

THE *Herald*

FALL 2013
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**2013-2014
ANNUAL
FUND APPEAL**
see page 22

A Time to Celebrate

Eastern Christian Graduations 2013



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

A TIME TO CELEBRATE!



This issue of *The Herald* celebrates the end of Eastern Christian School's 120th year of service to the children of the Christian community of Northern New Jersey and, more importantly, the beginning of our 121st year! As this issue is arriving in your mailbox, we are welcoming our students back to their classrooms or, for some, to our school for the very first time.

Before we completely turn the page to this new year of stimulating opportunities, we want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights of the school year just ended.

We have so much to celebrate as we bear witness to another year of God's faithfulness to Eastern Christian School. In this issue we celebrate graduations and promotions of the students who were entrusted to us for the last year. We celebrate numerous academic, artistic, and athletic achievements by our students which are documented in the pages that follow. We celebrate the efforts of our students to respond to the call to transform the world around them in the service of the Kingdom through their participation in mission trips and service projects at home and around the world. We celebrate and give thanks for the faithful support of our school community that continues to sustain the mission of Eastern Christian School.

As we note many transitions in the life of Eastern Christian, we also note a transition in the life of this publication. Our editor and dear colleague, Tim Steen, is departing Eastern Christian with the completion of this issue. Tim and his family are beginning a two year term of service in Tanzania with Christian Reformed World Missions at the Haven of Peace Academy. We will miss Tim's dedication and skill as our editor. We pray for God's rich blessings on Tim, his wife Stephanie, and their children as they begin this exciting new phase in their lives.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Herald* as we mark another year of engaging the mind, nurturing the spirit, and transforming the world!

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



THE Herald

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High School Graduation Photos, Senior Awards, and College Acceptances on pages 12 - 15

DON'T MISS THE 2013-2014 ANNUAL FUND DONATION ENVELOPE
in the center of this issue!

ABOUT THE COVER

High School Graduates react to Commencement Speaker **Ben Kuiken**.
Students include:
(top) **Sarah Bruinooge, Justin Struyk, Michelle Van Dyke,**
(middle) **Kyali Shattuck, Kaylin Ramos, Kailey Kuipers, Kate Skrobola**
(bottom) **Sora Min, Daniel Gorter,**
and **Gabriella Silverstein.**

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.

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CAMPUS NEWS



Carly Veenstra

“Athlete of the Year” — Two Years in a Row!

BY TIM STEEN

Senior **Carly Veenstra** was named 2013 Passaic County Coaches Association Female Athlete of the Year, the second year in a row that an Eastern Christian athlete has won the award after **Kristen Traub** won last year.

“It’s a huge honor,” Carly said. “I thought it was so cool to even be represented this year after Kristen was the winner last year.”

A three-sport athlete, Carly has scored 101 goals in soccer, collected 101 hits in softball, and scored 1,495 point in basketball.

In an interview with the *Bergen Record*, Carly said her favorite moment at Eastern Christian came on the basketball court during her freshman year, when the Eagles beat now-closed Paterson Catholic in the last game of the season series. It was an upset Carly always will remember.

“We had played them four times that year and we lost the first three times, but the fourth time we finally beat them,” Carly said. “It was the last time our school was ever going to face them.”

Of course, Kristen Traub was a teammate for that game. Kristen was named the 2012 Passaic County Athlete of the Year for her career in cross country, track, and basketball. Kristen won 66 races in track and cross country during her high school career, including eight County championships and seven State titles.

In her acceptance speech, Kristen said that her coaches, and her Eastern Christian education, were instrumental to her career. “Eastern Christian gave me the opportunity to be the woman who I am today,” she said.

Carly is heading to Calvin College, while Kristen is attending Marist College.

Alicea Earns Congressional Award

BY TIM STEEN

Junior **Seth Alicea** was awarded the Congressional Award Bronze Medal by Congressman Bill Pascrell on June 17. Seth met with Congressman Pascrell in his Paterson office and spoke with him for a few minutes.

In order to qualify for the award, Seth has achieved 174 volunteer hours, 114 hours of personal development, 286 hours of physical fitness and one overnight expedition.

Seth's overnight expedition raised awareness of homelessness by living in a cardboard box for 24 hours outside of his church, Calvary Temple. The night of April 13 got down to 25 degrees, and Seth had only one blanket. His supplies were all provided by a local food pantry.

Seth said, "I was humbled by the experience, and I was glad to be able to experience what normal people that are in a bad situation go through."

Seth said he was inspired by a friend who earned a Gold Medal from Congress, and that is his goal. It requires 400 hours of volunteerism, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness and a 96-hour expedition.

Seth said he is looking for a way to not only earn the gold medal, but to make a lasting impact on his community. He is hoping his next project to help the homeless can attract more people to participate with him.



Seth's Homeless Shelter



Seth Alicea with Congressman Bill Pascel



EC Studies Security

BY DICK VAN YPEREN

Undoubtedly, the events on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School prompted an outpouring of intercession for the families of Newtown, Connecticut, as well as a renewed focus on school security nationwide.

Even before that day, facility security has been a high priority on all three Eastern Christian campuses. At the beginning of each school year, administrators review our written guidelines for conducting regular fire, lockdown and evacuation drills, school office personnel are trained to grant access only through visual ID before electronically releasing the main entrance door, and all alarm systems in school buildings are inspected and tested.

However, the events of that day reinforced our awareness of the tremendous responsibility and commitment we have to provide a safe and secure environment for our students. Recently, we have:

- Granted access to the Midland Park Police Department to do daily walk throughs of our elementary campus,

- Partnered with the local police and fire departments in conducting drills on each campus,
- Attended Crisis Response training provided by Bergen County Police,
- Conducted a comprehensive security audit led by an independent security expert,
- And conducted a two-day multi-hazard seminar utilizing Homeland Security curriculum and led by representatives from local and county Office of Emergency Management services as well as specialists from the State Police.

On the other hand, just as we diligently work on emergency preparedness, we are also keenly aware of the importance of our practice of beginning every school day in prayer with our students understanding that “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Making History with Award

BY BECKY WIEGERS, SENIOR

Junior **Grace Valentin** recently won the New Jersey state award in the National History Day competition.

The National History Day Contest involves students around the country who create a project based on a theme. This year's theme was "Turning Points." Students do extensive research for their topic and can submit their research in the form of an essay, exhibit, performance, documentary or website. EC's junior Humanities class is required to write essays for the contest.

This year there were nine students whose essays were selected for the State competition. Grace was the only one to win the State award and get all the way to the National level.

Grace's essay was on photography as a turning point in the Civil War. "I picked this topic because I have a personal interest in photography and I wanted to connect my interest to the assignment," Grace said.

Junior Humanities teacher **Jane Okma** was very proud of her class,

and especially excited about Grace moving on to the national level. Mrs. Okma said, "I am SO excited. Grace worked very hard on this paper and learned so much; not just about the photography of the Civil War, but about how to do scholarly research."

Grace said, "It took a lot of work and several long editing processes before it was ready for the State competition. There was tough competition, so I was so surprised and happy that my essay was picked." Only one other winner was selected in the entire state.



Grace Valentin

Music Video Wins Festival

BY DANIELLE MARDINI, JUNIOR

Eastern Christian High School won the Passaic County Film Festival 2013 in the music video category with "Ni Hao-Hey!" That victory has continued to open new doors for EC in Passaic County.

The video is a fun, light-hearted mural project celebrating Chinese culture in our community. It features Eastern Christian students celebrating diversity through music and art.

The film festival was held on April 20 in the Fabian 8 Cinema in Paterson. The festival had 89 entries this year, the most in its nine year history.

Art teacher **Debra Aceino** said, "This is our 3rd year submitting a video for the film festival. One year we won an honorable mention, one year we won second place, and this year we won first place. We are very honored to receive this award and it has been a wonderful opportunity to be able to put forth a very positive statement to the community. We are hoping to spark further interest in film and also submit videos in different categories in the future."

Sora Min, a senior who was involved in the painting of the mural said, "I was shocked how well the video turned out. This award celebrates not just one person but all the students and people involved in this project. I think it's really great."



Bryan Sie, Corey Abma, Aaron De Rosa, Donna Aceino and Stephanie Avila

This Film Festival was sponsored by the County Freeholders. One of the Freeholders, John Bartlett, invited Eastern Christian to participate in the Freeholders' Commemoration of the Asian Pacific American Heritage month on May 28.

Mr. Bartlett presented "Ni Hao-Hey!" as part of his focus on different Asian groups living in Passaic County. Freshman **Aaron De Rosa** and senior **Katelin Kim** introduced the art video at the meeting.

"It was a very unique experience," Katelin said. "It was nice to share our video with more people and see all the various the aspects of Asian culture."

Art teacher **Jesse Wright** said, "It's truly been a blessing to be able to have students participate and make a video in a positive light." The project itself took many months to put together and turned out to be a huge success.



Kasi Howes with her family

Art Students Win Governor's Award

BY LUIS ROMERO '13

Three Eastern Christian art students, sophomore **Christiana Mooers**, senior **Kassandra Howes**, and junior **Valentina Suizzo**, were awarded the Governor's Award in Arts Education this spring.

Christiana won the New Jersey Student Arts Excellence Awards in Photography. Kassandra won the New Jersey Student Arts Excellence Awards in Theater (Acting), and Val won the New Jersey Excellence Awards in Commercial Art.

Christiana said she brought five of her best photos with her on the day of the competition. The judges analyzed this presented work and also tested her photo-taking skills. Christiana was judged on photography skills on

the spot. "They put me in a room with judges and they told me that I had 15 minutes to take the best 25 pictures I could take," she said.

Val had a similar experience in the art competition. "We had to bring in several art pieces beforehand," Val said. "They asked us questions on our previous art work," Then, she and two other competitors were asked to paint a still-life of fruit using pastels.

Kasi prepared a monologue for the acting competition. "I did my monologue, and to my surprise they then asked me to sing," she said. She sang "Couldn't Be Happier" from the musical *Wicked*.

