



# EASTSIDE

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SCHOOL BOARD  
NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2019

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Pete Adams

Another of the same?

We are at the ending of another school year. Ho-Hum?? Another box checked and now move on?? Much depends on how you and I lived it this past year. Our flesh would have us proceed with our nose to the grindstone, certainly doing the necessary things and even beyond, but grinding them out with the hope of breaks?, holidays?, summer?, retirement even? But not with the hope of heaven and the Kingdom of Righteous.

Or was this past year seen as a gift to be expended prudently one day at a time. Each school day commenced with prayer for blessings from Him, Who is God our Father Almighty, and then lived consciously throughout the hours before His face in Christ, with the belief that come what may, all things are from His hands for our good and His glory?

We know how to correctly answer these questions, but have we lived up these high callings? As His children we indeed have entered into this spiritual, challenging life, putting on the whole armor of God. We have stumbled but have been raised up, lost our way at times, but have been brought back to His path, and in the words of the Apostle, been perplexed but not left in despair.

So let's look back on the year remembering His faithfulness throughout, and use this to look confidently ahead for the next year that He sends our way.

### K-3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP - DUTCH VILLAGE





## EASTSIDE ASSOCIATION BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Brent Tanis

Welcome to the annual Association meeting of Eastside Christian School! Another school year is quickly coming to a close and we are thankful for God's blessing on the past year. We are also thankful for the students, staff, parents, and supporters of Eastside Christian School. It has been great to see how parents and staff work together throughout the school year to teach our children to fear the Lord. The theme for this year has been the armour of God and it has been a joy to see this theme come to fruition.

The teachers have been using this theme to teach the children how to protect themselves in the spiritual warfare that we all face here on earth. Once again Mr. Pete Adams has graciously served the school as a part time principal. He still is often there in the morning to welcome the students. He has done a good job informing the Board about the goings on at the school with his monthly reports.

Mrs. Lydya Hulst has, I believe, her largest class yet with 11 Pre-K and 7 Kindergarteners. She has once again done a wonderful job. Many parents have expressed that Mrs. Hulst is a big reason of why they decided to send their children to Eastside. She continues to lay a good foundation for our children by teaching them how to read and have a love for books. We are also thankful to the many volunteers that help her throughout the week. Mrs. Anita Haak once again has eight students in her first grade class. Her experience can be seen in the way she runs her classroom. Anyone visiting her class can see the respect her students have for her. She also teaches her students how to work together to help each other out with daily activities.

Mrs. Kristi Thompson is keeping busy with her eight 2nd graders and four 3rd graders. This is now the third year that she has had 12 students to teach! I am impressed every time I visit her room on how well she keeps her classroom moving from one subject to the next. Even when a student begins to become disruptive in class, she is able to quickly and calmly diffuse the situation before it gets out of hand.

The 4th through 6th graders had quite a change this year. Mrs. Amanda Klamer was blessed with a baby girl halfway through the year. We are very grateful for the year and a half that she was able to give as a teacher. We are very happy for her but we were also sad to see her go. We were also happy to get a teacher so quickly. We welcomed Mr. Tyler DeVries earlier this year who is now teaching the eight 4th graders, four 5th graders and one 6th grader. He is doing a good job learning the ropes so far.

Mr. Andy Kuiper once again has five students in the 7th and 8th grade classroom. I was able to sit in one of his science classes where the students gave presentations. It is great to see how he lets the students have some fun in the class while still learning about climates of different areas of the world.

Mrs. Karen Ophoff and Mrs. Heidi Van Baren share responsibility as school secretary this year. They are both been very eager to help anytime they see a need at the school. They do a lot to help out classrooms and it is very appreciated.

Mr. Tim Thompson continues to do a good job as the school janitor. Mrs. Kim Kuiper also returned to teach art classes again this year.

The Music Curriculum is once again a big part of life at Eastside. We are happy to have Mrs. Michelle Pipe back as Choir Director and Mr. Eric Phelps back as conductor of the orchestra. Mrs. Crista Pheps continues to help Eric as well. This program continues to be a great experience for our children. We hope to see you at the all school program on April 18 where the children are able to show how the training of these teachers has been paying off.

The School Board has been quite busy this past year with the hiring of a new teacher as well as a new part time position of Director of Development. Mr. Jim Holstege has been doing a great job filling this position. One of the highlights of what he has been doing is creating an extra newsletter in January that helped introduce some of the new families here at Eastside.



