

# THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*  
Volume 64, Issue 2



## END IN MIND

+ PROGRAM EXPANSION  
& FACILITY UPDATES

FALL 2023

# Beginning with the End in Mind



**At Eastern Christian School, we strive to fulfill our mission of empowering students from Christian families to develop their gifts in order to act as Christ's transforming agents in the world. This vision is not a distant aspiration but a reality that we witness in our current students' lives.**

Within this edition of the Herald, we hope you catch glimpses of our living mission through graduate profiles, athletic and academic recognitions, milestone celebrations, and our growing programming initiatives. Additionally, we are thrilled to share news of expanded and updated facilities that enhance the learning environment for our students. All of these accomplishments align with our commitment to excellence and furthering our mission.

As we celebrate our graduates, we take great joy in seeing how they continue to live out our mission even after leaving Eastern Christian. Alumni from various graduating classes often reach out to us, sharing stories of how they have embraced their high callings as agents of redemption. We recognize the tremendous influence of faithful and professional faculty, staff, administration and board members, as we partner with parents and churches to prepare our students and alumni to use their gifts.

We are grateful for so many who contribute to Eastern Christian with their time, resources and talents whether through volunteering at ditto, providing an internship opportunity, or donating to the Foundation. Our commitment to providing an exceptional education, robust programs, and state-of-the-art facilities is made possible through the generous supporting community. This support enables us to equip our students with the tools they need to fulfill their calling as Christ's transforming agents.

One hundred years ago, in 1923, Eastern Christian School not only graduated its first senior class but also received accreditation. As we enter the next school year, we are excited to reinforce our longstanding Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation with a joint Christian Schools International accreditation. This joint accreditation protocol, entitled "Measuring the Mission," reflects our commitment to continuously evaluate and improve all aspects of our program. You can catch a glimpse of the valuable feedback we are currently gathering through surveys and focus groups with students, parents, staff, and community members. In the spring, an outside accreditation team of like-minded educators will visit our campuses to provide guidance and identify opportunities for growth. Their endorsement will affirm our promise to the Eastern Christian community of delivering an excellent Christian education.

I hope this issue of the Herald serves as an encouragement to you. We invite you to join us in expressing gratitude to God for his abundant blessings!

**Ruth Kuder '84**  
*Executive Director and Head of School*

*Cover photo: Members of the class of 2023 stand on the new turf field.*



EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

# THE HERALD

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### Corrections from Spring 2023 Issue:

#### **Alumni News:**

*Inette (Verhaar) Libolt was incorrectly listed as a member of the Class of 1973. Mrs. Libolt graduated from EC in 1969.*

#### **In Memoriam:**

*Raymond J. Cooper '48, who passed away on 1/29/23, was errantly listed as having lived in Maple City, MI. Prior to his passing, Mr. Cooper resided in Franklin Lakes, NJ.*

*Joan Kuiken '52 was erroneously listed with the maiden name of Steen. Steen was her middle name.*

#### **Annual Stewardship Report:**

*David and Cynthia Visbeen's names were erroneously omitted from the Annual Fund portion of the stewardship report.*

*The Herald* is a bi-annual publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Eastern Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education. **The Herald is mailed free of charge to over 6,500 alumni, families, and friends of the school.**

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

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## End in mind

*Reaching the end goal of an EC education*

The “Understanding by Design” approach to curricular development advises teachers to “design with the end in mind.” Similarly, no matter when a student enters Eastern Christian School, the end goal is the same, and it is encapsulated in the graduate profile.

Following are the stories of three students who have reached the end goal of an EC education. They serve as important reminders that all our students are uniquely made in the image of God, created with a specific purpose.



### SAMANTHA GARCIA

*IVY LEAGUE BOUND*

**Senior Samantha Garcia grew up in a family that values academics. This priority is what led her to Eastern Christian School.**

“I loved that Eastern Christian was Christian, but I also saw a variety of opportunities for athletics and academics. I was excited about the small class sizes.”

Officially committed to the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relationships at Cornell University, Garcia

reflects on the road she took to the Ivy League. The EC distinctive that she says helped the most? A relational approach that saw her as an individual.

“Eastern Christian saw me as a person, with likes and dislikes. They gave me the opportunity to have great relationships with teachers and students. They gave me opportunities to succeed... You can see the

passion of these teachers and the care they have for their students. You just can’t find that elsewhere,” she shares.

As can be expected, Garcia’s class roster at EC was rigorous. She started taking Seton Hall dual enrollment classes in her sophomore year, completing honors-level coursework in

*“Being part of a smaller community allowed me to get these opportunities a lot more easily. You have a lot more opportunities at EC to outshine, get out there and get the leadership opportunities.”*

history, English and the sciences. While the Seton Hall-approved curriculum was valuable, what stood out most was the mentorship offered by her teachers. “This [culture of mentorship] helped with everything, from writing presentations, to constructing thesis statements, to supporting my thesis statements,” she says.

Garcia also became engaged in a variety of extracurricular opportunities inside and outside of school. Her leadership experiences ranged from founding and presiding over the Voces Hispanic Club, to serving in Project Lead and Timothy Groups, to becoming elected as National Honors Society President. She enrolled in the WINGS internship program.

“Being part of a smaller community allowed me to get these opportunities a lot more easily. You have a lot more opportunities at EC to outshine, get out there and get the leadership opportunities,” she says.

Although Garcia came to EC as a seventh grader because she prioritized academics, she leaves as a 2023 graduate with an understanding that excellent education is much more. “We are an institution that enriches student minds and helps people find who they are in life,” she says. “I have made such close relationships being part of this community. It’s an amazing school. I love EC and I want to send my kids here one day.”



**On April 12, 2023, Seton Hall University students and entrepreneur hopefuls vied for a chance to win seed money for their startup companies as part of Seton Hall’s annual Pirates Pitch Competition. On the judges panel was 2017 EC alumna, Carina Castagna, chosen as the youngest judge of the group.**

Castagna, a first-generation college graduate, was there as a distinguished young alumna of the university. Her college resume includes graduating Magna Cum Laude, earning a Master of Public Administration in five years, placing in the final four in a national investment competition, and serving on the executive teams of Women in Business and the Young Alumni Council. In addition to these academic credentials, she was also chosen by the university to participate in the Pirate Accelerator Program, which provided money for her own start-up business, Pesto Joe. Pesto Joe, named in memory of her beloved father, was formed in December 2022 and is on its way to securing its first wholesale deal.

Castagna’s story is one of grit; success born out of challenge.

“As well decorated as I was as a college student, high school was a struggle for me at times. I was not a

# CARINA CASTAGNA

**A STORY OF GRIT AND EXCELLENCE**

*continued on page 4*

straight-A student, and I often had to get extra help through the resource room. EC provided the unique, tailored education I needed in order to grow into the young professional I am today. I learn best in small classrooms where I can make personal connections with my teachers, a learning environment that EC provided.”

She adds, “Being in the resource room taught me, quite literally, to be resourceful. During my sophomore year at EC, I found out I was dyslexic, and I had to come to understand how studying worked best for me. In partnership with teachers and my parents, I developed a “can-do” attitude instead of sulking in my hardships.”

*“There wasn’t one class, one teacher, or one circumstance that built me into who I am today. It was the culmination of a tailored education, personalized support and extracurricular activities that helped shape my character. Lastly, chapel time encouraged me to reflect on the importance of intertwining my relationship with God in all my activities. EC has the tools to help every student become successful. It is humbling to look back on my own journey and to see how far I have come.”*



## LYNETTE GRAJALES

*GOD DIRECTS HER PATHS*

**Halfway through her high school career, Lynette Grajales made a courageous decision: She switched schools.**

“In the environment I was in, I didn’t see growth. So I decided to try something new despite the fear I had of coming to a different school,” she says.

Once here, Grajales immediately got involved in choir and Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy. She also enrolled in dual enrollment honors courses.

