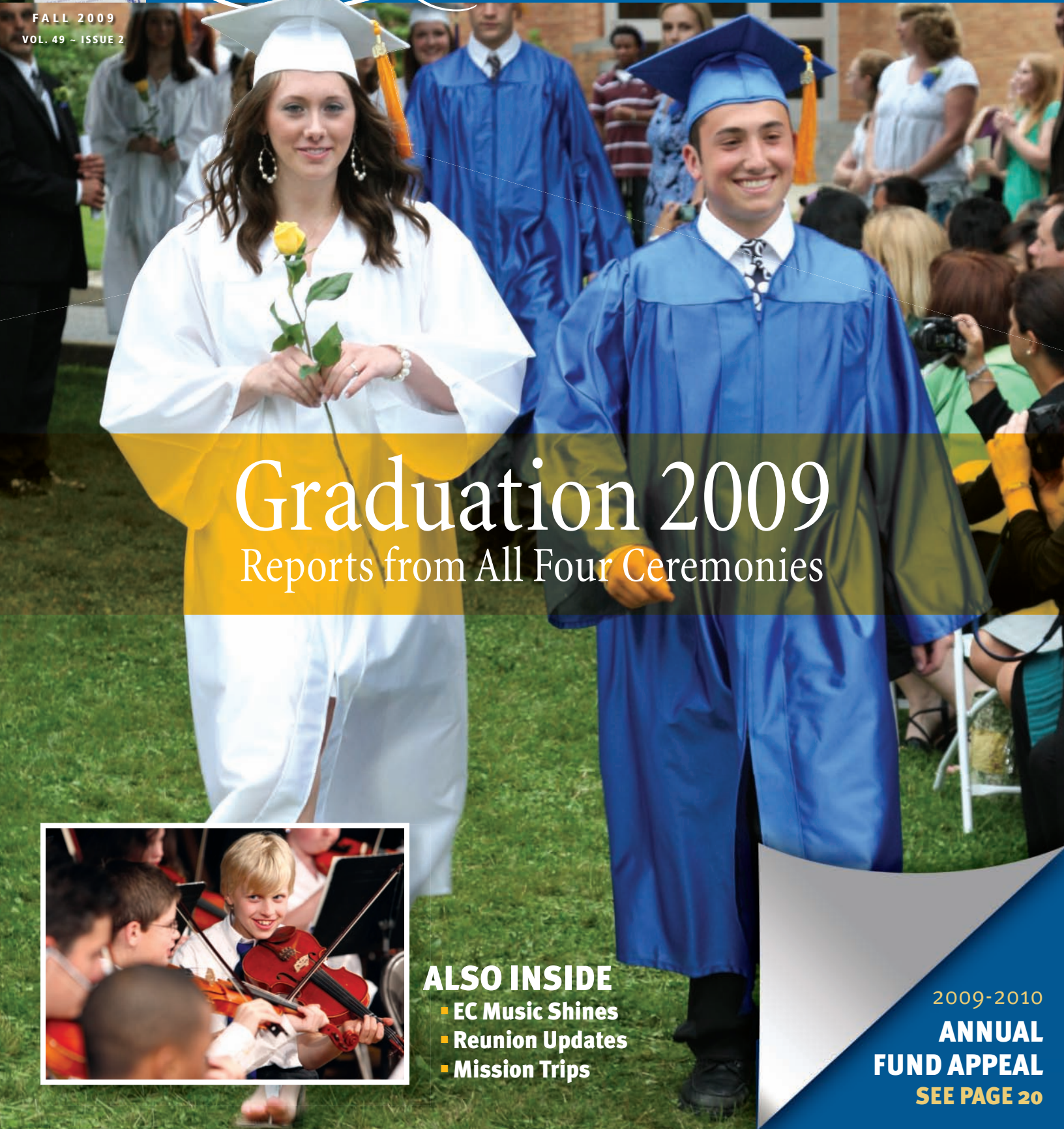




THE *Herald*

A PUBLICATION OF EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

FALL 2009
VOL. 49 - ISSUE 2



Graduation 2009

Reports from All Four Ceremonies



ALSO INSIDE

- EC Music Shines
- Reunion Updates
- Mission Trips

2009-2010
**ANNUAL
FUND APPEAL**
SEE PAGE 20



Eastern Christian School Association

50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

In my last letter from the Executive Director's desk, I wrote to you about the combined strategic planning and accreditation process upon which Eastern Christian had embarked in the autumn of 2008. Much progress has been made since that letter – some of which will be evident in this issue. I wanted to update you on the tasks that have been accomplished thus far, provide a perspective on the work that lies ahead of us in the next year, and consider the reason that all of this effort is important.



In thinking about the progress that has been made during the past year, I cannot help but recognize the hundreds of hours that have been volunteered by some four dozen members of our school community – analyzing survey responses from the broader EC community, dissecting our Mission and Belief Statements to ensure that we remained true to the mission for which we were founded over 117 years ago, profiling the aspirations that we hold dear for our graduates, and drawing the educational blue-print for our students for the best part of the next decade. We have learned much about the wonderful impact that Eastern Christian has had upon the lives of our graduates and those whom they serve. We have focused on the incredible opportunities that lie ahead of us – tremendous opportunities to prepare young people to be people of Christian vision and influence on the doorstep of one of the most important and influential cities in the world. We have thought about ways in which we serve the students that God has entrusted to us – the methods that are working well and those that need to change.

This work has resulted in a revised Mission and Belief Statement that reaffirms the mission for which we were founded and sets forth our core beliefs regarding Christian education – beliefs regarding our God's sovereignty, His redemptive work, and the role to which He has called us as His image bearers. This work has resulted in a Graduate Profile clearly stating our school community's aspirations for our students as they complete their education at Eastern Christian. (You can read the Graduate Profile on page 10.) Most recently, this work has resulted in the preparation of nine educational goals in the areas of literacy, numeracy and leadership that will guide our educational planning and decision-making through 2017 and form the basis for our accreditation review by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The 2009-10 school year will be another year of planning, implementation and study for the Eastern Christian community. Our Board will meet with our Strategic Planning Consultant from Christian Schools International to receive a final report and begin the implementation of a number of strategic recommendations. Our accreditation teams will develop plans for the implementation of the educational goals established for the next seven years. We will receive a comprehensive review by a 10-member visiting team of educators from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools to review the implementation of our plans. And at the start of the 2010-11 school year, we hope that Eastern Christian will receive the vote of confidence represented by accreditation for the next seven years.

Why is all of this time and effort important? Simply because it keeps us focused on achieving the objective that was first established at our founding and recently reaffirmed in our Mission Statement – “empowering students from Christian families to develop their gifts... so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents...” 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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EDITOR

Tim Steen

FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis '58

PHOTOGRAPHY

Justin Van Dyke '07
with Bill Van Dyke '77
and Brian Van Der Heide '09

ALUMNI COORDINATOR

Beth Youngsman Milkamp '75

DESIGN & LAYOUT

David Luyendyk '91
Yellow House Graphic Design
www.yellowhousedesign.com

PRINTER

Lont & Overkamp
Prospect Park, NJ

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

50 Oakwood Ave.
North Haledon, NJ 07508
Phone: 973-427-9294
E-Mail: herald@easternchristian.org
www.easternchristian.org

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"Therefore we do not lose heart, though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory, that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."



Jesse Fritzsich, senior

Don't Miss the
2009-2010 ANNUAL FUND BROCHURE
in the center of this issue!

ABOUT THE COVER

Alison Faber and AJ Panzica begin the procession during the 2009 High School Commencement.

Inset: Fifth grader Robbie Skead shares a smile with the Middle School Orchestra during their spring concert.

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

Executive Director / Head of School
Elementary School Principal
Middle School Principal and Curriculum Coordinator
High School Principal

Thomas G. Dykhouse
Sandra Bottge
Richard Van Yperen
Jan Lucas

CAMPUS NEWS

Students Take Their Vision Worldwide

This year, Eastern Christian students from preschool to 12th grade set out to transform the world. Together, the students at Eastern Christian organized and supported close to 30 fundraisers, service projects, and mission trips in the 2008-09 school year.

Middle School students organized at least four MAD (Make a Difference) projects in every grade level. (For more on this endeavor, read the article on page 5.)

In the Elementary School this year, students were asked to ponder their theme from Mark 12—loving God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength—and how to put that into action. Each class chose an organization to treat as their neighbor, and raised money or held service projects for them. The preschoolers and 1st graders prayed for and wrote to US troops overseas. The 3rd graders sent money to World Vision and World Missions. The 4th graders held a mathathon for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

In the High School, for the first time ever, there were two overseas mission trips during spring break. These trips were organized by teacher **Debbie Ayars**, who also works for Touch the World Ministries. Touch the World provided the logistical support for the trips. One group of 11 students went to Honduras and worked in an orphanage, while six other students went to Uganda.

The mission trips were tough, eye-opening experiences. The team helped out in Honduras by playing with the kids, running a vacation Bible school for the kids in the village, and doing construction at the orphanage. A few students got sick from all the sudden changes in their daily life, and all students were required to take malaria pills. Freshman **Briana Caro** said, "Honduras was life-changing. I definitely want to go back. Our group got really close."

In Uganda, the team visited children at St. Mary Kevin Orphanage, at the EC sister school St. Stephens, and at a refugee camp in Gulu. Faced with abject poverty and suffering, the experiences continue to haunt and change those that went. Senior **Andrew Abadeer** said, "In the orphan-



Junior **Katelyn Spagnola** at the St. Mary Kevin Orphanage, Uganda

age the kids were happy, at other places they were miserable; it was heartbreaking and depressing. It made you really question your beliefs. It was like looking Hell in the face ... thinking, so where does God fit into this?" The Uganda team spent a lot of time in devotions, prayer and discussion while considering the extreme ramifications of being called to "love their neighbor as themselves."

The Uganda mission trip galvanized many students throughout the school system to action. In the 2nd grade, each student prayed for an orphan in Uganda. They raised money for the orphanage and sent homemade picture frames with the mission teams to bring to their neighbors from across the ocean. A 7th grade MAD project that focused on poverty also took up the challenge of helping Uganda. They held t-shirt drives and raised money for supplies for both the Uganda and Honduras mission trips. When the teams left on their trips, they were loaded down with gifts and donations from EC students to give to their new neighbors.

The High School National Honor Society organized a fundraiser for St. Stephens. The students at St. Stephens spend an inordinate amount of time carrying safe drinking water, daily walking miles from their only water source to the school and village. With a solar pump, the village could have its own well, and allow the students to spend more time in class.

Various fundraisers were held throughout the year to try to achieve the goal of \$6,000 for the water pump. Again, the 7th grade MAD team was able to help out. Bible teacher **Betsy Tyvoll**, the group's supervisor, said, "I had them walk around our school several times with buckets of water one morning, to show them what it must be like for these folks to have to do this everyday. They had a fundraiser to contribute to the High School's funds for these solar panels. We challenged all the faculty to offer their (crazy) antics to be performed on the roof of the school. We raised \$400!" The funds for this ambitious project have not yet reached the goal, but EC students are determined to continue their efforts.

(with reporting by Rachel Kuder '09)

USAF Major General Speaks to Middle School

BY RYAN DYKSTRA AND SARA SCHIPPER, SENIORS



Major General J. Scott Gration speaks to the Middle School students at Faith Community CRC.

On May 11, retired Air Force Major General Jonathan Scott Gration, special envoy for President Barack Obama to Sudan, spoke in a special assembly to the Eastern Christian Middle School about his life and his experiences. Just weeks away from flying to Sudan, Gration spoke to the 209 students at the Middle School about his often-harrowing experiences, which he used to display the fact that God can be trusted.

Middle School Principal Richard Van Yperen said, "Challenging our students to seek God's purpose for them even as middle school students as they attempt to make a difference in 2009, he related how God had directed his life through some of the most recent historically important events, emphasizing that God has a purpose for each of us to serve others and make a difference in the world for God's kingdom."

Gration said he grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where his parents were missionaries. They were evacuated three times in the 1960s due to violence and rebel activity. After moving back to America, Gration attended Ridgewood High School and Rutgers University, and received a degree in mechanical engineering. Following his graduation, he

joined the Air Force where he logged over 5,000 flight hours and received a bronze star for his valor in air missions during the Gulf War.

After the war, Gration felt called to fly volunteer missions in Uganda, he said. He spent five weeks living at a hospital repairing the local villages. He had his tools stolen on his flight, at night the air was filled gun shots and screams, and living conditions were terrible.