The Building Committee continues to watch over and maintain the school building. The Technology Committee was able to connect our internet with First Church to save both the church and the school some money as well as have more reliable internet at the school.

The Finance Committee continues to keep track of what we spend as well as the income to the school. The school is once again in good financial condition. We have set the operating fund drive this year with a goal of \$134,000 just like last year. We have yet to reach our goal but we are grateful for all of our contributors.

The Eastside Foundation has once again agreed to continue the \$1,000 credit per student to reduce the tuition costs. The parents really appreciate the help that the Foundation gives them to help keep tuition costs lower.

The Promoters group has again been a big contributor to the financial well being of the school by making banquet, running the Stop and Shop craft show, and putting on another great auction. The Lord continues to bless Eastside Christian School. It is evident in the parents, children, teachers, staff, volunteers, and supporters that He has given. We continue to see growth not only in numbers but also the way we all come together as a community to help this school to thrive. We are very thankful to everyone here and those who are not that continue to allow us to use Eastside as a means of nurturing our covenant children to reflect the mind of Christ.

## PLAYGROUND FUN





## LOGO AND IDENTITY UPDATE

Debbie Baldwin

We are excited to roll out the Eastside logo and identity update! As you can see, our school has a new logo design which we also carried over into an updated look for the newsletter.

The updated logo is the result of careful thought and a bit of behind-the-scenes work. Betsy Boelema and myself started the logo and identity update project in the summer of 2017. There were a few problems with the old Eastside logo. The first major problem was that the logo file was lost. Created over 20 years ago, the school no longer had an original logo file (although we found out later in the identity revision process that our printing company had a copy of the logo). But for the past seven years, anytime someone needed to use the logo, we would come up with something that looked “close enough” in matching fonts. Not an ideal way to preserve your school brand. The second problem was that the logo was over 20 years old and in need of an update. Marketing wisdom says to keep your logo current – with some saying it should be refreshed as often as every five years. But also balance that with the reality that schools often keep logos for much longer – especially older, established schools and universities who want to preserve a look that points to their long history. And typically, when schools do update, they don’t full-on follow the trend of the day (for example – the current trend of minimalistic fonts) but stay closer to their original look.



The original logo from 1997



The updated logo

With all that as background knowledge, we started the process with an open mind, experimenting with the visuals that would pertain to Eastside and the idea of a Christian school – an eagle (the school mascot), a wing, a flame. But nothing was really grabbing us, so Jim Holstege formed a logo committee to address the matter – Steve Ophoff with his background in signage, and Betsy Boelema and myself with a background in marketing. Jim nicely rounded out the committee with his enthusiasm and ability to keep everything on track. If any of us on the committee had a vision of sweeping change to the logo, that did not happen. Through lengthy discussion we ended up with the idea of a modest revision to the current identity – improve the fonts and graphic, as well as update with our colors. The original logo created over 20 years ago included people figurines – a large and small – as a nod to our mission statement of “nurturing covenant children to reflect the mind of Christ.” The adult and child graphic was intended to point to the covenant, which is the basis and reason for our school. Once we talked it over, the committee began to come to the conclusion that using an eagle, a wing, or really anything else could not compare to a graphic that pointed to the covenant as the basis and reason for our school. The original logo was not broken. Slightly outdated perhaps, but still a good product. Improving the fonts and graphic, as well as updating the logo with the Eastside colors could go a long way.

*Did you know there is **Eastside Blue** and **Eastside Green**? It’s the blue and green you’ve seen in the marketing materials for the last six years - specific CMYK color values to ensure consistency throughout the website, newsletters, and other materials.*

Since updating the logo was somewhat out of our personal expertise, the committee decided to submit the project to DesignCrowd. DesignCrowd is a website that allows you to submit a request for a logo for a small fee. Designers from all around the world can choose to submit an idea for your project. In the end, if you like a certain logo, that designer gets the money. If you don’t like any, you get your money refunded.

Using DesignCrowd was a nice way for the committee to be objective and speak freely about opinions. About 40 logo options were submitted by various designers for us to consider. We had given guidance on what we were looking for, including a little bit about

our school, our mascot, our school colors, and our desire to stay close to the original logo. Of the 40 options, many were immediately discounted – some were “stock” logos, or generic logos that the designer took and slapped “Eastside Christian School” on. Some were



curious and maybe a little comical – an eagle landing on a pencil is one that comes to mind. But in the end, one particularly caught our eye. The designer modernized the fonts and the people figurines from the old logo. We asked for a change to Eastside colors and the result was our new logo.