All three students were nominated by Eastern Christian art teachers.



The Honors Choir

Wicked Opportunity

BY EMILY THOMAS, SENIOR

On May 1 the High School Honors Choir took a field trip to New York City to not only see the Broadway phenomenon, *Wicked*, but to also participate in the Wicked Choral Workshop, where students had the opportunity to learn from the actual Broadway actors.

The trip was led by choir director **Suzanne Kraai** and pianist **Sharon Van Der Heide**.

At the workshop, the Honors Choir, along with about 250 other people from different high school vocal groups, worked with six Broadway professionals who are part of the cast of *Wicked*. The Honors Choir learned

the song “One Short Day” from the musical as well as some of the choreography. The two actors who play the characters Elphaba and Glinda sang a song for them.

“The whole show was great. The new Elphaba actress was amazing — she brought a lot of life to the character,” senior **Skyler Van Valkenburg** said.

“I think we’re blessed to live in an area like this, with New York City so close, to have all the opportunities it offers,” Mrs. Kraai said, “Overall it was definitely an amazing and unique experience.”

Field Day For EC Athletes

BY MICHELLE SILVESTRI, JUNIOR

On April 30, 24 student athletes from grades 3-8 participated in the Field Day Competition held by the Northern New Jersey Christian School Association. There were two boys and two girls from each grade level who participated in events such as the 50 and 100 yard dash, 4x100 relay, softball throw, long jump, shuttle run and soccer kick with obstacles.

Marc Spoelstra, the middle school physical education teacher, chose the ECMS athletes. When asked how he did so, Mr. Spoelstra said he decided by looking at the students' personalities and character. He picked who he thought would represent the school well and who had good Christian character.

EC's strongest event was the relays, winning each one. Overall, EC won both the Grade 3-5 division and the 6-8 division.

Ben Maura, a 6th grader who ran in the races said, "Eastern Christian was on a roll. There was a little struggle, but we pulled through and ended up placing first."

Every EC student placed in at least one event and all returned to school with at least one ribbon.



top: James Curreri and Emma Bushman bottom: Edythe Cummins, Sophia Bucci, Madison Libby, Spencer Langelaar, Jack Veenema, and John Skead

Eighth grader **Erin Vander Plaat**, who went to the competition the year before, said that they all definitely improved.

Alyssa Botbyl, also in 8th grade, said, "It was a good, competitive challenge. It was a fun time to test your skills as a school, too."

Scoring Big in Math Bee

BY ALYSSA VEENSTRA, SENIOR

On April 23, students in grades 3 through 8 participated in the Northern New Jersey Christian School Association (NNJCSEA) math competition. EC students placed in many categories as individuals and as teams.

The test was made up of 25 computation questions and 10 word problem questions.

Seventh and 8th grade EC math teacher **Cynthia Flim** said, "There were two students from each grade. Both teams, grades 3-5 and 6-8, were third overall."

The EC 3-5 grade team completed the "Relay problem" on the first attempt, and were the first team to get the correct answer.

Fifth grader **Tobi Cummins** achieved third overall in her grade division, and 4th grader **Michael Steinginga** came in third overall in his grade.

Eighth grader **Joe DeJong** said, "I came in second in the 8th grade individual competition. The competition was not very hard."

Eighth grader **Kyle Streelman** also competed. He said that it was not a hard test, because it was easy to remember all the concepts that they had



top: Kyle Streelman, Joe DeJong, Iren Choi, James Robinson, Andrew Olsen, and Jaelyn Vincenti; bottom: Tshahi Mombrun, Michael Steinginga, Nicole Pienaar, David DeVries, Tobi Cummins, and Marissa Foley

learned in math class prior to the test.

Congratulations to all the students who were involved in this year's Math-A-Thon.



The Uganda Mission Team

Popular Spring Break Destination: Missions

BY JUSTIN STRUYK '13

Over spring break (March 23 - 31), the High School sent out three missions teams to three different locations: Uganda, Puerto Rico, and Boston. In the past, teams have been sent out to Uganda and Boston, but this was the first time a trip was sent out to Puerto Rico.

Teachers **Tim Steen** and **Christine Porochniak** led the group of 10 students into Uganda. Part of their time in Uganda was spent rebuilding a hut for a family that had lost their home in a fire. They also helped to build a missionary's house and ran three Bible schools at local schools.

"It was neat to see the work God has already done, and it was a privilege to be able to continue it. The people were so welcoming, and they are so grateful for the things they have," said senior **Jessica Schultz**, a member of the Uganda team.

The Puerto Rico team of 25 students was led by **Jesse Wright**, **Tina Bucci**, **Jesse Struck**, **Sherri Faber**, and **Ben Kuiken**.

While in Puerto Rico, the students and their leaders painted the exterior of the missionary's house, signs for the summer camp and a

wooden structure surrounding the camp's fire pit. They also participated in the planning and running of a soccer clinic for the local kids.

Puerto Rico team member **Angela Varney** said, "Our team experienced the pure beauty and power of God as we stood on a lava rock overlooking the ocean. I think everyone on our team will agree that it was the turning point of the trip. It brought us so much closer together as a team through prayer."

The Boston team consisted of eight students who served alongside their leaders **Joel Apol** and Touch the World employee Chantelle Haggerty.

During their stay in Boston, the team took part in different construction projects, and some of the students painted a mural. According to team member **Julie Van Buiten**, their afternoons throughout the week were full of outreach efforts.

"Our team was absolutely amazing. Street ministry is something that can be extremely difficult. I am proud of each and every one of the students," said Mr. Apol.

M Cubed Band Performs in Festival

BY LIAM WESTRA, SENIOR

MCubed is a band made up by EC freshmen **Matt Reif**, **Matt Bottge**, and **Michael Vriesema**. They were chosen to represent Passaic County in the 2013 New Jersey Shout Down Drugs Music Festival on May 23.

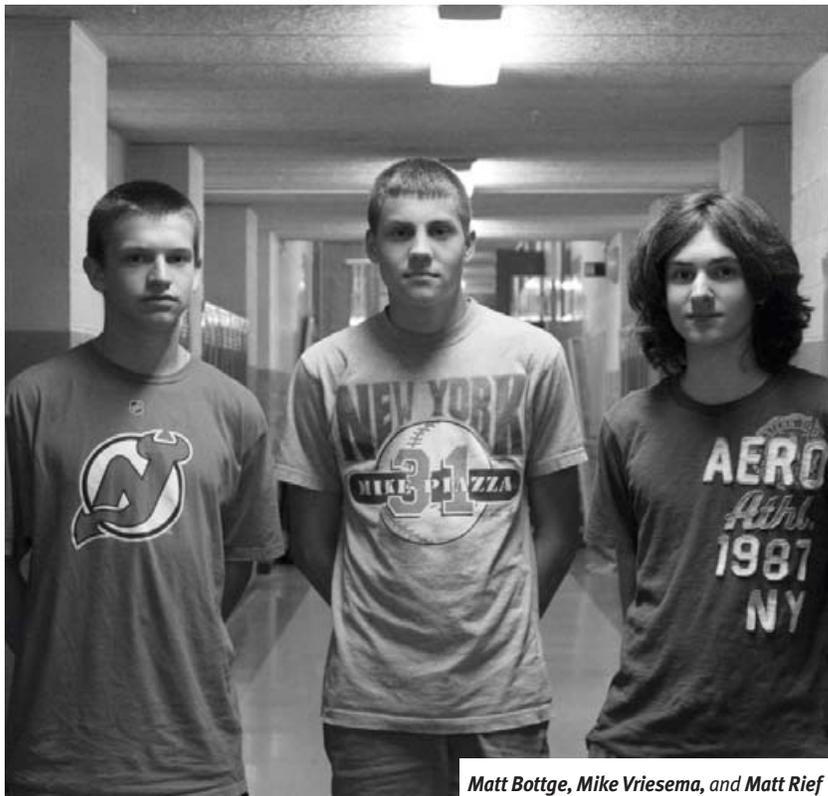
Matt Rief plays guitar and sings for M³. Matt Bottge plays bass, and Michael Vriesema is on the drums.

Representatives from 16 counties competed for a grand prize of \$5,000 at the music festival. To qualify for this event, bands had to write and record an original song that delivers a message about the dangers of drugs and send it in to SDD (Shout Down Drugs). The finalists from each county performed their song at the NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark.

M³ wrote a song called “You’re No True Friend.” The song is about the regret a person might feel after they get involved in drugs. You can hear the song on the Internet by visiting <http://shoutdowndrugs.com> and clicking on the contestants tab. A streaming audio recording of the song can be found there.

“It was a great experience,” drummer Mike Vriesema said.

“It was a great opportunity! We will probably do it again next year,” frontman Matt Rief said.



Matt Bottge, Mike Vriesema, and Matt Rief

Sixth Graders Transform School Lot

BY KAYLA VAN LENTEN, SENIOR

This year to “make a difference,” the 6th graders took field trips to Paterson School 12.

On June 5, the 6th graders teamed up with Paterson Habitat for Humanity to restore and recreate an empty lot next to School 12. The ultimate goal of this project was to make a new learning environment for the students of School 12.

City Green, a nonprofit which promotes green spaces in urban areas, joined in to help create this beneficial learning space for the students.

To support all of the costs of the supplies, the 6th graders arranged a few fundraisers, including a movie night, snack and candy sales, and “GameCon,” a night to play video games at the Middle School.

This money was used to buy two brand new picnic tables and pavers for the pathway.

“Going to School 12 in Paterson was a fun experience. I really felt that we made a difference in that community and made this lot a more enjoyable learning area for these kids,” **Morgan Ritsema** said.

The 6th graders also talked to landscaping companies about donating items. Chris Fix Tree Care gave tree stumps for seating and wood chips for paths. Ken Steenstra Landscaping donated dirt, mulch and plants to create a butterfly garden.

Third graders from School 12 worked alongside the 6th graders, helping to shovel mulch and plant flowers.