Gration said that one day, while he was feeling sorry for himself and the terrible living conditions, he saw two children playing in the street. It dawned on him that these children had never tasted salt nor sugar. He said that he realized how good his life was, and that he should not have a poor outlook because of his temporary living conditions. Following the five weeks in Uganda, Gration returned to Kenya, working with the Air Force in training missions.

Another life-threatening, life-changing experience occurred while Gration was stationed in at the Khobar Barracks in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Terrorists bombed the entire building, leaving many dead and Gration injured. He realized that "life itself is a gift, and God's hand was on my life." Gration said he was at his desk at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Gration spoke of how these experiences changed his life and life goals, and for the last 12 years his goal has been to stop extremists in Iraq and around the world.

As a concluding statement, Gration said, "I wouldn't want to lose all personal possessions through my experiences again, but I'm thankful for them because they have helped me live a more oriented and a more motivated life."

Principal Post Proves Popular

BY ALYSSA CESTARO, SENIOR

On May 29, 2nd grader Jared Post took over as principal of the Elementary School for one day. At EC's Auction Elegance fundraiser, Harold Post '66 was the highest bidder for "Principal for the Day." He gave the opportunity to his grandson, Jared.

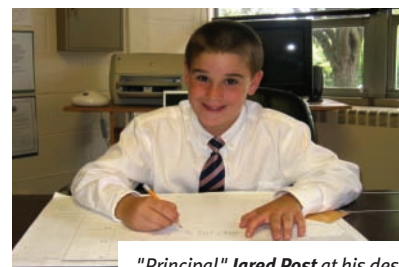
Jared said his favorite part of the day was "doing all the paperwork." He also said, "I enjoyed sitting in the principal's chair to eat lunch." One of the other highlights of the day was yelling at students for not following rules. He thought of it as an honor to be on the other side of the authority system.

The students of the Elementary School were very pleased with having their fellow classmate making up the rules. All the students said, in unison, that not having homework was the best part of the day. When

Jared announced over the school intercom that none of the teachers could assign homework, the students were jumping for joy.

Some 1st graders were especially vocal. Leah Boonstra said, "I really liked having no homework." Brandon Sanders said, "I wish we could not have homework everyday." Wangare Njuguna added, "Jared was really nice," while Luke Martin mentioned, "I really enjoyed getting ice pops."

Overall, the atmosphere at the Elementary School was very positive with their student principal for the day.



"Principal" Jared Post at his desk.



Sportsmanship Reigns at EC

Eastern Christian has been chosen as the top school for sportsmanship in the Bergen/Passaic Scholastic League for the 2008-09 school year. Throughout the year, coaches of all the schools have been ranking the coach, teams and fans. Eastern Christian was the overall winner not only for our division, but also for the entire league.

Athletic Director **Steve King** said, “The goal in our program is not to be number one, but instead to continue the tradition of sportsmanship that has been an integral part of our athletic program. What greater witness on the field of play than to constantly display the Christian perspective of competition and sportsmanship intertwined. Eastern Christian continues to lead by example in this area in league, county and state competition.”

In addition, Eastern Christian remains the only co-ed high school in the NJSIAA that has been disqualification-free since statistics were started in 1991. Mr. King said, “To remain disqualification free is extremely important to me as the Athletic Director. It shows the leadership in our coaching and in our athletic play. To have this continue since 1991 is an honor not only for our athletic program, but for Eastern Christian in general.” Eastern Christian will be receiving a sportsmanship banner at the NJSIAA business meeting next fall.

Coaching Milestones



Board President **Bernie Tolsma** presents Mr. **Steve King** a plaque for his achievement during half-time at a boys' basketball game.

This year, two Eastern Christian coaches hit important milestones in their careers. Girls' soccer coach **Barry Veenstra** won his 300th game in the fall, while this winter **Steve King** won his 500th game as girls' basketball coach.

Mr. King is only the second coach in Passaic County history to reach this milestone, which happened during a game against neighboring Manchester High School on January 27. However, in over 30 years of coaching, Mr. King has never defined his career by wins, but by sportsmanship and learning life lessons both on and off the court. In a celebration ceremony during a boys' basketball game on February 6, the Eastern Christian School Board presented Mr. King with a plaque commemorating his wins and his service.

In the ceremony, Principal **Jan Lucas** said, “While 500 wins is a milestone, winning has never been the top goal for Steve. Fair play, consistent with who we are as Christians, has permeated Steve's career, and that is what makes the 500th win so significant.”

Mr. King said that winning 500 games simply “means I've been coaching a long time; but I'm very proud, because we aren't a power house athletic school—we are competitive. I coach for the love of coaching.”

Mr. King's players describe him as an inspiring coach who encourages them to play hard, even when the underdog in a game. “Mr. King pushes us to our potential and knows each of our unique traits in basketball,” said **Arrielle Dreher**, senior. “Mr. King knows what we can and can't do. He knows our strengths and weaknesses, and encourages us to do better and achieve our best.”

Mr. Veenstra, who has coached for 26 years, also downplayed his milestone. After beating rival Hawthorne Christian to clinch the 300th win, the team gave him a gift certificate to his favorite restaurant. He told the team that the prize was better than the actual achievement.

Junior **Dara Veenstra**, Barry's daughter, said, “Not only do I love him as my dad, but also as my coach, even if he is pretty tough sometimes. I'm really happy about his 300th win. He is pretty modest about the whole thing, but it was a great achievement!”

Middle School Projects Make a Difference

BY KELLEE LIVERANI '09

Throughout the 2008-2009 school year, the Middle School has been more than active in contributing to community service. Throughout this issue of *The Herald*, you will find references to the incredible work groups of students accomplished in their Make a Difference (MAD) projects.

The 5th, 7th, and 8th graders and their teachers hosted projects that provoked awareness about illiteracy, malaria, the environment, poverty, spiritual emptiness and pandemic diseases. The 6th grade projects differed from the others, however. The issues that this particular grade took on were challenges that were sparked from the DARE program they are involved in. Their focus had to do with addictions, teen runaways, anorexia, popularity and peer pressure.

The 5th, 7th, and 8th graders presented their projects to the school and community on May 28, and the 6th graders presented theirs on June 4. In their presentations, the students talked about their personal experiences with the projects, and the difference that they made during the course of the year.

During the first semester of the school year, the Middle School's weekly activity period was focused on learning more about the topics that students decided to investigate. As the second semester approached, the students were required to form a final project to help solve the issue they were studying. The focus shifted from learning to action.

From January on, the students and teachers brainstormed ideas and possible organizations that could benefit from their particular groups. Seventh grader **Priscilla Winston** was a part of the Environment group.

Her group specialized in cleaning up parks and planting in order to improve the environment one day at a time. Her favorite part of the project was cleaning up Sandy Hook State Park. "I loved cleaning [the beach at] Sandy Hook. I got to learn how to recycle and not just throw things away," said Priscilla. Seventh grader **Cheryl Steenstra** was also a part of the Environment group. She said, "It was incredible learning how much you can do to help. Knowing you can do it everyday is pretty cool. I would probably continue helping with planting gardens because it was a lot of fun to do."

Seventh grader **Justin Miller** was active with the Poverty group. "My favorite part of the group was probably helping with little kids. It was cool to have fun while serving the Lord. One thing I would do to continue serving is donating money to charities," said Justin.

Eighth grader **Jeff Clark** was involved with the Spiritual Emptiness group. The group chose to hand out fliers and make people aware that God can provide comfort to them. "I loved handing out the fliers in the Market Basket. The fliers talked about how we can help people become closer to God and how He can fill our hearts."

This is only a small taste of the vast work done by the Middle School students this year. The Middle School students and faculty demonstrated an immense amount of dedication to their organizations throughout the school year, and have been recognized by the community for all their hard work.

Bridging the Culture Gap

BY EMILY BRUINS, SENIOR

On April 21, each international student at Eastern Christian High School had the privilege of bringing an American student on a field trip to Korea Town. Korea Town is a small section of Palisades Park, NJ where the Korean culture is prominent. Here, the students were able to experience international food, shopping and traditions.

Mrs. Kathy Kim, international student liaison and high school teacher, set up a photo scavenger hunt with great prizes for those that completed taking all of the pictures. In the scavenger hunt, students had to go take photographs of things such as themselves in front of the restaurant where they ate, a Korean bakery, signs, and a public telephone. This was a great way for the students to get to know one another, and share and experience a culture that was new for many EC students.

An exciting part of the trip for almost every student was the food. Freshman **Jenny Jo** said, "It was fun to see my friends' faces get red from hot and spicy food. Also, some people dropped their food all over the place because they couldn't use chopsticks." Some favorite dishes included spicy

ramen noodles, rice cakes and shrimp.

The trip was a great way to meet new people and break from cliques students tend to create. Senior **Steve Bushoven** said, "It was excellent to see Korea Town and get

to know my friends better." Senior **Koo Dal Kweon** agreed and said, "It was good to introduce my culture to my foreign friends."

Freshman **Faith Schmitt** said, "Overall, I thought the Korean field trip brought us closer to our international friends and gave us an in-depth experience of their culture."



Senior Do Kyun Kim teaches senior Jason Lane the finer points of Korean cuisine on their trip to Korea Town.

Biology Students Find New Opportunities

BY KIRSTEN ANDERSON, JUNIOR

The High School Biology Department has explored some new statewide opportunities and challenges this year. One has been collaborating with Drew University in a series of interesting opportunities.

One of those new opportunities was participation in the state-wide Envirothon competition on March 29. The High School's new Envirothon team won the Horizon award for best presentation by a first year competitor. The team, made up of sophomores **Madeline Kosten**, **Taylor Lee**, **Jackie Santhouse**, and **Marina Youssef**, was organized by biology teacher **Ms. Anne Bazanowski**.

The Envirothon competition involved 43 teams from New Jersey high schools. The competition is held to get the next generation's opinion on natural resource problems. Marina said, "Teamwork was key in the Envirothon. If we didn't have it, I don't think we would have gotten an award. We had to come together and create a presentation and every one needed to be involved."

This year's competition focused on researching White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a sudden disease that seems to be decimating bat populations in eastern states. This problem was posted on the Envirothon webpage one week before the competition. Students then prepared their presentation for the competition, worked together to find solutions to the issue, and presented their work without any assistance from their teachers and/or aides.

On June 12, Mr. Richard Belcher, the Director of the Envirothon,



Winning sophomores **Marina Youssef**, **Jackie Santhouse**, **Madeline Kosten** and **Taylor Lee** with **Mr. Richard Belcher**, Director of the Envirothon.

made a presentation at Eastern Christian High School to award the team for their efforts.

The Biology Department is also working with Drew University to explore new research collaborations. On June 10, Dr. Sarah Webb, the Director of Environmental Education at Drew, visited the High School and toured the forest on EC's campus with biology students. Dr. Webb talked to the students about invasive species, and identified the invasive Norway Maple trees in the EC woods. Dr. Webb is investigating how Drew and EC can work together in the upcoming school year to further these studies.

Language Arts Students Win Accolades

Middle School students have been recognized this spring for their achievements in language arts both nation-wide and locally. Eastern Christian had 35 7th grade students were published in "A Celebration of Poets," a book that 7th to 9th graders from across the nation can submit their poems for a chance to be published.

The students submitted their poems after finishing their poetry unit. The poems that the students submitted had to be free verse and about the issues they are facing in middle school. Seventh grader **Hannah Flim** said, "I loved the different styles of poetry we got to learn and experience in class." Hannah was inspired by nature to write her poem called *Free*. This poem was about the dark and quietness in nature. Her poem is able to capture the emotion of how she feels about being one with nature.

With such a large number of poems accepted, Eastern Christian students make up 10% of the national publication. English teacher **Mrs. Laura Kuehlke** said the book was a good way for Eastern Christian to get publicity, and that people across our nation will get to see our school and see that

it is one of the top contributors to the book.

Meanwhile, a 5th grade team worked on solving illiteracy, conducting a book drive for their MAD project. The group of 13 students were able to collect 780 books. Bergen County's Project Literacy honored the class with a special recognition plaque at their June 11 awards banquet. **Mrs. Stephanie Tanis**, 5th grade language arts teacher, headed up the project.

Mrs. Tanis said, "The students were very honored that Project Literacy would provide them with such a beautiful way to thank them for their help. Eastern Christian Middle School was the only school this year to be presented an award. Our students were not expecting to be honored for their service. Two team members and I were able to go to the awards ceremony. When the remaining 5th graders were shown the plaque and certificate they received the next day, they were overjoyed by the fact that their work went recognized, and what they did was truly important. These 5th graders learned a lot about giving and understanding other people's needs. It will be an experience they will never forget!"