If it sounds like a lot of work for a just a small change, well, perhaps it was. That could be our Dutch Reformed heritage coming out - taking ourselves seriously, having meetings and in-depth discussions, and then ending up with something not that different than what we originally started with. But the process forced us to think through what important truth the logo reflects about our school. As you can see in this newsletter, the new logo will be used to update all the school identity marketing pieces – the letterhead, website, etc – and phased in when appropriate if replacement cost is a factor. We are excited for this logo and identity refresh! And next fall, the Promoters will be rolling out Eastside apparel with our new logo, so that is something to look for!

## RECONNECTING WITH THE LEE FAMILY

*Dr. Sungho Lee from Korea Theological Seminary was in Grand Rapids to attend the Dordt 400 conference put on by the Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary. Sungho and his wife, Sunghun, attended First PRC for three years while he studied at Calvin Seminary, and their oldest two children attended Eastside through the 4th and 5th grades while the Lee family lived in West Michigan. Members of First PRC were able to reconnect with Dr. Sungho while he was here, as well as meet Pastor Jung Jeong (Dr. Sungho's former student who is now his pastor!). Eldest daughter Eunji agreed to give us an update on what she and her siblings are up to now.*

Greetings to the Eastside family! It has been 12 years since we left and came to Korea. My family is living in Cheonan since Dad became a professor in Korea Theological Seminary. We still cherish the memories we've had at Eastside and sometimes look through the yearbooks when we feel like missing home.

I am currently studying Primary Education and English Education as a senior in the Korea National University of Education. Being able to speak fluently in English is regarded as a special talent in Korea. I believe that God planned my life in the US to provide me with this ability. One day I hope to become a teacher like the teachers who taught me when I was a student in Eastside, like Mrs. DeKryger, Mrs. Kleyn, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Feenstra and many more.

Eungaang studies at Handong Global University which is a Christian University. After finishing his third semester he applied for the Air Force and now he is serving in the army. You'll be surprised to see that he grew from a little boy who used to like Barney to a tall man walking in the way of the Lord.

Eunsong is taking a year off from Chungnam Arts High School after her first year. She used to major in violin but now she's studying at home. She is the most diligent among the three of us. She has this disappointment that she wasn't able to go to Eastside but her sister and brother did. Her wish is to visit Grand Rapids and go to all the places we used to go to, such as Meijer Gardens or Lake Michigan.

Eastside Christian School not only taught us Music (I still play the flute), Math, and English, but more than that. Our faith stands firm because of the biblically-based lessons we've learned at Eastside. I still remember how we started every class with prayer. I remember the devotions led by students and teachers, and the chapel services. The lessons we've learned are now in the faraway past, but they continually work through our lives.



**TOP:** Korea Theological Seminary where Dr. Sungho Lee teaches.

**MIDDLE:** Eunji, Eungong, Eunsong

**BOTTOM:** Eungong fulfilling his compulsory military duties.



## ZACH AND ZOE'S EASTSIDE MEMORIES

Zachary Kleyn and Zoe Newhof - Eastside Graduates

While brainstorming for this article, we had some good laughs remembering the past 10 years. We must have learned lots of things because we have made it through 8th grade and are on our way to high school. But many of our best memories are the funny classroom moments, injuries, and fun events each year.

### ZACH'S MEMORIES

#### Kindergarten

- Our teacher was Mrs. Dekryger. We had a bigger class then, with seven kids in our grade.
- One fun memory I have is when I had my birthday treat at my house. Since my family lived right next door to school, the whole kindergarten class tramped over to my house to look for suckers that were hidden in the lawn.
- One embarrassing moment was the time I told on another classmate for having her eyes open during prayer. When Mrs. Dekryger asked me how I knew, I realized my mistake and began to cry.
- I also remember how there was the mystery of who was chewing on the back of pencils, despite Mrs. Dekryger telling us many times not to. It was me.

#### 1st Grade

- Our teacher was Mrs. Miedema.
- We were proud to be like the "big kids" now, having school every day for the whole day.
- I remember every day having to walk all alone down the hallway to Mrs. Thompson's train-themed classroom for reading and writing, because I was a grade ahead in those subjects.

