

### OF THE OBVIOUS AND THE EVIDENT

**Mr. Pete Adams - Principal**

Welcome to our new school year at Eastside! This will be our 18th year; and as always, we seek through the Lord's blessing, that it be the best year yet. Our biggest news is that Mr. Andy Kuiper will be joining Eastside's team in January to teach the science courses throughout the grades and especially work with the older students in their courses.

From the beginning of Eastside's existence, we have included Latin in our curriculum. There have been a number of reasons for this. A primary reason is that in learning Latin, one is also obtaining a better understanding of English, both in its vocabulary and grammar, since around fifty percent of our language is sourced from Latin. Secondly, this study provides a background for learning how languages work, thereby giving a foundation for future acquisition of any other "modern" language. Another reason is to promote a general goal of Eastside, which is to enhance the thinking process of all of our students. (This is a fruit of our music programs as well.) During this school year, Mr. Dave Mahtani will be teaching Latin I to the 6th - 8th grade students, beginning a cycle of a two level Latin program that all of our graduates will experience.

The best benefit that I have obtained personally from investigating Latin roots is the distinction I have learned between the words obvious and evident. In English dictionaries obvious and evident are presented as synonyms, but by looking at their etymology a crucial difference appears. Obvious can be broken into "Ob" and "via" - "along the way", or, "it follows from". Something is obvious when it logically flows (follows) from a previous truth. In discussing/debating evolution for instance, I have been loudly questioned as follows: "Isn't evolution so obvious?!" In a sense it is, for if we actually live in an exclusively mechanical, materialistic, naturalistic universe, it follows that how we all got

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### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



here must be through some sort of Darwinian mutation/natural-selection machine. If one accepts the initial premise (whether correct or not), logic will take you to the obvious conclusion. Here is where evident steps in. "E" and "video": "from seeing". Evidence isn't having to accept a premise by faith and proceeding from there; it is actually seeing the data firsthand. No adoption of a premise. There it is, right before your eyes, no faith needed. When we teach science at our school, we attempt to show that the world of unbelief starts with the wicked premise that the God of Scripture isn't there at all, and then goes down the obvious path from there and constructs a history of origins without Him, in spite of the hard evidence against this theory. I speak not only of the observational and mathematical facts which refute this wicked attempt to deny our Creator, but of the infallible information that belief brings. "Now faith is the ... evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

The bottom line is that one's world-and-life view of everything is just the playing out either of one's initial faith and obedience to the God Who is there (by His grace) and following that path, or by our sinful nature adopting some form of unbelief and going with its flow. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12

To state this truth in yet a different way, that which is evident is the true, objective reality, and that which is obvious is perceived, subjective reality. In Paradise these two were one, and Adam was in harmony with himself, with Eve, with the rest of creation, and chiefly with His Creator until he disobeyed God and plunged the human race and the creation into spiritual and physical death. In the second Paradise to come this will once again be our experience. Obvious and evident will truly become synonymous. Today, we who are Christ's redeemed people, in our not-yet-fully-redeemed state, must have as our goal, in and by God's grace, to shrug off our sinful bent of holding to the obvious of this world and flesh and to strive towards re-forming into the image of Christ, Who is the Evident Truth.

We can say then that the purpose of our Christian homes and schools is that your children and our students so develop that what is the evident truth Biblically is also what is obvious to them and that they embrace this holy union of truth and life. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

May the LORD bless our labors together in this 2015-2016 school year.

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## NEW FAMILY WELCOME | Special welcome to our three new families this year!

### Jason and Katie Kuiper:

Abby - 2nd

Stephen - 1st

Elizabeth - Pre-K

Chloe - Pre-K

### Dave and Madri Mahtani:

Myra - Pre-K

### Rev. Richard and Tricia Smit:

Rosalynn - 7th

Seth - 5th

Carl - 4th

Ryan - 1st

## PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE UPDATE



We have an updated playground area! Over the summer months, the playground committee (part of the Promoter's group) made some improvements to the playground. We were able to get a really nice "new" to us playground set. This will serve us well for many years and the kids have been loving the new equipment. Last spring, we also installed a gaga pit. If you aren't sure what a gaga pit is, ask one of the kids and they will tell you all about it. Special thanks to all who have been helping at Smartshop as we used the funds from this fundraiser to pay for the installation of the new equipment. We also purchased new soccer nets and are working on a new basketball goal as well.



