

FROM THE PRINCIPAL Mr. Pete Adams

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter –

Yet another school year is passing. If passed in dependence on our Lord, to His glory, according to His will, gold and silver will have been mined, which will pass through the fire, purified and lasting. In this way, it will not have been a school year that will have passed away.

Take a look on these pages of some of the recent activities and news items of Eastside from the staff and Board.

FIELD TRIP TO SAUGATUCK

Mrs. Anita Haak

Monday, May 14, K-3 went to Saugatuck, MI. We got there early so we left and went to Donutville in Holland and had some delicious huge donuts. One girl truthfully told her mom, "I ate a donut as big as my head!"

We then went back to Saugatuck and took a trip down the Kalamazoo River on the Star of Saugatuck II, a sternwheeler paddleboat. We saw wild turkeys fly across the river along with some other types of birds (perhaps turkey vultures or hawks). Then we went out onto Lake Michigan! It was foggy out there and we hardly realized that we had turned around until we saw the lighthouses at the entrance to the river.

Around 12:00 we climbed Mount Baldhead - quite a feat with its 302 steps! Upon reaching the top, we ran down the backside on a sand dune trail. We then went up another smaller dune and reached Lake Michigan. Some of us took off our socks and shoes and waded in the water.

After awhile we climbed back up Mount Baldhead and took the stairs back down to the picnic area for lunch. Soon after this, it was time to head back to school. On our way back we went to Wendy's and got frosty's.

We thank all the mothers who drove and accompanied us. All agreed it was a fun day.

SAUGATUCK FIELD TRIP



EASTSIDE ASSOCIATION SECRETARY'S REPORT

Brent Tanis | School Board Secretary

math lessons in one class period and she kept everyone busy while doing it. I have no doubt that all her subjects run just as smoothly.

Mr. Andy Kuiper has five students in the 7th and 8th grade classroom. Andy continues to show great passion for his teaching. His students really enjoy his science lessons as well as the other subjects he teaches. He also does a great job running gym class for the students. He can also be found monitoring the playground and also the parking lot keeping the children safe throughout the day.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Pete Adams has come back to once again serve as principal at Eastside. He has not lost a beat in his retirement. He can often still be found welcoming the students in the morning and having them line up by grade to enter school in an orderly fashion. His wealth of knowledge and humor can still be seen in the speeches that he has delivered this year. We are very thankful to him for his service.

Mrs. Karen Ophoff is busy throughout each day with her duties, which include helping with various classroom activities and organizing many of the details of the school day as school secretary. The students adore her and she always has a welcoming smile for anyone visiting the school on any given day.

Tim Thompson labors diligently in his janitor duties, keeping the school clean and in good order. He has been asked to work an extra day this past year to help keep the bathrooms more clean throughout the week. Heidi Van Baren once again assists in the classrooms. Her voluntary work is a wonderful help to Eastside.

A very important part of our school curriculum has been our Music Curriculum here at Eastside. The students, staff, parents, and supporters continue to enjoy the beautiful music taught by Mrs. Michelle Pipe as Choir Director and Mr. Eric Phelps as conductor of the orchestra. The passion that these two have for teaching music is clearly seen and very much appreciated. Crista Phelps also helps Eric out, especially with some of the younger children. This program continues to be a great experience for our children. We are looking forward to seeing how this training brings glory to our God at the All School Program on April 20.

Mrs. Kim Kuiper has returned this year to teach our 1st - 8th grade students Art. Her time spent teaching this important subject is much appreciated.

The School Board has also been busy with the normal workload of overseeing the running of the school. The load has been a little lighter this past year since we did not have the need to look for new staff members as we did last year. The Board is happy to report that all staff have signed contracts to return next school year. The Lord is certainly gracious in

As another school year is in its final couple months, we gather as Association members of Eastside Christian School once again. Reflecting on this past year, we can see God's continued faithfulness. We are thankful for the students, staff, parents, and supporters of Eastside Christian School. Their positive attitudes and dedicated work have been evident this school year.

Reflecting the mind of Christ in our children is our mission at Eastside and our faculty and staff teach this in every subject taught. Their hard work continues to bear fruit as anyone visiting our school during the day can clearly see. The students are always respectful and show that the teaching is definitely sinking in.

This school year has seen a few changes. We welcomed back Mr. Pete Adams as a part-time principal and he has once again been doing a fantastic job. We also gained a new teacher with Amanda Klammer who has fit in well here at Eastside. Midway through the year we said goodbye to one family and welcomed a new family to our school as the Smits moved back to the Philippines and Rev. Griess took the call to First PRC.

Mrs. Lyda Hulst has a great group of students in the PreK / K classroom. There are three students in Pre-K and ten students in Kindergarten. Mrs. Hulst once again did a wonderful job teaching this large group of students. She does a great job teaching the students how to recognize sight words and begin reading so that they are prepared for the challenges of the next level of education. She also shows love for her students by implanting a love for the Bible in each student as seen by requiring them to learn a verse for each letter of the alphabet.

