

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Pete Adams

Well, we have officially finished the school year. Much has transpired since our last newsletter. To list a few, we had our Spring Program, end-of-semester testing, 7th & 8th Class trip, annual school picnic, and the graduation of our three 8th grade students (Joe Monsma, Jeremy VanBaren, and Noah Windemuller). It is really the last item that is and should be our focus. All our labors should be done with the idea that is expressed in our motto - "nurturing Covenant children to reflect the mind of Christ." We know as Reformed believers that the ultimate success of these labors are in God's hands, but we continually pray that we might be useful implements (Romans 6) in those hands.

I will sign off for my part, and let one of our students (Jeremy) speak for himself and the other graduates and students.

"Good Evening. Thank you for coming to Eastside Christian School's 16th graduation ceremony. Tonight, on behalf of my fellow classmates, I would like to take this time to reflect on the many things we learned, and from those whom we learned it, as we grew up in this school. Our life at Eastside began when we walked into Mrs. DeKryger's room in Kindergarten. We were an active bunch and could hardly be contained for long. As we moved on to first through third grade, our teacher was Miss Nelson, who was aided by Mrs. Miedema and my mom. Also, a new classmate joined: Kevin, from South Korea, who spent first grade with us. We became independent students as we learned to read and write more extensively. We daily sang Psalter numbers and hymns in the morning and often would join Mrs. DeKryger's class. These were the years of enthusiastic Riverbank runs, many special celebrations that our room moms would put together, and lots of fun field trips that broadened our minds outside of the classroom. Fourth through sixth grade was spent with Mrs. Feenstra. In addition to academics, Mrs. Feenstra placed a high priority on our spiritual growth. We daily lead devotions before lunch and each subject was taught with Christian applications. As a grade of all boys, this training will help us as we become future leaders in church and family life. She also brought our Michigan History class to life when we went to Lansing and Greenfield Village. Her end-of-the-year field trips were memorable with games requiring messy eating, using our strength, and cheering on our classmates in team competitions. Seventh and eighth grades were spent with Mr. Adams. He also taught us from a strong biblical perspective. Through his efforts we have grown spiritually stronger and more knowledgeable. Mr. Adams has been a good role model for us boys to emulate as we grow up. Thanks for challenging us, Mr. Adams. Mrs. Thompson enthusiastically taught us grammar and literature in these years. We have a deeper respect and understanding of these subjects due to her passion for teaching.

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REVISED TUITION COSTS

The Eastside Christian School Foundation recently implemented a Tuition Reduction Program for Eastside Christian Students for the coming years, beginning this fall with the 2013-2014 school year. With this generous financial gift to the school and particularly its families, the Board is pleased to announce that our families will receive an annual \$1,000 credit toward the tuition of each student enrolled, and Pre-School education is free. (See chart on right for details.) We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His financial blessings, and for this opportunity to reduce the tuition obligations of our families.

Please contact School Board President Bruce Miedema by phone (616-293-1491) or email (bmiedema@miedemaconcrete.com) with questions.

	Current Tuition Schedule	Foundation Tuition Supplement	Total Tuition Cost
Pre-K:	\$960	\$1,000	\$0
Kindergarten:	\$3,687	\$1,000	\$2,687
One child in 1st-8th:	\$5,707	\$1,000	\$4,707
Two children in K-8th:	\$7,575	\$2,000	\$5,575
Three children in K-8th:	\$8,989	\$3,000	\$5,989
Four+ children in K-8th:	\$10,403	\$4,000	\$6,403

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"We will always remember the times that made our years at Eastside special. One of our favorite events was the bike hike. We made it to the Grand Haven Pier every year since the 5th grade. We then would go swimming in the frigid waters of Lake Michigan. Some other highlights were Pizza Night, Thanksgiving breakfasts, and when we went ice skating, sledding, and tubing (on snow). For the past two years we made memories on our class trips to the Air Zoo, overnight at Camp Manitou-Lin, followed by laser tag and go-carts at Craig's Cruisers. So over all, we have had some very enjoyable educational adventures at Eastside.

"I would like to thank our parents for their commitment and involvement as room mothers, hot lunch servers, and chaperones. Also for their encouragement to do our best, from cheering us on the sidelines to firm discipline, on occasion. The many parents, grandparents, friends, and other supporters of the school who have helped Eastside financially; they know how important a Christian education is. If it were not for these people, this school would not be the Eastside that we love. Above all, we must thank our heavenly Father for this school in which we learned."

TREASURER REPORT

Mr. Tim Hop

Thanks to our Heavenly Father for another year of financial provision. As a school, we have been blessed financially through several avenues. The generous gifts of our supporters through the Operating Fund Drive (which exceeded its goal by .8%) as well as church collections are all a vital part of running a school. Thank you! The sacrifice of tuition-paying families and a well-planned and executed budget also played an integral part. Finally, the Foundation Board continues to work along side us to control costs.

It is our prayer that these elements continue to bless us. We appreciate the generosity and sacrifice of our supporters as we work toward the goal of training covenant youth to take their place in the Kingdom.

SUMMER LOSS

The Education Committee

Hello parents and students!

We trust that you are enjoying summer! Over at Eastside, many teachers, staff and parents are already working hard to prepare for the 2013/2014 school year. We want to remind you about our IXL math program and how it can minimize the effects of summer loss.

Summer learning loss is the decrease in academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer break. Studies show summer loss is most pronounced in math, with loss as great as 2 months!