“I really enjoyed the academic rigor of my honors classes at EC,” she shares. One benefit she hadn’t counted on was the community in her classes, which cultivated an atmosphere where students were free to ask questions, show vulnerability, and disagree with respect.

As she got older, she says, “I started looking into law. It was so intriguing to me and that’s how I became interested in the WINGS program.”

The WINGS program is an innovative internship and mentorship opportunity offered to EC juniors and seniors. In June of her junior year, Grajales worked with WINGS Program Director Alisa Engelhard and was paired with general law practice Weiss, Tom & Trapanese, LLC to explore this career interest further.

“I had a fantastic experience with the WINGS program and it was a great opportunity for me to learn more about the legal profession and gain practical experience,” she says.

Now a graduating senior, Grajales anticipates heading to

Seton Hall University this fall, majoring in political studies. By the time she gets to Seton Hall, she will have completed two internships toward that goal.

WANT TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT  
**WINGS?**



## GRADUATE PROFILE

***Utilizing Biblically informed inquiry and strong academic knowledge, an Eastern Christian graduate will think critically, exhibit curiosity and develop the discernment that will enable him/her to confidently and intentionally strive for excellence in every endeavor.***

***Having studied the message of Jesus Christ and having experienced models of Christian servanthood in community, the Eastern Christian graduate develops a healthy self image. Recognizing and responding to the will of God, and seeing in humanity the image of God, the graduate embraces diversity, exhibits compassion, offers respect, and is forgiving and open to others.***

***The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence and seeks to contribute cooperatively and responsibly to God’s mission of renewing all of creation.***

# Survey says...

*Greatest school in the country?*



As part of Eastern Christian School's accreditation process, the accreditation and school improvement team sent out surveys to all students, parents and staff, as well as the board of directors, to learn about strengths and weaknesses in a variety of areas of school operation. The preschool and elementary school surveys utilized emojis to determine student opinion, but starting with fourth grade, students were asked questions and given an opportunity to anonymously provide written responses.

Responses were incredibly encouraging, including one middle schooler who declared that EC was "one of the greatest schools in the country." Here are additional responses to the question, "What do you like best about your school?"

## ACADEMICS

*"Our school emphasizes educational excellence and encourages each student individually. I love the history of our school and the legacy our school has."* – High school student

*"I like that the teachers teach their subjects well."* – Middle school student

*"My teacher always finds a way to make boring lessons fun."*  
– Upper elementary school student

*"I like how knowledgeable my teachers are about the subjects they teach and how genuinely excited and happy they are to teach."* – High school student

*"I like that we get to do things like Horizons [accelerated learners program] and special writing projects."* – Upper elementary school student

*"What I like best about Eastern Christian is how supportive and awesome the teachers are. Every one of my teachers tries to teach with this thought in mind: they actually want every one of their students to learn the material and comprehend it completely. All of my teachers are AWESOME."* – High school student



## FAITH

*"My teachers speak freely about their Christian life and history. I love that I have the opportunity to do this as well."*

– High school student

*"We can praise God here. I know not every school can learn about God."*

– Upper elementary school student

*"I love the teachers and their approach of integrating faith into various subjects."*

– High school student

*"I like that my school is a fully Christian school."*

– Middle school student

*"I love that we are given the opportunity to pray for each other and learn more about Christ through our devotional time."*

– High school student

*"It is a strong, safe environment that emphasizes good, Christ-like behavior. It raises this generation to have faith and model Christ in the things they do."*

– Middle school student



## ENVIRONMENT

*"My teachers and friends care about me and love me."*

– Upper elementary school student

*"There are a variety of cultures and EC embraces them wonderfully."*

– High school student

*"I like the size the best. There are enough people, but not too many that you don't know anyone. The community that this creates is nice."*

– High school student

*"I really like how my school has no bullies or anyone bullying someone. In addition, I also like when someone is new to the school or shadowing, everyone is helpful to them and really kind. In conclusion, I like how everyone is kind and respectful to everyone and treats them the right way."*

– Middle school student

*"At my old school there were mean bullies and here I feel like I can be myself without feeling*

*uncomfortable or upset. This school is really meant for me."*

– Upper elementary school student

*"I like lots of things best. One of them is that my friends are really nice, and my teachers are, too. There's lots of room to play outside, with lots of things to do so I'm not bored. Lots of people in my school are very nice to me and they aren't bullies. In conclusion, this is the best school I ever went to."*

– Upper elementary school student





# Academic program expansion

**EC's commitment to excellence**

**As Eastern Christian School continues to grow, program expansion across the board is an exciting part of the school's commitment to excellence. From preschool to the high school program, EC is adding new offerings in the arts, sciences and more. Here's a look in greater detail:**

## PRESCHOOL

The preschool will see the addition of a fifth class this year and along with it, the implementation of a curriculum that teachers are confident will be a vibrant and engaging program for our students. The curriculum was successfully piloted this year and is ready for a full-scale rollout.

According to "Creative Curriculum," the program allows preschool teachers to "build children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills through hands-on project-based investigations."

"I am so excited about the collaboration I've already seen around 'Creative Curriculum,'" says **Karyn Baitzel**, 2022-2023 preschool director. "I love the enthusiasm our team has for it."

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Midland Park campus is expanding its music program to include introduction to piano. Students

will receive music classes twice a week, using new piano curriculum as part of a larger vision to teach music fluency from a young age. In addition to current elementary school-aged appropriate instruments, a new set of keyboards will compliment the expansion.



“We believe that growing our music offerings to include piano will offer huge benefits to our students,” elementary school music teacher **Nicole Verrengia** says. “Reading music and being able to play comfortably at such a young age is truly a special gift.”



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

As upper elementary grades transition to the Wyckoff campus, new programs are pairing with campus growth. Music teacher **Amelia Makus** will bring beginning orchestra and chorus to allow students to engage in these very popular programs at a younger age.

“It will be a great place to start honing in on their skills and exploring their interest,” Makus says.

Principal **Dan Lazor** is equally excited. “The hope is that we can provide an even stronger foundation, which will help to boost students’ abilities and performance in middle school and high school. The upper elementary orchestra students will also have the option to begin learning viola, cello or bass sooner, which will support the middle school orchestra as well.

STEAM will also return for grades 3-5 after a temporary pause to some programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Wyckoff campus will also see a new technology class as part of their day.

“The middle school technology class discussions began with a conversation with our high school staff,” Lazor said. “Beginning technology instruction earlier will allow us to expand on what is already a strong high school program.”

Lazor adds, “Each of these programs serves to enrich the experience our students will have during their years on the Wyckoff campus. They provide additional ways for students to explore the gifts they have and to learn to better use those gifts for God’s glory.”

## HIGH SCHOOL

New electives at the high school enable students to dig deeper into their specific interests.

“We are excited about new electives as well as the expansion of some existing programs. We have developed a new photography course where students will unlock their creativity, master the art of composition, and delve into the technical aspects of photography, igniting their passion for visual storytelling,” says Principal **Dan Cirone**.

“In criminal justice, students will explore the inner workings of the criminal justice system and prepare them for a future in the pursuit of justice.



“We are also proud to announce the honors choir. This prestigious ensemble offers talented students an opportunity to showcase their vocal talents, refine their skills, and perform captivating arrangements,” he adds.

# Facility upgrades for fall 2023

Improvements across all three campuses



**While students take a break, the operations team is hard at work making improvements across all three campuses. Here's a sneak peek at a few projects happening in time for fall 2023:**

Get ready for community nights on our new high school turf field!

With turf rolled out in June, construction is completed on a combination soccer and lacrosse artificial turf field. Surrounded by a two-lane practice track and an area for field events, it represents the final phase of Campaign 125, a \$3.7 million capital campaign project, which also included security and classroom updates.

We are excited for this major enhancement to our high school athletic program in time for fall sports!