The students visited the lot two times. The first trip was to clean up, which they did on April 22, Earth Day. “We cleaned up a lot of garbage,” said teacher **Naomi Braunius**, “It was a great experience, and it was a great way to celebrate Earth Day.”

“It was hard work, but it eventually paid off! In the end the lot looked great, and I will always remember this. Even though serving is hard, all the work will pay off!” **Jax Revfi** said.

Overall, the 6th graders were not only able to achieve their goal of creating a new space for School 12, but they also planted the seed for others to think about serving. The students were able to be the hands and feet of Christ, and really “make a difference” in community around them.

Middle School Presents MAD Projects

BY LIAM WESTRA, SENIOR

Each year, Middle School students tackle projects that allow them to “Make a Difference” in both the local community and the world. On May 23, this year’s MAD Projects were presented to the community in a special chapel service.

The fifth grade class hosted a “Trike-a-Thon” with the Eastern Christian Preschool to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. The fifth graders and preschoolers raised the money through sponsors from family and friends and raised a total profit of \$3,700 towards St. Jude’s.

The sixth grade class helped out St. John’s soup kitchen in Newark, NJ by making meatloaves for their visitors. The class made a total of

63 loaves, which fed a good amount of people. The sixth graders also teamed with Habitat For Humanity in Paterson, NJ to build a learning center in a dirty lot next to school 12 in Paterson (see sidebar),

The seventh grade’s main focus was disabilities. After each class researched a different disability, they spent some time in the shoes of a disabled person by partaking in events such as wheelchair basketball and trying to write with their mouths.

The class also visited Children’s Therapy Center (CTC) where they spent time with their peers with disabilities and got to know the kids well.

During their final MAD presentation on May 23, some 7th graders presented “I Am” poems about disability. One of these poems was written by **Megan Leegwater**, who ended each stanza with “I am unique and loved.” **Hannah Hagedoorn** ended each stanza with “I am loved but misunderstood.” The seventh graders saw and experienced the hardship of being disabled, and helped those who actually were.

The eighth grade class’s main focus was poverty. This included physical poverty, such as food, water and housing, as well as spiritual poverty. To demonstrate spiritual poverty, the class performed a skit about



8th grader **Erin Vander Plaats** at New Hope Community Ministries.

a homeless man who was spiritually rich and a wealthy man who realized his spiritual poverty.

The class also researched poverty in the USA and interviewed several students and teachers about their opinion of the matter. Seventh and 8th grade writing teacher **Laura Keuhlke** said to the students, “We need to do whatever we can to stop it.” **Dr. Terry Allen** said to them, “The greatest poverty is spiritual poverty.”

The eighth grade class hosted several fundraisers to raise money for New Hope Community Ministries. They hosted a car wash, several bake sales, and sold snacks after school during basketball games. They also sponsored a day for Middle School students to donate money and break the dress code by wearing “hoodies.”

The students made a total profit of \$1,245 for New Hope. During their presentation, they presented their fundraising in the form of a giant check and gave it to **Phil Beverly**, Director of New Hope.

The purpose of MAD is to empower Middle School students to make a difference. Now they know that through both big and small steps, they can transform the world.

HIGH SCHOOL



Front Row (L to R): Jenna Shotmeyer, Anneke Ball, Karina Bermeo, Sydnie Donofrio, Kasandra Howes, Natalie Chaux, Brianna Nuzzo, Kaylin Ramos, Jessica Schultz, Rachel Barrett, Ann Marie Abadeer, Renee Braunius, Carly Brantner, Franscesca Quintero, Brooke Leentjes **Row 2:** Seong Jin Ree, Gabriella Silverstein, Ryan Lorentz, Brianne Bisaccio, Katelin Kim, Eliazar Hernandez, Josh Bruins, Nina Schur, Matt Bushoven, Luis Romero, Jacqueline Teschon, Matthew D' Urso, Kyali Shattuck, Kathryn Skrobala, Rebecca Girimonte, Thomas Lacy, Seol Ah Kim, Yoo Eun Kim **Row 3:** Kyle Coan, Austin Doehler, Joshua Borduin, Jeffrey Clark, Daniel Vivolo, Matthew Hartensveld, Ashley Manger, Andrew Bruining, Chanhee Jeong, Megan Wynbeek, Julie Van Buiten, Chandlar West, Sarah Post, Solana Lewis, Justin Struyk, Yi Zhu, Elijah Jefferson, Isaac Lee **Row 4:** Zachary Vander Wiele, David Saunders, Vanessa Veenstra, Heidi Lineweaver, Sarah Bruinooge, Keith Ring, Zachary Binger, Skyler Van Valkenburgh, Carly Veenstra, Ryan Vander Plaat, Kaitlyn Cestaro, Matthew Regan, Lexy Bishop, Bethany Van Eck, Kailey Kuipers, Michelle Van Dyke **Back Row:** Justin Scotti, Andrew Fiedler, Daniel Gorter, Tyler Van Lenten, Matthew Van Grouw, Jeffrey Van Grouw, Ethan Ruitenbergh, Anthony Figueroa, Kyle Dorsey, Shawn Kukol, Seth Stadtlander, James Creange, Carlos Gonzalez, Cleveland McDaniel

Not Just One Direction

BY NICOLE VEENSTRA '08

On Wednesday, June 19, an enthusiastic crowd cheered for eighty-four young men and women as they entered the gymnasium to the sound of Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" – a group of students now known as Eastern Christian High School's Class of 2013.

The theme of the night was "Directions," which followed the theme of the class yearbook. The class song, "I Will Follow," by Chris Tomlin was played by a wide variety of musicians under the direction of **Cathy Clark**. The song revealed the class members' commitment to trust in God during one of the biggest transitions of their lives.

Valedictorian **Ann Marie Abadeer** had a similar message for her peers with her speech "Really? Really." She encouraged her classmates to remember the past fondly, but also welcome the challenges of their future.

Ann reminded the students that no matter what path each person's



Mr. Paul Beverly introduces Valedictorian **Ann Marie Abadeer**

life will take, they all have at least two things in common: an education from Eastern Christian and the ability to take the first step towards their futures together.



Playing the Class Song are *Elijah Jefferson, Zac Binger, Nina Schur, Andrew Bruining, Carly Veenstra, and Kyle Coan.*

“There are some things in life, like graduation, that we can’t change,” she said. “So, Class of 2013, let’s take this next step together.”

Following Ann’s speech, the program switched directions a bit with its commencement address by Eastern Christian Middle School teacher, and high school soccer and basketball coach, **Ben Kuiken**, a member of the EC Class of 2006.

Through his message entitled, “A Call Worth Dying For, A King

Worth Living For,” Mr. Kuiken challenged the graduates to commit their lives to living for Christ, using Philippians 3 as his guide. In verses 7-8, the Apostle Paul writes the following: “But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.”

Using both humor and words of challenge, Mr. Kuiken warned

those on stage that “there is going to be a tremendous battle for your minds,” urging them to stand strong in their faith and asking them, “Who are you going to allow to shape your mind?”

Throughout the night, the theme of “Directions” was woven through the program, reminded the graduates that although God has a different plan for each of their futures, their Christian education and faith in Christ will continually bind them together, regardless of their location.



Mr. Ben Kuiken

Eastern Christian Awards

The following scholarships were awarded by Eastern Christian High School to members of the Class of 2013. It does not include scholarships and awards from other sources. **In total, the Class of 2013 was awarded over \$3,500,000 in scholarship money.**



Natalie Chaux receives her diploma from Board President Nick Kuiken.

Art Department Award
Sora Min

Bible And Life Award
Seth Stadtlander

**English Department
Excellence In Writing Award**
Eliazar Hernandez

**Eastern Christian Scholastic
Writing Award**
Daniel Gorter

Drama Award
Skyler Van Valkenburgh

Journalism Award
Lexy Bishop

**Technology Department
Award**
Matthew Hartensveld

Spanish Language Award
Skyler Van Valkenburgh

Mathematics Award
Zachary Binger

**John Philip Sousa Award
(Band Award)**
Julie Van Buiten

Orchestra Award
Carly Veenstra
EJ Jefferson

Choral Award
Jessica Schultz

**Overall Musical
Achievement "Arion Award"**
Anneke Ball

Valedictorian Recognition
Ann Abadeer

Lakeland Bank Scholarship
Eliazar Hernandez

**Sam Braen Memorial
Scholarship**
Justin Scotti

**Christine White Memorial
Scholarship**
Vanessa Veenstra
Seth Stadtlander

**R. Bruce Van Hine First
Responders Award**
Anthony Figueroa

**Brett Zuidema Endowed
Nursing Scholarship**
Bethany Van Eck

**The Harold Phillips
Vocational Scholarship**
Andrew Bruining

**Henriette & Kathrynne
Houseward Vocational
Scholarship**
Andrew Bruining

**Calvin College John L. &
Carolyn J. Steen Education
Scholarship**
Carly Veenstra

**Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship
Award**
Megan Wynbeek

**Richard J. Vander Plat
Service Award**
Brienne Bisaccio

High School Faculty Award
Ann Marie Abadeer

State and National Award Winners

President's Education Awards - Gold Certificates

Ann Abadeer
Zac Binger
Anneke Ball
Daniel Gorter
Lexy Bishop
Skyler Van Valkenburgh
Katelin Kim

Natalie Chaux
Julie Van Buiten
Dan Vivolo
Seth Stadtlander
Gabriella Silverstein
David Saunders
Seol Ah Kim
Ji Hyun Lee
Bethany Van Eck
Kaitlyn Cestaro
Vanessa Veenstra

Sarah Post
Carly Veenstra
Jeff Van Grouw
James Creange
Seong Jin Ree
Heidi Lineweaver
Jenna Shotmeyer
Justin Struyk
Jeff Clark
Eliazar Hernandez
Austin Doehler

National Merit Scholarship Program Merit Scholar

Daniel Gorter

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars

Ann Abadeer

New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipients

Ann Abadeer
Anneke Ball
Zac Binger
Lexy Bishop
Kaitlyn Cestaro
Natalie Chaux
Daniel Gorter
Katelin Kim
Gabriella Silverstein

Seth Stadtlander
Julie Van Buiten
Skyler Van Valkenburgh
Dan Vivolo

Herff Jones Principal's Leadership Award Recognition

Anneke Ball

Where Are They Going?