#### 2nd & 3rd Grades

- We had Mrs. Thompson as our teacher. Keeping us under control was a challenge. We were a loud and rambunctious class.
- Mrs. Thompson's classroom was very fun, with prizes for quiet students (which I rarely was), an interesting class theme that covered all the walls and furniture, and weekly treats, which were delicious.

#### 4th-6th Grades

- For 4th, 5th, and 6th grades we had Mr. Mahtani as our teacher.
- Mr. Mahtani really liked athletics and sports and that showed in



his teaching. We had a mini basketball hoop at the front of the room and at random times we got to take a shot. If we made the shot, we got a piece of candy. Also, at least for 4th grade, we would do "exerciser" breaks.

- The best part about the 4th-6th grade years was the lock-in. Activities at the lock-in included: eat-it-or-wear-it contests, spontaneous silly-string fights, zooming through the school in office chairs, nerf wars, rotten fruit fights, truth or dare, ripping up our grammar books, and playing capture the flag in the dark.

#### 7th & 8th Grades

- In 7th & 8th Grades our teacher was Mr. Kuiper.
- One funny memory was the time when some of us were trying to tune the old banjo up, and three of the strings snapped. It didn't really matter though, because apparently the only reason that banjo was still in our classroom is so that, in the cause of a lock down, Mr. Kuiper would whack the intruder over the head with it.
- Thanks to Zoe for interrupting our classes with lots of questions and comments so we don't have to do notes (:
- We had to take exams, although we also got to go on a fun all-day (or two) end of the year trip, in which we learned driver's training and firearm safety (totally not go-karts and lazer tag).

### ZOE'S MEMORIES

In the past ten years at Eastside I can honestly say I've had some of my favorite memories and experiences with some of my favorite people. Brainstorming for this paper even brought back some memories I totally forgot about, and while writing this paper I got to relive some of these memories, laughing at the crazy, funny moments and cringing at some of the "painful" and awkward ones.

Starting with memories from kindergarten, I remember looking up at all the older kids like “woooooahhh, they're so big” and “wow, they're so cool.” And yeah.....haha, I also remember one time falling asleep in chapel.....oops. Oh, another time when I was crossing the old yellow monkey bars with Anneliese, I asked Mr. Adams to hold my feet because for some reason I thought that was a good idea.....anyway I was crossing, my hand slipped and... bang! I did a total face plant on the ground. No feet, no hands.....just face....haha, yeah not one of my best moments. The last memory of kindergarten was when I had to go to the bathroom really, really bad, and I asked Mrs. Dekryger if I could use the bathroom. But at the time I couldn't say bathroom correctly. I'd say batroom. So when I asked to use the bathroom she tried to correct me and tell me it was pronounced bathroom, not batroom. “No Zoe, it's not pronounced batroom, it's pronounced ba-TH-room. Come on, say it with me. Ba-TH-room. Not batroom. Ba-TH-room.” In my weak attempt to copy her, she finally gave me permission to use the bathroom, either seeing how desperate I was, or she just got tired of trying to teach me how to correctly pronounce it....

I don't remember a ton from first grade. I do remember we had my aunt for a teacher, which was pretty cool, I was really proud of my sparkly husky folder, and we sometimes got into pointless debates about the randomest things.

Second and third grade, like first grade, was pretty chill. From what I've heard though, I always thought I needed to redo almost every art project at least once. I do remember Zach and I would race to see who could get their fact sheets and wrap-ups done first for times tables.

Fourth through sixth grade is where it got a little more exciting. For one thing we got to have a lock-in at the end of the year, which was always fun. To sum up the lock-ins I guess you could say it was a lot of pizza, silly string, nerf guns, and noise. One of the most memorable things from the lock-in though, was when we bombed Mr. Mahtani's car with silly string. The next two memories are a lot less fun. The first is when we were playing Monster in the winter. Mr. Kuiper was chasing us on the playground, and a few other people, and I jumped off the playground and started running away. As I was running I must have hit a hole in the ground, because when I hit it I guess I lost my balance. But my momentum was still

going, so I ended up hitting the swingset pole. Apparently I sprained my knee and dislocated the knee cap.....even more fun. The other memory is another injury. Gabby and I were going to sled on the “big hill.” As we were going down Gabby fell off, tumbling and crashing into the trashcan at the bottom. While watching her, I ran into the basketball pole at the bottom.

