's YO!

Rosario's Trattoria

Sage

CHILI'S

PIZZA FUSION

THE
BARN

BLUE MOON

CALIFORNIA
PIZZA KITCHEN

Save the Date – Upcoming Foundation Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014

The Athletic Boosters Golf Outing at the Town of Wallkill Golf Club. Come join us for a wonderful day of golf while supporting EC Athletics.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014

The biennial EC Fashion Show will be held at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ. Come out and enjoy a delicious lunch while viewing the latest fashions modeled by EC students, parents, staff, and alumni.

For more information on either of these events email events@easternchristian.org

Calling all Eastern Christian Cheerleaders



A snapshot of cheerleaders from the 1978 yearbook

The annual Athletic Boosters Beefsteak Dinner will be January 28, 2015. We are excited to announce that the 2015 Beefsteak Dinner will honor former Eastern Christian Cheerleaders. We are looking forward to a great response and hope to have many years of Cheerleaders represented for a trip down memory lane and an evening of exciting school spirit. If you were a Cheerleader any year during your time at ECHS please contact **Jeanne Bushoven** at 973-423-4726 for more information. Mark your calendars now for this spirited evening. Go Eagles!

Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program

The Stop & Shop rewards program has come to a close for the 2013-2014 school year. Thank you so very much to all the families who registered their Stop & Shop cards for Eastern Christian. This year EC earned over \$2,100.00, our best year to date! Please tell your family and friends about this worthwhile program. Registration for next school year will begin in the fall, or email your card number to events@easternchristian.org and we will register it for you. Thank you.

ALUMNI NEWS

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

1950S

Don Vroon '59 had a book of his essays published by Rowman & Littlefield called Classical Music in a Changing Culture.

1960S

John Sharp '69 is now Senior Manager at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, the largest international organization for health information technology professionals (www.himss.org). Prior to this, John worked at Cleveland Clinic for 32 years, most recently as Manager of Clinical Research Informatics. John lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio with his wife, Janet. Contact at www.linkedin.com/in/johnsharp

1990S

Major Matthew Murphy '97 is a recipient of an Olmsted Scholarship and is with his family studying in Kunming, China.

2000S

Katrina Hutton '03 graduated from Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine and is now a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. She is doing her 4-year residency at St. Barnabas in Bronx, NY.

Amy Hutton '05 graduated on from Rutgers University with a Masters in Social Work (MSW).

Rebecca Lindemulder '05 was recently awarded the DAAD, a German version of the Fulbright Award. She will be leaving this fall to embark on her masters degree in Intercultural European and American Studies in Halle, Germany at The Martin Luther University.

Emily (Vriesema) Cathey '08 graduated in May from Palm Beach Atlantic University with a Doctorate in Pharmacy. She and her husband live in Palm City, FL where Emily works at Publix Pharmacy.

Gabriel Kooreman '08 earned a Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. He is currently working on completing his PhD in Nuclear Engineering at Georgia Tech.

Cheryl Bogertman '09 accepted a 3rd grade elementary school teaching position with Shoreline Christian School in Shoreline, WA.

Rachel Kuder '09 graduated from Wheaton College in 2013 with a degree in Elementary Education. She is employed as a teacher at Mustard Seed School in Hoboken, NJ.

Lauren Spoelstra '09, a graduate of Calvin College, was named by the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association as its Defensive Player of the Week (goalkeeper) in women's lacrosse for games played through March 16.

Ryan Dykstra '10 graduated from Ramapo College of NJ Cum Laude with a BA in Literature.

Megan Hutton '10 graduated from Michigan State University with High Honor from the Eli Broad College of Business with a BA in Marketing.

Andrew Vriesema '10 graduated from Calvin College with a BSE in Mechanical Engineering. He is working at LG Chem Michigan Inc, located in Holland, Michigan.

Andrew Kuder '11 graduated from Wheaton College with a BA in English. He will be employed in the office of Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen.

BIRTHS:

Kathryn & **Andrew Culp '98** announce a son, Andrew Jack on 4/5/14. He joins Judah (5) and Mason (4).

Gretchen Steen '98 & Peter Schweigert announce a son, Arlo Neets Hugh Duvaloois Schweigert on 11/8/2013. They live in Newport Beach, California.