## The beloved high school cafeteria gets a modern makeover

Named the ditto Student Commons after its largest benefactor, the high school cafeteria will be reimagined with a more modern look. The redo includes a digital learning wall, new seating configurations and upgraded kitchen equipment, enabling multiple uses for the space.

Other modern makeovers occurring elsewhere in the school include but are not limited to the installation of new dividers and technology in the Midland Park campus gym, which are intended to enhance worship. The Wyckoff gym will receive several upgrades, and its upper elementary wing will be significantly updated to better reflect the learning needs of this age group. In addition to the student commons, the North Haledon campus will repurpose two classrooms into a dedicated orchestra room, and has recently installed LED lights in the gym.

## IT upgrades for technology classes

Over the summer, a high school classroom and portions of the North Haledon and Wyckoff media

centers will be transformed into computer labs featuring the latest technology and software. The upgrade will help multiple classes and curriculums, ranging from upper elementary STEM to high school robotics.

In addition to dedicated computer lab space, technology upgrades will also include new Promethean boards in Wyckoff and North Haledon, and an upgrade to the PA system at the Midland Park campus, made possible through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

## Behind the scenes

With help from our friends from Reiner Group, as well as utility incentives and rebates, Eastern Christian School will complete the final phase of improving boiler and HVAC efficiency and upgrades. In North Haledon, the last five boilers have been replaced and 15 HVAC units have been replaced between Wyckoff and North Haledon.

“We take seriously the importance of being good stewards of our resources, and that includes good management of our spaces. With the help and cooperation of our greater community, we are pleased to make many campus enhancements this summer that directly impact student growth and learning,” says **Jeff Botbyl**, director of security and operations.



*ditto Student Commons in progress, as of early August.*

## High school commencement

The graduating class of 2023



Valedictorian Anneke Kuperus

Eastern Christian School's 100th high school graduation ceremony occurred on Wednesday, June 14. While the class of 1923 only listed 9 graduates, the gymnasium in 2023 was filled with nearly 70 graduates, as well as faculty, family and friends.





Speaker Ian Zacharias



**“CHRISTIAN LOVE IS NOT A FEELING BUT AN ACTION”—Ian Zacharias**

This year’s commencement speaker, teacher **Ian Zacharias**, challenged students on the definition of Christian love, sharing a story from his younger days where he received the kindness and mercy of another without deserving it.

“Christian love is not a feeling but an action,” he stated. “It’s goodness towards another, by your own volition, which relies on your hope and faith in God.”

**Anneke Kuperus**, the 2023 valedictorian, shared a similar message, walking her class through the lessons learned from going to high school in a pandemic. She discussed how the unusual high school experience gave her class an intense gratitude for community and the ability to love others well, even when they disagreed. Her challenge—to look for the ones who needed an invitation to the table—was rooted in Romans 12:10: “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

The beautiful night concluded with a faculty benediction: A song arranged by Nick Beverly, titled “Trust in the Lord.”



Rebecca Eshuis

**“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”  
—Romans 12:10**



Noah Adamson



# The Class of 2023



Noah Adamson



Joshua Alvarez



Luigi Arito



Victoria Baitzel



Jennifer Braunius



Noah Chae



Luke Connolly



Michael Cook



Alexander Dalton



Khalid Davis



Ella de Waal Malefyt



Christopher DeRooy



Jonathan Dykman



Rebecca Eshuis



Kaiquan Fang



Samantha Fernandez



Samantha Garcia



Lynette Grajales



Woyuan Guo



Nicholas Hagedoorn II



Juliana Hopeck



David Hwang



Jean Italien



Chaeyeon Jang



James Jang



James Jeon



Yuxin Jiang



Lydia Johnson



Anaiya Jones



David Kim



Anneke Kuperus



Nayoung Lee

# GRADUATIONS



Olivia Leon



Arcangelo Lofaro



Nino Manna



Katherine Marshall



Andrew Mo



Anthony Peralta



Ya'Nay Pope



Marc Puente



Annabelen Pulliti



Anneke Reitsma



Aaron Robinson



Raquel Saharig Sava



Sebastiano Secades



Jun Seo



Cristina Sgobba



David Shin



Lauren Sly



Anastasia Song



Jaclyn Steenstra



George Takla



Brooke Talsma



Audrey Tignor



Nicholas Toresi



Caleb Troast



Matthew Trojan



Brent Van Harken



Laurel Vander Pyl



Matthew Vander Wall



Peter Visser



Camden Vogel



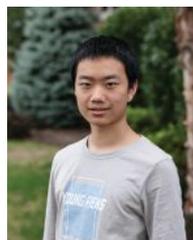
Michelle Vriesema



Jiarui Wang



Samantha Warnet



Shuang Wu



London Xhudo



Zhengxi Zhang

# Class of 2023 awards



*Brooke Talsma and Michael Cook at the NJIC Sportsmanship Award Ceremony.*

## Athletic Awards

**ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award**  
Katherine Marshall  
Sebastiano Secades

**NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award**  
Anneke Kuperus

**Athletic Department Golden Eagle Award**  
Katherine Marshall  
Jaclyn Steenstra  
Sebastiano Secades  
Nicholas Toresi

**PCCA Senior Athlete of the Year**  
Michael Cook  
Anneke Kuperus

**NJ National Women in Sport Award**  
Jaclyn Steenstra

**NJIC Sportsmanship Award**  
Michael Cook  
Brooke Talsma

## Department Awards

**Art Department Award**  
Brooke Talsma

**Bible and Life Award**  
Michael Cook

**The Da Vinci Award (for Excellence in the Art and Technology Departments)**  
Camden Vogel

**Drama Award**  
Audrey Tignor

**English Award**  
Rebecca Eshuis

**English as a Second Language Award**  
Jiarui (Hannah) Wang

**Journalism Award**  
Ya'Nay Pope

**Mathematics Award**  
Anneke Kuperus

**Physical Education Award**  
Sebastiano Secades

**STEAM Excellence Award**  
Alexander Dalton

**Science Award**  
Kaiquan (Rand) Fang

**Social Studies Award**  
Rebecca Eshuis

**Technology Award**  
Anastasia Song

**World Language Award**  
Anneke Kuperus

**Arion Award**  
Rebecca Eshuis

**The John Philip Sousa Award for Band**  
Anneke Kuperus

**The National School Choral Award**  
Ya'Nay Pope

**ECHS 2023 Faculty Award**  
Michael Cook

## School and Community Scholarships

**Lakeland Bank Scholarship**  
Anneke Kuperus

**Brent Zuidema Scholarship**  
Jaclyn Steenstra

**Christine H White Memorial Scholarship**  
Michael Cook

**Henriette & Kathyne Houseward Vocational Scholarship**  
Jaclyn Steenstra

**Passaic County Directors of Guidance Scholarship**  
Samantha Garcia  
Caleb Troast

**Excellence in Creative Writing Award**  
Jaclyn Steenstra

**Excellence in Scholastic Writing Award**  
Rebecca Eshuis

**Excellence in Mathematics Award**  
Anneke Kuperus

**Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship**  
Ya'Nay Pope

## President's Education Awards

*(Alphabetical Order)*

Victoria Baitzel  
Jennifer Braunius  
Noah Chae  
Alex Dalton  
Chris DeRooy  
Rebecca Eshuis  
Kaiquan (Rand) Fang  
Samantha Fernandez  
Samantha Garcia  
David Hwang  
YuXin (Carina) Jiang  
Lydia Johnson  
Anneke Kuperus  
Nayoung (Joy) Lee  
Olivia Leon  
Katherine Marshall  
Ya'Nay Pope  
Raquel Saharig  
Sebastiano Secades  
Jun Seo  
Lauren Sly  
Anastasia Song  
Jaclyn Steenstra  
Audrey Tignor  
Matthew Vander Wall  
Peter Visser  
Camden Vogel  
London Xhudo

# Class of 2023 college acceptances

Abilene Christian University  
Adelphi University  
Albright College  
Allegheny College  
Arcadia University  
Arizona State University-  
Polytechnic  
Arizona State University-  
Tempe



