

DISCIPLINE AND FRUIT

Mr. Dave Mahtani - Principal

Discipline. For many fathers, it feels like a nightly test to patiently punish misbehavior. For many mothers, it feels like a never-ending battle. For all kids, it just sounds painfully scary. But the word itself doesn't mean something negative, and it is by no means synonymous with pain, battle, or punishment. The word discipline was derived from a Latin word, which means "student" or "learner." Discipline refers to a learning experience, done out of love and for the good of a person. It is meant to build up—not tear down. It seeks safety—not hurt. Its goal includes joy—not frustration. Scripture speaks of discipline in a positive manner as well. Proverbs 13:24 says that those who love their children discipline them. Discipline is an act of love. With this positive mindset, let us, as parents and teachers of Eastside Christian, faithfully press on with the difficult work of discipline.

It is difficult, though, isn't it? Those tears and cries melt our hearts; it's so much easier to ignore the sin and call that mercy. Furthermore, we also know we make frequent mistakes as we discipline. We often display unholy anger on one hand and then on the other hand calmly mete out justice for sin that we know Christ already paid the punishment for. Oh, how weak we are! However, our failure nor their crying should stop us from seeking to discipline well (Proverbs 19:18). Pray that God will graciously guide us in this endeavor and use our faithful discipline for the benefit of our precious children.

This article, of course, holds no effective methods of discipline. It is simply written to encourage you to continue. I've only begun to experience the struggles of discipline myself and yet recognize the necessity for us to persevere in it.

After all, the result is definitely worth it. We perform the grievous and unenjoyable acts of chastisement that they may bring forth fruits of righteousness in our children (Hebrew 12:11). Isn't that one of the greatest desires we have for them? And that's the focus of Eastside's theme this year as well. We want to see our children bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, out of love for us and for our pleasure but especially out of love for our God and for His pleasure.

May the children of our Eastside community grow spiritually. May they not only grow in head knowledge of science, history, language, mathematics, and even the reformed truth. May they grow in a heartfelt, loving desire to please their Father, resulting in truly beautiful, spiritual fruit. Pray with me that God will graciously work that in their precious hearts this year.

ARTPRIZE FIELD TRIP

Eastside students in grades 4-8 joined Heritage Christian School and toured some of the Artprize exhibits downtown. The field trip was organized by Kim Kuiper, who is the new art teacher at Eastside and also teaches art at Heritage.



FROM THE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The technology committee has completed a few recent tasks. The new server was configured this summer to fit the needs of the school. In connection to this, we have replaced the previous library system on the old server with a new one that runs online. The name of this new system is Librarika. Anita Haak and Karen Ophoff have been busy updating the library data in this new system. Once everything has been updated, we plan to provide students and parents access to the catalog and to an online account.

Towards the end of last school year, the committee also saw the need for more student Chromebooks. Students use these computers for a research, papers, typing practice, Accelerated Reader, and other educational programs. At this point, Eastside has purchased a total of twenty-one Chromebooks, which have sufficiently met many of our classroom technology needs.

The committee also purchased a new laptop for Anita this summer as well as one for the robotics team this fall. We are all very grateful to the Promoters for providing the finances for most of these updates.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the last newsletter, the Education Committee reported on the interviewing and hiring recommendations with which it had been busy. Over the past six months, the committee's activity has been more routine. Following are some of the work with which the committee has been involved:

- * The committee consulted with Dave Mahtani as he worked with the teachers to set a teaching/class schedule for the 2016-17 school year. With new teachers this year, full-time principal responsibilities for Dave, and changes to class sizes, we made some adjustments to schedules and courses.
- * After further consideration of our staffing and class schedules, we decided not to expand Latin instruction into the 5th/6th grade. We will still teach Latin I and II as intended but will do that in 7th and 8th grades. This should also keep the material more fresh in the minds of students, should they want to further this area of study in high school.
- * We hired Kim Kuiper, wife of our junior high teacher Andy Kuiper and a talented art instructor, to teach our art classes. Kim spends part of one day each week teaching art to our various classes. We are grateful for Kim's willingness to teach our children to develop their artistic abilities and appreciation for art.
- * We continue to look at various aspects of our curriculum. Currently under consideration are our junior high Bible class and the content and sequencing of our social studies/geography/history classes in the 4th-8th grades. Our goal is to teach appropriate content, eliminate unnecessary redundancies, and align our subjects with what is taught at Covenant Christian High School. We have noted a lack of world geography instruction and intend to expand in this area.
- * Our teachers continue to work on becoming even better at teaching the important reading and writing skills. The Daily Five structure that we use has proven to be beneficial, but does require additional work on the part of our teachers to develop lessons and find appropriate materials. We have identified some resources that we hope will be helpful in this area.
- * The curriculum committee continues in its work of reviewing and updating the language arts portion of our curriculum guide. In addition, the committee is working on updating the introductory section of the curriculum guide, which summarizes the goals for our instruction at Eastside and how we intend to teach our children to "reflect the mind of Christ."