The Class of 2013, made up of 84 students, reported their college acceptances to the College and Career Office. All together, they reported being accepted to 111 colleges and universities.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Adelphi College | Haverford College | Palm Beach Atlantic University | State University of New York at Stony Brook |
| American University | Hendrix University | Paul Smith's College | State University of New York at Albany |
| Arcadia University | Hofstra University | Pennsylvania College of Technology | Stevens Institute of Technology |
| Baylor University | Hunter College | Polytechnic Institute of NYU | Syracuse University |
| Bergen Community College | Iona College | Pomona College | Taylor University |
| Boston College | Ithaca College | Pratt Institute | Temple University |
| Caldwell College | John Jay College of Criminal Justice | Quinnipiac University | Texas Christian University |
| Calvin College | Johnson & Wales University | Ramapo College of New Jersey | The College of New Jersey |
| Carleton College | Judson University | Rhode Island School of Design | Trinity International University |
| Cedarville University | Kean University | Rider University | University of Albany |
| Coastal Carolina University | Liberty University | Rochester Institute of Technology | University of Arkansas |
| DePaul University | LIM College | Rowan College | University of Bridgeport |
| Dominican College | Loyola Maryland University | Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey | University of Hartford |
| Dordt College | Manhattan College | Sage College of Albany | University of Iowa |
| Drew University | Marist College | Saint Joseph's University | University of Kentucky |
| Drexel University | Maryland Institute College of Art | Samford University | University of New Haven |
| East Stroudsburg University | Massachusetts College of Art | School of the Arts Institute of Chicago | University of Northern Colorado |
| Eastern University | Messiah College | School of Visual Arts | University of Scranton |
| Elon University | Monmouth University | Seton Hall University | University of South Australia |
| Emerson College | Montclair State University | Shenandoah University | University of the Arts |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University | Mount Saint Mary's College | Siena College | University of Tulsa |
| Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY) | New Jersey City University | Southeastern University | Upscomb University |
| Felician College | New Jersey Institute of Technology | St. Johns University | Virginia Intermont College |
| Fordham University | New York Institute of Technology | St. John's College | Wheaton College |
| Gardner-Webb University | New York University | State University of New York at Binghamton | William Paterson University |
| Geneva College | Northeastern University | State University of New York at Buffalo | Worcester Polytechnical Institute |
| George Mason University | Nyack College | State University of New York at New Paltz | York College of Pennsylvania |
| Gordon College | Olivet Nazarene University | | |
| Grove City College | Pace University | | |

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Front Row (L to R): John Hayes, Ellese Boodaghian, Matthieu Davis, Joshua Onufer, Samuel Kuder+, Alison Cummins*, Julian Foley*+, Trystian Sullivan*+, Christian Nigro, Daniel Kuder, Jesse Boonstra+, Rachel Girimonte*, Ethan Agnello, Melanie Romero, Andrew Brooks, Tianyu (Avril) Han* **Row 2:** Bruce (Mac) Bohuny*, Brooke Van Lenten, Zachariah Wistuk, Christina Poliandro, Ethan Vander Molen*+, Daniela Molina+, Skylar Brown*+, Rachel Schultz*, Adrian Brown *+, Erin Vander Plaat*, Nicholas Rosendale, Brenna Duffy, Alyssa Botbyl*, Scott Steenstra*+, Morgan Abma*+ **Row 3:** Carina Castagna, Joseph De Jong*, Abigail Johnson*, Adam Faber, Sarah Colbert, Seung Bum (Steve) Choi, Alexis Struck, Benjamin Boonstra*, Caitlyn Taylor, Sergio Harris*, Nicole Martin, Connor Van Hoff, Elisabeth Kuipers*, Mathew Matthias*+, Kristen Casey *+, Kyle Strelman*, Hope Hennessy, Jarrett Kuipers
Not Pictured: Jeong Beom (Joe) Seo (*denotes a Presidential Award recipient. + denotes a small group leader.)

Courage and Core Values

BY TIM STEEN

Fifty 8th graders and their families, friends, and teachers celebrated their graduation on the evening of Tuesday, June 18 in the Middle School Gymnasium.

For the first time in ECMS history, three students were named as co-valedictorians. **Kyle Strelman, Abigail Johnson** and **Scott Steenstra** took this opportunity to reflect on the three parts of the Eastern Christian motto, “Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, and Transforming the World.”

Kyle said that ever since kindergarten, EC taught him that books were a key to engaging the mind, and that his love of reading was one hallmark of his education he learned from EC. He said that Eastern Christian “not only taught me how to think, but how to think about everything in a Christian worldview.” Looking forward, he said he believed



Co-valedictorian **Scott Steenstra**, with **Abigail Johnson** and **Kyle Strelman**.

that EC instilled in the 8th graders a drive to make engaging the mind a life long goal.

Abigail compared “nurturing the spirit” to taking care of the garden of her heart. She said that at the Middle School, she was both challenged to



Julian Foley and Daniel Kuder

grow and become more deeply rooted in her faith. She recalled Bible projects that forced the 8th graders to look anew at the Christmas and Resurrection stories and to be able to explain them to an incredulous stranger.

Scott spoke of how the 8th grade class rose to the challenge of “Transforming the World,” and congratulated his peers for the good work they had done through 4 years of MAD projects and other opportunities for service.

Teachers **Liesl Botbyl**, **Joyce Breur**, and **Marc Spoelstra** reflected on how the 8th grade class had achieved high levels of meeting the six Core Values of Eastern Christian. “You had six Core Values to think about, and today you have six goals achieved,” said Mr. Spoelstra. “You have set the bar high.”

Principal **Andrew Culp** reminisced with the 8th graders about their class trip to Spruce Lake. He said that spending time in the wilderness is often an apt metaphor for Middle School. However, he said, like the Israelites in the desert, the class was called to “Be strong and courageous.” Mr. Culp also presented the class with a whimsical poem in the style of Dr. Seuss, calling them to find that strength and courage in Christ.

Reflecting that same spirit and theme, the class sang their Class Song “Courageous” by Casting Crowns before receiving their diplomas and an enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

The evening ended with a welcome from High School Principal **Joel Uecker** and a closing prayer by Head of School **Tom Dykhouse**.



Principal Andrew Culp



(from left) Rachel Schultz, Christina Poliandro, and Alison Cummins prepare for the processional.



Adrian and Skylar Brown

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Front Row (L to R): Spencer Langelaar, Matias Cortes, Steven Monila, Tommy DeGeyter, Nicole Pienaar, Julieann Curtis, Madison Libby, Billy Brauch, Karalyn Hosier, Jonathan Ericksen, Thomas De Block
Row 2: Janelle Baldin, George Foley, Jesse Yohannan, D'Anna Moran, Maria Nabih, Cormac Murtagh, Erina Lee, Alex Perez, Karlee Borduin, Ryan Westra, **Row 3:** Elizabeth Botbyl, Brian Schaaf, Aidan Sehulster, Gabriella Lopez, Cassidy Abma, Tyler Dykhouse, Ava Cipriano, Kaily Campbell, Edythe Cummins, Katie Kuiken, Rachel Baker, Kelly Steenstra, James Blanco, **Row 4:** Annika Westra, Luke Vulpone, Emma Robinson, James Klas, Maddie Rupp, John Skead, Michael Steinginga **Back row:** Henry Hagedorn, Emmanuel Dyer, Sofia-Vesti Graine

Graduating with Gifts

BY TIM STEEN

The Elementary School Promotion Chapel on June 18 gave forty-three 4th graders the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the completion of their years of study at Eastern Christian Elementary School.

Carol Byma and Donna Hoogerhyde, the 4th grade teachers, read the Bible verses that made up the Bible themes of each year the students attended the Elementary School.

Principal Sandra Bottge also referred to those themes in her promotion speech, as well as this year's theme of being transformed, which is from Romans 12. She reminded the students that they had often transformed the school this year with both their individual and collective gifts.

Mrs. Bottge said that the students brought the school into "One Body in Christ" with their work in dramas, musical performances, leading chapel, being on service teams, and especially by helping their younger classmates on the playground and in the classroom.

It was "a wonderful year living, working, and playing together as one Body in Christ," Mrs. Bottge said. "Thank you for using your gifts. Our prayer is for you to continue using your gifts and telling your story."

Dick Van Yperen, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, told the 4th graders that their years in middle school could often be a reflection of *The Tale of Two Cities*: "the best of times, and the worst of times." However, he said, heeding the advice of Romans 12, of putting love into action and always putting others first, is the most sure way to ensure that the students' middle school years "would be the best of times, and the age of wisdom."

The class sang "Our God" as their song to their families and fellow elementary students. In addition, they opened the chapel by playing recorders to "Ode to Joy", which they learned this year in music class with Rob Flim.



Gabriella Lopez receives her certificate from Carol Byma.



Michael Steinginga, Karalyn Hosier, Nicole Pienaar, and Tommy DeGeyter



Sandra Bottge addresses the graduating class.

PRESCHOOL



Front Row (L to R): Aramis Nieshalla, Ryan Miller, Mason Libby, Olivia Fisher, Billy Cook, Kristen Brauch, Caleb Vander Wall, Jada Mulder, Mia Losquadro, Mattia Thomson, Zachary Master
Row 2: Zoe Dunwoody, Dirk Denenkamp, Ivy Sheikh, Emma Cabrera, Zachary Soder, Mia Rose Valenzuela, Nathaniel Iskander, Braydon Winkler, Madelyn White, Nico Noury
Row 3: Ethan Mombrun, Kierra Faase, Jack Meserole, Abby Post, Hudson Culp, Katelyn Silverstein, Brielle Heerema, Josiah Baitzel, Eva Vasile, Brooke Dykhouse
Row 4: Paul Heerema, Hannah Leegwater, Andy Genuario, Hannah Post, Joshua Wall, Sylvia Zuidema, Christopher Yevchak, Avery Peters, Matthew Bavagnoli, Sophia Cristaldi, Paul Dussard Jr. Not Pictured: Kai Louie.