*David Kim*

Babson College  
Bard College  
Baylor University  
Belmont University  
Bergen Community College  
Binghamton University  
Biola University  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Caldwell University  
University of California-Davis  
University of California-Irvine  
University of California-Riverside  
University of California-  
San Diego  
Calvin University  
Cedarville University  
Champlain College  
Clark Atlanta University  
Clarkson University  
Clemson University  
Colby College  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University-Fort  
Collins  
Commonwealth University-  
Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and  
Mansfield  
University of Connecticut  
Cornell University

Covenant College  
Delaware State University  
DePaul University  
Dickinson College  
Dominican University New York  
Drew University  
Drexel University  
Eastern University  
Emerson College  
Fairleigh Dickinson University-  
Metropolitan Campus  
Florida State University  
University of Florida  
Fordham University  
Franklin and Marshall College  
Gordon College  
Hamilton College  
Hampton University  
University of Hartford  
Hellenic College-Holy Cross  
Greek Orthodox School of  
Theology  
High Point University  
Hope College  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
Kean University  
Kent State University at Kent  
Kenyon College  
Lancaster Bible College  
Liberty University  
Lipscomb University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Manhattanville College  
University of Maryland-  
College Park



*Anneke  
Kuperus*

University of Massachusetts-  
Amherst  
University of Massachusetts-  
Boston  
Mercy College  
Messiah University  
Michigan State University  
University of Minnesota-Twin  
Cities  
Monmouth University  
Montclair State University  
Morgan State University  
Mount Saint Mary College  
Muhlenberg College  
University of New Hampshire-  
Main Campus  
New Jersey Institute of  
Technology  
The College of New Jersey  
New York University  
Norfolk State University  
North Carolina A & T State  
University  
University of North Carolina  
Wilmington  
Northeastern University  
Pace University-Westchester  
Campus  
Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Passaic County Community  
College  
Pennsylvania State University-  
Penn State Main Campus  
Pepperdine University  
University of Pittsburgh-  
Pittsburgh Campus  
SUNY at Purchase College  
Purdue University-Main Campus  
Quinnipiac University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Richmond  
Rider University  
Roberts Wesleyan College  
Roger Williams University  
Rowan University  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Rutgers University-Newark  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Vincent College  
Salve Regina University

Seton Hall University  
Siena College  
Simmons University  
Skidmore College  
Southeastern University  
Southern Connecticut State  
University  
Southern New Hampshire  
University  
St. Thomas Aquinas College  
Stevens Institute of  
Technology  
Stockton University  
Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
The University of Tampa  
Taylor University  
Temple University  
The George Washington  
University  
Ohio State University-Main



*Alex  
Dalton*

Campus  
Union College (NY)  
United States Air Force  
Academy  
University at Albany, SUNY  
University of Utah  
Villanova University  
Virginia Union University  
University of Washington-  
Seattle Campus  
Wheaton College  
William & Mary  
William Paterson University  
of New Jersey  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison

# Middle school promotion

Class of 2023



**The middle school promotion was held the evening of June 15, 2023, with nearly 60 graduates in attendance.**

**Dr. Daniel Lazor**, principal, gave the address to the graduates. Starting off his talk by asking eighth grade graduates to reach under their chair, he invited them on an exercise of trust involving two jelly beans. The test was whether or not they trusted him to give them good-tasting jelly beans, or rather, “BeanBoozled” jelly beans, manufactured to taste bad.

After inviting them to step out in faith, he exclaimed, “There are no awful tastes—I wouldn’t do that to you!”

Relating that experience to scripture, Lazor shared, “God also calls you to taste and see—taste and see that he is good. [He invites you] to move beyond

**“TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD; BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM. —Psalm 34:10**



*Scenes from this year's Middle School Promotion.*



**“He has given us his promises to demonstrate what his goodness looks like. He has given us his word to show us that he is faithful and trustworthy. And he has called us to choose to follow him.”**

*—Dr. Dan Lazor*

the doubts and to cast yourself upon him, trusting him because you know he is good. He has given us his promises to demonstrate what his goodness looks like. He has given us his word to show us that he is faithful and trustworthy. And he has called us to choose to follow him.”



*Student Speaker Vander Pyl*

The ceremony also involved two student speakers, who were chosen by faculty. Speakers had to maintain a G.P.A. of 3.9 or above and exemplify the following characteristics: creativity, academic integrity, leadership, core values, quality of work, integrity, motivation and evidence of the Christian faith. This year **Lenora Lazor** was chosen for the opening prayer, and **Gretchen Vander Pyl** was chosen for the student address.

Vander Pyl spoke on God as a promise keeper, which reflects the school’s annual theme. She recounted God’s faithfulness through middle school and ended with gratitude. “I wanted to remind you of God’s constant promises, but I also just want to say thank you,” she said. “Thank you for helping me through it all, encouraging me, reminding me of God’s faithfulness, and simply being the best class ever!”



# Second grade

## Moving up ceremony



**In preparation for the third grade move to the Wyckoff campus, the second graders celebrated with a moving up ceremony.**

It was a great opportunity for students to share everything they have learned and loved while at the Midland Park campus. They kicked off their program

with the “EC Core Values Chant.” They also sang “10,000 Reasons” and “Sing Wherever I Go.”

Students took turns speaking about the promises of God that they learned this year and many of the impactful verses from chapels this year.

“I felt lots of emotion and I was proud of them and their hard work,” Second grade teacher **Kelly King** said. “I’m sad to see them go, but blessed to have been with them this year.”



*Second grade students took turns speaking about the promises of God that they learned this year and many of the impactful verses from chapels this year.*



# Third grade

Moving up ceremony

**"GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO HAS CALLED YOU INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD."**

—1 Corinthians 1:9



In the third grade moving up ceremony, held June 13 at the Midland Park campus, students spoke about our promise-keeper God.

They sang "Yes and Amen" as well as "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Having participated in third grade choir the entire year, it was especially fun to hear their presentation of "Bonse Aba," an African folk song.

"It is an honor and privilege to start the year with third graders and see them continue to grow," third grade teacher **Kelly Dykstra** said. "The end of the year chapel revealed that they are ready for the upper elementary school."



# Preschool

## Closing ceremonies

Preschool closing ceremonies were held on June 8 this year.

"It's always fun to see their personalities shine through at the closing program," teacher **Stacie Veenema** says. "I am so excited to continue to watch them grow and develop into who God has made them to be."



**"I WAS PROUD OF ALL THE GROWTH THIS YEAR. I WILL MISS THEM, BUT I'M ALSO SO EXCITED FOR WHAT'S NEXT FOR THEM. THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!"**

—teacher Adelia Cruz



Here are highlights from the various classes:

- As each PK3 student received their diploma, teachers shared ways in which they saw that child acting like Jesus. Christlike qualities included joyfulness, thankfulness and perseverance.
- The PK4 Penguins quoted the school's theme verse, Psalm 145:13b and sang "God Always Keeps His promises."
- The PK4 Peacock class students shared what they wanted to be when they grew up, which included police officers, artists, doctors and mail carriers.
- TK Starlings sang "The Color Song" in Spanish, English and American Sign Language.



# GRADUATION SNAPSHOTS



Zhang family



Blands-Pearson family



Espinosa family



Davis family



DeRooy family



Peralta family



Harrison family



Tokarski family



Rainville family



Sly family

## DITTO CELEBRATES ITS EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS

**On May 17, a fun-loving crowd gathered at the high school to celebrate the volunteers who are an integral part of the ditto community.**

Volunteer **Donna Chrinian** once again organized the annual event and decorated the cafeteria with whimsical hard hats, mini orange cones, and carefully draped yellow caution tape on the tables.

**Tom Dykhouse**, head of school emeritus and current ditto board president, opened the evening with prayer and expressed gratitude to both Donna Chrinian and store manager **Tim Maggiore**, as well as thanksgiving for the corps of more than 100 volunteers. He extolled their commitment to the upscale resale store. He also thanked the volunteers serving on the ditto board of directors.