Amanda & **Jim Bushoven '99** announce a daughter, Avery Kate on 1/27/14. She joins Brynn (6) and Ryan (3).

Jon '01 & Rachel Vriesema Kuperus '00 announce a daughter, Penelope Rae on 1/13/14. She joins Stella (2).

Erik & **Kim Lindsay Brown '03** announce a son, Alexander Galen on 4/9/14.

Mike '03 & Kelly Fischer Rainville '03 announce a son, Rocco Michael on 4/30/14. He joins Stella (2).

Carli & **Scott Bushoven '04** announce a son, Hayes Howard on New Year's Eve at 11:12pm!

MARRIAGES:

Rick O'Connor & **Lisa Bogert '03** were married on 5/31/14 in Galway, Ireland.

Kenneth Malnati '07 & Evonne De Jong '08 were married on 4/12/14. They reside in Hawthorne, NJ.

REMEMBERING

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

Edna (Vander Weit) Thomas '32, of Lake Wales, FL on 2/15/14. Edna was the last living member of the Class of 1932.

Gertrude (Van Buiten) Elsenbroek '33 of Grand Rapids, MI on 12/20/13 at the age of 99.

Trina Travaille '36 of Rockdale, TX on 3/22/14.

William De Bruin '38 of Fayetteville, NC on 6/4/2013. Bill was a Navy Veteran of World War II and was a member of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church.

Lois (Bangma) Diebold '38 of North Haledon, NJ on 3/10/14. Lois was Director of Nursing at The Holland Christian Home from 1970 until her retirement in 1982. She was a member of Hawthorne Gospel Church.

Beatrice (Soodsma) Van Pernis '39, of Grand Rapids, MI on 8/23/13.

Margaret (De Jong) Bush '40 of Grand Rapids, MI on 6/28/13. She was a member of Calvin Christian Reformed Church.

Dorothy (Locker) Basie '41 of Miami, FL on 9/10/13.

Jeannette (Kole) Stoel '42 of Ridgewood, NJ on 1/8/2014. She was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff.

Matilda (Terry) Fridsma '43 of Grand Rapids, MI on 6/27/13. After EA, she graduated from Calvin College with a BS in Nursing. Terry was an instructor in Surgical Nursing, and also Director of Nursing at Long Beach Community Hospital in San Diego, CA. She later worked for the Veterans Administration and moved to Grand Rapids upon retirement. She was a member of East Paris Christian Reformed Church.

Hester (Ruit) Van Buiten '43 of Wyckoff, NJ on 5/18/14. She was an active member of the Eastern Christian School Ladies Circle, a former dedicated member of First Christian Reformed Church in Haledon and a current member of Hawthorne Gospel Church in Hawthorne.

Alma (Bruining) Wisse '47 of Palm Harbor, FL on 4/13/14.

Jack De Jong '49 of Newton, NC on 5/12/14. Jack was a member of Center United Methodist Church in Catawba, NC.

Florence (Riemersma) Falkena '49 of Warwick, NY on 3/1/14. She was an active member of Goshen Christian Reformed Church and a member of the Goshen Christian School Society.

Jacob Dykhousse '52 of Wanaque, NJ on 4/20/14. He was a member of Midland Park Christian Reformed Church where he served as elder and Sunday School Superintendent. He was also a founding member of the gospel group, The Hilltoppers.

Leonora (Reynierse) Groendyk '52, of Matthews, NC on 12/28/13. She was a member of the Christ Covenant Church.

Griselda (De Vries) Nienhouse '54 of North Haledon, NJ on 3/5/14. She was a member of Unity CRC in Prospect Park, NJ and a volunteer at ECHS library.

Richard Baukema '55, of Grand Rapids, MI on 2/16/14. He graduated from Calvin College and Western Theological Seminary in 1988. Prior to entering ministry he was the Fire Marshal for the Kentwood Fire Department and served 50 years in the Fire service.

John Padmos '61, of Modesto, CA on 4/5/14. He is a graduate of Calvin College and Fairleigh Dickinson dental school. John joined the Air Force and served as a dentist in Vietnam. He was an active member of Modesto Christian Reformed Church.

