

FROM THE PRINCIPAL | DISCIPLINE & FRUIT (PART 2)

Mr. Dave Mahtani

I began this school year with an article encouraging us to continue to be faithful in discipline despite its challenges. And yes, there were challenges. Though it was a smooth year, there were discipline issues for teachers and parents to face together throughout the year, all the way to the very end. And for us, “detention” or “principal visit” often sounded like a negative thing rather than a positive tool to lovingly instruct our children. It was difficult and uncomfortable to work together. We like the fruit, but the task is hard to bear, especially when it’s not someone else’s child that has to face the consequences, but our own. Humbly instructing our dear children about the seriousness of their disobedience or disrespect is a difficult work.

We persevered though, and with the support of the board, the teachers and parents have noticed the clear benefit of faithful discipline. We’ve seen greater respect for teachers and even evidences of growth in godly character. When the teachers and parents work together to discipline, the result is beautiful! It often brings tears of joy to my eyes when I speak of how God has graciously blessed specific students with spiritual fruit, whose parents and teachers have humbly persevered in firm, loving, and united discipline.

However, I would like to emphasize that parents and teachers must work together. Otherwise, the benefits are tremendously reduced. We parents and teachers must keep in mind that we have a common goal, and then together we need to use those uncomfortable consequences and conversations to our children’s benefit. Despite our own weaknesses in each situation, we need to carry out that discipline at home and at school, regardless of the inconveniences and complaints.

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). I hope that God will continue to graciously strengthen our parents and teachers in this work to firmly, lovingly, and unitedly discipline our children at Eastside Christian School. What a beautiful sight it is to see those young Eastsiders genuinely love their brothers, fear their God, and honor their authority (1 Peter 2:17).

SPRING RUNNING CLUB

Eastside students once again had the opportunity to participate in Running Club this spring. The club ran as a group on Wednesdays after school; students were encouraged to run on their own at least two other times per week. Eastside participated in three local runs: Calvin Classic 5K, Nana’s Run, and the Hope Classic. The students were motivated to practice hard this year and were rewarded with faster 5K times all around. All students improved their 5K times and many took prizes in their age groups. Thanks to Becky Dijkstra and Crista Phelps for coaching this year!

Running Club members: Noah Hayes, Owen Hayes, Zoe Newhof, Anna Kortz, Isaac Kortz, Zachary Kleyn, Gabrielle Phelps



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Since the beginning of the year, the Education Committee has been busy in interviewing and making a hiring recommendation to the Board for a teacher to replace Dave Mahtani in the 4th-6th grade classroom. The committee interviewed a number of very qualified applicants and ultimately recommended that the Board extend a contract offer to Amanda Klamer. We are pleased that she agreed to join our great team of teachers and look forward to working with her as she begins to prepare for the coming school year. Amanda recently graduated from Calvin College with a degree in elementary education. Amanda and her husband, Zachary, are members of Georgetown PRC. Please welcome them to the Eastside family when you have a chance!

We advertised for teacher candidates who might also have the qualifications and interest to serve as part-time principal. Since we did not receive interest from any candidates who might be able to fill both roles, we hired Amanda to fill the teacher position and looked for someone to separately fill the principal responsibility. We are thankful that Pete Adams has agreed to return to Eastside to serve again in this capacity. Welcome back, Pete!

Over several months, the committee met with all of our staff to thank them for their work and to assess whether there are needs which the committee should address. Our teachers expressed appreciation for the more structured discipline procedures in place this year and the work of Dave Mahtani in this area.

The committee has approved the efforts of some of our staff to find textbooks and other teaching materials to improve our social studies curriculum, to provide language arts resources to supplement the Daily Five structure we use, and to assist with phonics and reading in the younger grades.

The curriculum committee has completed its work of updating the introductory section of the curriculum guide as well as the language arts section. It intends to move on to update the math section next.

The Board would like to thank Dave Mahtani for his hard work and dedication to Eastside over the past 6 years as teacher and principal. We wish him God's blessing as he moves on to new career endeavors.

EERDMAN'S PUBLISHING SCHOOL TRIP

Thursday, March 28, 2017, as part of our Reading Month activities, grades 1-8 went to Eerdman's Publishing Company. We were disappointed that they no longer print their books, but the tour was still interesting and informative. We were brought into a conference room and were given some manuscripts to read and decide if they were worthy of publishing. After a while, were brought into an office where we pretended to have a meeting in which we discussed the pros and cons of the manuscripts. We also discussed what kind of an audience would possibly be interested in them if they got published. When we said "Parents" and "Teachers" the editor got really excited.