Preschool Celebrates Being “One Body in Christ”

On Monday, June 17, EC's graduation week began with 43 enthusiastic preschoolers and their families celebrating God's faithfulness at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.

Along with all of EC's schools, this year's Biblical theme for the preschool was “One Body in Christ.” In her opening remarks, teacher **Mrs. Kathy Faasse** said that the theme really came alive for the faculty and students this year, due to the move of the preschool into the elementary school as part of the new Primary Program. This graduation marked the first graduating class of that Primary Program.

The majority of the ceremony was made up of the energetic singing and motions of the preschoolers, led by music teacher **Mrs. Nancy Martin**. The graduates sang six songs, including their theme song “One Body in Christ,” “My God is so Great,” and “Jesus Loves Me.”

After receiving their certificates marking the completion of preschool, the students recessed the sanctuary to the tune of “Great is Your Faithfulness,” a reminder of God's provision and love to yet another generation of EC students.



The preschoolers sang to God.



Sophia Cristaldi shows off her diploma.

Moments from the 2013 Graduations



Closing prayer at the Elementary School Promotion Chapel



Nico Nory



Marilyn Bushman with Mia Losquadro



Rachel Girimonte and Daniel Kuder



Donna Hoogerhyde with Sofia-Vesti Graine



Rob Flim sings with Cormac Murtagh, Erina Lee, Alex Perez, Karlee Borduin, and Ryan Westra

Ann Marie Abadeer, David Saunders, Matthew Hartensveld, Da Jia Qian, Sarah Kim and Chanhee Jeong



Scott Steenstra, Adam Faber, and Mathew Matthias



Ruth Kuder prays at the close of the High School Commencement



Nicholas Rosendale with his father and brother



Keith Ring and Francesca Quintero



Justin Struyk with his mom



FOUNDATION NEWS



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

THEN AND NOW — STILL THE SAME!

Eastern Christian School, founded in 1892, was established with the stipulation that no family desiring a Christian education for their children would be denied this opportunity because of their inability to pay the full tuition. This was a significant leap of faith for a new organization, however simultaneously there was a commitment from the supporting churches and broader Christian community to make up the shortfall as an act of obedience to God's word where it states in Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Perhaps times were different then which resulted in this faithful fulfillment of God's command, but on the other hand, many families of that time had more than enough demand on their own finances, much less adding the burden of others on top of that. Yet they did what they could and prevailed. The fact that we have been able to provide ongoing Christian education for 121 years is abundant evidence that the members of the Christian community in Northern New Jersey still demonstrate this same commitment of our founders. Many have made a sacrificial investment to provide world changing education at Eastern Christian for their own children as well as providing for those who have a financial need.

Today, 20% of students attending Eastern Christian come from families that require some form of financial assistance to cover the cost of their education. Our Annual Fund appeal in the fall of this year will focus on raising \$525,000 from our supporters in order to raise the funds necessary to meet this challenge. The same Christian principles which were embraced many years ago are still relevant today – that we care for each other and support each other as best we can.

When you receive your Eastern Christian 2013 Annual Fund Appeal in the mail shortly, or use the enclosed envelope for your contribution, please consider the fact that the need for your support is as great today as it ever has been. May we count on your faithful financial support this year?

We pray that many will give generously out of a love for Christian education and a desire to "bear another's burden."

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis '88
Executive Director

Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association

2013 Capital Campaign Report

The 2013 Capital Campaign for Eastern Christian has begun. It will provide the necessary funds for the planned renovations and upgrades to all three campuses. From January through June of 2013, we have received donations, pledges and gifts in kind totaling in excess of \$700,000 with many additional promises of support to follow up for the remainder of 2013 and beyond.

The initial response has been very gratifying and has enabled us to begin the work on the 2013 phase of the improvements. Thanks to a generous donation of ceramic tile and related materials from the Westra family, owners of Wayne Tile Co., we hope to complete the renovation of 13 bathrooms located throughout all three buildings during the summer of 2013. Several additional improvements will also be completed this summer, such as new carpeting the Middle School

Media Center, a new section of lockers in the High School, several new heating units and upgrades to the security systems in all three buildings.

The campaign will continue through 2014 in order to raise the remainder of the funds necessary to complete the designated improvements. Your prayers and financial support are deeply appreciated as we enter our 122nd school year in September, 2013.

For information on how you can participate in the campaign, please contact Garret Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director, Foundation for Eastern Christian School at 973-427-9294 or by email : gnieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org.

Happy 3rd Birthday **ditto!**

BY GARRET G. NIEUWENHUIS

Three years ago, Eastern Christian School opened **ditto**, an upscale resale store in North Haledon, N.J. We did so with a grand opening in September 2010, asking God to bless this venture and to provide the donors, volunteers and customers to make this a successful operation for the benefit of the school. While no one doubted that God would be able to bless this operation, no one anticipated that this blessing would come so quickly and so powerfully!



Head of School Tom Dykhouse thanks the **ditto** volunteers.

Consider the following:

1. In the first three years of operation **ditto** achieved total sales of \$1,322,218.
2. During this three-year period, **ditto** contributed \$290,000 to ECSA.
3. During this three-year period **ditto** paid back \$207,675 in loans.
4. During this three-year period **ditto** made \$15,000 in community contributions to local fire, police, ambulance and food pantries.
5. **ditto** has a roster of over 200 volunteers.

The success of **ditto** in North Jersey in some ways has been unprecedented, and in other ways it has created situations we did not expect to have to address so soon. For one thing, as large as the store is, its success has created a space problem—we need more of it. Fortunately, there may be a solution in the near future for which we are grateful. For the time being, however, we need to be patient and more resourceful with the space we currently have. We are also in constant need of more volunteers as the operations

grow and expand. Some faithful volunteers are finding the heavy workload to be too much for them and have to cut back on their time, or in some cases have retired from volunteering. We continue to explore other avenues for volunteer candidates and are working closely with local churches for volunteers during specific days and hours to address this matter.

One of the many blessings that **ditto** has experienced is the fact that the existence of the store has mainly been promoted by word of mouth, saving the store the need for significant amounts of expensive advertising. Another blessing is the acceptance of the store and its mission by the larger community surrounding the store. Not only are community people donating regularly to **ditto**, but several have inquired about the possibility of volunteering as well. In these situations, we take the opportunity to explain our mission and what we are working for and why. Our experience to date has been rewarded with wonderful new friends who volunteer side by side with Eastern Christian parents and grandparents for the benefit of our school.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

“EC” VARSITY RUGBY DOG SWEATERS & VARSITY LETTER SCARVES

Orders must be placed by
September 26, 2013.
Order yours today!

For information and order form visit www.easternchristian.org
or call the Foundation office at 973-427-9294



Our model “Zach” wearing the “EC” Varsity Sweater



A sample of Varsity Letter Scarf 100% acrylic yarn, machine washable (actual scarf will be blue & gold with EC letters)

Do You Have a Stop & Shop Grocery Store Near You?



Do you have a Stop & Shop grocery store loyalty card? If so, please register your card in Stop & Shop's A+ Program for Eastern Christian School. Each time you shop and use your loyalty card, you will earn points for our school. These points become cash for our school to use for our educational needs. Simply email or call the Foundation office with your 13 digit card number and we'll do the rest!

Last year EC earned over \$1,500 from this program.

Call the Foundation office at 973-727-9294, or email beverlyalbies@easternchristian.org.

This simple effort will make a huge difference for our school! Thank You!

Medical Field Scholarships Available

Eastern Christian School continues to manage the Smith-Shute Scholarship Fund. The scholarship provides financial assistance to EC female graduates attending medical school after graduating from college.

The revised eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. Must be a female applicant who graduated from Eastern Christian High School.
2. Applicant must be a college graduate, attaining a 3.0 GPA
3. Applicant must apply for the scholarship within 6 years of graduating from Eastern Christian High School.
4. Applicants must pursue a course of study related to the medical field including, but not limited to medical doctor, all areas of nursing, Physical Therapist, dentist, and other similar vocations. Priority will be given to applicants applying to study to become a medical doctor.

5. Applications are to be forwarded to Eastern Christian School's Foundation office, and must include a personal bio, evidence of satisfactory GPA, and a letter outlining the reasons for the application.
6. Eastern Christian's selections committee will make the final decision for this scholarship which will be renewable for the duration of the student's time in medical school.
7. Depending on the resources available, there may only be one scholarship awarded in May of each year.

For additional information, please contact Garret G. Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director, Foundation for Eastern Christian School at 973-427-9294 or gnieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org.

Long Term Employees Honored at Eastern Christian

On June 20, the Eastern Christian School Association honored 18 employees at a service held in the sanctuary of Faith Community CRC in recognition of their years of service to Eastern Christian School.

This year's group of honorees collectively represent over 205 years of service ranging from 5 years to 30 years of service.

Presenting the awards were **Nicholas Kuiken**, President of the EC Board of Directors and **Thomas Dykhouse**, Head of School.

5 Years

Anne Bazanowski
Gerard Cantalupo
Debra Herbst
Nathan Minchen
Garret Nieuwenhuis
Christine Porochniak

10 Years

Lilia Apuy
Ji Young Kim
Pamela Kosten
Laura Kuehlke
Ana Tortos

15 Years

Susan Boonstra
Marilyn Bushman
Alisa Engelhard
Mary Faber
Paige Visser

20 Years

Douglas Wanamaker

30 Years

Debra Vandenberg



Back Row (L to R): Susan Boonstra, Marilyn Bushman, Debra Herbst, Mary Faber, Pamela Kosten, Alisa Engelhard, Paige Visser, Anne Bazanowski, Debra Vandenberg. Front Row: Christine Porochniak, Laura Kuehlke, Garry Nieuwenhuis, Ji Young Kim, and Ana Tortos.