Karen Ann Prins '62, of Ashland, MO on 1/8/14. Karen is a graduate of Trinity Christian College. She was actively involved in her community and church life.

Bruce Slump '66 of Ft Meyers, FL on 5/12/14.

Deborah (Douma) Donkersloot '68 of Midland Park, NJ on 5/5/14 after a long illness.

Joann (Elzinga) Everett '74, of Fair Lawn, NJ on 4/9/14. Joann is a graduate of Calvin College. She taught Bible at Eastern Christian Middle School for 13 years, and was a member of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church, Wyckoff, NJ where she served as a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Gary Kollar '76 of Hillsdale, NJ passed away suddenly on 4/29/14. He was a member of West Side Presbyterian Church.

Happy To Announce The New Marketing Director



Rudi Gesch surrounded by his family

It's called #HappyTC on YouTube. One click reveals a man clad in a bright red Hawaiian shirt, lip syncing Pharrell Williams' hit song, Happy. As the video continues, students and teachers from Timothy Christian Schools in Elmhurst, IL join in on the fun. Multiple frames reveal the school's classrooms, playgrounds, gymnasiums and of course, many people who are, well...happy. To date, the video has been viewed more than 4,000 times. The site also includes a link to the school's web site.

Hash tags, social media and web initiatives may have been absent in school marketing campaigns in years past, but they serve as vital tools to reach families in the new digital age. Rudi Gesch, the new marketing director for Eastern Christian and former marketing director for Timothy Christian Schools, understands this well.

Aside from sporting his Hawaiian attire for the Happy video, Gesch has worked to promote successful word-of-mouth campaigns, develop social media channels and establish event marketing programs in his past role. These initiatives and more have resulted in regular classroom waitlists at Timothy Christian, a PK-12 Christian school nestled in the suburbs of Chicago and home to just under 1100 students.

Although most of his life has been spent in the Midwest, Gesch was born in Ridgewood. His parents served as teachers at Eastern Christian High School and his first home was EC's 'teacher housing' – now the administrative offices.

Gesch received his bachelor's from Trinity Christian College and later completed an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He started in education as a Language Arts teacher, but was later invited to apply for Timothy Christian School's first marketing director position.

"When I was in college, I waffled between a business major and an elementary education major," said Gesch. "For the past eight years, I've been part of the business side of Timothy Christian Schools in the position of marketing director. So God has used me – the guy who waffled between business and education – in a business capacity for a Christian school."

Husband to Stephanie and a father of two children attending the preschool and kindergarten this fall, Gesch sees the value of a Christian education. "I believe so strongly in the importance and mission of Christian education, and I'm passionate about sharing that belief. I believe God has gifted me to share this message and to connect with families who are considering school options for their children. The best thing about my current calling is seeing prospective families have that 'aha' moment', where they realize that this Christian school is what God wants for their family."

Regarding Eastern Christian specifically, "One of EC's big strengths that is very evident is the love that families have for this place," he said. "The thing I'm most excited about is Eastern Christian's potential. I feel like this school just needs a better platform, because it's an awesome place. More people need to know about it and I'm excited to be a part of that process."

Dr. Kenneth P. Minkema '76



early American and early modern religious history, as well as reading courses in colonial American and early modern European religious history. From 2004 through 2009, he served as the Executive Secretary of the American Society of Church History. He has published numerous articles on Jonathan Edwards and topics in early American religious history in professional journals including *The Journal of American History*, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *The New England Quarterly*, *Church History* and *The Massachusetts Historical Review*.

He comments, “My time at EC was formative for me in many ways: instilling and encouraging (along with my grandparents) a love of history, but also showing how religion was the central hub from which all disciplines

Dr. Kenneth P. Minkema is the Executive Editor and Director of The Works of Jonathan Edwards and of the Jonathan Edwards Center & Online Archive at Yale University, with appointments as Research Faculty at Yale Divinity School and as Research Associate at the University of the Free State, South Africa. He offers seminars in

and walks of life emanate. These are teachings that a teenager tends to disregard and even dismiss at the time, but they stay with you, and they become foundational for your life. That certainly has been the case with me, both professionally and personally, and I have EC to thank for that.”