After this we saw the area of their business where drafts of books that they were working on are kept. We then had a quick tour of their packaging warehouse where books were being boxed for shipping. Then we headed for a corner of their bookstore, where we were told that our manuscripts had already been made into books. As a grand finale, our tour guide read one of the books to us. It was a kid's book entitled *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus*. It was about Peter Mark Roget who wrote lists as a child, and eventually this all led to his writing a book – one of the most important reference books of all time – *Roget's Thesaurus*. Their bookstore is open to the public, and you might enjoy visiting it.

- Mrs. Anita Haak



PROMOTERS REPORT

The Promoters had another productive year of fundraising and events to financially assist the school and teachers. End-of-year profits are:

Stop&Shop | \$3,375.55

Banket sale | \$3,794.89

Online Auction | \$3,353.15

Box Tops | \$294

A noticable difference this year was the sizable increase of profits from the online auction. In addition to the fundraisers listed, the TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) fund transferred \$3,000 to Promoters this year. This money was in part paying back a loan Promoters had given TRIP for start-up money, and also an accrument of extra profits over the years.

The Promoters used the money raised for the following:

- donated \$10,000 to the school board to update to LED lights
- provided start-up money for the 4-8th grade robotics program
- funded the class trips (\$20 per student per year)
- provided funds for the 4-8th running club to cover race entry fees
- covered smaller teacher and classroom needs such as new pre-k table, gym supplies, art supplies, and science supplies
- bought school chrome books and new computers
- helped the school board with the cost of playground mulch

At the last Promoter's meeting, it was agreed to cut down the meetings to four per year - September, October, April, and one other to be determined based on need. Members feel this is enough to address all the work, especially since our fundraisers have gotten very efficient from years of repeating them. The meeting night was also changed from the third Thursday of the month to the third Wednesday of the month, to accommodate better for work schedules and other meeting conflicts.

We would like to thank the Eastside community for your support this past year - for volunteering, attending, participating in, and donating to our fundraisers. We could not have done it without you all! We would also like to encourage any parents, grandparents and friends of Eastside to consider joining and attending Promoters. The meetings and work are enjoyable, and at the same time they accomplish a very important work for the school to function!

FOURTH-SIXTH CLASS TRIP

The 4th-6th graders took as second trip to Lansing this school year, this time for a science experience. The 7th and 8th graders also tagged along to enjoy the hands-on experiences at the Impression 5 Science Center, MSU's Bug House, and MSU's Dairy Plant. Creating slime, holding a tarantula, and tasting fresh ice-cream were just a few highlights of the trip.





Congratulations to 8th grade graduates Anna Kortz and Rosalyn Smit. Graduation was held in the afternoon of Thursday June 1, and Rosalyn's dad Rev. Smit spoke on Philippians 1:11: "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr. Kuiper, Anna Kortz, Rosalyn Smit, Mr. Mahtani

ZOO MEMORIES

Mrs. Kristi Thompson

For our end-of-the-year field trip, the Kindergarteners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders went to the John Ball Zoo, a classic urban zoo right in the heart of Grand Rapids. We began our day with a Wild Encounters program, where very knowledgeable zoo education staff taught us about several different critters, including a hedgehog and a tarantula. We got to see them up close and even got to touch most of them. We then split into groups and did our best to visit all the exhibits at the zoo, which is home to more than 1,100 animals from five continents. Some of our favorite exhibits were the Magellanic Penguins at the Van Andel Living Shores Aquarium, the Wild Way Trail where we saw wallabies and parrots, and North America where some of us came nose-to-nose with a grizzly bear! After a picnic lunch and a bit of free time at the park's playground, our day away ended with a trip to Dairy Queen for some delicious and refreshing ice cream cones and slushies.



ANNUAL 7TH-8TH GRADE CLASS TRIP

Mr. Andy Kuiper

Near the end of every school year, the 7th and 8th graders go on a special 2-day class trip. This year, we chose to go to Camp Manitou-Lin in Middleville on one day, and Craig's Cruisers in Wyoming on the other. Due to scheduling at the camp, we ended up bookending exam week with the trips.

On Monday, the class (and Mr. Kuiper) went to Manitou-Lin along with Mr. Adams, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Kortz, and Mr. VanPutten. We were looking forward to a day of outdoor adventure. The temperature was cool and the wind was brisk ... more about that later! When we arrived, we met our guides for the day and headed over to the archery range. Mrs. Hayes was quite impressive with the bow! Some of the rest of us were able to hit the targets, and many of us made sure to add more holes in the safety net behind. We did manage to find more arrows in the woods than we shot, so we ended up with more than we started with.