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

EVENTS

Eastern Christian Athletic Boosters

Who are the EC Athletic Boosters? The Athletic Boosters is an organization made up of parents and alumni that raises funds to supplement the sports programs at Eastern Christian. The Athletic Boosters and the Foundation Office work together on events throughout the school year including a fall golf outing and annual Beefsteak Dinner among others.



(from left:) Donna (Douma) Van Hoff, Sue (Balkema) Wynbeek, Hannah (Dekker) Cerynik, Coach Steven King, Sharon Veenstra, Faith (Popjes) Douma, and Sheri (Leegwater) Mercadante.

4TH ANNUAL BEEFSTEAK DINNER

Perhaps the most popular Athletic Boosters event is the Beefsteak Dinner. On January 30, the 4th annual Beefsteak Dinner was held at The Brownstone in Paterson, N.J. with an attendance of over 280 student athletes, parents, and alumni. Co-chairmen **Ben Spoelstra** and **Roger Steiginga** once again organized a wonderful event. The evening began with EC Senior **Seth Stadlander** opening with prayer and speaking on what the EC athletic program has meant to him throughout his four years at ECHS. Seth was followed by Athletic Director **Steven King**, who highlighted many of the accomplishments of the teams and individual athletes over the past year. Mr. King was then joined by ECHS Principal **Joel Uecker** and together they shared information about the exciting development of a new lacrosse program at ECHS. The honorees this year were members of the 1990 League, County, and State Championship Volleyball Team. Newspaper articles and pictures from the 1990 season were on display bringing back many fond memories for both the team members and coach Steven King. After dinner, a live auction took place where attendees were able to bid on sports tickets and memorabilia. This was a great evening with wonderful food, fun and fellowship, and it raised over \$12,800 for Eastern Christian Sports programs.



(from left): Seniors **Matt Van Grouw**, **Matt D'Urso**, **Jeff Van Grouw** (standing), **Justin Struyk**, **Cleveland McDaniel**, and **Josh Breeman** are ready and waiting for a beefsteak dinner.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS FENCE BANNERS

Advertise your business on the EC athletic field. This is a great way to support EC athletics and promote your business. Display fees are \$300 per year and \$150 for a full color 6'x 3' banner. Purchase three years of display now and the banner fee is waived. Call the EC Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 for more information.

COMMUNITY NIGHT

The first ever Athletic Boosters community night was held on September 21, 2012 at Willow Field in North Haledon. It was an evening of exciting sports and community spirit featuring a double header soccer game with both the Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer teams facing off with Lodi. Both teams played well, with the boys finishing in a 0-0 tie and the girls winning 3-2. Fans were encouraged to wear white to show their support for EC. The Athletic Boosters operated a concession stand serving hot dogs, sandwiches, snacks, and beverages.

Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala



Donna Chrinian, Karen Borduin and Lori Steinginga take a break from the bidding to pose for a picture.

The second annual Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala was held on April 18, at The Tides Estate in North Haledon. Over 300 supporters enjoyed a fabulous dinner buffet while having the opportunity

to place silent bids on interesting items including themed baskets, gift certificates, designer accessories, and many unique pieces. After dinner an energetic live auction directed by auctioneer **John Doller** featured golf outings, tickets to Broadway shows, sporting events, the use of vacation homes, and much more. A new item up for bid on the live auction this year was an “Instant Wine Cellar.” Guests were encouraged to bring a bottle of their favorite wine to the auction to help create this one of a kind bidding opportunity. It was great fun watching the accumulation of wines as auction guests arrived. During the live auction, the bottles were sold to the high bidder. Other highlights of the evening included a Diamond Dig where guests could dig for a “diamond” in hopes of winning a prize and the opportunity to purchase a Denim Pocket with a surprise gift inside.

The event was a wonderful evening of great food, fun, and fellowship, with a net profit of \$58,000 for Eastern Christian School. Thank you to our auction committee and our many supporters, donors, and volunteers for helping to make this event a great success. Next year’s Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala will be May 7, 2014. Mark your calendars now and join us for this wonderful evening.



Bill Englishmen raises his paddle high to place a bid during the live auction.

Golfers Tee Off for EC



A popular contest that takes place on one of the holes at the Golf Outing is "Beat the EC Golf Team Member." This year only nine golfers succeeded in doing so. Pictured with Tom Dykhouse are EC golf team members, Kyle Dorsey, Connor Milkamp, and Ryan Vander Plaats.

The annual EC Golf Outing was held at Black Bear Golf Club on Monday, May 20, and raised over \$26,000 for Eastern Christian School. Despite the ominous looking morning sky, the weather was warm and sunny, perfect for a day of golf. Participants enjoyed a delicious burger lunch, a great day of golf, and a wonderful buffet dinner.

The contests are always a popular aspect of the golf outing and this year's outing featured an exciting new challenge. Golfers had the opportunity to win a new car for a hole-in-one sponsored by Paramus Chevrolet. Although no golfer won the car, everyone enjoyed a fantastic day of golf and fellowship.

Thank you to our golf committee, **Kurt Faber** – Chairman, **Bruce Bohuny**, **Henry Hagedoorn**, **Dwayne Leegwater**, **Scott Martin**, and **Ken Steenstra**, and also to all the Sponsors and Golfers who helped make a successful outing.



Golfers Jason Nyman and Brian Tuzzio checking in with the starter.

ALUMNI NEWS

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

THE 1970S

Warren Van Wyck '70 was sworn into the Vermont Legislature in early February, 2013. He was appointed by Vermont's governor to complete the term of the previous Representative who passed away late last year.

THE 1980S

Paul Thompson '83 is pleased to announce the publication of his first book: *"A Most Stirring and Significant Episode": Religion and the Rise and Fall of Prohibition in Black Atlanta, 1885-1887* (Northern Illinois University Press). Paul is currently Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History & Political Science at North Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C.

David Van Heemst '84 was honored as outstanding faculty member at Olivet Nazarene University's Commencement in May. He received the 2013 Samuel L. Mayhugh Award for Scholarly Excellence. David holds a bachelor's degree, three master's degrees and a doctorate degree and is Professor of Political Science at Olivet.

Russell Huizing '87 completed his Ph.D. at Regent University in Organizational Leadership with an Ecclesial concentration. At the commissioning service, he received

the School of Business and Leadership's Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award for his research on the use of ritual in follower development. In August, he became the Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries at Toccoa Falls College in Georgia and continued as an adjunct instructor in Regent University's Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry department.

Liz and Bob Rosendale '83 announce the birth of a son, Hudson on 5/13/13.

Craig '84 and Ellen Spalt Faber '86 announce the birth of a daughter, Ella Rose on 1/11/13. Ella Rose joins older sisters Victoria and Noelle.

THE 1990S

Lauren Kooistra '96 has accepted an appointment at the Penn State Institute of Arts and Humanities as assistant director. The post-doc position, awarded by the College of Arts and Architecture, will begin in fall 2013 when Lauren receives her Ph.D. Lauren received her bachelor's degree in piano performance from Gordon College and her master's degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Westminster Choir College.

Amanda and Jeff Peters '98 announce the birth of a daughter, Brooklynne on 12/26/12. She joins big brother Jamison.

THE 2000S

Jason and Jill Schuurman Formicola '00 announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Noelle, on 5/9/12.

Julie (Dykhouse) Tokarski '01 completed her residency in general pediatrics at Montefiore Children's Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y. She will begin a fellowship at Montefiore for specialized training in pediatric emergency medicine.

Emily and Michael Dyer '02 announce the birth of their son, Colton Michael on 12/16/12. The Dyer's reside in Milford, Pa.

Kevin Vriesema '03 and Rebecca Santhouse '03 were married on 5/11/13. They will reside in West Milford, N.J.

Laura Kuiken '07 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Montclair State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nutrition and Food Science with a concentration in Dietetics. She is working as a nutrition coach for Platinum Fitness.

Andrew Abadeer '09 graduated with High Honor from Stevens Institute of Technology, and received the Biomedical Engineering Outstanding Senior award. Andrew was accepted into Medical School at Columbia University.

Daniel Bruinooge '09 graduated from California Institute of the Arts with a bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Dan plans

Send us your news! Return to: The Herald, Eastern Christian School,
50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508

Names(s) _____

Graduation Year _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Your News _____

to stay in California to pursue his art and music opportunities.



Allison Faber '09 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Gordon College with a degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychology and was awarded the Excellence in Education award.

Amber Joy Fiedler '09 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Gordon College with a degree in Business Administration and Communication Arts. Amber was given the honor of introducing the guest speaker at the Baccalaureate Service.

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

R E M E M B E R I N G

Helen (Kamp) Van Hassel '44 of Wyckoff, N.J. on 5/1/13. Helen was a member of

Wyckoff Reformed Church. She played in the Joyful Noise Bell Choir, was active on the Outreach Committee, and played the carillon on Sunday mornings. After Eastern Academy, she graduated from Hood College in Frederick, Md., with a degree in journalism. A competitive speed skater, in 1943 Helen skated in Madison Square Garden and won the Girls Intermediate Derby Silver Skates.

Ruth (Cooper) Drost '45 of Conklin, Mich. on 2/3/13. She was a member of Coopersville Christian Reformed Church.

Alyce (Pruiksma) Meines '50 of Colorado Springs, Colo. on 3/5/13. She was a member of the Horizon Community CRC.

Gertrude (Faber) Zylstra '51 of Roswell, N.M. on 4/1/13. Gertrude was a member of Redeemer Christian Fellowship Church.

Peter D. Borduin '51 of North Haledon, N.J. on 5/10/13. He was a member of Cedar Hill CRC and the former Bethel CRC where he served as both Elder and Deacon. He was a lifetime member of the Cathedral Choir.

Doris (Little) Dyk '51 of North Haledon, N.J. on 5/25/13. She was a member of Cedar Hill

CRC and the former Bethel CRC where she served on Booster Club, led Calvinettes and participated in the Encouragers Ministry.