REUNION UPDATE

Several 2014 reunions took place over the summer – updates will be in the next issue of *The Herald*.

Are you a member of one of the following classes?

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Heritage Years combined reunion: 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955
More details to follow!*

DESIGNATED GIFTS

JANUARY 14, 2014 - JUNE 10, 2014

Thank you to all who made donations to support Christian education at EC! During this time period, gifts given in memory or in honor of a loved one totaled \$10,540.00. All gifts are placed in Eastern Christian School's Endowment Fund unless otherwise indicated.

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Lisa Uvanni

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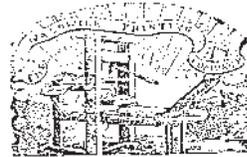
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EC SPORTS

Winter Sports Highlights



The record-setting 4x400 team

Girls Winter Track: In its inaugural year as an official team, the girls winter track team swept the conference, beating all eighteen competitor teams during the conference meet. The team also placed third in the county and fourth in the State Parochial B Meet. It did not run dual meets and does not have an official win/loss record. Seniors included **Kayla Van Lenten, Kendra Visbeen** and **Jenn Tartini**. One of the highlights for coach **Joel Apol** was winning the conference meet. "We surprised everyone but ourselves," he said, adding the girls ran outside all season, even in sub-freezing conditions. Other notable accomplishments include setting a new school record for the mile relay, with runners **Blair Bohuny, Lyndsey Smith, Erin Van Lenten** and Kayla Van Lenten finishing with a time of 4:12:00. Kayla Van Lenten also broke the school record for the long jump, earning conference and county titles. Apol added, "Next year will be strong too, but besides that, this is a once-in-a-lifetime team."



Kelly Tanis and Bethany Kuiken

Girls Varsity Basketball: Led by coach **Barry Veenstra**, the team surpassed expectations this season with a 15-10 record (12-6 in league play and a third place finish in a 10-team league). The keys to success were senior captains **Bethany Kuiken**, a league leader in 3 pointers, and **Abby Kuder**, a league leader in blocks, who together anchored a strong team defense that allowed fewer than 34 points per game. A balanced attack that saw all five starters take a turn as leading scorer enabled the girls to remain competitive against the league's best. Highlights included home wins in the county tournament versus Pompton Lakes and in the state tournament versus Queen of Peace, which included strong performances from sophomore forward **Kelly Tanis** and freshman guards **Erin Vander Plaat** and **Brooke Van Lenten**, who rounded out the starting lineup and provide hope for the continued success of the program.



Trent Braen

Boys Winter Track: Despite a team of almost exclusively freshmen and sophomores, the boys winter track team debuted strong, placing eighth out of 19 in the conference meet, and eighth in the State Parochial B meet. The team's lone senior, **Matt Van Eck**, also won the conference in the 400 meter event. "This year saw a lot of improvement by a lot of people," said coach **Joel Apol**. He pointed to **Brian Lineweaver** as an example, saying the young sophomore became "an excellent jumper in the triple jump and long jump. He's also a good hurdler." Apol says the team showed great enthusiasm and dedication this year, training outside through extreme winter weather.



Kelly Dykman

Girls JV basketball: The team, led by coach **Amy Hulsebos**, finished with a winning record of 11-7. Captains for the team included **Morgan Herman** and **Kate Klingler**. The duo was joined by **Emma Hagedoorn** to round out the top three scorers this season. "We had a lot of speed on our team and seven returning players that contributed to our success this season. They all worked well together and had fun as a team," said Hulsebos. She added, "One of my favorite memories, although we lost, was only losing to Glen Rock by 3 points. The girls played so well that game and were so pumped to be running with a team such as Glen Rock."

Bowling: Under the direction of coach **Ji Young Kim**, the bowling team won just under 20 percent of its matches. Among its more exciting matches were close games with Garfield and Mary Help, where wins and losses were decided by a few pins. Senior **Nick Steinga**



James Choi

and junior **Hana Schwartz** contributed the highest averages on the team, while seniors Nick, **James Choi** and **Matt Van Eck** served as the team's unofficial captains. "Our team bowls three matches a week but we never have official team practices due to scheduling and financial limitations. Students try their best to practice on their own or with parents, but I would love to find a way for us to hold team practices. If there are any parents or alumni in the community that can provide some input or help with this, the team would really appreciate it," said Kim.



