

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Pete Adams

We've begun a new school year! But what is new about it other than it is 2017-18 instead of 2016-17? For one thing, me. I may be an old tire, but I got retreaded with a year off. By doing only principal duties, I will have the opportunity to think more of the broader picture and concerns of our labors here at Eastside. This will show itself in being able to help more in taking practical duties and be a part of the forward guidance in future endeavors. Lest I should think too highly of myself, during my recent 3-day sickness that kept me away from school, things seemed to go like clock-work, perhaps even better than ever.

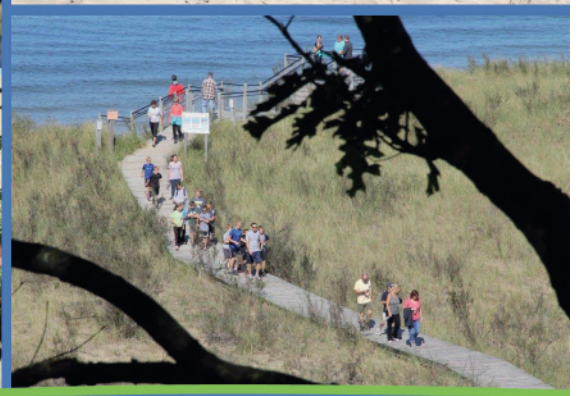
Another new thing, is our teacher for the 4th–6th grades, Mrs. Amanda Klamer. She is working diligently and sincerely as a beginning teacher. Please don't tell her that she is allowed to say "no" when asked to do something. She has her say later on in the newsletter.

Even more news about new—we have seven new students and two new families! Luke Baldwin and Kate Phelps join us in the pre-K program; Kindergarten has new faces with Addisyn Hayes, Tyler Kleyn, and Sam Roth. Dave and MaryAnne Flier join us with Jackson in Kindergarten, and Jeremy and Hannah Monsma start their Eastside experience with Harrison in pre-K. By the way, Harrison will be our first 2nd generation Eagle! We heartily welcome them all.

One of the great things about education is that you are working with people. Big people like teachers and parents, and little people who are your children and our students. And people are always new, and imaginative, and creative, presenting new challenges and opportunities on a daily basis. So then, this is not the same-old, same-old. May the Lord, Whose mercies are new each day and is faithful to us, continue to bless the good labors He has given us in nurturing His covenant seed.

SEPTEMBER BIKE HIKE

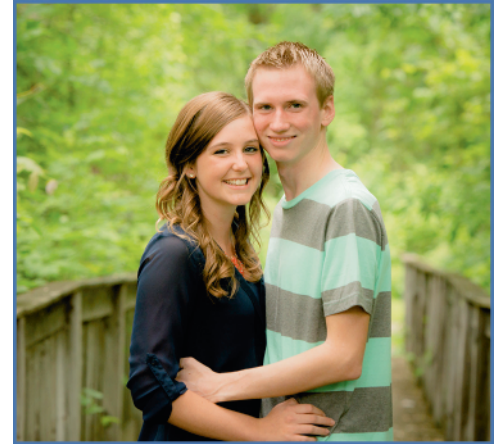
On a beautiful Friday in September, the 4th-8th grade students once again headed out to Kirk Park for the annual Bike Hike. The trip had a twist this year—to accommodate for the construction along Lakeshore Drive, instead of biking from Kirk Park to Grand Haven pier and back again as usual, the group biked from Kirk Park to Rosy Mounds, and then hiked a 1.5 mile trail before biking back to Kirk Park for lunch. They ended with beach games and a swim before heading back to school.



MEET THE NEWBIE!

Hello! I am Amanda Klamer, the new 4th-6th grade teacher at Eastside. I am very excited that God has called me to teach at Eastside, and I have loved teaching here! Your children have been a joy to teach, and everyone has been very welcoming and helpful. I have the privilege of learning each child's personality and quirks, and I love seeing how God created each child to be unique.

I grew up right here in West Michigan, and my parents are Harvin and Marcia Verbeek. I have 2 siblings, an older brother (Case) and a younger sister (Jessica). I attended Hope School from kindergarten till 9th grade, and then continued on in high school at Covenant, graduating in 2013. From there I spent the next 4 years at Calvin College to get my Elementary Education Degree. I also have minors in Integrated Science and Language Arts, as I love both reading and science. I just graduated this spring (2017), so Eastside is my first teaching job.



Growing up, I never thought I would become a teacher, and even had other plans until my senior year of high school. During this time, God showed to me that His plan for me was teaching, and I have felt His guidance ever since. I am very thankful that God has directed me towards Eastside, and couldn't think of a better place to start teaching!

I am married to Zachary Klamer, and we currently attend Georgetown PRC. We are living in apartments in Standale, but are on the hunt for a house right now, so we will see where we end up! We love to spend time outside, go camping with family, read, and any other adventures we can find.