Jean (Vander Molen) Czuba '53 of Fairfield, N.J. on 1/19/13. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell.

Martina Bushoven Johnson '58 of Fontana, Calif. on 5/19/13 from injuries sustained in an automobile collision.

David Jaarsma '60 of St. Joseph, Mich. on 2/28/13. After Eastern Academy, he was a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan.

Robert L. Bush '63 of Grand Rapids, Mich. on 3/26/13. Bob obtained his doctorate in physics and was active in many ministries at Brookside CRC.

Lawrence Fieldhouse '72 of Andover, N.J., formerly of Prospect Park, on 5/12/13. He was a member of Unity CRC.

Shelly Snyder Meeler '74 of Vero Beach, Fla., previously of Burlington, N.C. on 2/19/13.

David Pruiksma '77 of Hawthorne, N.J. on 2/5/13. David was the owner of Clixes in Wyckoff and a member of Faith Community CRC.



Several classmates from the Class of 1981 gathered in June to celebrate their 50th birthdays! Pictured (L to R): Ginamarie (Cassidy) Quinn, Linda Mabie, Wayne Schipper and Linda (Van Boerum) Hefty.

REUNION UPDATE

The Class of 1962



The Class of 1962 gathered over the weekend of August 11, 2012 for their 50th Class Reunion. Classmates first became reacquainted at a tour of the ECHS on Saturday afternoon. The reunion dinner was held Saturday evening at Pellegrino's Restaurant in North Haledon, N.J. It was great to see so many classmates – everyone had a wonderful time.

Row 1 (L to R): Norman Jonkman, Elaine Hook, Marlene (Santhouse) Magdar.
Row 2: Dorothy (Aukema) Valkema, Elizabeth (Bradford) Aupperlee, Nancy (Hartog) Ruiters, Mary Lou (Botbyl) Flitcroft, Teresa (Van Dyke) Hensel, Clarene (Higby) Saltenberger.
Row 3: Anne Bontekoe, Karen Daviou, Anna Mae (Laauwe) Kuipers, Linda (Vermeulen) Foster, Janet (Bush) Buist, Judy (Lehmer) Cooper.
Row 4: John Husselman, Alan Struck, Ted Peters, John Knapp, Ron Douma, George De Boer, Bert Prol, Fred Struyk, Roy Elsenbroek, Don Post.

REUNION YEAR CLASSES

Please be sure the Alumni Office has your up-to-date contact information. Send your address and/or email information to alumni@easternchristian.org and you will be sure to get all your reunion news. Please check EC's website – Reunion Updates for additional details.

Class of 1983: 30-YEAR REUNION

Friday, December 27 at Pellegrino's Restaurant in North Haledon from 7pm to 11pm. More information is available on Facebook: EC Class of 1983 or email **Linda (Kohere) Vandenberg** at lrv215@aol.com.

2013 REUNIONS

Class of 2003: 10-YEAR REUNION

Saturday, November 30 at The Brownstone in Paterson from 7pm to 11pm. Please email the committee at: ecclass2003@gmail.com for additional details.

Class of 1993: 20-YEAR REUNION

Jennifer (Meyer) Ross reports the reunion will be On October 12 at The Village Inn in Wayne at 6pm. Contact Jenn at 973-800-8742 or email: ec1993reunion@yahoo.com.

Class of 1978: 35-YEAR REUNION

Saturday, October 12 at The Castle in Chester, N.Y. Invitations have gone out – if we do not have your current address, please contact: **Maribeth (Van Der Plaats) Vriesema** at maribethvriesema@easternchristian.org. Additional information is on Facebook: EC Class of 1978.

Class of 1958: 55-YEAR REUNION

Saturday, September 28 at The Brick House in Wyckoff at 12 noon. For further information please contact **Garry Nieuwenhuis** at 973-427-7948 or by email: garnflo@verizon.net.

2014 Reunions

Are you a member of one of the following classes?

2004 - 10 yr	1974 - 40 yr
1994 - 20 yr	1969 - 45 yr
1989 - 25 yr	1964 - 50 yr
1984 - 30 yr	1959 - 55 yr
1979 - 35 yr	

If so, 2014 is your year for a reunion! It's not too early to get started.

Please call EC's Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 or email: alumni@easternchristian.org for more information.

Attention Class of:

1954 1949 1944 1939 1934

EC's Foundation Office will host a luncheon for these combined years in anniversary of their graduations at ECHS in 2014. Please be sure we have your updated address and/or email so we can contact you next spring with the details.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

JANUARY 31, 2013 – JUNE 15, 2013

Thank you to all who made donations to support Christian education at EC! During this time period, gifts given in honor or in memory of a loved one totaled \$7,221.00. All gifts are to Eastern Christian School's Endowment Fund unless otherwise indicated.

In Memory of

Peter Borduin

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Albert & Janet Visbeen

Leonard Bouwense

Russell & Cynthia Bouwense

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Eunice Broersma
Lisa Tannenbaum

Emma Copeland

Margaret Bloomquist

Theodore De Jong +

Barbara Kuiken Davis

Doris (Little) Dyk

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Henry & Marge Balkema
Marion Borduin
Gertrude & John Borst
Roy & Jeanne Bushoven
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Loretta Cammaroto
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Evelyn Holwerda

80th Birthday

Evelyn Crawford

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Annamae Hulsebos

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Ruth Latona

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Endowment Fund Update

The Eastern Christian School Association Endowment Fund continues to grow annually from contributions and market appreciation. As of May 31, 2013 we had a balance of \$7,140, 267 in the Endowment Fund, which represents an increase of \$340,000 since the same date in 2012.

We also have Trust/Scholarship Funds invested with the Barnabas Foundation as of May 31, 2013 in the amount of \$798,845 which represents an increase of \$37,000 since the same date in 2012.

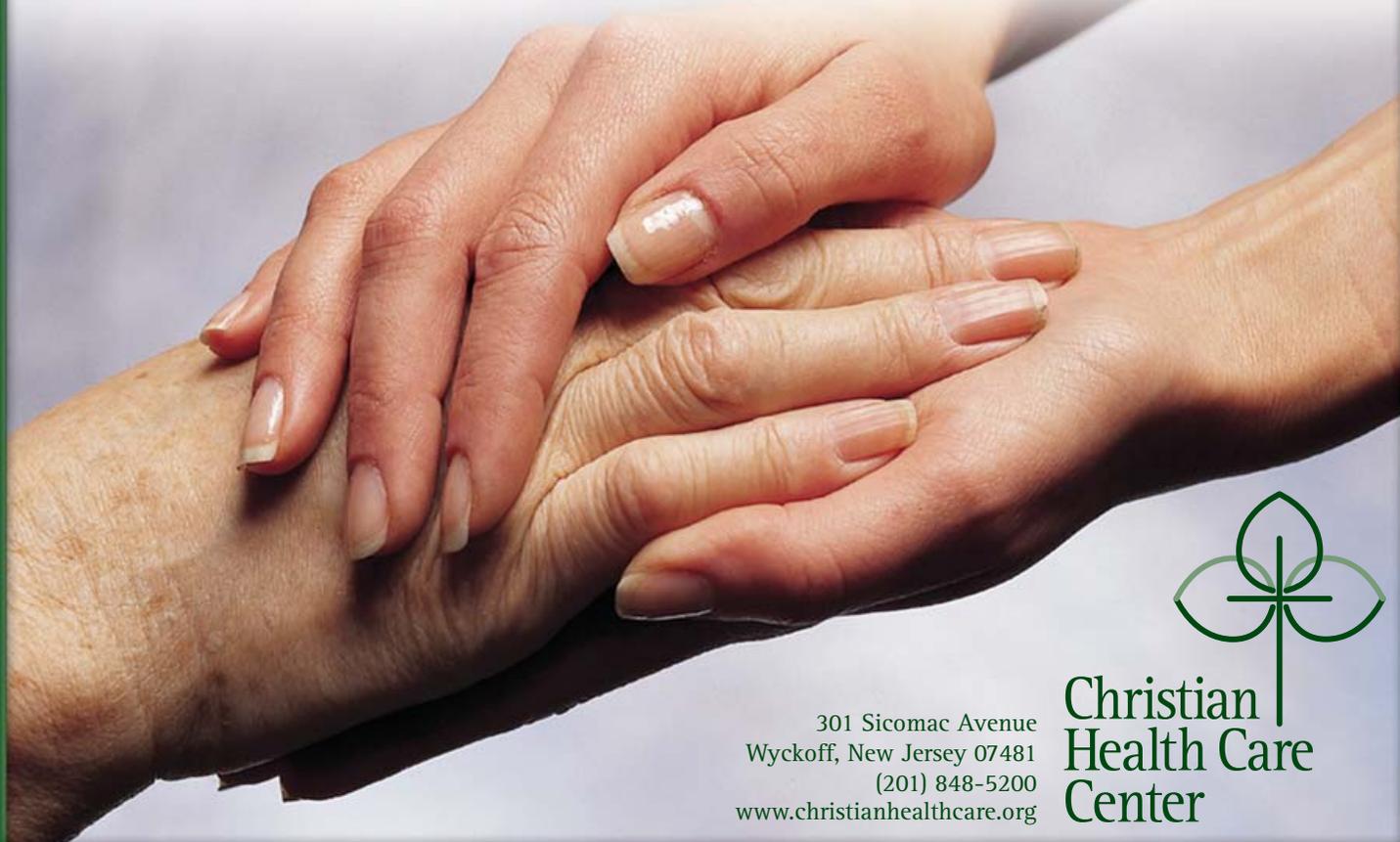
We are grateful for the talents and time of the members of the Endowment Committee who diligently serve to preserve and protect the substantial funds that have been donated to ECSA over the years.