Jake Veenstra and Michael Vriesema

Boys JV Basketball: Led by coach **Jeremy Mulder**, JV basketball this year emphasized "character and perseverance. This year, that meant playing hard and not quitting – either by a lack of effort or checking out mentally – even when we were losing. That served us well towards the end of the season when our skill level finally caught our desire to win, and most of our games were only lost by a few points, rather than some of the double-digit losses we were experiencing at the beginning of the year," Mulder added. There were strong efforts of everyone on the team, including captain **Luke Pecoraro** and top scorers **Mitch Haddad**, **Jake Veenstra** and **Sam Veenstra**.

WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS 2013-2014

INDOOR TRACK

Joel Apol

Coach of the Year- NJIC

Kayla Van Lenten

First Team All League Long Jump

First Team All League 4x400

Honorable Mention All League

High Jump

First Team All County

Lyndsey Smith

First Team All League 400m

First Team All League 4x400

Second Team All League Long

Jump

First Team All County

Blair Bohuny

First Team All League 55m

Hurdles

First Team All League 4x400

Second Team All League High

Jump

First Team All County

Jen Tartini

Second Team All League

3200m

Second Team All County

Erin Van Lenten

First Team All League 4x400

Second Team All League 880m

Second Team All League Triple

Jump

Honorable Mention All League

55m Hurdles

Second Team All County

Matt Van Eck

First Team All League 400m

Honorable Mention All League

Shot Put

Second Team All County

Kendra Visbeen

Honorable Mention All County

Bryan Lineweaver

Honorable Mention All County

BOWLING

James Choi

Coach of the Year- NJIC

Honorable Mention All League

Honorable Mention All County

Hyun Jin Ree

Honorable Mention All County

Hana Schwartz

Second Team All County

Emily Boasorte

Honorable Mention All County

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Bethany Kuiken

First Team All League

Honorable Mention All County

Erin Vander Plaats

First Team All League

Abby Kuder

Second Team All League

Honorable Mention All County

Kelly Tanis

Second Team All League

Brooke Van Lenten

Honorable Mention All League

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Josh Breeman

Second Team All League

Honorable Mention All County

Tyler Doehler

Honorable Mention All League

Honorable Mention All County



Boys Varsity Basketball: The team this year drew young players and a newly hired coach excited about future improvement. "The way these young men came together on the court, I really feel that if we would have had a little more time together the outcome of many games would have gone in our favor," said coach **Dan Hoffman**. Captains included seniors **Josh Breeman**, **Justin Miller** and **Marcus Picciotto**. Top scorers were Josh Breeman with 301 points, 231 rebounds and junior **Tyler Doehler** with 189 points, and 34 three-pointers. "The biggest highlight for this season would have to be the growth these young men showed both on and off the court. The way they stepped up night after night against bigger and stronger teams, but they never backed down or gave up," said Hoffman. He added, "As a program, we have a ton of things planned for not only the high school program, but also the middle school program in the off-season. I look forward to next season. It's time for basketball again in the Eagle nation."

Girls Track Team Wins State Championship



(Top L-R) Coach Joel Apol, Kayla Van Lenten, Hannah Postma, Abi Kuder, Blair Bohuny, Erin Van Lenten, Hana Schwartz, Coach Jesse Struck, Coach Louis Castillo; Kendra Visbeen, Michelle Silvestri, Abigail Rodriguez, Lyndsey Smith, Esther Galo