So, seventh and eighth grade memories. I'd probably have to say these two years were the best. But this year was especially awesome, because Gabby and I were finally in the same class again and our class has gotten closer. The first thing that comes to mind is when we were all talking about lockdowns because, well, we had just had a drill for one. We were all getting excited and everything, talking about what we'd do and stuff if the lockdown was for real, when Mr. Kuiper whips out his metal bat. We all screamed and hid under our desks. If only I could stop it there... Haha, no, he brought it out to tell us that is what he'd use if someone actually tried to break in. Another recent memory is when Zach and Tanner threw their shoes at me, because they didn't want to have their picture taken. Speaking of throwing things, Mr. Kuiper occasionally would throw a marker or two at us when we either asked him about unit multipliers or graphing for the 40th time in three consecutive days. We also had those random moments in class where we liked to start singing or just be really weird and loud in class. To at least put some educational things in here, we did learn about the atmosphere and the periodical table. Shoutout to Zach for saving us all in pop-up quizzes and further expanding our brains with random facts.

### SUMMING IT UP | ZACH AND ZOE

Needless to say, we have had an awesome time and a good Christian education at Eastside.

We also enjoyed many chapels and all-school programs where we had the opportunity to show the skills we learned in Orchestra

and Choir. We are thankful for all the support of the teachers, parents, school board, and other staff to ensure we received a quality, God-centered education. We wish we could tell about every great experience and good friend, but we can't. We are sure to use and build on the things we have learned at Eastside in high school and beyond.

#### KINDERGARTEN FLASHBACK





Every year, the Eastside orchestra students have the opportunity to compose their own piece of music and present that music (performed by the orchestra) at the All-School Program. This year, the students wrote music based on this year's school theme, The Whole Armour of God.

Students wrote pieces with titles like "Shield of Faith", "Stormy Battle", "Enemy of the Night", and "Victory March". These short pieces were named after elements of armour and war, which symbolized our spiritual battle and spiritual victory over sin and the devil.

Our goal in doing these projects is to give the students a more complete understanding of music, music writing, and performance.

On the one hand, it is the job of a performing musician to look at a piece of music, and through the information written down by the composer (rhythm, dynamics, notes, key signature, tempo markings, articulations, context) try to figure out how to bring that music back to life. What was the composer imagining when he wrote the piece? What bigger musical expression and story is hidden in the symbols written down on the piece of paper in front of him? This is a challenging and exciting process for a performer, and one that brings great joy to all when done successfully.

With the composition project, we put the students on the other side of this scenario. What are your musical ideas? How will you as the composer decide to represent your ideas on paper? What instructions most clearly represent what you are imagining, so that the performer can bring your music back to life? There are many decisions each composer has to make, and many corrections to the score that will be needed during this process. The students will discover the importance of writing clearly, understanding how notes relate to one another in chords, and why a composer might write an accent here, or a dynamic marking there. This is also a fun time to introduce the students to various sound effects that can enhance the music such as slides, harmonics, or various bowing techniques.

The expectation is that each student will work hard and take ownership of his/her own music; and they do! There is a great deal of extra work put into working out all these details, a lot of editing, and much anticipation about how each piece will be perceived by the audience.

We believe that the act of composing and presenting a piece of music gives the students a very complete and well-rounded view of music; one that will lead them to a lifetime of enjoyment and understanding of God's wonderful gift of music.

## HATCHING CHICKS



Mrs. Anita Haak planned a science project that the entire school enjoyed. The 1st-3rd grade hatched chicken eggs in the first grade classroom. They began the project with 18 eggs, and 15 hatched after 21 days. At the beginning of the project, the students weighed the eggs, and then throughout the 21 days they candled them (held them up to light to see life inside), and turned them three times per day. The class even recruited Lena Griess' mom to turn the eggs on nights and weekends! The kids held the eggs the day before they hatched and got to hear chirping from inside the shell. It was an exciting Wednesday morning when the students arrived at school to find most of the chicks had hatched! They made observations about the eggs and later the chicks - the beginning weight of the egg vs. the weight closer to hatch time, the movement inside the eggs close to hatch time, and when the chicks hatched they noticed they have an eyelid that comes up from the bottom of the eye. Any students who had a permission note from their parents were allowed to take home some chicks. Five of the chicks found homes with Eastside families and the rest were given to a farm.