SEPTEMBER BIKE HIKE



FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for the year ended August 31, 2016 will be mailed soon to Eastside's Association members. For the year, we were able to realize a surplus of revenue over expenditures as a result of fund drive and tuition income exceeding budgeted amounts, while health insurance and utility expenses were less than what was budgeted. The surplus is beneficial in allowing us to help offset deficits that were incurred in previous years, when actual revenue did not reach budgeted amounts. Prior to the first year of the school's operations, we collected enough donations to cover all operating expenses for that first year. We did not rely at all on tuition income to cover any expenses that year; rather, tuition income was applied toward paying for the next year's expenses. It has been the intent of the Board and Association that we continue that practice; however, some deficits over the years have resulted in a reliance on current year tuition to pay in part for current year expenses. Our long-term goal is to return to the point where we have cash on hand at the beginning of the school year to pay for all of the expenses of that year. The surplus of this past year helps us take a good step in that direction.

We are mindful and appreciative of the financial support we receive from the families and friends of Eastside. We will soon be asking for your financial support once again with our annual Operating Fund Drive. Please consider this request prayerfully, and help supply the financial resources we need to provide a good Christian education to our children at Eastside.

A beautiful piano was recently delivered to Eastside this October. Thanks to Frank and Judy Triezenberg for their generous donation. We are thoroughly enjoying the musical accompaniment to our all-school singing.



FROM THE PRE-K | ALLIE, BUBBA, CATINA, WHO?

So who are Allie, Bubba and Catina? They are our Zoo-Phonics Friends. Every letter of the alphabet has a Zoo Friend, which has a specific action and letter sound. Our Zoo Friends help us develop auditory, visual, vocal and fine-motor perception skills. Getting preschoolers' ears tuned to hear the subtle differences in speech sounds and the eye trained to recognize symbols and to see phonemic patterns is a prerequisite to reading and writing—and it all begins in preschool.

This is just part of our preschool curriculum, and I hope you enjoyed a glimpse into our classroom. Below is a picture of the letters we have decorated so far and a picture of our Zoo Friends. - Mrs. Hulst



A NEW FACE IN ART CLASS

Hello! I'm Mrs. Kim Kuiper, the new art teacher at Eastside Christian School. I am married to Mr. Andrew Kuiper, and we have two children, Mara (age 8) and Emmet (age 3). In my "spare" time I enjoy reading historical fiction, painting, sewing and pyrography (the burning of wood, a technique I used in a work I created for ArtPrize 2012). This is my tenth year being an art teacher; I have been at Heritage Christian since 2007, where I teach 7th & 8th grade. I am very excited about joining the Eastside staff since I will now be teaching a wider age range (1st – 8th). Many students might be nervous about art class since they don't consider themselves to be "good" at art, but I assure them being artists is not the main goal of art class.

My goals for teaching art can be summed up in **PAINT**:

P – Practice makes Perfect! As with all new tasks, sometimes we must try, try again.

A – Attempt & Achieve. Every day, and every new art project, is an opportunity for a new personal best.

I – I CAN! In a Christian classroom, we should always be positive and encouraging to our neighbors, but also to ourselves. Replace "I can't" with "I will try."

N – Notice Details. Listen to instructions, follow directions, and take note of small details.

T – Talents, Gifts & Abilities. God has given us all the ability to draw and create. These are talents which must be used to God's glory, even if you don't think drawing is your best talent.



Tyler Tanis

My other goal is introducing students to different mediums; that way if they don't like drawing, maybe watercolors, pastels, Exact-o knives, print-making or collage is something they would like. The curriculum I wrote for 1st – 3rd grade has a wide variety of mediums used in projects focused on the elements of art and incorporates many great children's books. Already we've learned about lines, while painting lines and turning our paintings into wind socks (maybe you've seen them hanging in the front foyer?) and reading *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. We created our own texture monsters after reading *Where the Wild Things Are* and learned about value when we made penguins (see picture below by Eric Phelps). We've used oil pastels to create a night moon with an owl (see picture below by Abby Kuiper) and watercolors to paint leaves and pumpkins (see picture above by Tyler Tanis)



Abby Kuiper



Eric Phelps



Zachary Kleyn



Braden VanPutten

In 4th-8th grade we started the year by making locker tags with four things about ourselves. Then we created cactuses in pots using Sharpie and oil pastels (see picture by Zachary Kleyn). Now we are splitting up, and 4th- 6th grades are learning about the elements of art and creating projects based on each element. Currently we are talking about space and how the negative space of a project tells a story. In 7th-8th grade, we are talking about the principles of design, which build on the elements of art by arranging the elements in each work of art. We've created a repetition project (see picture of Braden VanPutten's ATV helmets) and just finished a balance project.

I look forward to a year of creating art with your children and helping them use their gifts and abilities to God's glory! Thank you!

FROM THE FIRST GRADE

Our year has been going nicely. The days are flying by!