(with reporting by **Brian Gregson**, senior)

Twisting, Looping and Tugging in Physics Class

It may sound dangerous for a scientist to experiment upon oneself, but that is just what the High School physics class did this spring with their annual trip to Six Flags. “The great thing about physics,” said teacher **Phil Verrengia**, “is that there are always applications. You can place yourself inside the experiment and feel the forces for yourself.”

To prepare for the field trip, the physics class first completed a workbook exploring all the concepts and calculations that they would experience on the park’s rides. They learned about centripetal force (the center-seeking force when objects move in a circle), centripetal acceleration and the force factor (the feelings of heaviness or lightness), as well as the conversion of potential energy to kinetic energy. Students studied how most of the rides at Six Flags use these concepts. They also built trial roller coasters in the lab, using Hot Wheel car tracks.

At the park, students choose two rides to study for themselves. Bringing stopwatches and force meters on the roller coasters, students could measure the G-forces at the tops and bottoms of every hill, loop, and twist. Of course, some things, like fun, cannot be measured so easily. Senior **Justin Tyvoll** said, “The extreme drops, turns, and loops prompted the release of a lot of adrenaline, creating a very enjoyable experience for all of us.” Senior **Michelle Van Lenten** agreed, “Let’s just say that Kingda Ka was awesome. The entire day was a complete success.”

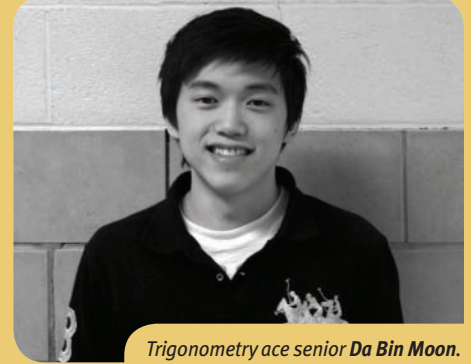
Back in the classroom, students were able to complete the calculations from their measurements to compare their real-world results with the expectations they had worked out earlier. Amusement parks incorporate so many of the ideas of physics that Mr. Verrengia said he was able to create the entire final exam with his own made-up rides and the calculations that would go into testing them.

In addition to the trip to Six Flags, students were also able to test the laws of physics while preparing for the annual Tug of War contest at the end of the year picnic. Using Newton’s Third Law (for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction), students pulled on ropes while sitting on rolling chairs to see how strength alone cannot win a tug of war fight. Students discovered that more important than strength is finding ways to allow friction to aid you when combating that equal and opposite force. Students discovered that digging their feet into the ground, or knocking the other team off balance, were keys to a successful tug of war game.

(with reporting
by Emily
Brotherton '09)



Seniors **Kendall Everett** and **Brian Sietsma** strive to apply both physics and strength to the tug-of-war during the ECHS picnic.



Trigonometry ace senior **Da Bin Moon**.

Senior Wins State Trig Contest

By **Rachel Kuder '09**

Senior **Da Bin Moon** has been making quite a stir in the Math Department of the High School, as well as the whole state of NJ. He was recently named champion of the Trig Star Competition for the entire state of New Jersey. Moon was the only student to attain a perfect 100% on the state-wide test. The prize included a sum of \$450.

The Trig Star test was one hour long, and the person with the highest score won. If there was a tie for the highest score, the student with the fastest time would then be declared the winner. Moon had the highest score, but not the fastest time. He finished with a time of 22:14, behind junior **James Fylstra**, who had the best EC time at 14:00. Moon said, “To be honest, the problems themselves were easy, but this was the slowest I ever worked. I usually finish around 15:00, so I was pretty surprised to see the result.”

Moon has already taken AP Calculus Independent Study, which is one of the highest math courses available at EC. His brilliant knack for numbers has encouraged him to major in either mathematics or applied mathematics at Boston College this fall. His past successes in the area of mathematics ensure a bright future for Moon, and this competition is an encouragement for him to pursue what he loves. Moon humbly said, “I consider this an honor. I think I am very undeserving; I still think I was simply lucky.”

EC MUSIC

Music Program Reaches Out Into the Community

Too often, people think of music ensembles in school as practicing behind closed doors and only coming out for a concert once or twice a year. The Music Department at Eastern Christian is determined to showcase their music beyond the Eastern Christian audience and uses their gifts as a ministry for the community.

This year the Eastern Christian High School Orchestra, for instance, played on April 25 for a Holland Home fundraiser at the Brownstone, and again at the EC Volunteer Dinner on May 21 in the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church.

In the stories that follow, you'll find even more ways that EC's excellent musicians have impacted the world beyond the school doors.



The High School choir.

Music Students Shine at Regionals

Regional music ensembles give talented musicians a chance to really hone their skills and be challenged to perform advanced music with limited rehearsals. This year, Eastern Christian had three students who rose to meet these challenges.

At the High School, senior **Ashley Ronco** and junior **Victoria Anderson** were selected for the North Jersey High School Regional Chorus. They auditioned for the parts in an all-day Saturday session in Paramus, NJ, where there were 300 other sopranos and altos auditioning for parts. The north regional is the most competitive region in New Jersey.



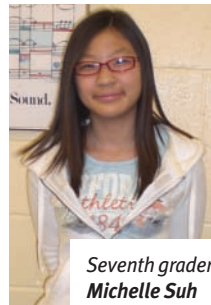
Senior Ashley Ronco



Junior Victoria Anderson

The practices were in Nutley, NJ in March, and ran for five hours with dinner and short breaks. "Being in an honors choir is very difficult. It puts you in a completely new environment. Everyone is there because they all love to sing and they have a focus that you would not find in a normal classroom. You sit down with the music ready to go, get pitches, and just start singing. You don't really learn the notes; they are expected of you," said Ashley. Ashley has been in All-County Choir and Regional Choir two years in a row.

Seventh grader **Michelle Suh** took part in the North Jersey Junior High School Regional



Seventh grader Michelle Suh

Orchestra. The junior high program is for students from grades seven to nine, and is almost entirely made up of the 9th graders. However, in Michelle's auditions, she placed 12th out of 199 musicians.

sight-reading music. The entire audition is done in one minute. For Michelle, Ashley, and Victoria, they each auditioned twice, once in a semi-final round and then the final round.

After five intense rehearsals, Michelle played in a final concert in February with a full 100-piece orchestra made up of the best musicians in northern NJ around her.

Auditions for the regional groups last all day, but contain just a few moments to make a lasting impression. An audition consists of playing a scale, playing an excerpt from a practiced solo, and



The Elementary School had 40 students in their strings program this year. On June 10, the group played in chapel for their fellow classmates, teachers, and parents. Each grade, from 2th to 4th, performed three or four pieces on their own. Then, together as a grand finale, the whole group played "Jesus Loves Me" in three-part harmony. As you can tell from the concentration on Luke Otten's face, the chapel was a complete success!

A String Festival Makes an EC Connection



(l to r): Michelle Van Dyke, Tara Kleinmanns, Kathryn Post, and Sarah Mulcock.

This past January, four Middle School Orchestra players took part in the annual Ridgewood Symphony Festival of Strings. **Tara Kleinmanns, Sarah Mulcock, Kathryn Post, and Michelle Van Dyke** each participated in the festival this year. Interestingly, they weren't the only Eastern Christian members in the festival.

This year, the festival featured guest conductor **Todd Van**

Beveren '92. Todd is the Orchestra Director at Columbia High School, as well as the artistic director of the Northern NJ Youth Orchestra and the Performance Chairman for the NJ All State Orchestra. Todd played violin in the first year of the Ridgewood Festival of Strings as an EC student. Todd was able to get to know the EC players and make sure each one had a good experience in the orchestra.

The Festival of Strings is for orchestra students in grades six to nine who are recommended by their orchestra director. There are a series of four-hour rehearsals in January leading up to a concert at the end of January. The orchestra is made up of more than 100 string players from the Bergen/Passaic area.

Orchestra Director **Cathy Clark** said that the festival is great for "meeting other kids outside of EC who share the same interests. They meet new friends by having stand partners and having dinner together each rehearsal."

Amusement Park Rings with EC Music

On May 15 the Middle School's music ensembles performed in the ongoing Music in the Parks program at Six Flags Great Adventure and achieved success in the competition. Each week in the spring, eight to nine schools from the area compete in this program. In the May 15 competition, the Middle School Chorus placed fourth in their division, the Band placed first in their division, and the Orchestra placed first in their division and first overall of all groups that performed that day.

Orchestra conductor **Cathy Clark** said that the competition, "is a good experience to strive for our best, knowing that we'll be evaluated. It encourages us to perform to high standards and to have musical excellence, and allows us to see how we fit in compared to other schools."

During the competition, which is scheduled in the morning and located close to the Six Flag amusement park, two judges evaluate the performance to determine winners. However, the judges, who are well-respected conductors from area colleges, also produce an audio tape during the performance with specific positive constructive comments. The school conductor and group can later listen to their performance and see exactly what the judges liked about their music and what they can work on to get better.

Of course, after the performances, the students had the chance to have fun at Six Flags. With 13 chaperones, EC's students got to stay at the park from 12pm to 6pm. At 5:30, right before the park closed, an award ceremony was held, where the EC Orchestra was announced as the winner of the competition.



Sophomore **Dawn Wang**, playing here at Calvin College for the EC Midwest Reunion, was recently featured on the radio. WQXR, New York City's classical radio station, has a weekly program hosted by Bob Schuurman called, "Young Artists Showcase." On May 20, Dawn was interviewed and played her violin in a 15-minute segment. Dawn played Mozart's Violin Sonata #4 in E Minor. This 25-year-old program focuses on just a few outstanding instrumentalists each week, and sometimes revisits their up-and-coming performers years later to see where they are.

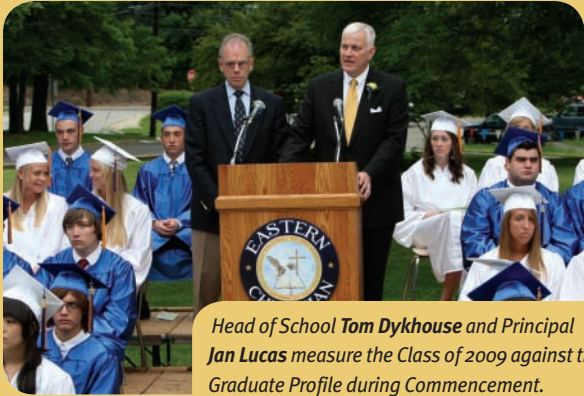


High School Band member Senior Yoora Kim.

HIGH SCHOOL



The Class of 2009 celebrates after receiving their diplomas.



Head of School **Tom Dykhouse** and Principal **Jan Lucas** measure the Class of 2009 against the Graduate Profile during Commencement.

The Graduate Profile

As part of the Strategic Plan being developed for the entire Eastern Christian School Association, the EC Board has approved a new graduate profile to describe the excellent qualities of all EC graduates:

"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."

2009 Graduates Celebrate Renewal



Co-valedictorians **Justin Tyvoll** and **Andrew Abadeer**, after being introduced by teacher **Ms. Marla Stout**, address their graduates. Their full speeches, as well as the Commencement Address, can be found online at <http://www.ectimes.org>.

With co-valedictorian **Justin Tyvoll** challenging his fellow 80 graduates to be "pin-points of light," the class of 2009 marked their Commencement on June 17 as living examples of Eastern Christian's commitment to "transform the world for Christ."

Justin, as well as his co-valedictorian **Andrew Abadeer**, spoke passionately of the first-ever High School spring-break mission trips to Uganda and Honduras, and the impact these trips have had on them personally, on their class, and on the school. During the ceremony, graduate **Jubilee Hsieh** presented Principal **Jan Lucas** with the class gift—the creation of and



Jubilee Hsieh presents the class gift to Principal Jan Lucas. The Class of 2009 encourages the EC community to donate to their newly established ECHS Missions Fund.

first contribution to a High School Missions Fund, set up to allow future students to continue exploring and changing the world.

Graduate **Kellee Liverani** said, “I think it’s great that we left the Missions Fund as a gift. It really is a gift that means something, rather than just giving any old gift.”

These speeches and gift are just the most recent examples of the class of 2009 living out lives that fulfill Eastern Christian’s new graduate profile [printed in full, left]: “The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and . . . seeks to contribute . . . to God’s mission of renewing all of creation.”

During the valedictory speeches, Andrew, speaking first, called his class to an active faith as they go out into “the darkness of the world.” He said, “I urge all of you, as we leave the comforts of Eastern Christian, to also leave behind the things that numb you to the truth, and instead, in realization of the darkness of the world, spur your own lives towards a life of radical goodness and righteousness.”

Justin continued the theme of light and darkness in his half of the speech, recalling the campfires of the Ugandan countryside as points of light in the dark night. Justin urged his classmates to be as those points of light, saying, “May we live to be beacons of Christ’s love, beckoning others to come home. May we be bold and daring. May we stand up for what is right, living radically for the Lord.”