Mrs. Anita Haak is now in her second year of teaching at Eastside. She has decided to teach full time this year which has been a great help to the school. She continues to use her years of experience to teach effectively to her eight 1st graders. Her ability to hone the reading skills of our children helps to prepare them for next year and strengthen their love for reading.

With four 2nd graders and eight 3rd graders Mrs. Kristi Thompson is having a busy year once again. This is the second year that she has had twelve students to teach but has no problem keeping them under control. You can see that her students respect her when all she needs to do is give them a look or just say their name to get them to do what they are supposed to be doing. She keeps her classroom moving and learning through all the various subjects that she teaches.

Mrs. Amanda Klammer is completing her first year here at Eastside and has fit in quite well. She is well loved by her students, the parents, and the staff. Not only is it her first year as a full-time teacher, but she also teaches three grades with nine students total. This is no easy task but one that she handles really well. I have personally witnessed her teach three different

providing an excellent staff once again. Given that Pete Adams has been hired for the position of part-time principal once again, the Board has put the option to make this a full-time job by adding work that the Eastside Foundation has been talking about doing on hold. The Board is still working on creating a job description for the full-time position should the need to fill this position in the future arise.

The Building Committee continues to watch over and maintain the school building by fixing leaks in the ceiling among other jobs. The school has been upgraded to LED lighting, which will save the school money over the coming years not to mention it really brightened up the gym. The committee also got a new rope for the rope swing and got approval for adding a flagpole on the school grounds. The Technology Committee has been busy keeping the internet and computers running.

The Finance Committee works hard to track the finances of the school and manage the budget each year. The school is in good financial condition and we can see the Lord's provision once again this year. Due to the generosity of our supporters last year, we set a lofty goal for the operating fund drive

for this year of \$134,000. We have not yet reached this goal but we thank everyone who has contributed so far.

We are very grateful for the work of the Eastside Foundation which has once again contributed greatly toward the overall financial health of the school. The foundation also has continued the \$1,000 credit per student to reduce the tuition costs which I know the parents really appreciate.

We are also very thankful to the Promoters group, which is a group of parents and supporters of Eastside, who help to promote Eastside and raise funds to assist the teachers and school with financial needs. They do this by making blanket, running the Stop and Shop craft show, and running the TRIP Program to name a few things. We also had a great auction year to help out as well. Promoters supplied some new music stands and a portable white board with staff lines for writing music for which the Orchestra is very thankful for.

To sum it all up, the Lord continues to bless Eastside Christian School. We pray that He also continues to give us wisdom as we work towards our goal to instruct our covenant youth to reflect the mind of Christ.

WHAT ABOUT THE 2-ERS?

Mr. Pete Adams

We are familiar with the parable of the talents. In Matthew 25 a man traveled to a far country and gave to his servants talents with which they were to use in faithfulness. Those talents in the parable are to be understood today as actual talents, money, time, and primarily opportunities and abilities to serve Him and our neighbor. One received 5 talents with which to work, another 2, and the last 1. We get the 5 and 1 situations (a lot and not much), but why are those who received the 2 talents in the story? I submit the following -

Let's start by asking how many talents we have been given. 5, 1, or 2? Objectively, how could we answer that question? Who would be able to numerically rate and then rank different skills, needs, opportunities, etc.? But subjectively, I think we can get somewhere. If a person were to consistently see himself on the 1 level, not much to offer, no opportunities, then that would be a built-in excuse to do nothing. Tell that to the One Who washed His disciples' feet. If we went around thinking of ourselves as 5-ers having great abilities and should therefore have corresponding opportunities and positions greater than others, well we know what our sinful, prideful flesh does with that mindset. We should see ourselves rather as 2-ers, not ignoring the opportunities given us, but also not being proud.

The children in our homes and students in our schools can well learn this parable by seeing it displayed right before their eyes. Seeing parents, grandparents, teachers looking for ways to help others, doing the common, unrewarded chores that are typically unseen. You can fill in the blanks. Yes,

they can well-learn how to be good servants these ways, but even better is for the young 2-ers to be young do-ers. School-wise the opportunities and responsibilities present themselves readily at hand with the daily homework assignments to be done daily, done on time, done neatly, along with larger, longer projects to be done promptly and well. At home they can be involved in the chores that they are able to accomplish at their age-level and like-wise at school many other opportunities present themselves (at Eastside the older students are involved in some of the clean-up duties at the end of the day; we also have had them visit some of the older members of our churches). The heritage of faithful work and service habits learned at our school is one of the best things that children can receive from their education.

If the Word of God expressed in the parable was the word of man, we would expect the conclusion of the parable to be that in heaven we can finally take our well-merited rest and live a life of ease. But no, surprisingly the reward is that our numbers increase! "... thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things..." Yes, more opportunities to serve and more abilities to fulfill those opportunities. And yes, even more joy in so doing, for if using these talents in this life hasn't been done with thankfulness and joy they are hay, wood, and stubble.