Since its inception, ditto has donated \$2.3 million to Eastern Christian School, becoming one of its single largest donors. "Other community organizations have also benefited from ditto's generosity, including New

Hope Community Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, and Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center. None of this would be possible without our extraordinary volunteers," Dykhouse shared.

Maggiore presented awards to the volunteers based on their number of hours. **Otelia Taylor** was especially honored for her more than 500 hours of service this year and her cumulative 5,370 hours of service.

Throughout the time together, there was laughter and camaraderie. More than once, it was mentioned how the volunteers had become like a family.

*If you are interested in joining this special group of volunteers by investing a couple of hours per week or month, please use the online application found on the ditto website: [www.dittonj.org/volunteer](http://www.dittonj.org/volunteer).*

**“Other community organizations have also benefited from ditto’s generosity.... None of this would be possible without our extraordinary volunteers.”**

## Piet Hein research awardees celebrated

**On May 16, a reception was held at the high school to thank the participants of the Piet Hein Research Prize and congratulate the winners. Parents of the awardees were also invited to attend, along with school administrators and teachers.**

This research prize was named after an anonymous donor, an alumnus of Eastern Christian School, who prefers to use the pseudonym "Piet Hein," a hero of Dutch maritime history during the Eighty Years' War. Select sophomores, along with juniors and seniors, were invited to participate in the essay competition, which offered the most significant cash awards in the history of Eastern Christian School.

The top research paper was written and submitted by **Jamie Kim** entitled, "Establishing the Frontier of

*International Law: The Nuremberg Trials.*" She won a \$5,000 prize as a result.

Kim shared, "I would like to thank the benefactor, who I will refer to as Piet Hein, for this wonderful opportunity, as well as Dr. Kuder and the school for enabling me to hear about and participate in this competition. Not only did this competition push me and my research to new lengths, it encouraged me knowing that there are people such as Piet Hein who desire to foster and nurture my love of history and writing."

Kim also thanked her teachers, **Ms. Marcy Roniet** and **Mr. Jim Uitermarkt**, for their guidance throughout the process, and presented each with a stipend, also made possible from Mr. Hein's generosity.

Other cash prize winners included **Audrey Tignor**, who wrote about the impact of the Beatles and Beatlemania, and **Matthew Vander Wall** who delved into the rise of French nationalism during the 18th century.

# Campaign 125 is in the record books

**The largest capital campaign in the history of Eastern Christian School has been completed with the successful finish of \$3.7 million.**

Campaign 125 was a three-phase endeavor that kicked-off in the fall of 2017 and was wrapped up this summer.

According to **Tom Dykhouse**, head of school emeritus, “We will never forget this campaign, which included an unanticipated pause for two years due to the COVID-19 epidemic. This campaign not only enhanced the safety and security of our students and faculty, but it also created beautifully renovated learning spaces and new athletic facilities. The school is well positioned for the decades to come because of the extraordinary generosity of EC alumni, families, and other friends.”

**Maura Byrnes**, executive director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian School, reported, “581 donors came together in support of this effort, donating 2,095 gifts in the range of \$1 to \$1 million. Never before in the school’s 130-year history has there been such an outpouring of gifts for a capital campaign.”

Head of School **Ruth Kuder** announced, “Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 13, 2023, for the dedication of the new turf field and track during HomeComing weekend. The entire school community is welcome to attend, as we ask God to bless the field and publicly acknowledge everyone’s very generous support.”

**“Never before in the school’s 130-year history has there been such an outpouring of gifts for a capital campaign” —Maura Byrnes**

## *New scholarship created, thanks to Janet De Noble Jaarsma’s bequest*

*At Eastern Christian School, we are committed to making an excellent Christian education affordable for every qualified student. Approximately 40 percent of students receive aid in the form of variable tuition, tuition assistance and scholarships. We are helped tremendously by alumni, parents and grandparents who provide gifts through their estate planning.*

One such alumna, **Janet De Noble Jaarsma**, from the Class of 1956, included Eastern Christian in her will with a gift of \$300K. This contribution will endow the De Noble/Jaarsma Scholarship Fund, providing one student per year with a \$10K scholarship or more.

“Mrs. Jaarsma embodied the kindness that we seek to nurture in all our students,” says Head of School **Ruth Kuder**. “Through her legacy, countless students will receive an excellent education at a significantly reduced cost. What a wonderful way to be remembered!”

After graduating from EC, Janet went to Hope College and later received a master’s degree from William Paterson University. She spent most of her working career in education, and most recently, was the owner of Young World Day School in Mahwah, catering to students in preschool through sixth grade.

**Florence and Garry Nieuwenhuis** went to school with Janet and her sister, **JoAnne De Noble Heerema**. “We recall Janet’s dedication and hard work

to make her preschool one of the best in the area. She had a wonderful personality,” says Garry.

The EC community is deeply grateful for her foresight to establish an endowed scholarship fund through her will.

**Maura Byrnes**, executive director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian, urges other alumni to consider including EC in their estate planning. “Adding EC to your will is a painless way to give the largest gift of your life, to the place that made a real and lasting difference in your life.”

*If you are interested in discussing a gift for EC through your estate plans, kindly reach out to Maura Byrnes, executive director of the Foundation for EC, at [foundation@easternchristian.org](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org).*

# NEWSFLASH

## The 1892 Society grows rapidly

The Foundation for Eastern Christian School provides a membership group called the 1892 Society for anyone who includes the school in their estate plans. The number of alumni and friends who are designating Eastern Christian School in their wills grew at a rapid rate this year.

“In September 2022 there were 41 individuals who had included EC in their estate plans, which expanded to 60 people by the end of the school year in June. This 48 percent increase is remarkable,” said Executive Director of the Foundation **Maura Byrnes**, “I attribute this expansion to two factors: Our alumni’s increased attention and growing focus on planned giving; and EC’s proactive outreach to friends who might like to leave a legacy gift. We are

very grateful for these individuals and couples for their foresight and generosity.”

Parents of current students as well as alumni can meet with Barnabas Foundation, EC’s partner, to discuss their estate planning. The meeting is free and confidential.

*To learn more about the 1892 Society, inform the Foundation of your estate plans, or set up an appointment with a representative from the Barnabas Foundation, please email Maura Byrnes at [foundation@easternchristian.org](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org).*



## Gift of \$100,000 expands academic excellence

**As part of its mission, Eastern Christian School exists to empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts. This includes children and teens with learning differences, which is why we offer The Education Support Services (TESS) to students, including those with neurodiversity.**

Through TESS, students sharpen study skills, practice self advocacy, and grow in specific academic subject areas. A family that has been extremely pleased with Eastern Christian, especially the TESS program, recently provided the school with a gift of \$100,000 to expand the initiative in the upper elementary division.

TESS at the Wyckoff campus is designed to help meet the specific learning needs of students to maximize their academic, social and emotional potential through a Christ-centered education. The goal is to help students understand the ways in which they learn best, and recognize their own strengths and weaknesses in order to help them develop greater independence in the classroom.

Head of School **Dr. Ruth Kuder** says, “We are profoundly grateful for the generosity and foresight of this family, who prefers to remain anonymous. Their willingness to partner with us to enlarge our TESS Program is unprecedented. Through this gift, we are able to greatly increase the number of students being served through the work of an additional, full-time staff member.”

**Maura Byrnes**, executive director of the Foundation for EC, met with the couple and discussed the opportunity this investment would make, particularly for the incoming third graders in the upper elementary division.

Maura shared, “It is gratifying and humbling to have grateful parents invest above and beyond their tuition dollars. We are thrilled that this mother and father are aware of the amazing transformations they see in their own children as a result of belonging to Eastern Christian, and they are empowering other students to benefit, as well.”

