

FROM THE PRINCIPAL Mr. Pete Adams

Greetings. You will find in this newsletter from our school a number (all of them actually) of interesting items. We have five new families this year, and Mr. Jim Holstege presents interviews and pictures of each. Our annual Bike Hike is always newsworthy, and to demonstrate Mrs. Amanda Klamer shows us some photographic evidence and commentary. Amanda is also the featured "Teacher of the Issue" person. Peruse the overview of various activities around school this fall. Please, read the article on politeness. Thank you. And finally, the article from the Foundation Board will not leave you bored.

ANNUAL BIKE HIKE | 4TH - 8TH GRADES

Mrs. Amanda Klamer

We had beautiful weather for our annual 4th-8th grade Bike Hike this year. It was cool and sunny, the perfect day for biking! This year 18 students, along with some chaperones, biked from Kirk Park to Grand Haven Pier and back. This is quite the bike ride, an 18-mile round trip! While at the pier, everyone was able to enjoy walking down to the lighthouse and watching the waves. The students were proud of having biked all the way to the pier and most students even made it the whole way back. After biking back, a delicious lunch of hot dogs, brats, salads, and chips was waiting, prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin. After lunch we all ventured down to the beach and splashed in Lake Michigan, along with competing in games of tug-of-war. Overall, it was a very pleasant day, enjoyed by all!



NEW FAMILY WELCOME

Jim Holstege

We are very excited to be able to welcome five new families to Eastside!

Ben and Andrea Verstrate have two daughters: Lilee who is four years old and in PreK, and Allena who is three. Ben and Andrea both grew up in the Hudsonville/Zeeland area, and have been married for six years. They moved to the northeast side of Grand Rapids about two years ago, and joined First Protestant Reformed Church, where they received a warm welcome. Andrea is a nurse at Spectrum downtown, and Ben is a stay-at-home dad. The Verstrates have several pets! Two dogs: Gracie and Jimer, a cat: Daniel Tiger, seven chickens, and many fish.



Tom and Kelly Barnhill have Elijah (Eli), who is five and in kindergarten, and Polly, who is three. The Barnhills also reside in northeast Grand Rapids. Kelly is a native of the Walker area, while Tom is from Hudsonville. They are members of Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Kelly enjoys being a keeper of her house, and jogging, when she has the time to do it. Tom works in outside sales for RHD Tire Company. They own a dog named Zeus, a very friendly greeter, and a cat named Felix. The Barnhills enjoyed camping with their kids this past summer. Eli says he really likes recess, and making new friends. Tom and Kelly are happy that they can be part of a small Christian school environment.



The Bartolons, Doner and Susanna, have a different story to tell; one that requires much more space than this article. Susanna, who is from Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, met her husband, Doner, in 2010 while in Mexico. They married in 2013. The Lord has given them a son, Ian, who is four years old and enrolled in Pre-K, and a daughter, Ellisha who is seventeen months. The Bartolons eventually became members of Covenant of Grace Protestant Reformed Church in Spokane, Washington before moving to Michigan in September, 2017. They are now members of Georgetown PRC, and live in Wyoming, Michigan. Doner has aspirations for the gospel ministry, and is currently taking pre-seminary requirement classes. Doner and Susanna are very much attracted to the smallness, the closeness, and the multi-grade classroom setting of Eastside.



We were informed at Picnic on the Patio of the fact that we now have three families enrolled at Eastside who are second generation. Included among the three is the **Dan and Kristen Schimmel** family. Dan and Kristen have two sons: Davis is four years old and in PreK, and Dillon is sixteen months. Dan graduated from ninth grade at Eastside in 2004. He and Kristen met through mutual friends while they both attended Calvin College. Dan works in sales for Etherton Enterprises, and Kristen works part time for Hudsonville Family Dentistry. The Schimmels are involved with a local animal rescue, by fostering dogs while they wait to be placed in permanent homes. They enjoy camping during the summer months, and are members of Southeast Protestant Reformed Church. The Schimmels are very happy to become a part of the Eastside family. Dan remembers his earlier years as a student at Eastside with fondness, and says they have always planned to return as parents.