In **Mr. Paul Beverly’s** Commencement Address, he spoke (and sang) of three songs that his own father wrote, and



Commencement speaker Mr. Paul Beverly admits he is terrified, not of the crowd, but of living up to the moving introduction given by graduate Giacomo Greco.

how those songs defined his father’s life. He said his father wrote a song of celebration, he wrote a song on the despair of life, and he wrote a song of God’s trust in both of those situations. He challenged the class of 2009 to build their own lives as songs. Mr. Beverly said, “You have thousands of songs saved on your iPods—which one of those will become your life song? Your class song is a pretty good start—if you really think about it—Amazing Grace!—what an incredible truth.”

Dan Bruinooge said, “I always respected Mr. Bev as a smart man and a good teacher. I like how he made his speech both personal and relatable for us, asking what song we sing, or if we even have a song.”



Graduates (l to r): Bobby Breeman, Jaci Woudenberg, Anna Kim, Andy Flores, and Do Kyun Kim.



Andrew Abadeer
Stevens Institute of
Technology (NJ)



Joshua Abma
Delaware Valley College (PA)



Jonathan Beggs
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)



Cheryl Bogertman
Calvin College (MI)



Matthew Boonstra
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)



Steffanie Boonstra
The College of
New Jersey



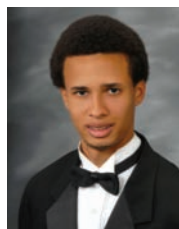
Robert Breeman
Ramapo College of
New Jersey



Emily Brotherton
Ramapo College of
New Jersey



Daniel Bruinooge
The California Institute
of the Arts



Austin Bullock
Berkeley College (NJ)



Steven Bushoven
Eastern University (PA)



Javier Bustamante
Penn State University



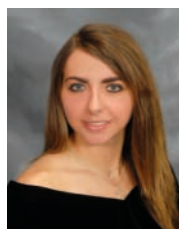
Stefano Cosini
Cabrini College (PA)



Devon De Jong
St. Thomas Aquinas
College (NY)



Ira Domingo
Passaic County
Community College (NJ)



Arrielle Dreher
Boise State University (ID)



Kendall Everett
William Paterson
University (NJ)



Allison Faber
Gordon College (MA)

Apology

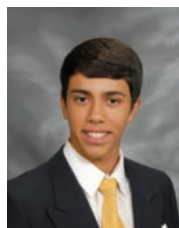
The 2009 Commencement Program inadvertently omitted the college awards and scholarships for Sarah Galo. Sarah has been a vital member of the High School Academic Team in competitions the last two years and the winner of the English Department's Excellence in Writing Award. Eastern Christian apologizes for the error.

Sarah Evonne Galo

Ramapo College of New Jersey Deans Academic Excellence Scholarship
Fordham University Loyola Scholarship
Fordham University "University Grant"
Seton Hall University Scholarship
Fairleigh Dickinson University Col. Fairleigh S. Dickinson Scholarship
New York University Liberal Studies Program Scholarship
New York University Provost's Grant
New York University "University Grant"



Amber Fiedler
Gordon College (MA)



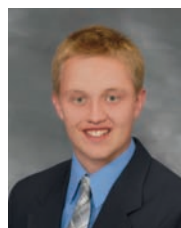
Andrew Flores
Montclair State
University (NJ)



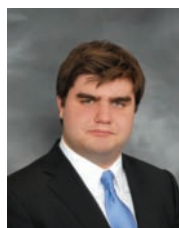
Jesse Fritsch
Messiah College (PA)



Sarah Galo
Ramapo College of
New Jersey



Scott Genzink
Calvin College (MI)



Giacomo Greco
Nyack College (NY)

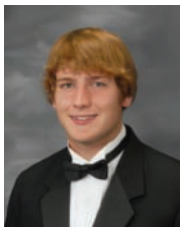


Sean Hagedoorn
Passaic County
Community College (NJ)



Sandra Hagedorn
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)

H I G H S C H O O L



Arthur Hoogmoed
Work



Steven Hook
Work



Jubilee Hsieh
Wheaton College (IL)



Stephanie Jacobs
Rowan University (NJ)



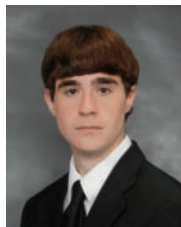
Hannah Jensen
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)



Justine Johnston
Kean University (NJ)



Ryan Keavney
Grove City College (PA)



Christopher Kelly
County College of Morris (NJ)



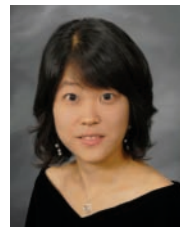
Anna Kim
William Paterson
University (NJ)



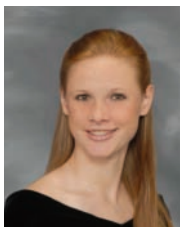
Do Kyun Kim
Swiss Hotel Management
School (Switzerland)



Rebecca Kim
Smith College (MA)



Yoora Kim
University of Connecticut



Rachel Kuder
Wheaton College (IL)



Koo Dal Kweon
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)



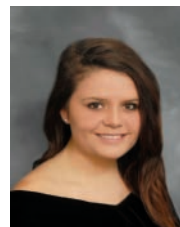
Jason Lane
Azusa Pacific University (CA)



Seulah Lee
Syracuse University (NY)



Won Jin Lee
Swiss Hotel Management
School (Switzerland)



Alexa Lewis
Biola University (CA)



Kellee Liverani
West Chester University (PA)



Kyle Lorentz
William Paterson
University (NJ)



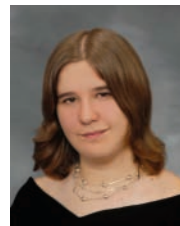
Jonathan Mas
Saint Peter's College (NJ)



Da Bin Moon
Boston College (MA)



Taylor Ocot
William Paterson
University (NJ)



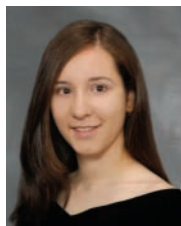
Michelle Okma
State University of New York
at Stony Brook



Anthony Panzica
New Jersey Institute of
Technology



Dae Yong Park
University of Nevada, Las
Vegas



Amy Raisner
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)
(New Jersey Stars Honors Program)



Kevin Reid
La Salle University (PA)



Dottie Rhoads
Liberty University (VA)



Ashley Ronco
Gordon College (MA)

H I G H S C H O O L

Not Pictured:
Jordan Gray
Work



Amanda Rypkema
Palm Beach Atlantic
University (FL)



Brian Sietsma
Rowan University (NJ)



Schuyler Sietsma
William Paterson
University (NJ)



Rachel Snack
School of the Art
Institute of Chicago (IL)



Josefa Solano-Richante
Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey



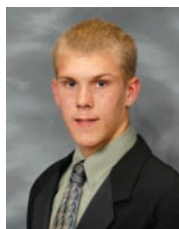
Lauren Spoelstra
Calvin College (MI)



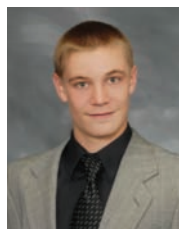
Naomi Stadlander
Passaic County
Community College (NJ)



Jaclyn Steinbruch
Calvin College (MI)



Joshua Tanis
Geneva College (PA)



Matthew Touw
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)



Justin Tyvoll
Cornell University (NY)



Alexandra Van Buiten
Passaic County
Community College (NJ)



Brian Van Der Heide
Calvin College (MI)



Keith Van Dyke
William Paterson
University (NJ)



Nathaniel Van Eck
Calvin College (MI)



Michelle Van Lenten
Monmouth University (NJ)



Tracy Vanden Berg
Work



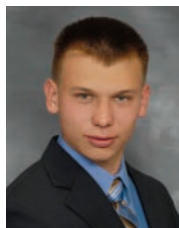
Nicole Veenstra
Rider University (NJ)



Cassandra Versnel
Kean University (NJ)



Debora Vogel
William Paterson
University (NJ)



Zacharie Westra
Bergen County
Community College (NJ)



Lilianna Wilson
Rockland County
Community College (NY)



Abbey Woodfin
Wheaton College (IL)



Jaclyn Woudenberg
Messiah College (PA)

CLASS OF 2009 AWARDS & HONORS

Art Department Award

Jaci Woudenberg
Dan Bruinooge
Andy Flores

Bible And Life Award

Justin Tyvoll

Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Ira Domingo

Calvin College John & Carolyn Steen Scholarship

Cheryl Bogertman

Choral Award

Ashley Ronco
Da Bin Moon

Concert Band Award

Yoora Kim

Drama Award

Stephanie Jacobs

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

Andrew Abadeer
Jubilee Hsieh
Rebecca Kim
Da Bin Moon
Anthony Panzica
Justin Tyvoll

English Department Excellence In Writing Award

Sarah Galo

English Department Scholastic Writing Award

Andrew Abadeer

French Language Award

Cassandra Versnel

German Language Award

Wan Jin Lee

High School Faculty Award

Andrew Abadeer

Henriette & Kathyne Houseward Scholarship

Taylor Ocot
Ira Domingo

Hoitsma-Jeffers Scholarship Award

Schuyler Sietsma

Homer S. Pace Award:

Michelle Van Lenten

Jeanette Crozier Scholarship

Ashley Ronco

Happy 90th Birthday EC High School

September, 2009 marks the 90th birthday of Eastern Christian High School. On September 3, 1919, the newly approved “Christelijk Middelbaar Onderwijs” (Christian High School) opened under the name Christian High School for Paterson and Vicinity. The school opened with 17 freshmen enrollees, and held classes initially in the middle room on the first floor of the North 4th Street Christian School. For the first three weeks, work was carried on at tables resting on wooden horses, which were soon replaced by 30 desks which arrived from Chicago.

All students took the following basic courses: Latin, history, algebra, English, American history, high school arithmetic, geography and drawing.

The first principal was Mr. G. Bos, and the first teacher was Mr. B. Schooland, who was hired at an annual salary of \$1,400 a year.

In order to keep parental expense for sending children to the school to a minimum, all text books were provided by the school and the annual tuition was set as low as possible. Pupils who came from Paterson paid \$25, those from Passaic \$18, and those from Midland Park \$12.50 per year.

Finances were very tight in the early days of the High School, with the average monthly income of \$200 barely adequate to pay teachers’ salaries and overhead. In spite of this, there was a reported ending balance of \$350 after all expenses were paid at the end of the first year!

The most important reason for the creation of a Christian high school was to provide a distinctive Christian education. The leadership of the day was filled with spiritual vigor, and sought the glory of God in education as well as in other spheres of life. They saw the inadequacy of a seemingly innocuous public school system which paid lip service to God, but had no appreciation for a God-centered life in which a person’s first concern was His



glory. These leaders were interested in developing the whole of human personality so that students would be better equipped for Christian service.

In 2009, 90 years later, we are still interested in these same goals and commitments as we strive to provide a distinctively Christian education with a Christian world and life view at Eastern Christian High School!

This is the first of several articles that will be presented in connection with the High School’s 90th anniversary. Future articles will appear in the EC Times as well as future issues of The Herald. The source of this information comes from Cornelius Bontekoe’s “An Historical Review of Eastern Academy,” which was written in connection with the 25th anniversary of Eastern Academy.

(Prepared by G. Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director, Foundation for Eastern Christian School.)

John Philip Sousa Award

Da Bin Moon

Journalism Award

Amber Fiedler

Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Steffanie Boonstra

Latin Language Award

Justin Tyvoll

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Dan Bruinooge

Mathematics Award

Da Bin Moon

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars

Jubilee Hsieh

Ryan Keavney

Justin Tyvoll

Orchestra Award

Jubilee Hsieh

R. Bruce Van Hine First Responders Award

Andrew Abadeer

Kendall Everett

Rensselaer Science & Math Award

Justin Tyvoll

Richard J. Vander Plaats Service Award

Jubilee Hsieh

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

Andrew Abadeer

Jubilee Hsieh

Justin Tyvoll

Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Rypkema

Spanish Language Award

Amy Raisner

Naomi Stadtlander

University Of Rochester

Bausch & Lomb Award

Andrew Abadeer

University Of Rochester Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony Award

Scott Genzink

University Of Rochester Xerox Award For Innovation And Information Technology

Ryan Keavney

MIDDLE SCHOOL



The ECMS Class of 2009 (top, left to right): Justen Stiles, Vanessa Veenstra, Cleveland McDaniel, Kailey Kuipers, Noah Teshome, Julie Van Buiten, Tyler Van Lenten, Madison Lewis, Jesse Greenfield, Megan Wynbeek, Andrew Fiedler, Jenna Shotmeyer, Luke Butler, Sarah Bruinooge, Luke Boonstra, Chandlar West, David Saunders, Bethany Van Eck, Connor Elsaesser, Michelle Van Dyke (middle): Ana Melendez, William Huh, Carly Brantner, David Kim, Jasmine Jung, Colby Morris, Brooke Leentjes, Zachary Vander Wiele, Carly Veenstra, Jun Ho Yoon, Katelin Kim, Matthew Van Grouw, Seonu Cho, Justin Struyk, Renee Braunius, Tyler Sweeney, Kathryn Skrobala, Benjamin Zacaroli, Heidi Lineweaver, John Lee (bottom): Austin Doehtler, Shawn Kukol, Tae Kim, Matthew Hartensveld, Amanda Held, Joshua Bruins, Matthew D'Urso, Elijah Jefferson, Ryan Vander Plaat, Zachary Binger, Ann Marie Abadeer, Matthew Bushoven, Sarah Post, Ryan Lorentz, Luis Romero, Jeffrey Clark, Andrew Bruining, Joshua Borduin.