## FROM THE TREASURER

Phil Kley

As we begin the school year it is good to reflect on the gifts that we have been given as a school and to give thanks for them. From a financial perspective we have very much to be thankful for. Our 2014-2015 fiscal year ended with a positive number. Though our income was slightly down our expenses were also lower than budgeted. The foundation has once again contributed to our operational expenses as well as assisting each family with a tuition reduction. As a school community we have also had the opportunity to participate in Smart Shop which has also allowed for a tuition reduction for those involved as well as providing other funding to our Promoters for the school. We are also very thankful for the countless hours that many of you give to Eastside in volunteering and in other ways which allow us to continue as a school.

Looking ahead to this new school year we covet your prayers so that as board members we will have wisdom to use these financial gifts in His service. Our annual Fund Drive will be beginning shortly and information will be sent out to our supporters. Typically we seek to raise about 40 percent of our operational expense through this fund drive. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can contribute to Eastside in this way. To Him be all the thanks as we together educate our children.

### 2015-2016 SCHOOL THEME

Our theme this school year is **In Everything Give Thanks**, based on I Thessalonians 5: 16-18. This banner hangs on a bulletin board in the hall as a daily reminder to staff, students and visitors:



### SEPTEMBER BIKE HIKE

The annual bike hike was held Friday, September 11. Fourth through eighth grade students - as well as any interested parent and supporters - rode their bikes from Kirk Park to the Grand Haven Pier and back to Kirk Park, a 20 mile round trip. Mr. Adams drove back and forth over the route with his Subaru, checking on students and offering any tired bicyclists a ride back in the "Victory Wagon." Friends, parents and supporters were waiting at Kirk Park, and when the bike ride was complete, the group lunched on hot dogs before any brave students who were willing swam in the chilly waters of Lake Michigan. The group returned to school just in time for the last bell. The bike hike has become a favorite excursion and much-anticipated fall outing of the upper grades!



## NEW TEACHER

Mr. Andy Kuiper will be added to our staff in January, 2016. He will be teaching our science courses and other classes in the upper grades. We've asked him to introduce himself to the Eastside community.



Greetings! I am Andy Kuiper. I recognized a few of the faces that I saw during Picnic on the Patio, and met a few more later, but I did not have a chance to talk to many of you. I am the 6th child of Jerry and Bonnie Kuiper. I have been married for just over 12 years to my wife Kim. She has taught art to the 7th and 8th graders at Heritage for the past 9 years and is Amy VanPutten's oldest sister. We have 2 kids: my daughter Mara is 7 years old and Emmit just turned 2. We live in Hudsonville and attend Hudsonville PRC.

About 5 ½ years ago, I returned to college to pursue an elementary education degree. While I had originally desired to teach a grade in the middle elementary, God had other things planned for me. I attended Grand Rapids Community College for some basic courses and intended to transfer to Grand Valley. Instead, I ended up transferring to Ferris State in Grand Rapids and enrolled in the Elementary Education program there. Ferris has elementary education students choose 2 out of 3 available minors for their education. I chose Math and Integrated Sciences because they sounded far more interesting to me than Language Arts. As it turns out, I did actually find some things interesting about language arts, but I still enjoy science and math much more!

When I was talking to members of the Education Committee at Eastside earlier this year, one of the things we talked about was the possibility of me teaching science to most of the grade levels. When we walked around the grounds of the school, I saw many possibilities for getting out of the classroom to study science right in Eastside's own backyard.

I have worked in a kindergarten class, and 6th grade class, and am currently student teaching in a 4th grade class in Jenison. I am looking forward to joining the team at Eastside in January!

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## PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN TEACHER CHANGE

As a school we say good-bye to our Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher, Amy VanPutten, who is expecting a baby boy in December. A real favorite with the 6-and-under crowd (and well-liked by the parents and staff too!), Amy will be greatly missed. She has been a valuable part of Eastside for the past three years, so we are sad to see her go. But we wish her and Ryan God's richest blessing as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

We also are pleased to welcome Lydya Hulst to the Eastside staff, who will be finishing the year as the Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher. Lydya is an experienced teacher with children at Adams and Covenant, and will be starting to transition into Eastside in December. Lydya is a member of Byron Center PRC and currently lives in Wayland (but not scared off by the winter morning commute!) Be sure to stop into school and give her a warm Eastside welcome!

## RECESS FUN

A favorite recess activity this fall has been building forts on the school grounds. With a campus surrounded by woods, the students found plenty of useful building materials to choose from. The fort-making started in the younger grades, but once the idea took off, the 4th-6th grade boys did much of the work, acting as the unofficial foremen of the building projects. Younger students who could prove they were hardworking were allowed to participate, pitching in to build a structure that includes a family room, living room, and other amenities. If you are at school in the near future at recess, make your way out to the playground and students will be eager to give you a guided tour.