A new trophy graces the hallways of Eastern Christian. For the first time in school history, the girls track team won the Non-Public B track and field state championship with a team score of 87.5, pushing well past second-place winner, Pingry School. Notable wins include junior **Lyndsey Smith's** first place finishes in the 100, 200 and 400. **Esther Galo, Blair Bohuny, Erin Van Lenten, Kendra Visbeen, Kayla Van Lenten, Michelle Silvestri** and the 4X100 and 4X400 relay teams also contributed points toward the historic win. "Going into it, we didn't know we were going to win, but we worked hard this season and left it all on the track. We are so happy that we won, and it's humbling too. Through God's grace, we're able to represent a Christian school with a state

championship," said **Jenn Tartini**, one of this year's captains. Coach **Joel Apol** – who is aided by Coach **Bill Sharlow**, Coach **Louis Castillo** and Coach **Jesse Struck** – said the girls went undefeated in dual meets this year, but "then had some disappointments in the conference and county meets." In the end, "they put it all together for the sectionals and state meets." Lyndsey Smith said seven months of intensive training led to the overwhelming victory at states. "It was what we hoped for – we put in a lot of work," she said. "It was a long and hard season, but also a lot of fun. To end it with the big win was a perfect ending."



Blair Bohuny on hurdles



Amaleia Little during regular season.



Anita Karr

Varsity softball: Most notable this year, varsity softball advanced the farthest postseason in many years, finally falling to Immaculate Conception in the Non Public B North Sectional Championship. The year's winning record was 16-9, led by the efforts of coach **Kevin Vanderbeck** and captains **Jenna Struyk**, **Bethany Kuiken** and **Tara Kleinmanns**. The top three batting averages were earned by **Bethany Kuiken** (.412), **Anita Karr** (.410) and **Jolie Wolyniec** (.329). "This record reflected the hard work and determination of our very small squad – only 10 varsity players – a true team effort," said Vanderbeck. "This season was especially memorable as our small squad made it to the State Sectional finals. EC has only made it that far three times, to my knowledge, and the last time was in 2006. This was a major accomplishment for our team and a direct reflection of their true grit and faith."



Josh Haddad

Boys varsity baseball: Led by Coach **Joseph Oliva**, varsity baseball finished up with an 8-14 record. A number of players received county and league honors, including **Nick Steinginga**, who finished the season posting 109 career hits. "Our biggest wins of the season included a 2-1 victory over Glen Rock's ace pitcher Jeff Kopyta. **Marcus Picciotto** took a perfect game into the sixth inning of that game and only allowed one run. **Nick Steinginga**, **Jon Boonstra**, and **Matt Sorrentino** starred offensively in the game," said Coach Oliva. The coach also recounted a come-back victory over Hawthorne and a walk-off RBI single by Jon Boonstra to secure an Elmwood Park win as other highlights of the season. The team did not appoint official captains. Rather, all seniors served as leaders: Nick Steinginga, Marcus Picciotto, Jon Boonstra, Jordan Pellegrino and Mike Sessa.



Matt Van Eck

Boys spring track: Boys spring track finished the season with a 3-5 record in dual meets, but placed sixth in the State North Group Meet. Senior **Matt Van Eck** served as captain of the team, and also contributed as the team's highest scorer. Matt and **Trent Braen** qualified and competed in the Meet of Champions and also made the top five school record list in 200, 400 and shot put; and discus respectively. "The boys didn't have enough bodies to win dual meets but they did well at the end of the season in the conference, county and sectional meets. Eight boys placed in those meets," said Coach Joel Apol.



Josh Groen

JV baseball: JV baseball concluded the season with a 7-8-1 record. Highlights included a 11-6 win against Hawthorne and two wins against Lodi. "We were led by great hitting and a lot of leadership. We returned 14 players from last year's team to this year's team, and that experience paid off for us. Our pitchers were tough to hit and always kept us in the game or brought us through a tough situation," said coach **Marc Spoelstra**. Leaders on the field included **Luke Pecoraro**, **Adam Dykstra** and **Sam Veenstra**, as well as "a host of other sophomores who came through in the clutch for us at different times of the year," said Spoelstra. "This year's sophomore class is one of the most athletic classes EC has seen in a while, and brought the JV baseball team back to being competitive. This was the most successful season we've had in JV in my five years coaching the team."



Kyle Dykstra

Boys tennis: Led by Coach **Adam Culp**, the team's record saw an improvement from last year, finishing the season 5-12. Featuring a roster of many underclassmen, the team promises to continue its trend of improvement. Senior **James Choi** served as first singles and captain. "He's about the kindest, most diligent guy I've ever worked with," commented Culp. The second singles spot was secured by sophomore **Kyle Dykstra**. A highlight for Culp was when Dykstra strung "together three aces against Lodi." In addition to Choi and Dykstra, senior **Jesse Ojeda** earned county honors.