Middle Schoolers Look Toward Future



Dean **Meghann Persenaire** addresses the graduates, giving each one a personal message.

love one another. Office Manager **Gloria Tenewitz** said, "As I looked at each of those students, I remembered what each of them has meant to me and how every one of them has grown."

Dean **Meghann Persenaire**, who is leaving after this year, gave a personal and touching speech to her students. Mentioning every student by

The 8th grade students celebrated growth and change in the graduation ceremony in the Middle School gym on June 18. The 58 members of the ECMS Class of 2009 experienced a ceremony filled with personal touches, from the special words from current and former teachers in the program to the personal and heart-warming speeches. It was evident that this class, and the faculty of the Middle School, has truly grown to know and

name, she told each one individually about how they had grown and how she had seen them mature in their time at ECMS.

Co-salutatorians **Carly Veenstra** and **Katelin Kim** offered prayers for their classmates during the graduation ceremony. **Zachery Vander Wiele** and **Andrew Fieldler** led the class in singing their class song "By Your Side."



Some of the graduates laugh as Ms. Persenaire makes her remarks.



Valedictorian **Ann Marie Abadeer**. Ann Marie's speech, as well as the other Middle School graduation speeches, can be read at <http://www.ectimes.org>.

Ann Marie Abadeer was the class valedictorian. Ann Marie spoke to her class about their future. Ann Marie said, "We look toward all of the dreams we've had about our future. Everything we've hoped for, everything we've ever wanted. We can make those dreams a reality. Through our dreams we can stay true to our journey with God. All we have to do is make sure our values stay in check, and that we're persistent. Don't ever give up. If we trust in God, he will lead us through all the right choices." As a surprise, when introducing her as the valedictorian, **Mrs. Joyce Breur** read a poem written by Ann Marie titled, "What If?" In it Ann Marie eloquently and effectively brought the gospel of Jesus to life in poetic form.

Principal **Dick Van Yperen** talked to the grad-



Principal **Richard Van Yperen**, in his opening remarks, urged the class to stay united in love.



Ana Melendez receives her diploma from **Mr. Bernie Tolsma**, Board President.

uating class about growth by telling them about Joshua, who graduated from aide to leader in the Old Testament. Mr. Van Yperen told the class, "Faced with a very scary unknown future, Joshua chose to love and trust God, and that made the difference between being afraid and being strong and courageous."

On a personal note, Mr. Van Yperen reminded the students of their growth from when he was with them during their promotion at the end of 4th grade. He said, "Personally, I plan to attend your high school graduation. You are a special class for me because we came to school together in September 2000... Congratulations! You are officially two thirds of the way there. I will be supporting you in prayer for the final third."



Justin Stiles on guitar during the class song.



The band led the audience and the class in singing. They were (l to r): **Peter Yoon**, **Mrs. Joyce Breur**, **Justin Stiles**, **Katelin Kim**, **Ryan Lorentz**, **Ms. Meghann Persenaire**, **Zach Vander Wiele**, **Andrew Fiedler**.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Music teacher **Jacie Sytsma** leads the fourth grade class as they play their recorders at the beginning of the 4th grade Promotion Chapel on June 17. The 4th grade class consists of (alphabetically): **Morgan Abma, Devyn Bavagnoli, Kevin Bergen, Mac Bohuny, Benjamin Boonstra, Jesse Boonstra, Alyssa Botbyl, Nathan Bouman, Andrew Brooks, Adrian Brown, Skylar Brown, Alison Cummins, Matthieu Davis, Joseph DeJong, Brenna Duffy, Adam Faber, Julian Foley, Jacob Hosier, Abigail Johnson, Kyle Jones, Daniel Kuder, Samuel Kuder, Jarrett Kuipers, Ally Lewis, Nicole Martin, Mathew Matthias, John Maura, Joshua Onufer, Claudia Orostizaga, Janelle Ortega, Christine Poliandro, Melanie Romero, Nicholas Rosendale, Kirsten Skead, Scott Steenstra, Kyle Streeleman, Michayla Stevenson, Alexis Struck, Brittany Van Harken, Connor Van Hoff, Brooke Van Lenten, Ethan Vander Molen, Erin Vander Plaát, Shaniyah Vigo and Zachariah Wistuk.**

Fourth Grade Promotion



Brenda Duffy smiles as she is awarded her promotion certificate. Throughout the chapel, the 4th graders and the audience got to sing worship songs and reflect on scripture.



Fourth grade students listening attentively during the chapel. Five teachers that taught the students various subjects this year got a chance to reflect on their shared experiences at the Elementary School and on the future. In addition, Principal **Sandra Bottge** addressed the soon-to-be middle schoolers in her promotion speech.



During the ceremony, a few students are awarded for perfect attendance. Here, Nurse **Wilma Bogertman** hands an award to never-sick **Kyle James**.

PRESCHOOL



Preschool graduates (alphabetically): Myles Barclay, Allison Borduin, Thomas Briigliodoro, Sophia Bucci, Emma Bushman, Ava Carione, Celeste Carione, Noah Chun, James Curreri, Gregory De Boer, Zachary De Vries, Amanda Dembowski, Alec Gabriel Fontoura Donnelly, Jacob Faasse, Grace Gallagher, Hank Hagedoorn, Ty Higby, Natalie Hope, Joshua Iannone, Kayla Isaac, Lydia Johnson, Capri Kuiken, Joaquin Kull, Luke Mc Gowan, Lily Nyman, Ryan Oakes, Vann Pineault, Rachel Post, Sean Post, Sophia Rosenthal, Aleah Sanders, Anthony Sgambati, Joshua Steen, Caleb Sytsma, Saskia Trommelen, Matthew Vander Wall, Luke Van Goor, Brent Van Harken, Jack Veenema, Anya Veinberg, Benjamin Visbeen, Joseph Vivolo, Jack Walker, Maxwell Walker, and Matthew Zuidema

Preschool Graduation and Closing Program

Eastern Christian Preschool held its graduation and closing program on June 16 at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. Forty-five Preschool and Junior Kindergarten students presented a program of love and praise songs based on this year's Bible theme from Mark 12, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." Children then received a certificate marking the completion of their preschool year.



Tommy Briigliodoro and Lily Nyman at the Preschool graduation.



This year, the children put their theme into action by adopting Company L, 3rd Battalion 8th Marine Regiment, which was stationed in Afghanistan. One of these Marines is Lance Cpl. Harrison Bruining '06, an Eastern Christian graduate who attended EC Preschool in 1991 and 1992. The preschoolers and their families, along with families from the Elementary School, sent cards to the Marines last January and they prayed for their safe return. At this year's annual preschool picnic, families wrote welcome home messages to the Marines. These messages, displayed on a giant banner, greeted the regiment when they returned home from deployment in June. The Marine's safe return home and the children's closing program were great ways to end this school year!



Sean Post and his 7th grade reading buddies.

Preschool Reading Buddies

The Reading Buddy program was a major success in preschool again this year! Preschool children enjoyed special books and activities with their Reading Buddies during this school year. Elementary School students from Mrs. Rhonda Klein's and Mrs. Bev Peters' 3rd grade classes visited Mrs. Marilyn Bushman's and Mrs. Kathy Faasse's morning Preschool classes once a month. After students listened to a story together, pairs of preschoolers and 3rd graders worked on a related activity. Third graders then had the opportunity to individually read to their "special friend."

This spring, the Junior Kindergarten class joined in the Reading Buddy fun. Each week, the class boarded a bus for a mini class trip to the Middle School. There, 7th and 8th grade students under the direction of Mrs. Joyce Breur and Mrs. Pamela Kosten shared favorite children's books with the Junior Kindergarteners. This was part of the MAD (Make a Difference) projects that ECMS students were involved in this school year. These middle schoolers' global issue was illiteracy, and they chose to read to younger students just as they themselves had been read to when they were young. They discussed that "being read to" is a way to help overcome illiteracy and a wonderful introduction to becoming an avid reader.

Teachers especially enjoy when students from multiple campuses can interact and learn together. They are looking forward to continuing a Reading Buddy program again next year!

FOUNDATION NEWS

2009-2010 Annual Fund Drive

In the centerfold of this issue of *The Herald* you will find the information for the 2009-2010 Annual Fund Drive for Eastern Christian School. We urge you to prayerfully consider your participation this year as God has enabled you to give so that we may nurture succeeding generations of children to be the church, business and community leaders of the future. If Eastern Christian is going to be able to continue to provide a Christ-centered education for the local and broader Christian community, we will need your support now more than ever before. Our financial goal for this year's Annual Fund is \$650,000, which will enable us to close the gap between the actual cost of an EC education and a reasonable level of tuition that we must maintain in order for Christian education to remain affordable for our parents. Your prayers and financial support for Eastern Christian are coveted and sincerely appreciated.

The Foundation for Eastern Christian

2009 Service Awards

Bus Drivers/Maintenance Dept

Mike Auteri – 5 years
Bill DeGraaf – 10 years
Walter Pinto – 15 years

Foundation Office

Beth Milkamp – 10 years

ECES/Preschool

Linda VanGrouw – 5 years
Karen Baitzel – 5 years
Wilma Bogertman – 10 years
Wendy Post – 10 years
Ruth Henion – 15 years
Carol Byma – 20 years
Ellen Ritsma – 35 years

ECMS

Joann Everett – 10 years
Everett Henderson – 10 years
Betsy Tyvoll – 10 years
Maribeth Vriesema – 10 years
Gloria Tenewitz – 15 years
Ruth Rudd – 20 years

ECHS

Cathy Lagerveld – 15 years
Jan Post – 15 years
Marla Stout – 15 years
Deb Andrews – 15 years
Anne Borduin – 20 years
Paul Beverly – 25 years
Steve King – 35 years

Retirees

Christy VanGanderen (11 years)
Ginny Folk (6 years)

The Herald to List 2009-2010 Annual Fund Donor Names

To show Eastern Christian's appreciation of our supporters' Annual Fund contributions, The Herald Spring 2010 issue, and subsequent issues, will contain a report of all Annual Fund donors. Donors' names will be included in the report unless the donor has requested that the gift remain anonymous.

Eastern Christian School Association
Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, Transforming the World Since 1892

Home Who We Are Admissions Schools Academics Arts Athletics

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS & PARENTS
[Learn more](#) about what ECSA can offer you & your family

CURRENT STUDENTS & PARENTS

PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES

ALUMNI

Engaging the Mind

EXPLORE our schools!

Elementary School
[Learn more about ECES](#)

Middle School
[Learn more about ECMS](#)

EC has a New Website

This summer, EC debuted enhanced features and a new design to our web site. You can explore it yourself at <http://www.easternchristian.org>.

The new site is designed to make it easier for both newcomers and current parents to get the information they need. Some of the highlights of the new features include:

- New navigation. Find what you need faster and easier!
- New content. A Blog from EC Head of School Tom Dykhouse and more communications from our schools, including the High School College and Career Office.
- A designated home page for each campus, where you'll find the latest news, events, and information that parents and students can use right away.
- Clear information for prospective new parents and students, to tell them everything they need in making EC the choice for their family.
- Our new videos, which tell the story of EC's education and community better than ever before.



You Counted on Eastern Christian for a Great Education



*Eastern Christian High School
Class of 1955 50th Reunion*

Help give future Eagles the same opportunity by including ECSA in your will, living trust, or other type of estate plan.

Create a Legacy.

Become a partner with ECSA in our **2nd Century**.

We're Counting on You!