I am very thankful for Eastside, and I look forward to sharing a wonderful year of instruction with your covenant children!

FROM PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Lydya Hulst

PRESCHOOL | TOP TEN LIST FOR PRESCHOOL

Preschool began on September 11 and I thought I would highlight a "top ten list" of the things that our preschoolers will work on at school this year.

1. Memorize a Bible Verse for every letter of the alphabet
2. Listen to a Bible Story every day and sing God's praises
3. Learn the ABC's and the sounds that go with each letter (Zoo Phonics)
4. Practice writing each letter of the alphabet (Handwriting Without Tears)
5. Write their name
6. Play and share with others
7. Shapes, colors and numbers
8. Complete a Messy Art Book
9. Make each letter of the alphabet and turn it into an animal
10. Calendar activities (days of the week, months of the year, number chart, etc)

KINDERGARTEN | SOAR INTO READING WITH SIGHT WORDS

According to Webster's Dictionary, a sight word, when applied to early learning instruction, refers to a set of about 100 words that keep reappearing on almost any page of text.

In the kindergarten room, we have a goal to learn 100 sight words this year. Every day I teach a new word and the students complete activities with that word; read the word in sentences, read them to the teacher or helper, spell it using a song set to the tune of B-I-N-G-O, write the word, add the word to our "Word Wall", etc. Learning these words will give the students confidence to read and they are excited to learn how to read.

In the student's take-home folder there is a ring with sight words (new words are added weekly) and it will help the students soar into reading when they practice these words at home.

PICNIC ON THE PATIO

Debbie Baldwin

Since Eastside starts the Tuesday before Labor Day and breaks Friday for the holiday weekend, the first week is always a soft start of school, which is a nice arrangement for everyone—students, teachers and parents. The last event of that first school week is the annual Picnic on the Patio, held Thursday night. The night was filled with old faces and young, familiar faces and new ones, and a cool August evening was the perfect setting for a celebration of the beginning of the school year.

Once again the Eastside Foundation sponsored the picnic, and they highlighted the fact that the school is celebrating 20 years of completed education—and starting the 21st year this fall. There is much to be thankful for. God has preserved our little school for 20 years, and allowed us to flourish in ways tangible and intangible. The Foundation reported that since 2007 it has been able to donate \$653,000 to the school, and currently only donates money from investment income without dipping into the principal. In a few years the Foundation will have donated as much money as the principle, without dipping into that principle. *(See more information below on the Foundation financials).*

FROM THE FOUNDATION

The goal of the Eastside Christian School Foundation is to keep Christian education affordable and address the long-term needs of the school. The Foundation currently has about one million dollars in principle and is donating money generated from the investments of the principle. Last year we donated \$60,000 to the operating fund and \$40,500 for tuition reduction (donating \$1000 per student directly off the cost of tuition for parents).

The Foundation started donating money to Eastside in 2007—10 years ago. To date, the Foundation has donated \$653,000 to the school. In a few years the Foundation will have donated as much money as the principle, without dipping into that principle. Our funding has come largely from estate gifts and donations, so please remember the Foundation and the cause of Christian education when you do your estate planning. Donations to the Foundation are not a one-time gift; they are an investment which continues to give to the Kingdom cause of Christian education.

Over burgers and hotdogs, there was a new teacher to meet (welcome Amanda Klamer!) and other teachers to greet after summer break. And Pete's back! One year after retirement, Pete Adams has agreed to come back as part-time Principal, for which we are all very grateful. There were a good number of alumni that returned to the picnic, and as an exciting Eastside first, a graduate of Eastside (Jeremy Monsma) is now enrolling his son in Pre-K at Eastside.

Also notable at the picnic was the dedication of all the "seasoned" Eastside supporters. The Foundation Board is made up entirely of people who were the original supporters and started Eastside. Two decades later, they are still around, giving their time to help the future of our school. This is much appreciated, and this school really could not exist without their help and support.

Families lingered on the playground and patio until after dark, not particularly eager to leave. The evening encapsulated an excitement about the coming school year and the new faces and families, as well as thankfulness for God's provision for Eastside for the past 20 years. To Him be the glory.



ONE COMES BEFORE TWO

Editorial | Mr. Pete Adams

Each year Eastside School puts forth a theme for the year, in which we incorporate a Bible verse. "Fear God and Honor All" is blazoned on the hallway bulletin board. Respect then is the theme, and the verse is I Peter 2:17. "Honour all men, Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." Perhaps it occurs to you as it did us that fearing of God comes in the middle of the verse, not first. Keep in mind these verse divisions are somewhat arbitrary, as they are not present in the original manuscripts. As Reformed believers, we instinctively (by the Spirit) know that God is God and is always the Alpha and Omega in everything.