Last on our list of five new families, but certainly not least, are the **Pastors: Bryan and Nicole**, with their daughter Alaina, who is four years old and in PreK, and their son Tyler, who is two years old. The Pastoor family is also one of three second generation Eastside families, with Bryan part of the graduating class of 2002. Bryan and Nicki attended and graduated from Covenant Christian High School together. They started dating after they "met" each other while on their senior class trip, and have now been married for ten years. They are members of First Protestant Reformed Church. Nicole has her own photography business. If anyone has a special event coming up, keep Pastoor Photography in mind! Bryan has worked for Twin Lakes Nursery and Landscape for the past sixteen years. He says that when he has the opportunity, he loves to golf. Alaina is enjoying school, making new friends, and playing together outside during recess.



To all the new families, we say welcome! We are so happy to have you with us at Eastside Christian School.

TEACHER PROFILE | AMANDA KLAMER

Jim Holstege

The Fall 2017 newsletter last year introduced us to the new member of our teaching staff, Mrs. Amanda Klammer. Amanda teaches our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class at Eastside. She told us then how excited she was to be teaching at Eastside, how “learning each child’s personality” is a privilege, and that she looked “forward to sharing a wonderful year of instruction with [our] covenant children.” Recently I invited myself in, just to absorb life in her classroom, and to experience a snapshot of her Christian instruction in practice.

As I came in and took my seat in the back of the room, the students were engaged in what was obviously writing class. The first thing I noticed was that all the students - all three grades were participating - and appeared to be enjoying themselves. At the end of the allotted time for writing class, three volunteers came up one by one, to present back to the class the story they had just worked on. In addition to learning how to write, they are learning how to speak! Later, I asked Amanda about this, and she explained the entire school is involved in a new program called IEW (Institute for Excellence in Writing). Amanda agrees: this program looks promising.

Then, after everyone finished their spelling worksheets, the kids had time to read the book of their choice. Amanda has something called “The Twenty Book Challenge” in the works. One of the rules in this challenge, is the student must select titles to read from a variety of genre. While on the subject of book reading, you cannot help but notice that Amanda’s classroom has its own library, in addition to the school library.

During math class, the multigrade setting came into focus. The students have chromebooks, and they can access a program called IXL. While Amanda taught the fourth graders, the older students worked the IXL math problems quietly by themselves. Then later, the roles were switched. I asked Amanda about the challenges of teaching and learning in a multigrade environment. She admits to the challenges in teaching certain subjects, but quickly adds that the benefits to the children growing up in this environment outweigh those challenges.

While visiting Amanda’s classroom and watching her teach was all by itself a truly enjoyable experience, there is more to say. Hanging up on the wall in front of the room is a sign titled: “Love God and Love your Neighbor”. Amanda told me she discussed this with her students at the beginning of the school year, and they brought up ways to carry out this principle. Included and written on the same sign is this: “Speak kind words to each other.” “Raise your hand to speak.” “Share and take turns with fun seating spots.” “Respect other classmate’s possessions along with their personal space.” “Show respect toward those in authority, along with our classmates.” “No throwing objects, yelling, or running.” “Try your best to glorify God!” At the bottom of the sign are thirteen signatures by the students: their pledge to their Lord, and to one another.

It is evident to me that Amanda also lives out of the principle of loving God and her neighbor. She loves teaching. She loves her students. She loves Eastside Christian School. Amanda and her husband Zach are expecting the birth of their first child, and will be leaving Eastside at the close of the first semester. Amanda, thank you for using your gifts for the advantage and salvation of our children. We pray for God’s blessing upon both of you in the years ahead.



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING

Mr. Pete Adams

In a manner of speaking –

Manners, politeness, courtesy. What do these words mean? Are they important? After a short dictionary investigation, we find that manners have to do with social behavior (good or bad), politeness receives its source from the idea of people living together properly, and courtesy relates to how one behaves before the king in his court: with gracious behavior, and considerate acts or remarks toward others. Almost a full page in our Parent Information Packet devoted to this subject gives us to understand that it should be a matter worth our attention.

Let's focus on two essential aspects of courtesy, the words "please" and "thank you." "Please" conveys the idea not of commanding, but of requesting; you are asking something of someone and their response depends on their pleasure to grant the request or not. RSVP – Repondez, s'il vous plait. (Respond, if you please). Por favor in Spanish. "Please" places us under the will of the other person. In effect, I am the servant and he is the master to do as he wishes. Now think of "thank you." This word fittingly bookends "please" because it communicates gratitude. What was done for us in the "please" request was not done because it was justly due, but because the other favored us. We then express acknowledgement of that act of grace. When we purchase and receive an item in a store, technically we would not have to thank the cashier because we received our purchase by giving our money in exchange for the purchase. The item was due us. The scales of justice were balanced. No merci or much grace was shown by the cashier, therefore no gratitude needs to be expressed.