Visit us at:
<http://plannedgiving.ecsa.org>

**For more information
please contact:**

Garret Nieuwenhuis
Dir. of Planned Giving
Phone 973.427.9294
Fax 973.427.9775

**[gnieuwenhuis@
easternchristian.org](mailto:gnieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org)**



Eastern Christian
School Association
Foundation Office
50 Oakwood Ave
North Haledon, NJ 07508



BARNABAS
FOUNDATION

TOLL-FREE: 888-448-3040
18601 NORTH CREEK DRIVE, SUITE B
TINLEY PARK, IL 60477-6238

From time to time, we will feature articles in connection with the work that Barnabas Foundation does on behalf of its member organizations. Eastern Christian, as a long standing member of Barnabas Foundation, has benefited significantly from this affiliation over the years as has our constituency who has free access to this service via our membership. The following Q & A was developed by Kalamazoo Christian School and is used by Eastern Christian with permission.

- G. Nieuwenhuis

BARNABAS FOUNDATION – WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

1. *What is Barnabas Foundation?*

It's a Christian foundation that provides planned giving services to its nearly 200 Christian member organizations and their constituents. Eastern Christian School Association is a proud member of Barnabas Foundation.

2. *What type of services do they offer?*

- In confidential meetings, their professionally trained staff review your personal situation with you and provide estate planning guidance with a distinctly Christian perspective. They cover everything from the need for a basic will to more advanced strategies such as charitable trusts and life income agreements.
- They offer a donor-advised fund called the Stewards Fund. This fund allows a donor to make a single gift and receive the income tax deduction immediately, but defer the contributions to ministries to a later (even indefinite) date. This fund is often used to make a single gift of appreciated assets such as stock, real estate and business interests that will benefit multiple ministries. It helps Christians give "the right asset at the right time" to obtain the maximum tax advantage.
- They act as Trustee of Charitable Remainder Trusts.
- They issue and manage charitable gift annuities that provide the donor with guaranteed fixed payments for life, as well as possible tax advantages. Upon the death of the donor, designated ministries receive the balance of the annuity.

3. *Is there a cost for these estate planning visits?*

No! There is never a charge for these visits because of our membership in Barnabas Foundation.

4. *Can you tell me more about meeting with a Barnabas Foundation representative?*

- There is no pressure to take any action.
- The visit is confidential unless you choose to share information with a ministry.
- Barnabas Foundation representatives are "neutral" as they do not promote charitable giving to any individual Christian ministry.
- They do not sell or encourage any particular financial or investment products.

5. *Will Barnabas Foundation eliminate my need for an attorney?*

No. Barnabas Foundation staff does not replace the relationship you have with your attorney. They do not prepare any legal documents such as a will or trust. However, they are a source of Christ-centered estate planning advice and information that often reduces costs when you meet with your attorney, since most of the discussion and decision-making have already taken place.

For more information on Barnabas Foundation, please contact Garry Nieuwenhuis, Director of Planned Giving at (973) 427-9294 ext. 212 or email him at gnieuwenhuis@easternchristian.org. You may also contact Barnabas Foundation directly toll-free at 1-888-448-3040.

Eastern Christian's Wish List

Recently the EC Foundation Board approved the concept of a "Wish List" for our school, including the three campuses and the administrative office. All items on the Wish List have received prior approval from either a building principal or the Head of School. The "Wish List" is to be used exclusively for non-budgeted items and must enhance the educational/administrative process of the beneficiary school or office. Items approved for listing are limited to a dollar value not to exceed \$2,500.00. This list will be updated as needed and can be accessed on our web site and viewed in the *EC Times*, Home Bulletins and *The Herald*.

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WISHES:

1. AED (Automated External Defibrillator for CPR): \$2,000
2. New cabinets for the faculty room
3. Ceiling fans for offices
4. Smart Boards: \$1,400 each
5. Projectors for Smart Boards: \$900 each
6. Preschool computer: \$700
7. 4 Digital cameras: \$180 each.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WISHES:

1. Wacom Graphire Wireless Tablet: \$200
2. 36" Square folding table: \$75
3. Blick 906 Model II Etching & Engraving Press: \$1,250
4. 2 Smartboards: \$1,400 each

5. 2 Projectors for Smartboards: \$900 each
6. 2 Speakers for Smartboards: \$150 each
7. 2 Laptop carts: \$250 each
8. 1 set of 2Know! Classroom Responders: \$1,900 for a set of 24
9. 15 iPod Shuffles: \$79 each
10. 20 MacBook Pro laptops: \$1,099 each
11. 25 Classroom desks/chairs: \$113 per set

HIGH SCHOOL WISHES:

1. Smith weight machine for new fitness room: \$1,900
2. Nintendo DS to support and reinforce core subject matter in a hands on approach for diverse learners: \$130.
3. Digital Camera for various student projects: \$100.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

1. Two (2) portable GPS units for use on the buses (any make or model will do).

If someone is willing and able to fund an item(s) on the "Wish List," please contact Melanie Hagedoorn in the Foundation Office. Melanie may be contacted via telephone at 973-427-9294 ext 211 or via email at melaniehagedoorn@easternchristian.org. Donations can be mailed to The Eastern Christian School Association, Foundation Office, 50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support of Eastern Christian!



Photo Identification

In the last issue of *The Herald*, we asked our readers if anyone could identify the people in this photo. We received several responses, with the majority agreeing that those pictured are (l to r): Aggie Stapp, Annie Stapp, Trinie Kuipers and Al Kuipers. **Jane (Cook) De Jong '60** e-mailed not only the names of those pictured, but also memories of the EC school picnics held at Terrace Lake. The building in the background held the Office and First Aid rooms at Terrace Lake, where Jane spent many summers working. Thank you Jane, and all the others who took the time to reminisce about their days at Terrace Lake.

Tidbits from the Foundation Office

In view of the significant financial struggles of some of our parents in the current economic conditions, we researched the archives to better understand how our parents and grandparents handled their Christian education obligations during the Depression of 1929. Here are some interesting facts to consider:

1. Giving in 1929 (in 2009 dollars) was \$123,770 when the graduating class totaled 30 students. Today's giving is about the same as in 1929, as our current giving is about three times the 1929 levels and our graduating class is about three times the 1929 level.
2. Giving dropped by two thirds as the Depression progressed, hitting a low in 1934. Giving levels did not return to the 1929 levels until after World War II.
3. Tuition payments were not forgiven during this period, but rather deferred. Parents were requested to sign a contract for the complete repayment of all tuition after graduation.

During the next school year we will be focusing on the 90th anniversary of our High School, which opened in September, 1919. If you or anyone you know has an interesting story to share about the early days of Eastern Christian, please contact the Foundation Office and we will do our best to include it in future articles.

EVENTS

Spring Fundraisers

AUCTION ELEGANCE



Pete Van Der Heide bids at the auction, alongside many other EC community members.

Fur coats, an adorable cock-a-poo puppy, Philharmonic tickets, Yankee tickets and vacation get-aways were just some of the items that created bidding wars at EC's Auction Elegance this past April. One guest commented that it was truly inspiring to see parents so dedicated to Eastern Christian School that they were willing to pay a lot of money for items with no real cost, such as front row seats at graduation or having your child be principal for a day. Thanks to the many donors, guests and volunteers that contributed to the success of this fundraiser – \$49,200 was raised for Eastern Christian School.

GOLF OUTING

The sun was shining at this year's Golf Outing at Black Bear Golf Resort on May 11th. Those participating enjoyed a fun day of golf, good fellowship and a delicious dinner. Highlights included



EC supporters challenge each other at the putting contest at the Golf Outing.

a putting contest and "Beat the ECHS Golf Team" hole. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, \$29,800 was raised for EC. Next year's outing will be on May 24, 2010 at Black Bear again. Former golf team members: Why not get together with former classmates – have a mini-reunion and support EC at the same time!

Thank You!

Our sincere thanks to the following businesses that generously helped to underwrite Auction Elegance.

Patron

Visbeen Construction Company, Ridgewood

Supporters

Atlantic Stewardship Bank, Midland Park

John & Barbara Belanus

Bushoven & Company, Midland Park

Cedar Hill Nursery, Inc., Mahwah

Glen Rock Stair Corp., Franklin Lakes

Heerema Company, Hawthorne

Post & Kelly Electric Co. Inc., Hawthorne

Reiner & Company, Fair Lawn

Scott E. Martin DMD - Orthodontics, Wyckoff

Sales Consultants of Northern Jersey, Inc., Oakland

V & S Floor Covering, Inc., Midland Park

Wayne Tile Co., Inc., Wayne

Wieggers, Inc., Clifton

Paddle Sponsor

Ashley Furniture HomeStore

Eastern Christian's Golf Outing – May 11, 2009

A Special Thank You to the following sponsors!

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Regency Wealth Management

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Golf Committee

Kurt Faber, Chair

Bruce Bohuny

Bob De Jong

Dwayne Leegwater

Ken Steenstra

Silver Sponsors

Abbey Carpet & Floor of Hawthorne

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Columbia Bank

Reiner Group, Inc.

Sales Consultants of Northern Jersey, Inc.

Scott E. Martin, DMD - Orthodontics

V & S Flooring, Inc.

Wachovia Trust

Lunch Sponsor

Ashley Furniture HomeStore

SAVE THE DATE

Harvestfest

A lavish buffet-style Bavarian dinner provided by The Market Basket

Thursday, October 15, 2009

McBride Field, Franklin Lakes Road, Franklin Lakes, NJ

This fund-raising event will be co-hosted by Eastern Christian School Association and the Christian Health Care Center and will benefit each accordingly.

The evening will include a special program of music called

“Broadway and Beyond”

Enjoy listening to well known Broadway musical numbers performed by J. Mark McVey, his wife Christy Tarr-McVey along with EC parent Laurie Caliguire.

All performers have had key roles on Broadway in productions such as *Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

This will be a night to remember!

For more information and to order tickets, call EC's Foundation's Office at 973-427-9294 x 281 or e-mail: events@easternchristian.org

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

Names(s) _____

Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Alumni News Reunion Information Alumni Profile Change of address

ALUMNI NEWS

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

FORMER STAFF

DEATH:

Helen De Wilde Miller on December 27, 2008. She was a home economics teacher at Eastern Christian High School.

HERITAGE YEARS

DEATHS:

Gertrude (Van Dyk) Muus '29 of North Haledon on February 17, 2009. Born in Prospect Park she lived most of her life in Hawthorne before moving to the Holland Christian Home in North Haledon. She was a member of Unity Christian Reformed Church in Prospect Park.

Henry E. Wieggers '30 of Sutton, MA on March 5, 2009 in Whitinsville, MA. Mr. and Mrs. Wieggers had celebrated their 68th anniversary the previous November. He was a member of the First Christian Reformed Church in Haledon, NJ and served on the Board of Directors for the Eastern Christian High School.

Ann (Minnema) Morgan '31 of Grand Rapids, MI passed away on December 13, 2008. She served as the Prospect Park borough nurse for many years and during that time she and Tret Bushman started the Eastern Christian Children's Retreat. Ann later worked as a nurse at Calvin College. About 30 years ago, she moved to Anna Maria Island outside of Bradenton, FL and lived there until two years ago when she moved to Grand Rapids.

Cornelius Rietveld '31 of Michigan on March 17, 2009. Born in Prospect Park, he lived in Hawthorne for many years before moving to Michigan in 2003. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of Unity Christian Reformed Church in Prospect Park.

William Huizing '36 of Grand Rapids on May 10, 2009. Bill was a former member of the Prospect Park CRC and former Eastern

Christian School Board member.

Sophia V. (Verblauw) Hook '38 of Wyckoff on February 16, 2009. She was a devoted member of the Bethany Reformed Church, Prospect Park.

Hilda (Bruins) De Roo '39 on March 5, 2009. She was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church of Wyckoff, where she was involved in numerous Bible studies and various other church activities. She was past president, vice president and secretary of the Christian Health Care Center (CHCC) Auxiliary for 50 years, and worked as a volunteer at The Country Store of the CHCC Nursing Home for 23 years.

1940s

DEATHS:

Samuel Greydanus '40 of North Haledon on February 1, 2009. Born in Hawthorne, he has lived in North Haledon for the past 28 years. He served in the United States Army during World War II. He was a member of Unity Christian Reformed Church in Prospect Park where he was a former elder and deacon, former Board member of CRWRC, former Vice-President of Holland Christian Home and former Eastern Christian School Association Board member.