*If you are interested in learning more about how you can make a gift to benefit EC students, please reach out to the Foundation staff at 973.310.0402.*

# 2023 Auction Gala

A night to remember

**Eastern Christian School hosted its 2023 Auction Gala on Thursday, April 20 at The Tides Estate in North Haledon. More than 300 guests got dressed up and came out to enjoy an evening of fellowship and fundraising.**

The community banded together to raise a record-breaking \$259,723 toward continuing the mission of preparing the next generation to impact the world for Christ. Thank you to our parents, sponsors, attendees, auction item donors, and volunteers who helped make this most recent Auction Gala, EC's most successful fundraising event to date!

The crowd's enthusiasm was evident, even before the event began, as bidders were actively competing (and buying) early in the week. With 120 items available in the live and silent auctions there was something for everyone. The dart game in the Man Cave drew a large crowd of competitors and the Golden Eagle drawing made one Billy Joel fan very happy.

The community also came together in an incredible way for the Fund-a-Need portion of the



Gala. Now that every dollar has been tallied, we are thrilled to report that \$63,950 was raised through

Fund-a-Need to provide an enhanced chapel worship experience at the Midland Park campus, technology upgrades for the new computer lab at the Wyckoff campus, and new furniture for the new ditto Student Commons at the North Haledon campus.

The Spring Auction Gala, EC's largest fundraiser of the year, is a wonderful opportunity for our diverse group of parents and supporters to honor God, support the mission of Eastern Christian, and have a ton of fun, but it would not be possible without friends like you. The Foundation for EC would like to thank everyone again who not only donated so generously from their wallets but who also gave so graciously of their time and experience. You have been such a blessing to all of us at Eastern Christian School. Thank you!



## 2023 SPRING GOLF OUTING

On Monday, May 22, the Lord provided the most beautiful day for Eastern Christian School's Spring Golf Outing. 128 golfers and 58 sponsors came together at Wild Turkey Golf Club in Hamburg to raise more than \$86,000 toward the renovation of the ditto Student Commons, the new dining and fellowship area in the high school.

The day started out with a putting contest and lunch for all golfers before hitting the course for the scramble format. There was no shortage of friendly competition that afternoon, especially on Hole #14 where the annual Beat The EC Golf Team Member contest took place. Sophomores **Joe DeLuccia** and **Charles Ross** took turns teeing off as the golfers tried to best their shot. Finally, after a day of fellowship on the course, the golfers gathered under the tent for a buffet dinner, the announcement of the day's winners, and additional prizes.

EC is very grateful to this year's Golf Committee members for all their hard work in organizing and planning this successful event: **Kurt Faber** (chairman), **Jonathan Gorter**, **Henry Hagedoorn**, **Dwayne Leegwater**, **Scott Martin**, and **Bill Van Hoff**.

We would also like to express our appreciation to our two long-time volunteers, **Sue Leegwater** and **Laura Steenstra**, as well, for their support and help in checking in all the golfers.



**THANK YOU**  
to all our volunteers  
and golfers for  
making this another  
successful event!

# Alumni updates

**1954: Dave Reilly** is working on his eighth book. He previously published seven books on a variety of topics, including child and family learning, science fiction and climate change. His eighth book is on transforming schools into effective institutions of learning.

**1983: Rev. George Montanari** recently served as a co-leader for two gatherings of leaders and members of Reformed Church in America (RCA) Native American & Indigenous congregations. He had previously pastored a Native American congregation in Oklahoma for 12 years. In January of this year he marked the 20th anniversary of pastoring Middlebush Reformed Church in Somerset, NJ.

**2013: Matthew Hartensveld** was honored with a 2023 Emerging Leader award from Rochester Institute of Technology. He completed his PhD in May 2021 and has patented several new semiconductor technologies. "I am grateful for the foundation I received from EC, where it all started with trying to help a friend repair his Xbox game console. My passion was further supported by great faculty members like **Tim Steen**. I encourage students to find and pursue their passion," he says.

**2015: Alvaro Puente** recently began a job as a financial professional at Equitable Advisors.

**2017: Carina Castagna**, founder and CEO of Pesto Joe, served as a judge for Seton Hall University's annual Pirates Pitch Competition, an annual competition for student entrepreneurs.

**2017: Mathew Matthias** works as Community Development Officer for LISC NYC, overseeing stakeholder management and a portfolio of housing initiatives.

**2018: Siobhan Hunziker** graduated from Rutgers University with a Master of Social Work degree with a clinical concentration. She is now licensed to practice social work in New Jersey.

**2019: Hans Owuor**, MD candidate at The CUNY School of Medicine, has been elected as Region IX Treasurer for The Student National Medical Association.

**2019: Hao Massimo Chen** graduated Summa Cum Laude from New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

## WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Recognizing that more of our alumni now turn to social media for information on personal celebrations, Eastern Christian School will be following trends in higher education publications by increasingly shifting toward featuring updates on academics, ministry and career.

**Please let us know about the milestones and big moments from your year, like professional accomplishments, church and ministry involvement, and advanced academic degrees. We would also like to hear stories of how the EC community has supported you in your professional and faith journey. Eastern Christian School reserves the right to edit and/or omit submissions.**

***Submissions can be sent to: [Alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:Alumni@easternchristian.org)***

## Upcoming reunion

The ECHS class of 1958 will hold their 65th reunion luncheon at noon on

**September 16, 2023**

at Portobello's Restaurant in Oakland, NJ.

*For more information, please contact Garry Nieuwenhuis at 974-632-4835.*

## HOMECOMING EVENTS OCTOBER 13 & 14

# HOMECOMING 2023

### Friday, October 13

Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament  
Turf Field and Track Dedication Ceremony  
ditto Student Commons Dedication Reception  
Soccer Community Night

### Saturday, October 14

EC Community Picnic  
Volleyball Community Day  
HS HomeComing Dance



### HERITAGE BREAKFAST, OCTOBER 14

All those who graduated 50 or more years ago are welcome to attend. EC will be honoring the following classes celebrating milestones in 2023:

Class of 1973 - 50 years

Class of 1968 - 55 years

Class of 1963 - 60 years

Class of 1958 - 65 years

Class of 1953 - 70 years

Class of 1948 - 75 years

**SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2023**

# In memoriam

## REMEMBERING OUR ALUMNI

### ALUMNI

**Richard Sonderfan '47**  
3/25/23 Grand Rapids, MI

**Trina (Van Althuis) De Roo '47**  
6/2/23 Sussex, NJ

**George Hiemstra '48**  
4/10/23 Ada, MI

**Carol (Fridsma) Zuidema '50**  
4/22/23 Grosse Pointe Park, MI

**Ebele Bruining '51**  
5/6/23 Lodi, NJ

**Trina (Hagedorn) Wendelaar '53**  
6/4/23 Midland Park, NJ

**Ernest Hoitsma '54**  
5/25/23 Cliffside Park, NJ

**Raymond Luyendyk '55**  
2/2/23 Grand Rapids, MI

**Peter Van Grouw '56**  
4/20/23 Midland Park, NJ

**Helen (Hagedorn) Buwalda '58**  
5/30/23 Midlothian, VA

**Paul Prol '64**  
4/7/23 Grand Rapids, MI

**Elaine (Van Dyke) Weiss '65**  
5/26/23 Sussex, NJ

**Kathleen Nienhouse '69**  
3/15/23 North Haledon, NJ

**Kathleen (Witte) Tanis '74**  
2/21/23 Arlington, TN

### FORMER FACULTY/STAFF/ BOARD MEMBERS

**Evelyn (Link) Houseward '46**  
1/5/23 Kernersville, NC  
*ECHS Staff (Secretary)*  
1947-1952

**Albert Visbeen '49**  
3/9/23 Grand Rapids, MI  
*Board Member (1984-1987)*

**Ralph Faasse '63**  
5/1/23 North Haledon, NJ  
*Board Member (1975-1978)*

**James Aupperlee '68**  
3/26/23 Wyckoff, NJ  
*Hoboken Shuttle & ditto*  
*volunteer*

# Tribute gifts

Gifts given in memory or in honor between February 2, 2023 and June 16, 2023

## IN MEMORY OF

### James Aupperlee

Bob and Liz Aupperlee  
Kenneth and Lorna Bogertman  
William and Willemke Bogertman  
Tannette Botbyl  
John and Karen Breur  
Agnes and Dennis Crean  
Susan and Kenneth Dyer  
Tom and Linda Dykhousé  
Simon and Judith Elzinga  
Kathy and Allan Jeltema  
Karen and Mark Knorr  
Kenneth and Cathy Lagerveld  
Terry Lenker  
Gary and Barbara Link  
Ernest and June Nienhouse  
Garret and Florence Nieuwenhuis  
PASA Paramus  
Mark and Pamela Reitsma  
Lynn Veenstra  
David and Cynthia Visbeen  
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Maribeth and Wayne Vriesema  
John and Claire White  
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Betty Bowers

