

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Pete Adams

Greetings-

As we close out the school year, I think back to our start, where we declared that "Joyfully United" was our school's theme for the year. I was/am daunted by that message. I understood it to apply school-wide for students, staff, and parents alike. The phrase means not just being united, which is quite possible to do outwardly, lacking any inward reality, but to be together with genuine joy. This speaks to Christian living in love from our hearts. This is not possible apart from the work and blessing of God.

Well, how did we do? From my vantage point, sure enough, there have been challenges (failures?) to live up to our standard and goal. But has that been the end of it, or have we tried to rectify the shortcomings? I believe we have taken the latter course. That has meant counseling and meetings on a formal level, but mainly sorting out issues with direct, clear speaking one with the other, students, staff, and parents alike.

I take the opportunity here to trumpet a very positive and tangible manifestation of our theme. I am referring to our participation in the Jr. RiverBank run. Every eligible student entered eagerly into this annual exercise, encouraging one another and simply enjoying the activity together. To top it off, the older girls spontaneously volunteered to keep track of the younger students' progress during our break times. The staff was also out there cheering them on. It was a delight to see and experience.

I do not know at this stage what our theme will be next year, but I hope it will be as worthy and challenging (daunting?) as we have had in the past.

Regards,
Mr. Pete Adams

DEDICATION TO BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bruce Miedema | Board President

Six literal days of creation is the heart of the Bible! Thanks to Ken Ham and the Creation Museum this statement is a current topic since his recent debate with Bill Nye, well-known evolutionist. Eastside Christian School stands among a relatively small number of Christian schools in Western Michigan and an even smaller relative number of schools throughout the United States who have and continue to exclusively teach "Biblical Christian Education," with no form of evolution! At Eastside, part of our mission statement is "to teach covenant children to reflect the mind of Christ... in our instruction and correction of students we seek to cultivate, nurture, and strengthen their love for the Lord and desire to serve Him in all areas of life."

To this end Eastside is committed to teach the relevance and authority of the Bible especially in areas that are being attacked today.

* Six literal 24 hour creation days. The authority of the Bible rests on the Genesis account of creation.

* Monogamous heterosexual marriage is a relationship between

one man and one woman for life. Marriage is the only union between two people created and sanctioned by God.

* The answer to, "What is Truth?" The truth (or faith) as "ONCE delivered to the saints."

* Right training in and the active use of apologetics – a defense of the truth (or faith).

* Man's chief end: to love God and enjoy Him forever. Not man's infatuation with Man and God taking second place in importance.

You may recognize these old paths taught in the Scriptures. These are what you learned in school when you were young. Perhaps yours was a one room school house where you started and ended the day with Psalter or Hymn singing and prayer. Perhaps yours was a small town public school where prayer and Bible lessons were taught. Perhaps yours was a medium or large Christian school that had not yet capitulated to the modern day infatuation with science at the expense of the Bible. Whatever was your schooling experience while you were growing up 70, 50, even 30 years ago

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many of you were taught the Truth. Dear reader, this is certainly not the case in the public schools today and it is not the case in the majority of "Christian" schools today either. What training are your great grandchildren, grandchildren or even your children getting today?

Eastside is one of four Western Michigan Protestant Reformed grade schools along with Covenant Christian High School who can answer the question, humbly responding - "The same Biblical truth you were taught!" For some of you Eastside has been your first experience to Biblical truth taught unashamedly in the classroom. We humbly and gratefully thank God for His provision in granting this opportunity.

Eastside loves its students and families who make up its Association. We have enjoyed a rewarding 17th year of education and even now are making plans for the upcoming school year which begins at the end of August. May God bless each student, family, teacher, staff and volunteer for a year of dedicated work and service.

To the many others of you who are our friends, Eastside covets your prayers and many expressions of support as it continues to faithfully equip young people with a Biblical Christian Education.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kristin Kleyn

Some years Ed Com meetings feel fairly routine in nature. Other years we are privileged to be part of larger exciting new developments in our school. A couple of years ago, for example, researching and assisting with the implementation of the Daily Five language arts curriculum was a big highlight for our committee. The 2013-2014 school year has had a similar highlight for our committee with the beginning of our new orchestra program. As a committee we read research about the benefits of various types of music instruction for our students. We had lengthy discussions about what music instruction at Eastside should look like. After several meetings and following correspondence with parents, climaxing in an orchestra kick-off night, our orchestra program began.

Listening to the orchestra performance of the Phelps rendition of Psalter #306 at the recent combined choirs concert was such a joy! What seemed little more than a dream a year ago is now a beautiful reality. We are so thankful to God for this orchestra program He has given our students and for the Phelps who provide this quality instruction for our students.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Brian Baldwin

The Technology Committee continues to work on various hardware improvements for the school. With generous funds from the Promoters, three teachers received much-needed laptops for use in their classrooms and lesson preparation. Funds were also provided for a special project to be worked on over the Summer. This includes upgrades to the school's server and network, plus the purchase of several Chromebook laptops for student use in the hall computer lab. The new Chromebooks are an exciting alternative to traditional Windows-based laptops and offer a number of security, maintenance, and cost advantages. A special thanks to the Promoters for their fundraising efforts and their generosity towards this need.