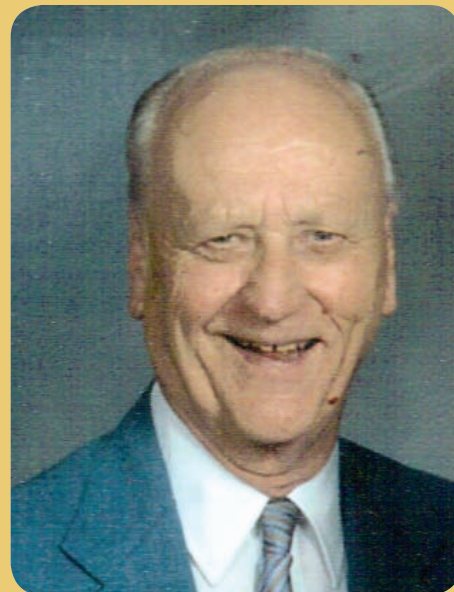
Doris W. (Westra) Walkotten '41 of North Haledon on May 17, 2009. She was a member of the First Christian Reformed Church.

Wilhelmina "Wilma" (Zuidema) Dyksen '48 of North Haledon, went to be with her Lord on March 25, 2009. Wilma was a member of the Priscilla Society at the Fourth Christian Reformed Church in Paterson where she was a member for many years. Wilma taught a sewing class at the Eastern Christian Junior High School. She was a member of the Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff.

Bertha Siegers Van Heemst '48 of Prospect Park on Monday, June 8, 2009 at home. She was a secretary at the William Paterson University for 24 years, retiring in 2001.

1960s

John Sharp '69, is Manager, Research Informatics at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, supporting medical research with information technology. He also has been speaking on Health 2.0 technology and plans to speak in the Netherlands in October. His youngest daughter graduated from the University of Utah in May. John lives with his wife Janet in Cleveland Heights. He can be reached by email at jwsharp@sbcglobal.net or through <http://www.linkedin.com/in/johnsharp>.



In Memorium

Edmund Youngsman

Board President: 1969-1971; 1974-1976; 1979-1982
Edmund Youngsman, former EC Board member and president, passed away on February 26, 2009. Ed served Eastern Christian for many years and is remembered for his leadership and dedication during the turbulent 70s. Our sympathy is extended to his daughters, **Diane Youngsman Steenstra '75** and **Lori Youngsman Dykstra '78** and their families.

1970s

The Class of '73 is reuniting on Facebook. The group name is "Eastern Christian High School Class of 1973." Come and check out what your classmates are doing. Let us know your news and what you've been up to for the past 36 years!

Jan Broadhurst '75, is planning an October wedding to Gregory Marino. Gregory has worked at U.S. Airways as a mechanic/electrician for 29 years and Jan has been an Account Executive with Amedisys Home Health for four years. They will make their home in Ocala, FL.

1980s

Thom Luinenburg '89 is now living in Bloomingdale, NJ. He is the purchasing manager for Cortegra, a pharmaceutical packaging component printing company in Fairfield, NJ. Thom has two children, Grace (8) and Cade (5).

DEATH:

Brian Bogerman '84 on January 29, 2009. Brian was residing in Tampa, FL.

1990s

Brenda Cooke '95 and Steven Woods were married in Walhalla, MI on August 16, 2008. They reside in Liberty Township, MI where Brenda is a freelance writer and editor.

Adam Kitchen '96 writes, "To our Dear Friends from Eastern Christian, I was recently accepted to go to China to take part in stem cell therapy that may improve my vision. For those of you who do not know, I am legally blind because I was born with a condition called optic nerve atrophy. I am requesting your prayers as this is quite a lengthy process and there is much involved. First, I would request that you pray that if it is the Lord's will for me to go He would provide the means for me to be able to journey to China. If that it be the Lord's will, then our family will need prayer as I would need to be in China for a month and a half, and my wife Lori will need to be with me for most of that time. Grandma has volunteered to stay with the children, but it will still be difficult on us all. Cora, our third

ALUMNI PROFILE

John Van Buiten, Class of 2005

In 2005, when John Van Buiten graduated from Eastern Christian, he never thought he would be where is now: 6,000 miles away from home in Lilongwe, Malawi. Near the end of June, John departed the United States to work for six months for an organization called Partners Worldwide. Partners Worldwide grew out of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee as an outreach to business people in developing countries. Partners, now its own entity, connects entrepreneurs in low income countries to successful business people in North America. Through training, mentoring, and access to capital, Partners operates with the ultimate goal of eliminating poverty through the creation of jobs.

John got connected with Partners Worldwide through a position he held at the Christian Reformed Church denomination office in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While John attended Calvin College, he worked as an intern in the financial services department. As part of his job, he got the opportunity to work on the accounting of Partners. John was looking for a job as a CPA in the New Jersey area, but God had ultimately closed that door for him. But, where God closes one door, he opens another one! John talked extensively with a Partnership Facilitator at Partners and found that his skills and knowledge fit with the position in Malawi.

John will be doing a number of things while in southeastern Africa. He will be working largely with the Christian Entrepreneurial Association of Malawi (CHREAM). CHREAM provides financing for business owners in Malawi, but needs some way to track and account for them. First, he will be setting up an accounting system for that organization. John will also be working with a number of business members from CHREAM to provide training and mentoring in a number of areas. Finally, John will be working with Partners Worldwide to go to other fields in Zambia and South Africa to perform a basic audit of their financial systems.

To see what John is up to, go to www.johnvanbuiten.com/blog to check up on what he is doing next. From there you can send him a note of encouragement or just look at what he is doing.

To learn more about Partners Worldwide, go to www.partnersworldwide.org.



The Class of 1959 Celebrates

The Class of 1959 held their 50th Reunion on June 25th at the Double Tree Inn in Mahwah. The 42 alumni and spouses enjoyed an evening of “catching up” and reminiscing about their years at Eastern Christian. They compared statistics on grandchildren, religion, politics and retirement! Lois (Vander Ploeg) Amos and Dr. Tony Van Grouw who have been responsible for their class reunions, said, “It was the best one yet. Everyone got along better than they might have 50 years ago.” Classmates came from all over the country and also enjoyed a breakfast gathering the next morning. The evening’s PowerPoint presentation was one of the highlights, and included pictures of classmates from North 4th St, Pine Street, Midland Park and Riverside schools. Classmates biographical updates, addresses and emails were shared via a prepared CD. Everyone is expected to “stay in touch” as they plan for their 55th in another five years.



Row 1 (L to R): Marilyn Meyer Vander May, Janice Veenema Cundey, Marie Hoogerhyde Zuidema, Arlene George Cox, Charlene Muus Cook, Trudy Tanis Talis, Rena Sinke Martens, Joan Decker Dunkerly, Phyllis Kamp Zoon, Ann Hampstra Travis.
 Row 2: Phil Hubscmitt, Bob Greydanus, Ken La Fleur, Phil Bosma, Judy Hofstra La Fleur, Elaine Falkena De Ritter, Lois Huizing VerBlauw, Bernice Reynierse Seigers, Lois Vander Ploeg Amos, Bob Vander Wall, Tony Van Grouw.
 Row 3: Maria Hartog Coffin, Elmer De Ritter, Bob Borduin, Walt Pruiksmas, Stu Struck, Dennis Fisher, Dave Rietsma, Ken Petzinger, Ray Vander Wall, Don Vroon.
 Row 4: George De Korte, John Sundermeyer, Neil Bysterbusch, Ray Bangma, John Tanis, Frank Chrisbacher, Bernie Amels, Jim De Ritter, Steve Meyer, Neil Nieuwenhuis.

Midwest Alumni Connect at Calvin



On April 25th, a dinner was held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the residents of Michigan who are alumni of Eastern Christian Schools. This was a community-building event that had a great turn out with many appreciative attendants. The main speaker of the event was **Dr. Gary Bekker '69**, an alumna of Eastern Christian who went on to seminary and became a missionary. He is now the head of World Missions, an organization of the Christian Reformed Church. He spoke about the specific influence Eastern Christian had on his life and career.

child, was also diagnosed with optic nerve atrophy in March and we would appreciate it if you would pray for visual stability for her. At this point in time her condition is not very severe, but it has the potential to get worse. Please visit the web-site for more information about my trip to China at <http://www.adamsprayer.com>. Please feel free to pass the web-site on and ask for prayer for us from your church and friends. Thank you for your love and support.”

Jim Mader '97, along with Hanneke,

Catherine, Julianna and Rebecca Mader are moving to The Hague where Jim will take a civilian position working at NATO for the US Army.

Kelly Lane '99 recently became engaged to David McDonald. Kelly is working as a legal assistant at the Law Offices of John C. Lane, and Dave is a trauma nurse at Morristown Hospital. An August, 2010 wedding is planned.

BIRTHS:

Eric '91 and **Sara Hoogerhyde White '99**, a son, Colin Patrick on December 12, 2008.

Colin joins big brothers Daniel (5) and Ethan (3).

Mark '91 and **Pamela Smid Reitsma '90**, a son, Patrick David on March 23, 2009. Patrick joins big sisters Elise (6), Anneke (4) and Katie (2).

Kevin '92 and **Elizabeth Hoogmoed Van Dyk '95**, a daughter, Madelyn Grace on May 18, 2009. Judd and **Donna Huntington Herr '95**, a son, Hunter Trent on February 10, 2009. The family resides in Quakertown, PA. Mike and **Becky Dykhous Teusink '95**, a son,

Luke Gene on June 16, 2009. He joins big brother Henry and big sister Anna. **Tim '96** and **Marcella Simon Vander Eems '96**, a daughter, Calista Eden on January 22, 2009. She had heart surgery at three weeks old to correct a coronary arterial fistula and is now doing wonderfully. Calista joins big sister Cassie (8) and big brother Ben (2 1/2).

Michael and **Miranda Vanden Berg Miller '96**, a son, Lochlan James on July 29, 2008. He joins big brothers Brennan (6), Travis & Silas (3).

Jon and **Becky Vander Eems Denekamp '98**, a son, Dirk William on August 17, 2008. He joins big brother Charles Jon (2).

Paul and **Jill Heerema Darminio '99**, a son, Josiah Paul Darminio on January 4, 2009.

2000S

Russell Unrath '02 is working in Glen Rock, NJ for Financial Services, Inc. as a sales representative. Russ and Jessica Sauer were engaged on February 8, 2009. A spring 2010 wedding is planned.

Amanda Singh '03 graduated from College Misericordia in 2007 and is living in St. Petersburg, FL. She writes, "I work at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa in the NICU as of April, 2008. I love my job and can not imagine doing anything else."

Scott Bushoven '04 and Carli Rasch are engaged and planning a January 16, 2010 wedding in Wyckoff, NJ at Faith Community Christian Reformed Church. Scott is an Account Manager with Superior Mortgage.

Nicole Lebron '04 graduated with a Master's in Social Work this past Spring 2009 from Columbia University. She is employed as a Youth Development Specialist for Family Connections in Orange, NJ.

Thurmeka Ward '04 is working on a Master's Degree in General and Special Education (dual degree) at Bank Street College of Education. She is also in her second year of serving Teach For America in the Bronx.

Melanie Rodriguez '04 is attending New York University and working on a Master's Degree in Social Work. She expects to graduate in Spring 2010. Nicole, Thurmeka and Melanie are roommates and currently reside in Fort Lee, NJ.

Rebecca Lindemulder '05 and **Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee '05** were initiated into Phi Beta Kappa on April 26, 2009 at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. In May, Rebecca graduated from Douglass College and Kathryn from Rutgers College at the University.

BIRTHS:

Carlos and **Tricia McNamara Santos '01**, a son, Christian Ryan on December 29, 2008.

Rob and **Victoria Jensen Tiedemann '02**, a son, Micah Aryeh on December 22, 2008. He joins big brother Leto Timothy Rigby (2).

MARRIAGES:

Erica Cruz '01 and Aaron Bjerke in August, 2008.

Kimberly Bushoven '04 and Ryan Olsen on May 9, 2009. The couple resides in Pompton Plains, NJ.

David Van Schepen '04 and Lindsay DiDonato were married at the Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church, Pompton Plains on June 6, 2009. They reside in West Milford, NJ

2009 Reunions

Class of 1969: 40-Year Reunion

Please contact John Wispelwey at drjwisp@optonline.net or Al Faber at faber@bbnp.com if you are interested in having a reunion.

Class of 1979: 30-Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 28, 2009

Where: Sheraton Crossroads Hotel in Mahwah, NJ

Contact: Susan Necita Hoekstra at shoekstra@optonline.net

Facebook Group: Eastern Christian Class of 1979 Reunion

If you have not returned your survey, or did not receive one, please contact Susan.

Class of 1984: 25-Year Reunion

Date: Friday, November 27, 2009

Where: Midland Park Fire House

Time: 7:00 pm

Contact: Cheryl Mabie Berekhazi at echs_1984_reunion@yahoo.com

"We have had a good response. If your plans change and you find you can attend...be sure to call!"