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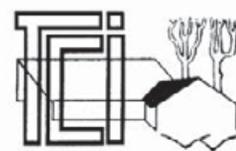


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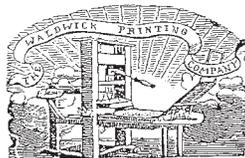


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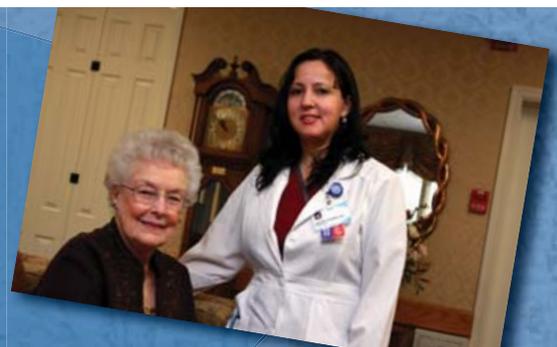
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EC SPORTS

Winter Sports Wrap Ups

Senior Athletic Awards

Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Carly Veenstra

ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Andrew Fiedler
Carly Veenstra

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Julie Van Buiten

Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award

Julie Van Buiten
Carly Veenstra
Andrew Fiedler

Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete

Andrew Fiedler
Carly Veenstra

New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Julie Van Buiten

Paterson Old Timers' Athletic Association Award

Carly Veenstra

North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award

Seth Stadtlander
Sarah Bruinooge



Senior Matt Van Grouw

Boys' Basketball: The boys' varsity basketball team ended with a 7-18 record this winter. Senior forward **Cleveland McDaniel**, named to the All League First Team, led the team in scoring while senior guard **Matt Van Grouw** led the team in 3-point shooting. In their first win early in the season, Matt scored 26 points and was 5 for 8 from the 3-point line against Manchester. The team played against Hawthorne Christian in the "Coaches vs. Cancer Classic," and raised money for Soles4Souls in a special EC-hosted event against Pequannock.



Junior Rachel Barrett (left) and senior Carly Veenstra

Girls' Basketball: Just falling short of a league title with a final record of 21-5, the girl's basketball team played a strong season marked by tough defense and solid shooting, led by guards senior **Carly Veenstra** and junior **Rachel Barrett**. Carly built on her All County status, ending with over 1400 points in her career. The season's success came as a surprise, given that the team lost four players from the year before, including senior All County center **Michelle Van Dyke**, who graduated in January.



Sophomore *Justin Rozema*

Bowling: The bowling team continues to be a place where individual students can improve their game and bond together as teammates in a fun, relaxed environment. There were a number of terrific individual performances this year. Senior **Andrew Fiedler** led the team with the highest overall average, scoring a personal best 189. Sophomore **Justin Rozema** scored a team-high 208 in one match, throwing five strikes in a row during the game.



Seniors *Andrew Fiedler* and *Solana Lewis*, freshman *Bryan Lineweaver*.

Winter Track: Although organized as a club sport at Eastern Christian, the winter track team continued to grow in its second season, with 12 participants (twice the number as last year). The team competed in nine invitationals during the indoor season. Junior **Kayla Van Lenten** won the State Sectional Meet in the high jump, tying the school's high jump record in the process. Senior **Andrew Fiedler** earned All County First Team honors, to go along with his All County Honorable Mention in bowling.

Winter Sports Awards

ALL COUNTY

First Team

Erin Van Lenten (Track)
Andrew Fiedler (Track)
Carly Veenstra (Basketball)

Second Team

Sarah Post (Track)
Solana Lewis (Track)
Kayla Van Lenten (Track)

Honorable Mention

Hee Jin Ree (Bowling)
Andrew Fiedler (Bowling)
Chandler West (Track)
Lyndsey Smith (Track)
Bethany Kuiken (Basketball)
Rachel Barrett (Basketball)
Matt Van Grouw (Basketball)
Cleveland McDaniel (Basketball)

ALL LEAGUE

First Team

Kayla Van Lenten (Track)
Andrew Fiedler (Track)
Rachel Barrett (Basketball)
Carly Veenstra (Basketball)
Cleveland McDaniel (Basketball)

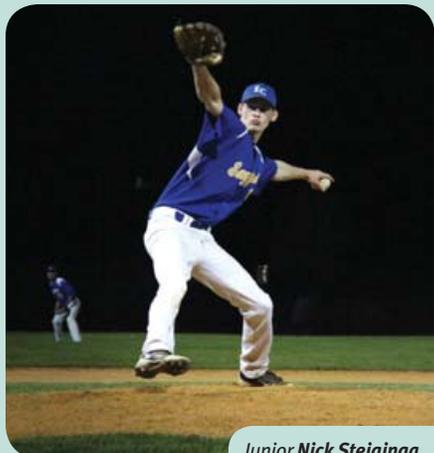
Second Team

Sarah Post (Track)
Solana Lewis (Track)
Bethany Kuiken (Basketball)
Abby Kuder (Basketball)
Keith Ring (Basketball)
Matt Van Grouw (Basketball)

Honorable Mention

Andrew Fiedler (Bowling)
Kelly Tanis (Basketball)
Josh Breeman (Basketball)

Spring Sports In Review



Junior **Nick Steiginga**

Boys' Baseball: The baseball team finished with an even record, at 12-12, and saw a lot of improvement over past seasons. One highlight of the season was beating higher seeded Rutherford, 3-2, in a tournament game. In the State Tournament, the team lost their first round game against higher seeded Saint Mary of Rutherford 2-1 in 10 innings. "This season was the most fun I've ever had playing baseball... and we played some of the best baseball in my three years here," junior **Jordan Pellegrino** said.



Senior **Ashley Manger**

Girls' Softball: Finishing the regular season with a strong 15-9 record, the softball team was able to make some noise in the State tournament as well. They won their first round game 10-0 and the second round 5-0. Sophomore Jayna Van Buiten said, "We had one of our best games as a team," in that game. In the state semi-final game, they lost to higher-seeded Immaculate Conception 1-0. Senior **Ashley Manger**, named to the All County Second Team, led the team with stellar pitching all season.



Junior **David Foley**

Boys' Lacrosse: In their first ever season, the boys lacrosse team was more concerned with learning the game than winning, but they still managed to put up a 4-7-1 record on the junior varsity level against teams with more experience. Junior **Aaron Ball** said, "The highlight of the year was the first win of the year [against Hawthorne]. It was outstanding. It has been a great season."



Senior **Ryan Vander Plaat**

Golf: The golf team had one of their strongest seasons ever, finishing with a record of 24-5. Led by three seniors, **Matt Van Grouw**, **Ryan Vander Plaat**, and **Kyle Dorsey**, the team placed 4th in the Passaic County Tournament. Matt finished 3rd overall in the tournament. The team came in 2nd in the NJIC league, losing one close match to Glen Rock 170-177. Ryan said, "I'm glad the other seniors and I were able to end on a good note. I hope next year's team can continue to build on the success we had this year."



Senior **Cleveland McDaniel**

Boys' Track: Based on strong performances from just a small team, the boys' track team placed 2nd in the State Sectional Meet on May 24-25. Senior **Andrew Fiedler** won the javelin and pole vault, senior **Cleveland McDaniel** won the high jump and long jump (Cleveland also won the County Meet and State Meet in high jump), and junior **Matt Van Eck** won the 400m.



Sophomore **Lyndsey Smith**

Girls' Track: Injuries and poor weather hurt the girls' track team this year, but they still managed to place 3rd in the State Sectional Meet and win the NJIC Carpenter Division championship. Sophomore **Lyndsey Smith** was a first time runner with some amazing results, placing 2nd at the State Sectional in the 100m and 200m sprints, and 3rd in the 400m. She also participated on the winning 4 x 100m team, running along with senior **Chandler West**, sophomore **Emily Maura**, and senior **Sarah Post**.



Senior Ethan Ruitenberg

Boys' Tennis: The tennis team had a true rebuilding year, with either new players or returning players at new positions. Although they did not win any team matches, many individual improvements and milestones were reached. Senior **Ethan Ruitenberg** led the team at the First Singles position and was named to the All County Second Team. Coach **Adam Culp** said, "Ethan has been amazing and I wouldn't want to have anyone else to lead this season."

Spring Athletic Awards

ALL COUNTY

First Team

Matt Van Grouw (Golf)
Cleveland McDaniel (Track)
Lyndsey Smith (Track)

Second Team

Connor Milkamp (Golf)
Ashley Manger (Softball)
Ethan Ruitenberg (Tennis)
Matt Van Eck (Track)
Sarah Post (Track)
Erin Van Lenten (Track)

Honorable Mention

Ryan Vander Plaats (Golf)
Kyle Dorsey (Golf)
Jenna Struyk (Softball)
Bethany Kuiken (Softball)
Marcus Picciotto (Baseball)
Nick Steiginga (Baseball)
James Choi (Tennis)
Kyle Dykstra (Tennis)
Andrew Fiedler (Track)
Kyle Coan (Track)
Blair Bohuny (Track)
Chandler West (Track)
Kathryn Post (Track)

ALL LEAGUE

First Team

Matt Van Grouw (Golf)
Connor Milkamp (Golf)
Ashley Manger (Softball)
Cleveland McDaniel (Track)
Matt Van Eck (Track)
Andrew Fiedler (Track)
Blair Bohuny (Track)
Sarah Post (Track)

Second Team

Ryan Vander Plaats (Golf)
Kyle Dorsey (Golf)
Jenna Struyk (Softball)
Carly Veenstra (Softball)
Anita Karr (Softball)
Marcus Picciotto (Baseball)
Ethan Ruitenberg (Tennis)
Chandler West (Track)

Honorable Mention

James Choi (Tennis)
Bethany Kuiken (Softball)
Nick Steiginga (Baseball)
Lyndsey Smith (Track)
Erin Van Lenten (Track)
Kathryn Post (Track)
Solana Lewis (Track)



The girls team huddles up.

Girls' Lacrosse: The girls' lacrosse team, playing for the first time ever in EC history, was excited to pick up the program's first win midseason against Peddie School. They ended with a record of 1-11-1, but were happy with the progress they made and the number of goals they were able to score. "Most of us didn't know the sport, but we had a fun time learning the way the game was played. The team can only go up from here," junior **Sarah Mulcock** said.

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