2014-15 TUITION COSTS

The Eastside Christian School Foundation continues the Tuition Reduction Program for Eastside Christian students for the coming 2014-2015 school year. With this generous financial gift to the school and particularly its families, 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 continue to 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.

	2014-2015 Tuition Schedule	Foundation Tuition Supplement	Total Tuition Cost
Pre-K:	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Kindergarten:	\$3,875	\$1,000	\$2,875
One child in 1st-8th:	\$5,990	\$1,000	\$4,990
Two children in K-8th:	\$7,955	\$2,000	\$5,955
Three children in K-8th:	\$9,440	\$3,000	\$6,440
Four+ children in K-8th:	\$10,925	\$4,000	\$6,925

ORCHESTRA

Eric Phelps

Eastside has an Orchestra!

I am very happy to have the opportunity to share some details about the new orchestra program at our school. As you know, I love stringed instruments. It is unbelievable for me to see this love growing among us.

This semester we had ten students in grades 4-8 who work with me during the school day three days per week. The orchestra class was introduced to our families by holding an informational meeting in January prior to the start of second semester. During this meeting, students were also given the opportunity to try violin, viola and cello. By the time second semester began on January 20, the students had selected their instruments and we had a group of five violins, one viola and four cellos eager to get started.

The progress being made by the orchestra students has been exciting to see. They are all working hard, and learning quickly. All of the students were new to their instruments that first day of class, so we started with the basics. From learning the parts of their new instrument, to how to sit with the instrument, to holding the bow, to using fingers to create notes on the fingerboard, to making music together, we have come a long way. The beautiful sounds and music we produce when it all comes together have been very rewarding to all of us. We have had a great semester. Thank you to all the parents for giving their support, and for encouraging the

excellent practicing that is taking place at home.

We have performed on two separate occasions. The difficulty of the music the students prepared for the second performance as compared to the first showed how quickly the students are learning. The orchestra's first performance was on March 21 at a school program at Eastside Christian School. Our first piece on this program was an all pizzicato (plucked) version of an easy children's song. The second performance, which was also our denominational debut, was on May 13, when we participated in the Eastside/Heritage Combined Choir Concert. One favorite orchestra piece of this night was Mrs. Phelps arrangement of Psalter #306. You would have been proud of the students representing your school. They really played well.

Developing an orchestra program in which we would like to see full participation was the result of the Education Committee and Board of Eastside seeing the value of music in education. Learning music promotes a more balanced and complete use of the way our minds gather and assess information, and plays an important role in forming a person's character relating to others and living to glorify our God. Studies have shown that studying music, especially learning to play an instrument, improves a person's ability to learn other subjects including science, math and language. We see that music instruction is good for the students of Eastside, and so consider it a subject with a fixed place in Eastside's curriculum. You are welcome to request more information about this topic from the Board or Education Committee.

COMBINED CHOIR CONCERT - ORCHESTRA PRELUDE



FACES OF EASTSIDE - PAST AND PRESENT

We are grateful for seventeen years of God's covenant faithfulness to our little school, and recognize that God has provided support from many people to make our school a possibility. In this series we will hear from some of the teachers, volunteers and former students about their history, role or experience at Eastside.

Jordan Newhof - 2008 Graduate

What stuck out to me the most about Eastside Christian School? What prepared me for higher levels of education and how did the teachers do with helping me grow as a child of God? These questions were hard to answer, partly because Eastside was all I ever knew. I never attended another school until I got to Covenant Christian High School. I can't say that Eastside was better than anything out there because I do not know. But what I do know is Eastside. I spent the first eleven years of my educational career there. I was privileged to know all of the teachers and administrators that came through the school. I was privileged to know most of the kids that set foot inside the school. I was prepared very well by the teachers to enter high school. I was given opportunities to learn in ways that would not be possible at a larger school. Most importantly, I know that I grew as a child of God while I was at Eastside.

For me the most distinguishing thing about Eastside, which sets it apart from anywhere else, was the relationships forged during my time there. One very cool thing about Eastside was the mixed student body. Students, kindergarten through ninth grade all studied in the same building. We all had recess together, and often times the older kids would play games such as basketball and "spud" with the little guys. It was so cool to spend time with these older kids. Some might see this as a problem but I viewed it as a blessing. For me I always looked up to those "older kids" on the playground. They were my role models. I always loved playing flag football with them, as well as the all-school craft projects that we did, where a younger kid, such as myself, was matched up with an older kid to create something like a "candy-apple pig". These were such cool experiences which created long lasting memories that I will never forget.