Summer loss can be combated by practice in the skill set that you are trying to retain. Summer reading programs (like those through your local library or bookstore) keep kids reading while school is out and help maintain reading levels, but math skills can be more difficult to maintain.

Eastside's subscription to IXL Math, an online math program that can help students stay current on grade-level appropriate math skills, is available all summer long, at www.ixl.com. Encourage your children to enjoy some practice time at home. Contact Anne Miedema if you need help with login or password information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First day of school

September 3

Picnic on the Patio

September 5

Bike Hike

September 13

COMING SOON

Fall Kick-Off Meeting with parents, staff, and board

Becky Tubergen from the Christian Learning Center will be a featured presenter. Look for more details to come soon!

SEVENTH-EIGHTH GRADE CLASS TRIP



FROM OUR 4TH-6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Mr. Dave Mahtani

What did you appreciate most about this past school year?

I appreciated teachers that care about their students.

—Lewis DeGoffau

We got to go on really fun field trips. I got Mr. M as a teacher. I got to have parties. —Anna Kortz

What I appreciated most about this year was that my class and I all got along so well. I also enjoyed all of the fun activities and field trips that we took. I also enjoyed my first year of Band. —Hannah Windemuller

I appreciated all the school field trips and parties that Mr. Mahtani and the room moms planned for us. They put so much time and effort into planning games and food for our classroom. Making our snacks dye and dairy-free was extra special, showing how much they cared. —Madelyn Monsma

I really liked the Lock-in because of all the fun games and candy, and it was a good way for me to play with dads and friends. —Samuel DeGoffau

I had lots of friends. —Malachi Windemuller

I appreciated being pushed through the year. We were worked hard and did many things that I thought made me a better student. Even though I didn't understand some of it, I did well through the year. —Samantha Byker

I liked having my last year with Mr. Mahtani. He's the best teacher I ever had. He is a God-fearing man, and he cares about me very much and about my future. I'll miss him as a teacher, and he will be the best there ever was. —Jeffrey Spees

I appreciated that we got to tear up our Grammar books. Also, we got to do Choir this year. —Elizabeth Kortz

What will you be looking forward to most over the Summer break?

I am looking forward to seeing my cousins and going camping.

—Lewis DeGoffau

We are going to Niagara Falls and Tennessee. We can go camping.

—Anna Kortz

I cannot wait to go and play with all of my new friends when we move! I also can't wait to go camping in Pentwater and at the Christian Conference Grounds. I also can't wait for basketball and soccer camps at Covenant High School. —Hannah Windemuller

I'm looking forward to going to the beach and relaxing without any homework weighing me down. I can't wait to go swimming either.

—Madelyn Monsma

I can't wait to see my cousins from CO at Cran-Hill Ranch because we don't see them often. —Samuel DeGoffau

I look forward to going camping. I look forward to getting a new house. —Malachi Windemuller

In the summer, I look forward to going on our Maine and Vermont trip. I will have so much fun. I am also looking forward to going to my language arts camp. Spanish is Awesome! The beach sounds good to me too, and the summer is free!!! —Samantha Byker

I can't wait to see all my cousins that live in other states, and I can't wait to go to my lacrosse camp. I'm going to love seeing my cousins and bonding. —Jeffrey Spees

I look forward to going camping with my family and friends and relaxing from loads of homework. —Elizabeth Kortz

FROM OUR PRESCHOOL

Miss Amy Westing

In Preschool this year we made "Journals." Every couple of months we would write our names and draw a picture of ourselves to see the growth and development we made throughout the school year. I also asked them to answer a few questions about themselves, so they can look back and see for years to come what the mind of a child is really like. These journals not only track the development of the preschoolers, but are also a tool to bring a big smile to my face as well as their own, as they can later see just how ambitious and eager they were as children.

Here are the answers the Preschool children gave me:

Ethan Kleyn

My favorite color: Gold
My favorite thing at school is: The job board
My favorite food is: Breakfast casserole
When I grow up I want to be a: Fisherman

Jacob Hop

My favorite color: Blue
My favorite thing at school is: Coloring
My favorite food is: Fruit snacks and bars
When I grow up I want to be a: Doctor

Simon Windemuller

My favorite color: Blue
My favorite thing at school is: The sand table
My favorite food is: Mac and Cheese
When I grow up I want to be a: Dad

Levi Baldwin

My favorite color: Green
My favorite thing at school is: The job board
My favorite food is: Peaches and pears
When I grow up I want to be a: Astronaut (go in a rocket)

Dixie Brundage

My favorite color: Blue
My favorite thing at school is: Playing in the sand
My favorite food is: Chocolate fruit
When I grow up I want to be a: Doctor

Vanessa Pipe

My favorite color: Purple, blue and pink
My favorite thing at school is: Painting
My favorite food is: String cheese
When I grow up I want to be a: Doctor

Gerrit Bol

My favorite color: Orange and white
My favorite thing at school is: Running in the gym
My favorite food is: Everything
When I grow up I want to be a: Worker that builds and rides the excavator

Miss Westing

My favorite color: Green
My favorite thing at school is: Reading to the students
My favorite food is: Pizza
When I grow up I want to be a: Teacher of course!

OUR GRADUATES

Graduates from left to right:

Noah Windemuller, Jeremy VanBaren, Joe Monsma, Mr. Adams

Class text: Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