This truth struck me as I spent some very profitable time watching college student-athletes getting their well-deserved Saturday afternoon break from their studies by colliding into each other in order to reach important goals. A TV commercial interrupted this activity. Soft but persuasive piano notes in the background played as a hotel chain promoted its mission statement of following the "golden rule". Friends ought to be friendly. Neighbors ought to behave neighborly, etc. Scenes of how this was to be accomplished were shown. Doors were opened for the elderly, baby carriages were assisted up an escalator, etc. And then approving, supportive smiles were given to a homosexual couple on their wedding day. All this supposedly was the "golden rule" in action. And such is the power of this kind of presentation, you would tend to think of yourself and anyone else as a real no-good if you wouldn't go along with this line of thinking.

But 1 comes before 2! What is the first and great commandment? Love God! Love what He loves, which is He Himself and His glory and righteousness and holiness. Love Him Who made them male and female. The second commandment is like unto it (the first). It is hinged on the first - it depends upon and must be consistent with the first. Only when we love the neighbor in the light of standing before God are we loving him and Him. So, throw out the tender music and the rest and on the other hand show love to those living in unbelief by directing them to the truth of God in His Word.

Much of what is going on around us can be understood by realizing 2 is being placed before 1 in much of Christendom. Take notice of Rev. Koole's recent editorials in the Standard Bearer for pertinent examples. Supposed love of humankind trumps any other considerations. In the world at large, 1 isn't there at all. God is absented from all consideration. Thus anything goes in the name of love. Their "golden rule" is made of hollow brass. A perverse righteousness without the Righteous One.

We have then a great opportunity to educate and train the students in the rich Biblical way. So, we will certainly labor to promote respect for parents, fellow students, and teachers. It will be done in light of the One Who is worthy of all respect. First things first.

POST FAMILY FARMS

On a scorching Friday morning in September, the Pre-K through 3rd grades took their fall field trip to the Post Family Farms. A ride in the pumpkin train, a hayride to a pick-your-own pumpkin patch, a zipline, and donuts & cider were all part of the morning trip. It was a hot but fun morning!



LIFE IS GOOD

Mrs. Anita Haak | First Grade

On the way to school and on the way home (the same day), on two different vehicles, I saw the phrase "Life is Good!" I didn't think much about it the first time, but when I saw it again I thought about how true this is for Christians!

Life, of course, as we know it, began in the beginning on Day 3 with the creation of plants. Life in the seas began on Day 5 with the creation of fish and fowl. We know that the rest of life was created on day 6 with the creation of land animals and man (man and woman). About each of these when God created them He pronounced them "good", and after He created man, "very good." Therefore, life is good.

When we think of the intricacies of each of these forms of life, we say with the Psalmist that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We further exclaim, "marvelous are thy works." (Psalm 139:14). In Science this year, we plan to explore many of the features of our creation and, with our Creator, we will say that they are good!

But I wonder, do we always see life as good? Can we say this even when we're hurting physically? When we've lost a dear loved one? When things that we consider "bad" befall us? Or when persecuted severely under tyrannical brutal and vicious "bad" rulers such as ISIS, who hate and torture us?

Yes, as Christians, in the midst of hurts trials, and persecutions, we know by faith, trusting God and His Word, that He will sustain us in all our ways, and now and always we will be able to confess that His way is good. We sing of such comfort. "How blest the man Thou callest. And bringest near to Thee, That in Thy courts forever His dwelling place may be; He shall within Thy temple Be satisfied with grace, And filled with all the goodness Of Thy most holy place." (Psalter #170.)

Where does this blessing come from? From God Who sent His Son to pay for our sins. In this same Psalter we sing, "Our sins rise up against us, Prevailing day by day, But Thou wilt show us mercy. And take their guilt away." Because of this we can also heartily sing, "Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid; He is blest whose hope of blessing On the Lord his God is stayed" (Psalter #400.)

Finally, unlike the hopeless unbeliever, we of all people can confess, "life is good" because we know that our Sovereign Lord, who elected us in eternity, and died for us on the cross, now rules in all things so that all things work together for good to them that love God (cf. Romans 8:28). With this knowledge in our hearts we further sing, "Over all God reigns for ever, Through all ages He is King; Unto Him, thy God, O Zion, Joyful hallelujahs sing." (ibid.)

God is good! Life is good!

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The financial report for the year ended August 31, 2017 will be mailed soon to Eastside's Association members. For the year, we are able to report that our income was higher than budgeted and expenses were just slightly under the budgeted amount. Our higher income is due in large part to our generous donors that support Eastside Christian School. We are also thankful for the contributions of the Foundation both toward the operating costs of the school as well as the tuition credit that they offer to the families of Eastside.

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 provide the financial resources we need to provide a good Christian education to our children at Eastside.