Kate Klinger

Girls lacrosse: In its second year as a school program, girls lacrosse ended with a winning record of 6-5-1. The top scorer was **Laura Carey** with more than 60 goals, and the team was led by captains **Sarah Mulcock**, **Caitlin Duffy** and **Taylor Faber**. "The girls had a defining season. Last year we were happy to pull off one win, but this year we knew right away we were a competitive team. Almost every game was down to the wire, and was either won or lost over a few plays. The girls were able to take their game to a new level, getting beyond the basics of the sport and learning the importance of playing as a team and pulling it together in those final few minutes," said coach **Christi Mulder**. This year, a freshmen, **Nicole Martin**, assumed the helm as goalie, "making huge strides...showing mental perseverance and dedication in possibly the most difficult position on the field," Mulder added.



Seth Alicea

Boys lacrosse: In its second year of existence, boys lacrosse posted a winning season with 7 wins, 4 losses. Captains were **David Foley**, who finished the year with a 92 percent face-off win percentage, and **Aaron Ball**, who contributed a significant game-winning goal against Saddle River. "Some of the major contributing seniors were **Josh Breeman**, who lead the team in goals; **Seth Alicea**, whose speed gave defenses a lot of trouble; and **Doug Davis**, who was a phenomenal defenseman until he had to stop playing due to injury. Next year, we return a strong class and compete for our first year in varsity. Sophomore **Dan D'Urso** was outstanding in his first season in goal," said coach **Ryan Baitzel**.



Scott Steenstra, Sung Namgung, Connor Milkamp, Liam Westra and coach Mike Quigley

Golf: Despite the loss of 75 percent of the team to graduation last year, EC golf finished the season 13-17. Its two seasoned veterans, **Connor Milkamp** and **Liam Westra**, assumed first and second spots on the team. Connor also served as captain, and during the course of the season shot an 81 in the league tournament to take second place. "The surprising efforts of a number of freshmen, namely **Sung Namgung**, **Scott Steenstra** and **Connor Van Hoff**, helped round out the team and provide some optimism for the future. In addition, we were able to pick up senior **Robert Peretti**, who gave our team a real boost early in the season," said coach **Mike Quigley**. "The future looks good with Sung who was consistently in the 40's the second half of the season and Scott, who reduced his scores by 20 strokes."

Spring Athletic Awards 2014

GOLF

- Connor Milkamp**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Sung Namgung**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Liam Westra**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

SOFTBALL

- Bethany Kuiken**
Second Team All League
Second Team All County
- Jenna Struyk**
First Team All League
Second Team All County

- Anita Karr**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Tara Kleinmanns**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Jolie Wolyniec**
Honorable Mention All County
- Angelina Piccitto**
Honorable Mention All League

BASEBALL

- Nick Steinginga**
First Team All League
First Team All County
- Marcus Piccitto**
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Jon Boonstra**
Honorable Mention All County
- Josh Haddad**
Second Team All League

- Jordan Pellegrino**
Honorable Mention All League

TENNIS

- James Choi**
Second Team All League
Second Team All County
- Jesse Ojeda**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Kyle Dykstra**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

BOYS' TRACK

- Matt Van Eck**
Second Team All League 400m
Second Team All League Javelin
Second Team All County
- Carter Heerema**
Honorable Mention All County
- Trent Braen**
Honorable Mention All County

GIRLS' TRACK

- Lyndsey Smith**
Second Team All League 100m
Second Team All League 400m
Honorable Mention All League 200m
First Team All County
- Blair Bohuny**
Second Team All League 110HH
Second Team All League High Jump
Honorable Mention All League 400IH
- Jennifer Tartini**
Second Team All County
- Erin Van Lenten**
Second Team All League 400IH
Second Team All League Triple Jump
Second Team All County
- Esther Galo**
Honorable Mention All County
- Kendra Visbeen**
Honorable Mention All County

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