May your children and our students experience in this life and the life to come His joy in doing His Father's will. "... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

PERPLEXING PENGUINS

On a cold January day, a curious sign appeared in front of school - "Penguins are Welcome." Penguins from all walks of life started gathering by the school - scholars, explorers, newlyweds and more. The students had a good time over the next two months watching for new penguins and guessing who was behind it all. To date, no one is taking credit and *The Case of the Perplexing Penguins* remains a mystery.



ART CLASS

Grades 1st through 3rd enjoy art class taught by Mrs. Kim Kuiper.

COOKING CLASS

Each week, the Kindergarten enjoys cooking class, where they try out a new recipe that is themed around the week's curriculum.



SPRING PROGRAM

The All-School Program was held April 20, and featured special music by all the classrooms, including recorders (2nd-3rd grades), choir (4th-8th grades) and orchestra (4th-8th grades). As has been the custom for the past three years, the orchestra played their own student compositions.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Andy Kuiper | 7th-8th Grade

Take a trip with me down scenic Market Avenue along the Grand River heading out of the city. As you are traveling along, dodging the larger potholes in favor of the smaller ones, you realize that what would be just the thing to make everything better at this moment would be to roll down the window and feel the breeze on your face. Feeling pleased at having avoided blowing a tire, you proceed happily toward the highway when suddenly, it happens. As you pass a certain building complex, the stench hits you like a slap in the face! That building complex is, of course, the Grand Rapids Water Resource Recovery facility (a nice name for the function it serves). Having experienced this scene (and even having visited the plant once in my office furniture days), you might forgive me for preparing to deal with the same kind of odoriferous experience at the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant on the north side of Grand Rapids. However, (for the most part) I was pleasantly surprised.

In our Environmental Science class, the 7th and 8th graders have been learning about many of the resources God has give us to use. We are currently focusing on air and water resources, and one of the topics we cover is pollution treatment. "Pollution" is the nice word for what we saw being dealt with on our tour, so that's the word that will be used throughout.

The first room that we entered was the only one that really stunk. We were able to see inside one of the huge filters that separates most of the solid pollution from liquid pollution.



Our tour guide gets a sample from the "mixed liquor" (20 feet deep in these pools). Everyone scattered when they realized he was actually going to pull it up! He then dutifully returned the sample to the pool.

Noah and Bryce check out the filters that are used to separate the microscopic bits of pollution from the rest of the stuff. After it goes through these, the water is treated with UV light to kill off anything that remains, then vented into the Grand River. You can see where it goes in if you look at an overhead shot of the river (it's the less dirty part of the river right near the plant).



The rest of the solid is dispensed into these dumpsters, which are hauled away to the landfill. At this point, it basically feels and smells like dirt. Our tour guide and a few of the students smelled it and agreed.

All things considered, it was an interesting experience. We were able to see some of the principles of stewardship that we talk about in school being acted out, as one of the resources God has given us is cleaned up and put back into use.

A SONG FOR MOMS

Mrs. Kristi Thompson

The 1st – 3rd graders collaborated on the lyrics to a special song for their moms this year. They brainstormed all the things they could think of that their moms do for them and how they are such a wonderful blessing from God, and then these ideas were put into lyrics to the tune of “Count Your Blessings.” The students performed their song for all their moms at our Mothers Tea this year. It was a big hit with the moms and even caused a few precious tears to be shed. Here are the lyrics to their song.

MOMS ARE A BLESSING

When my clothes are full of grass and so muddy
When my teeth are crooked and my eyes can't see
I count my many blessings, name them one by one
I thank my God in heaven for my dear sweet mom.

Chorus:

Count Your blessings, name them one by one
Count your blessings, see what God has done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one.
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

When I'm slow to getting ready for the day
When my teeth aren't brushed and I'm not on my way
I'm thankful for Mom's patience, she gets me safely there
I'm glad God gave me a mom who really cares.

Chorus

When I fall and stumble and I skin my knee
When my head is hot and I feel kind of weak
I count my many blessings, Mom will hold me tight
God gave me a mom whose medicine's just right.

Chorus

When my stomach rumbles for a treat that's sweet
When my plate has good things I don't want to eat
Mom says to eat what's good for me, it'll make me strong
And so I eat my Brussels sprouts even when I think she's wrong.

Chorus

When I break the lamp or don't do what I should
When I disobey my mom and break God's rules
I know my Mom still loves me even when it hurts
She disciplines according to God's Holy Word.

Chorus

When it's time for bed and I must go to sleep
Mom brings in a book and then begins to read
Then I say my bedtime prayers to God above
“Thank you for my mom and for her endless love!”

Chorus

*1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grades

Eastside Christian School

MOTHERS TEA