Class of 1989: 20-Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2009

Where: Rivara's Taste of Broadway in Fair Lawn

Time: 6:30pm

Contact: Reunion committee: Laura, Luann, Pat or Trish at 1989ECreunion@optonline.net

Missing contact information for: Rene Garcia, Sean White.

Email your information for the booklets asap. Contact the committee if you are unable to attend and would like a booklet.

"Looking forward to seeing everyone again!"

Class of 1999: 10-Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 28, 2009

Where: Portobello Restaurant, Oakland NJ

Contact: Jennifer (Van Der Heide) Rysdam at jteach19@aol.com

Facebook Group: Eastern Christian High School Class of 1999

2010 Reunions

Class of 2000: 10-Year Reunion

Please contact Janelle Klaassen Peters @ Bella8262@aol.com.

"Can you believe our 10-year reunion is just around the corner? If anyone is willing to help plan our event or has any exciting suggestions, please contact me. It will be great to see everyone again!"

Class of 1980: 30-Year Reunion

Please contact Beth Abma Flystra for additional information at bflystra@aol.com.

Class of 1955: 55-Year Reunion

Please contact Elsie Schwier Golden for additional information at eljongolden@aol.com.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

JANUARY 1, 2009 – JUNE 26, 2009

During this time period, 278 gifts were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount of the gifts received in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$73,909.85. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian education at EC!

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Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis
Susan & Kenneth Dyer
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Trudy Luyendyk
Thomas & Linda Dykhouse
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Corene De Graaf
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Carol Anne & Art Boonstra
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Barbara Davis
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Elise Kathleen Gorter Endowed Scholarship Fund

 **In Memory Of** 

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Tannette & Pete Botbyl

 **In Honor Of** 

Racanna Dykhouse
(Mother's Day)
Thomas & Linda Dykhouse

Annamae Hulsebos
(Mother's Day)
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NOTE: Please mail all endowment, memorial & honor gifts to the attention of the Foundation Office. Each gift (not the amount) is acknowledged to the appropriate family or individual. The donor also receives an acknowledgment letter. Gifts to these Funds are eligible for matching gifts from companies with a matching gift program. Gifts may also be given online at www.EasternChristian.org

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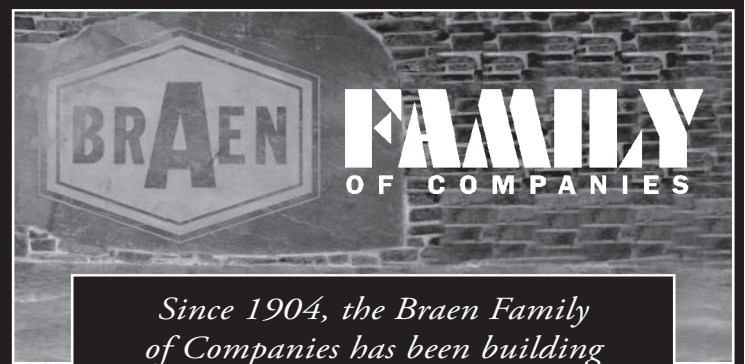


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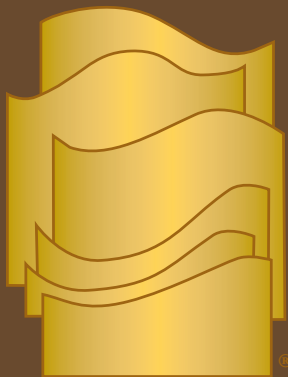
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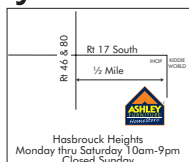


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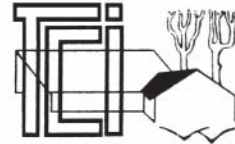
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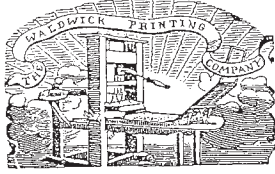
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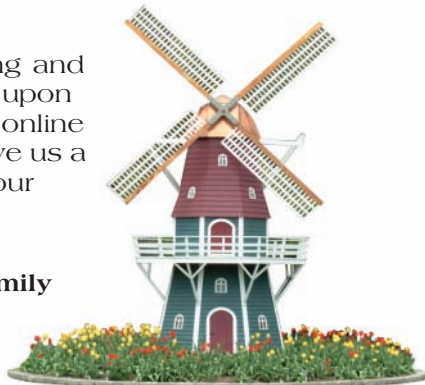
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EC SPORTS



The boys' varsity baseball season was marked by inconsistency both in their play and in the weather. Many games were rained out, which kept the team from establishing any rhythm to their season. By the cut-off date for qualifying for the State Tournament (a team must be over .500 at that date), the team hadn't even played enough games to qualify. The boys lost a few very close games this season, while winning big in others. Junior **Tyler Westra** (pictured) was named first team all-county as a utility player for his play as pitcher, at second base and center field, and his batting. Senior **Brian Sietsma** was named second team all-county, while sophomore **Scott De Jong** and senior **Kendall Everett** were named to the honorable mention all-county team.



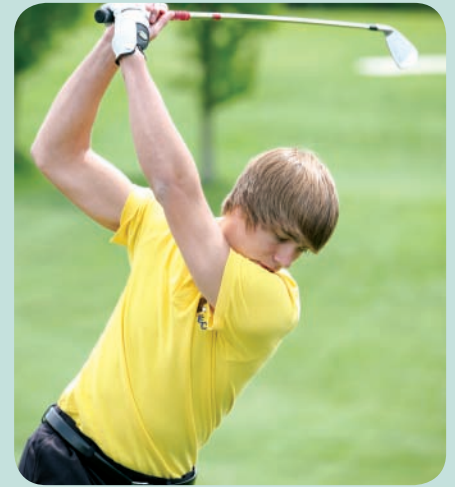
Sophomore **Leah Groenewal** (pictured) and the girls' JV softball team were coached by first year coaches **Chrissy Porochniak** and **Erin Fisher**. Coach Porochniak said, "We just have the greatest team. We've shared a lot of laughs, worked hard, won games, kept our chins up when we were down, sustained many scrapes and bruises, ate a lot of sunflower seeds, represented Christ, played on our field like we owned it, and had fun doing it all."



The boys' junior varsity baseball team had an up and down season. Coach **Scott Bushoven** said he was proud that his team battled back from an 0-4 start to even their record at 4-4. Unfortunately, he said, the end of the season was full of very tough teams, and they finished their season at 5-12. The highlight of their year was a 5-2 win against Elmwood Park, where sophomore **Chad Boonstra** hit the season's only home run, and the pitching staff struck out 13 batters. Pictured is pitcher **Adam Struyk**, sophomore.



The girls' track team had their best season in years, with a young, well-rounded team that dominated in distance running, sprinting, and throwing events. Freshman **Kristen Traub** won the state championship in the 3200m, as well as winning the county championships in the 3200m and 1600m. Overall, the team took third in the state meet. Other outstanding performances were put in by freshman **Angela Harrison** (pictured) (1st place in the League 100m), junior **Jamie Van Buiten** (4th in the state for discus), and junior **Kerith Sunden** (2nd in the state in pole vault). More than that, though, the team was deep in many events. They often swept all three places in the javelin, shot put and discus.



The golf team highlighted their year by placing 2nd in the league tournament, surpassing their expectations for the year. It was the cap to a strong end of the season, where they were able to raise their record above .500, despite missing the cut-off for the State Tournament qualifier. Senior **Brian Van Der Heide** (pictured) capped off a successful golf career in an excellent county tournament with a third place finish.



Junior **Ben de Waal Malefyt** finished an extraordinary season of boys' track by winning the county and state championships in the discus, with senior **Nate Van Eck** following right behind in 2nd place at States. Overall, the team finished eighth in the state, and had many other notable performers throughout the year. Seniors **Austin Bullock** (pictured) (200m) and **Josh Tanis** (400 intermediate hurdles) were also named to All-League teams, as they won many races throughout the season, and the weight team often swept their events in javelin, discus and shot put.



Middle School track was once again a great success. Our team members showed much dedication and growth as they prepared from late March through April for a May full of meets and invitationals! Overall, our girls' team was undefeated in dual meet competition at 7 - 0 and the boys were 5 - 2. In the BPSL League Meet on May 21, the girls' team earned League Championship honors out of all six schools participating, significantly outdistancing their nearest opponents. The boys' team also did very well with a strong 2nd place league finish. In the Ridgewood Invitational, the team brought home a total of 20 medals with the girls earning a very close 2nd place out of 15 schools, and the boys finishing 5th overall. Several school records were tied or broken, two each by 8th grader **Bethany Van Eck (pictured)** (400 and triple jump) and by 7th grader **John Grant** (60 and 100) and an additional record by 8th grader **Chandler West** in the 100.



Playing with a young team, the **girls' varsity softball** team struggled to a 7-13 record this year. The team felt they played well throughout the season, but came up short in close games too many times. Juniors **Alyssa Cestaro**, **Megan Polulak**, **Kelsey Spoelstra**, and senior **Steffanie Boonstra** were named to the all league second team. The team is losing three good senior leaders in Steffanie, **Lauren Spoelstra (pictured)** and **Abbey Woodfin**, but return the nucleus of their team next year and are determined to improve.



The **boys' tennis** team had a much improved year, finishing with a record of 9-7. Playing at the third singles spot, sophomore **Jacob Vander Wiele (pictured)** played a strong season and completed a personal record of 14-2, with many three set matches that lasted more than three hours. Another highlight of the team was the play of the second doubles team, juniors **Tyler Schipper** and **Joey Lang**.

Class of 2009 Athletic Department Awards

ECBS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award:

Kendall Everett
Brian Sietsma
Arrielle Dreher

NJSIAA/ETS New Jersey Scholar Athlete:

AJ Panzica
Emily Brotherton

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award:

AJ Panzica

Athletic Department Iron Eagle Award:

Austin Bullock
Kendall Everett
Brian Sietsma

Passaic County Coaches

Association Senior Scholar Athlete:

Brian Sietsma
Steffanie Boonstra

New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day:

Arrielle Dreher

Spring 2009 Athletic Awards

Girls' Track

Angela Harrison
First Team All League 100M
Honorable Mention All County 100M
Kristen Traub
First Team All League 1600M
First Team All County 3200M
Emily Bruins
Honorable Mention All League 1600M
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault
Jamie Van Buiten
First Team All League Discus
Morgan De Marco
Honorable Mention All League Discus
Schuyler Sietsma
First Team All League Javelin
Kristen Lindsay
Second Team All League Javelin
Dara Veenstra
First Team All League Triple Jump
Honorable Mention All County Triple Jump
Jessica Wilhoit
Honorable Mention All League Triple Jump

Sara Schipper
Second Team All League High Jump
Kerith Sunden
Second Team All League Pole Vault
Boys' Track
Jon Snack
Honorable Mention All League 100M
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault
Austin Bullock
First Team All League 200M
Jeremy Braunius
Honorable Mention All League 1600M
AJ Panzica
Honorable Mention All League 3200M
Josh Tanis
Second Team All League 400M IH
Honorable Mention All County 400M IH
Sean Hagedoorn
Honorable Mention All League Shot Put
Giacoma Greco
Honorable Mention All League Shot Put
Ben DeWaal Malefyt
First Team All League Discus
First Team All County Discus

Nate Van Eck
Second Team All League Discus
Honorable Mention All County
Sam Braen
Honorable Mention All League Discus
Andy Flores
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault
Stefano Cosini
Honorable Mention All League Pole Vault
Golf
Brian Vander Heide
First Team All League
Second Team All County
Taylor Crawley
First Team All League
Second Team All County
James Fylstra
Second Team All League
Matt Boonstra
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
Eric Malnati
Honorable Mention All League

Boys' Tennis

Jason Lane
First Team All League Singles
Second Team All County
Tim Byrd
First Team All League Doubles
Tony Di Giorgio
First Team All League Doubles
Ryan Dykstra
Second Team All League Singles
Honorable Mention All County
Jake VanderWiele
Second Team All League Singles
Honorable Mention All County
Joe Lang
Honorable Mention All League
Tyler Schipper
Honorable Mention All League
Softball
Megan Polulak
Second Team All League
Second Team All County
Kelsey Spoelstra
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Alyssa Cestaro
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
Steffanie Boonstra
Second Team All League
Lauren Spoelstra
Honorable Mention All League
Baseball
Tyler Westra
First Team All League
First Team All County
Brian Sietsma
First Team All League
Second Team All County
Kendall Everett
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
Devon De Jong
Second Team All League
Daniel Onove
Second Team All League
Scott De Jong
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