### Beatrice Belanus

Karel and Catherine De Waal Malefyt

### Paul Beverly

Gail Beverly

### Valerie Brain

David and Sheryl Wondergem

### Eileen Bourne

Bob and Patti Peretti

### Dorothy De Boer

Karel and Catherine De Waal Malefyt

### Helena Dykstra

Gene and Lillian Hoogerheyde

### Ralph E. Faasse

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Tannette Botbyl  
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Judith Critchley  
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William and Marcia Heerema  
Bernard Joustra  
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Kenneth and Cathy Lagerveld  
James and Toni Mcaleyev  
Ruth and Bob Mulder  
Garret and Florence Nieuwenhuis  
William and Josephine Peters  
Jennifer Pike  
Harold and Janice Post  
Mark and Pamela Reitsma  
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Carole Roper  
Anita and Donald Rose  
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Henry and Lois Schuurman  
Herbert and Esther Snoop  
Mary Beth Steiginga  
Ronald and Karen Steiginga  
Rich and Nancy Troast  
Paul and Karen Van Ostenbridge

### Anna Fisher

Patricia Fisher

### Hendrik Flim

Karel and Catherine De Waal Malefyt

### Barbara Halma

Debra Wilkes

### John "Jack" Hulsebos

Annamae Hulsebos

### Raymond Luyendyk

Allan and Sheri-Lynn Mulcock

### Marion Memmelaar

John Drukker  
Sally Memmelaar  
Donna and Phil Michaelson

### John and Barbara Meyer

Jennifer and Jason Ross

### Thomas Noyes

Jean Crawford

### Cornelia and Marinus Schryvers

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### Jeffrey Steiginga

Linda Bochese  
Tannette Botbyl  
William Bryant  
Paul and Trudy Heerema

Dave and Cindy Steiginga  
Maribeth and Wayne Vriesema

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Lynda and Thomas Pasqueretta  
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Beth and Kenneth Quinn  
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Matthew Tilchen  
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Maribeth and Wayne Vriesema  
Patricia and Daniel Volkema

### Clarence Wondergem

David and Sheryl Wondergem

### Jeanette Yunker

Faber Bros. Broadloom LLC  
Marjorie Kuperus  
Jane de Waal Malefyt  
John and Patricia Steiginga

## IN HONOR OF

### Linda Brock

Anonymous

### Ethel De See

#### *Birthday*

Peter and Beverly Ten Kate

### Karel and Catherine De Waal Malefyt

#### *75th Wedding Anniversary*

Evelyn Conklin  
Aldia De Boer

### Barbara Dykhousé

#### *75th Birthday*

Christopher and Jennifer Dykhousé  
Laura and Toby Schuler  
Rebecca and Michael Teusink  
Bill and Julie Tokarski

### Tom Dykhousé

Anonymous

### Ruth Kuder

Daniel and Susan Grimm

### Flo Nieuwenhuis

Anonymous

### Shelly Vander Meulen

Anonymous

### David and Cynthia Visbeen

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### Judith Westra

Anonymous

### Jean Zuidema

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## Winter season summary 2023

### INDOOR TRACK

Both the boys and girls recorded strong performances and received notable achievements this season. Senior **Anneke Kuperus** competed at the Meet of Champions and received honorable mention all league and first team all county in the high jump. Senior **Juliana Hopeck** (55m hurdles) and senior **Sebastiano Secades** (triple jump) received second team all county. Sophomore **Alex Culp**, sophomore **Caleb Kuperus**, and sophomore **Valerie Portuphy**, received honorable mention all county and senior **Peter Visser** received honorable mention all league.



Anneke Kuperus

A number of athletes made the list of all-time best performances in EC history. Juliana and junior **Tim LaBianca** clocked the second-fastest times ever in the 55m hurdles. Caleb and Alex both cracked the top three list in the 600m and 1000m runs. Anneke is now the third best high jumper in EC history and junior **Sharyn Thomas** is the fourth best in shot put. Many of the underclassmen took medals in various meets in the freshman and novice divisions. The future of winter track looks bright.

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The young Lady Eagles exceeded expectations en route to a 14-8 final record. Senior captains **Katherine Marshall** and **Jaclyn Steenstra** provided strength and leadership for a playing rotation that featured mostly underclassmen, including the team leaders in scoring (sophomore **Skyy Marcano**), rebounds (sophomore **Kirsten Braunius**), and steals and assists (freshman **Caroline Pringle**). This young and athletic group is eager to improve their



Skyy Marcano

offensive skills to complement their stellar defense and take their game to the next level for seasons to come.

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The boys varsity basketball team battled its way to their best season in nearly twenty years, finishing

with a record of 14-10. Junior captain **Lucas Genuario** led the way with 20 points per game and 9 rebounds. Senior captain **Jean Italien** anchored the offense and defense, playing multiple positions on the court while also averaging 17.5 points and 7 rebounds. Junior **Carter Fowlkes** changed the outcome of more than one game with lockdown defense and timely scoring. The team celebrated several significant moments during the season, including defending home court at every community night, finishing second in our league, and ending the regular season on a six-game winning streak.

The program continues to develop and we are looking to continue competing at a high level for years to come.



Lucas Genuario

### BOYS BOWLING

The 2022-23 boys bowling season was another season of historic firsts. The team was led by senior co-captains **Sebastiano Secades** and **Camden Vogel**, who both earned first team all league and all county honors. After winning a division title for the first time a year ago, the team repeated as NJIC Colonial Division Champions. The boys finished



Sebastiano Secades

second in the Passaic County Tournament and The NJIC Championship Tournaments. Both those tournaments featured elite performances by Secades, who had the second highest series at the PCCA Tournament and the highest series at the NJIC Tournament. The captains were supported by a first team all league caliber performance from junior **Hanyang Wang** and a second team performance from junior **Josh Heerema**.

The 22-23 season's highlights included making it to the North 1 Group 1 Tournament for the first time in program history and qualifying for The NJSIAA State Championship Tournament. Vogel and Wang finished in the top 25 out of 250 bowlers to qualify for the individual state championship tournament, another program first.

## GIRLS BOWLING

The girls entered their second season ever as an exclusively girls program. The team finished with a 5-5 record and a first appearance in the North 1 Group 1 State Sectional Tournament. Team highlights included victories over IHA and Fair Lawn and a 1,738 pin performance against Dumont (144.8 pins per bowler/ game). The team was led by senior **Ella de Waal Malefyt**, a first team all county selection.