Our mornings are spent with Mrs. Haak. We begin each day with devotions and singing. The rest of the morning is spent doing language arts activities and math. We work on using letters and sounds to help us read (phonics). Then we have reading. After our morning recess, we have math and things like spelling, vocabulary (Wordly Wise), and handwriting. Often we have time for more reading (Daily 5). Tuesday mornings we have art with Mrs. Kim Kuiper. We close each morning with thanks to God for our morning and with asking His blessing upon our food. Then we have lunch together, and then we head out for noon recess.

Our afternoons are filled with Bible, social studies, science, keyboarding, music, IXL Math (a computer math program), Scholastic News and gym class. Mrs. Thompson teaches us Bible, social studies and music. Mr. Kuiper is our science teacher. Mrs. Van Baren teaches us keyboarding and vocabulary (Wordly Wise). Mrs. Ophoff works with us on IXL math. Mr. Mahtani teaches us gym and Scholastic News. We also get together and sing with Mrs. Hulst and the kindergarteners every Monday morning. We are pretty proud that we can say that we have everybody in school as a teacher.

Our main teacher, Mrs. Haak, feels that we have adjusted well to it all. We enjoy all our different teachers. To help us know where we are to go, we have a list posted in our room. We are to the point that we are able to figure out the list ourselves—which Mrs. Haak thinks is great.

Here are some of our thoughts about first grade.

- The First Graders (& Mrs. Haak)

First grade is way more harder than kindergarten, because we have to do spelling and all the other stuff. I like math and that's all. – Drew Pols

I like first grade a little bit. I like recess best. – Tyler Tanis

First grade is easier than kindergarten, because we do a lot of the same things. I like math the best. – Jimmy Whiteley

FALL FIELD TRIP

On a warm day in October, the students in Pre-K through 3rd grade took a fall field trip to Schwallier's Country Basket in Sparta. They spent the afternoon picking apples, climbing haybales, feeding the goats, and petting the small barn animals. They weren't allowed to keep the kittens, but they did come home with small pumpkins and big grins.



Fishing

By Carl Smit

One day before school started, Dad, Rosalyn, Seth, Ryan, and I jumped out of bed and stormed to get our clothing and changed. After our dad brought Jay and Irene to school, we drove to the Muskegon River. We looked around to find a place to fish. After we found one, we walked back to our car and took out our fishing poles and tackle boxes and headed towards the river. I waited awhile for the bait and then casted it out into the river and caught a fish. I casted it out five times and caught four fish.

Summer

By Zoe Newhof

I went to Seattle, Washington. We drove around a lot, but we did a few really cool things there: zip-lining, kayaking, fishing, and staying at Orcas Island for a few days.

Zip-lining: Our appointment was at 11:30 a.m., and when we got there, we waited for about five minutes. We got strapped up in the gear and walked with our group and leaders to some steps and onto a platform about thirty to forty feet off the ground. The platform shifted, and the instructors told us the safest place was on the edge of the platform. You were supposed to dangle on the edge without holding on to the straps. We were hooked to a cable. When I went the first time, it was exciting—not scary. Some of the

STUDENT WRITING | SUMMER EXPERIENCES

zip-lines were faster than others, and when you came down, depending on how fast and long you had been going, you could feel the brake that stopped you from smashing into the tree. They also gave us dares such as not holding on to the strap and going upside down.

When we were on Orcas Island, we went fishing. We went into a boat with the instructor and went along the edge of the island. Fishing is harder than you think. The fishing pole can get stuck on the bottom of the sea. You were supposed to let the line hit the ground and reel it up a little. You might think that you caught a fish because you got caught on the bottom. After a long time, I caught a dogfish. It was about 2-3 feet long, and according to our instructor, the locals like to catch them and stab them on the side because they are a nuisance. The guy said a dogfish has a spike on it, and it hurts like a really bad bee sting.

The Awesome Dive

By Owen Hayes

After we came home from Buckley, my Aunt Debbie and my new cousin Lewis come to our house. It was fun seeing them again. One or two days later, we went to Richmond pool with them and some other cousins. It was fun. I went on the water slide a lot, and I went off the diving board a lot. My Aunt Debbie went off the diving board too. She was awesome.

LEGO ROBOTICS

Eastside is excited to share this year's progress on the robotics program/team/after school activity. We meet on Mondays between 3 and 5 to learn about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) concepts while having fun building robots out of Legos. The program is structured much like an after-school sport, based on building a robot and a project presentation, and then competing against other schools. We're happy to inform the parents that we were actually able to get out and compete in RoBowl 3, the third annual Protestant Reformed league scrimmage held at Hope PR School. Eastside scrimmaged against teams from Heritage, Hope, Adams and Faith Christian School (Randolph, WI). Our Eastside team put points on the board, which is no small accomplishment for a 2-month-old team. I'm very proud of all 9 members of the team. - Jordan Whiteley | Robotics Coach

Members: Noah Hayes, Bryce Roth, Braden VanPutten, Zoe Newhof, Owen Hayes, Tanner VanPutten, Gabrielle Phelps, Isaac Kortz, and Grant Hop.

Coaches: Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Kuiper

Mentor: Jeremy VanBaren

Mascot: Jimmy Whiteley