Taking these thoughts to the higher Biblical level (where all valid thoughts find their foundation and fulfillment) we see first that good manners are a prime way in which we can show love to our neighbor as ourself. We are putting him first, or higher, and ourself beneath him. This humble spirit of gratitude shown by considerate acts and speech should characterize our behavior toward each other in the home, church and school. We are paying that "debt of love" that we owe all men (Romans 13:8). Now, if we are to so love and deal with other people this way, what about our relationship to our Father God? He is our Creator, our Redeemer, and thus our absolute Master. All is due to Him. Any and everything He does for us as His servants/children is gracious, not what we deserve. True prayer, as supplication and not demand, expresses this understanding, does it not? "Hallowed be Thy Name;" "Thy will be done;" "Thine is the glory." We have been freely chosen to live before Him only because of His good pleasure, and thus we are appropriately called to a life of thankfulness. As we grasp this more and more, we are driven to humility before Him with grateful praise. This is how to live before the King in His court.

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Jim Holstege

The Eastside Christian School Foundation ended its fiscal year on August 31. We are pleased to report that the assets and investments of the Foundation have given us favorable returns for the year, which in turn, enabled the Foundation to give favorably to the financial wellbeing of Eastside Christian School. Two separate grants were issued. The first grant was given to the operating support drive of the school, in the amount of \$60,000. The second grant of \$44,000 is called the tuition assistance grant. This gift helps in a very direct way, reducing the total tuition owed by each family who send their child(ren) to Eastside. The Foundation received one estate gift and some memorial gifts, totaling \$11,757.44, for which we are grateful. The underlying idea behind the Foundation is that gifts such as these which we receive, are not spent, but are included in the principle, which in turn, generate dividends and interest for the financial health of Eastside Christian School for years to come.

Because we know that we are not our own, but belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, we live by faith and not by sight. We thank our heavenly Father for everything He gives us, including Eastside Christian School. As we consider our earthly gifts and possessions, may we give Him all our praise, and place our trust alone in Him!

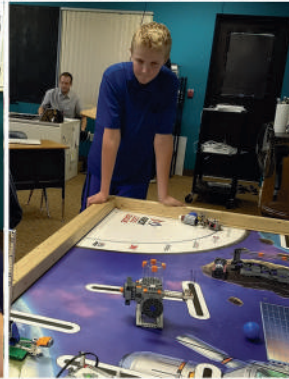
VOLLEYBALL



Zoe Newhof and Gabrielle Phelps played on Hope PR School's 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams this fall. **Special thanks to Hope School for giving them this opportunity!**

FALL HAPPENINGS

Kindergarten through third grades visited **ROBINETTES APPLE HAUS** in September. The students enjoyed a hayride through the orchards, saw how apples are sorted and cider is made, picked an apple to take home, and ended the morning with a donut and apple cider.



ROBOTICS is well underway. Eleven students in 4th-8th are on the team, coached by Jordan Whiteley and Andy Kuiper. They meet on Thursday after school, building the team robot and programming it to perform required tasks. The season will conclude with the Robotics meet at Hope PR School on November 17.

CUBING is a recent interest of a growing number of Eastside students. Using algorithms (a series of letters that correspond with cube rotations), students have been learning to solve the Rubix Cube, and then once learned, working to improve solving times (known as speed cubing). The current record is 28 seconds!



The **EASTSIDE ORCHESTRA** begins its sixth year with 18 total students (8 violins, 4 violas, 6 cellos). Of these students, eight are 4th graders, most of whom are new to playing a stringed instrument. Mr. Phelps gave the 4th graders a handful of lessons over the summer to prepare them for the school year, and now they spend most of the time instructed by Mrs. Crista Phelps to learn the instrument basics. By the December concert, they will be able to join the 5th-8th graders for some of the pieces. The 8th grade students are now starting their fifth year of orchestra, being the first Eastside class that began orchestra in the fall of their 4th grade year.