Ella de Waal Malefyt

## WINTER 2023 LEAGUE & COUNTY RECOGNITION

### Indoor Track

#### All League Selections

Honorable Mention: Peter Visser (pole vault), Anneke Kuperus (high jump)

#### All County Selections

First Team: Anneke Kuperus (high jump)  
 Second Team: Juliana Hopeck (55 HH), Sebastiano Secades (triple jump)  
 Honorable Mention: Alex Culp, Caleb Kuperus, Valerie Portuphy

### Girls Basketball

#### All League Selections

First Team: Caroline Pringle  
 Second Team: Kirsten Braunius, Skyy Marcano, Katherine Marshall  
 Honorable Mention: Mackenzie Wynbeek

#### All County Selections

Honorable Mention: Caroline Pringle, Kirsten Braunius

### Boys Basketball

#### All League Selections

First Team: Lucas Genuario, Jean Italien  
 Second Team: Carter Fowlkes  
 Honorable Mention: David Kim

#### All County Selections

Second Team: Jean Italien  
 Honorable Mention: Lucas Genuario, Carter Fowlkes

### Boys Bowling

#### All League Selections

First Team: Camden Vogel, Sebastiano Secades, Hanyang Wang  
 Second Team: Josh Heerema  
 Honorable Mention: David Zhang

#### All County Selections

First Team: Camden Vogel, Sebastiano Secades  
 Second Team: Hanyang Wang  
 Honorable Mention: Josh Heerema

### Girls Bowling

#### All County Selections

First Team: Ella De Waal Malefyt  
 Honorable Mention: Ashley Luo, Hannah Wang

# Spring season summary 2023



Michael Cook

## BOYS LACROSSE

Moving to a stronger division (having won last year's division championship) with 7 of 15 team members new to the game, the boys displayed an amazing measure of grit and commitment en route to a 6-win season.

Senior captain **Michael Cook** modeled servant leadership and humility, while achieving a school record 200+ points for his career and leading a strong attack that scored multiple goals against powerhouse programs including Pascack Hills, Wayne Valley and Immaculata. Sophomore midfielder **Caleb Chae** tallied 30 goals this season, while first-year player **Daniel Lim** registered a 5-goal game alongside **Sebastian Castro**, first-year senior **David Kim**, and sophomore **Andres Alvarez**. Senior center **Josh Alvarez** secured a 77 percent faceoff win. On defense, first year player **Caleb Troast** kept the Eagles in almost every game, playing behind ironmen defenders **Nicholas Toresi** (senior), **Matt Onove** (junior), and freshmen **Andy Genuario** and **Adam Malasits**.

With a young team full of talent, desire and commitment, this unique group is eager to play on their new home turf next season and continue to build a positive lacrosse culture and tradition at EC!



Gianna Angelucci

## SOFTBALL

With a team motto of "1 percent improvement every day," the Eagles enjoyed another competitive season finishing at 11-9. Senior captain **Brooke Talsma** led the team on and off the field. Her 27 hits shared the team lead

with junior **Gianna Angelucci**, who also finished with a team best .472 batting average. Freshman **Caroline Pringle** led in RBIs with 27.

Team highlights included battling back against Butler for a wild 24-16 win, scoring six runs in two innings against a strong Hawthorne team, and the energetic Community Night win over Veritas Christian. With 16 players returning, the future for the Eagles is looking bright!

## TRACK & FIELD

Another successful spring, the boys finished with a 5-3 record and the girls finished with 7-2 record. Both teams were blessed with strong leadership from senior captains **Jaclyn Steenstra, Anneke Kuperus, Katherine Marshall, Juliana Hopeck, Matt VanderWall, Sebastiano Secades** and **Peter Visser**.



Ronaldo Rodriguez

Notable performances for the boys included a school record set by **Lucas Genuario** in the long jump, who also took first place in the conference in javelin, the 200m and the 4x400 relay, along with **David Cho, Ronaldo Rodriguez** and **Caleb Kuperus**. Strong performances from **Alex Culp, Luke Anema, Stone Davis, Peter Visser** and **David Cho** were key to the team's success.

High points on the girls side included **Juliana Hopeck's** school record in the 400 hurdles, who was joined by **Jayla Lee, Kirsten Braunius** and **Mackenzie Wynbeek** in winning the 4X400 relay at the conference championship, where Wynbeek also took first in the javelin. A balanced team effort also included strong performances from **Anneke Kuperus, Jaclyn Steenstra, Katherine Marshall, Sharyn Thomas, Hannah Visbeen, Kendra Heerema** and **Valerie Portuphy**. Very strong underclassmen and a new practice facility point to continued success next year!



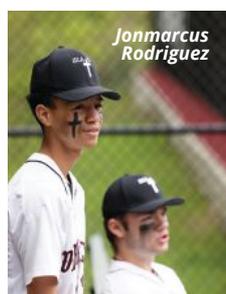
Juliana Hopeck

### GOLF

The golf team had an exciting and promising season in 2023. The young and talented group displayed a strong sense of camaraderie with remarkable



potential. Low scorer **Joey Deluccia** led the way and was joined by **Ethan Nashold**, **Billy Cook**, **Charles Ross**, **Nehemiah Rhee**, and **Stella Kim** in the varsity rotation. **Carina Jiang**, **Carter Groen**, **Daniel Yoon**, **August Hofbauer** and **Nick Vicenzino** made great strides in both their skills and understanding.



### BASEBALL

With only two seniors on the roster, the young and talented EC/HCA baseball team enjoyed another positive and successful season thanks to strong team morale and balanced contributions from all. Prior to his season-ending injury, senior **Luke Connolly**, slated to be the team's ace, was able to pitch a no-hitter in the team's win against Wallington. Freshman **Jonmarcus Rodriguez** proved a

great addition to the team by cementing his role at shortstop. Perhaps the most significant attribute was the team's ability to keep battling even when facing adversity.

Season highlights included a win over a very strong Butler team and battling with the best of the league to stay above .500 and eventually get a home win in the state tournament. With so much growth demonstrated this season, coaches and players agree there is much to look forward to in the years ahead!

### BOYS TENNIS

Playing in a realigned division, the boys tennis team fought hard against league powerhouse teams from Glen Rock and Pompton Lakes. Senior captain **Jonathan Dykman** posted competitive scores against Glen Rock's standout first singles player. Jonathan finished the season with a 7-7 record against the top player on each opposing team, and was recognized with first team honors in the league, and second team honors in the county.



Senior co-captain **Rand Fang** added leadership by calling teammates to a high standard of commitment and work ethic. Rand steadily improved in order to win late-season season matches against Lodi and West Milford, and earned honorable mention honors in the league and county. Junior **David Zhang** secured a third singles position with early season wins.

### Boys Lacrosse

#### All-County Selections

First Team: Michael Cook  
Honorable Mention: Nicholas Toresi, Joshua Alvarez

#### All-League Selections

First Team: Michael Cook  
Honorable Mention: Joshua Alvarez

### Girls Softball

#### All-County Selections

Honorable Mention: Gianna Angelucci

#### All-League Selections

First Team: Gianna Angelucci  
Second Team: Brooke Talsma, Caroline Pringle  
Honorable Mention: Hannah Leegwater

### Track & Field

#### All-County Selections

First Team: Juliana Hopeck  
Second Team: Anneke Kuperus, Lucas Genuario  
Honorable Mention: Kirsten Braunius, Caleb Kuperus, Sebastiano Secades, Jaclyn Steenstra

#### All-League Selections

First Team: Lucas Genuario, Mackenzie Wynbeek, Jayla Lee, Juliana Hopeck, Kirsten Braunius, Anneke Kuperus, Caleb Kuperus, David Cho, Ronaldo Rodriguez  
Second Team: Valerie Portuphy, Sharyn Thomas, Hannah Visbeen, Katherine Marshall, Alex Culp, Luke Anema  
Honorable Mention: Sebastiano Secades, David Cho, Jaclyn Steenstra

### Golf

#### All-County Selections

Honorable Mention: Joseph DeLuccia, Ethan Nashold

#### All-League Selections

First Team: Joseph DeLuccia  
Second Team: Charles Ross, Ethan Nashold

### Boys Tennis

#### All-County Selections

Second Team: Jonathan Dykman  
Honorable Mention: Rand Fang, David Zhang

#### All-League Selections

First Team: Jonathan Dykman  
Honorable Mention: Rand Fang



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