After archery, we went to enjoy some canoeing on the lake. If the wind had been brisk in the parking lot and woods, it was whipping down on the lake. Most of us got into the canoes and headed across the lake. About halfway across, the canoe carrying Braden and Noah ended up flipping over, dumping them into the water. By the time they made it back to shore, they were shivering. However, they were the only ones who had extra clothes along, so the drenched attire went into the dryer and we headed on to team building.

The team building included challenges such as crossing to three islands in a lake of lava using only two boards, a balancing board, and a tripwire course. Our students solved the problems each time, until we came to the final challenge. As a group, we were not able to defeat the guide in a game of "Steal the Chicken" (much like Red Light, Green Light; but with the added

challenge of having to pick up a rubber chicken and return it to the start line).

After a delicious lunch provided by the mothers, we went to the high ropes course. The class and Mr. Kuiper all went up onto the course that was 40 feet off the ground. Braden discovered a bee's nest in one part, but remained calm and made his way away from it. After making our way around, we had the option of climbing back down the pole, or taking the "leap of faith" off the end and being lowered to the ground. Every one of us took the leap.

The last activity we did was the indoor climbing wall. We had to set our own goal for how far we wanted to go up. Each of the students and Mr. Kuiper set the goal of ringing the bell at the top, and were able to reach it. After this, we headed back to Eastside and exam week.

After our exams on Wednesday and Thursday, we headed to Craig's Cruisers on Friday morning. The kids and Mr. Kuiper were again joined by Mr. Adams, and this time Mr. Hayes and Mr. Kortz joined us as well. The group took some driver's training (which some people might call go-carts), did some mini golfing, took some target practice (laser tag; ask the students who won), (some of us) went on the high ropes course, and ended the day with another round of driver's training. We had just enough tickets left to let the kids knock Mr. Kuiper around on the bumper car course. In the middle of all that, we managed to visit the buffet at least three times and enjoyed pizza, breadsticks, chicken, ice cream, and more.

All in all, we had a very enjoyable time and it was a nice way to end the school year as a class!

JUNIOR HIGH CLASS TRIP | CAMP MANITOU-LIN



POETRY CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Zachary Kleyn for winning a poetry contest sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and the Whitecaps. Fourth-sixth grade teacher Dave Mahtani provided details: *"The contest required a poem with a baseball and reading theme. We decided to try it, but it was really hard to write the poem as a class. We made very little progress, partly because everyone had different ideas but partly also because we were busy with other writing projects at that time. With only one weekend remaining before the deadline, I told the class that they had an optional assignment over the weekend: to write a poem singlehandedly. I told them that we would then vote on Monday about whose poem to submit. Only Zachary Kleyn wrote one, and so I submitted it. We joked as a class about how crazy it would be if we won it ... I got an email a few days later saying that we were one of the three classrooms who participated who won a pizza party for the class, brought by their mascot Crash the River Rat."*

CRASH AND BASEBALL

By Zachary Kleyn

Crash was so very excited.

Today was the big day!

He really did like baseball;

It was so fun to play.

He headed out to the field

And stood near second base

He pulled out his favorite book

Named "I'm the baseball ace"

The ball came flying through the air

To where Crash did now stand

But Crash was still reading his favorite book

And he couldn't catch with one hand

Home Run! Yelled the empire

And the batting team cheered

But Crash's team was really mad

And most of them just jeered

Though Crash did really like good books

He decided he'd try next game

To play real hard and not read a book

So he wouldn't get the blame

The next game was really good

The whitecaps totally won

When Crash played hard and tried to focus

The game was really fun

To celebrate they had a party

They read and read and read

And Crash did bring a lot of pizza

They sure did get well-fed!



PRE-K/K ALPHABET FUN

In preschool and kindergarten we learn a new letter and its sound each week. We do many other activities around the letter of the week; memory work, art, books, cooking, etc. Before we know it, 26 full weeks of school have passed and we are at the end of the alphabet. Then we choose a favorite letter and a character to go with that letter and we come to school and have a parade. It's a great culminating activity for our preschool and kindergarten class. This year our parade featured a zebra, gymnast, clown, builder, cat, basketball player, pirate, baker, cheerleader, fairy and princess. We really enjoyed our alphabet parade. - Mrs. Lyda Hulst

One way the alphabet was incorporated into weekly classroom learning in the Pre-K/Kindergarten room was with bible memorization. Each week, the students learned a bible verse corresponding with a letter of the alphabet. They rehearsed a new verse along with the old verses each week, and at their chapel near the end of the school year, they recited all 26 Bible verses that corresponded with letters of the alphabet.