Another great thing about Eastside is how close you grow to the people you see every day. With Eastside being a smaller school, your classmates become your best friends. You spend so much time together, that you learn to get along even if you don't completely mesh with everyone in your class. This is a good thing, and something I don't think you get at a big school. Looking ahead to high school it was a bit daunting knowing only the three kids in my graduating class and my cousins, but soon I realized that this wasn't a bad thing at all. I came in with a clean slate. Nobody had misconceptions about me and everybody was new to me. This allowed me to make many lasting friendships in high school which have continued until today.

My favorite thing about Eastside was all the relationships which were formed in those walls. I am still good friends with the students in my graduating class, but also with many others, older and younger than I. At Eastside not only the kids become your friends, but the teachers as well. My teachers saw me grow up in front of their eyes, even if it was not as quickly as they hoped I would. They shaped me with their lessons and with their life experiences, and as I grew out of being their pupils we have fostered new relationships. We have become brothers and sisters in Christ, and for that I feel incredibly blessed.

Eastside was a great experience for me! Not only did I learn a lot but I also grew up in the Lord with many Godly examples around me to guide me. The people I have gotten to know and the experiences I had along the way made my time at Eastside something I will never forget and wouldn't trade for the world.

WINTER SNOW SCULPTING CONTEST

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. When it's a winter for the record books, hold a snow sculpting contest! This past winter the staff kept the students busy at noon recess with an all-school contest. The school was broken up into four teams (older kids paired with younger) and over the course of a few weeks' worth of recesses, the students worked on their creations, which were even spraypainted for a finishing touch. At the conclusion of the contest, the staff and students voted on the overall winner as well as other category winners.



ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT

Brian Baldwin | Board Secretary

Eastside's Annual Association meeting was held on April 16th, and consisted mostly of routine business. Brad Pastoor and Tom J. Newhof were elected as new Board members, to replace retiring members Brian Baldwin and Erin Windemuller. The Association also elected Lori Pastoor and Tom Newhof to the Foundation board, with Mary Baldwin retiring. We thank them all for their service and dedication to the needs of our school.

The Association adopted the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 school year, plus an updated tuition schedule. Also the Operating Fund Drive for 2014-2015 was announced, to be kicked off officially at the beginning of next school year. A proposal to amend the by-laws was voted on and approved. All references to the title "Administrator" will be changed to "Principal" in order to more accurately reflect job duties and role in the school. With thanks to God, there was a good spirit of unity and singleness of mind among the Association members.

RUNNING CLUB

Amy VanPutten

In early spring, a running club was started for Eastside girls, grades 4-8. Four girls have been faithfully attending along with some of their older sisters who previously attended Eastside. We run every Wednesday after school. We started running a little over a mile and gradually worked our way up to a 5K. The girls all set their own running goal for the season to push their ability and stay motivated. We have run two official races, the Riverbank Run 5K and the Hope Classic.

The running club is not only a time for exercise, but it is also a time for friendships and encouragement. The girls and mentors have not only improved their own running abilities but more importantly they have grown as friends - by encouraging each other and pushing each other to achieve their goals.

The Eastside Running Club is mentored by Amy VanPutten and Becky Dijkstra.

RIVERBANK 5K RUN



Anna Kortz: I like running because when I run, it feels like if I go fast enough I can fly. I also like the challenges we have in the running club. We run a couple of miles each time, so when we add a half mile or so it's sort of challenging.

Elizabeth Kortz: I like the running club because you get to enjoy each other's company, and enjoy the outdoors.

Olivia Miedema: The running club has been a really fun group to be in. It was a great experience to be able to run in a couple of 5Ks with my friends. I am looking forward to improving my time.

Madelyn Monsma: I am so glad that we are able to have a running club! I love being able to run with my friends each week and achieve my running goals with them. It's been really fun running races together too, like the Riverbank Run and the Hope Classic 5ks. I think that we're all motivated by each other to keep running and I can't wait until next year!

THOUGHTS ON THE YEAR

Mrs. VanPutten's Class | Pre-K and Kindergarten

Levi Baldwin - Going on scooters

Isaiah Kortz - Learning

Eric Phelps - Going to the Butterfly Gardens

Bailey Dykstra - Going on scooters

Vanessa Pipe - Playing with the stuffed animals

Zechariah Byker - Sound sharing

What is your favorite thing about Pre-K or Kindergarten?

Chase VanPutten - Singing

Leah Pastoor - Going on field trips

Ethan Kleyn - P.E.

Trevor Hayes - Reading about God

Seth Kleyn - Making flowers for art

Simon Windemuller - Going on scooters

Mrs. VanPutten - Reading you stories

Mrs. Thompson's Class | 2nd-3rd

Grade 3 students

Isaac Byker: My favorite part of school this year was getting fourth grade math books. They're really easy!

Zoe Newhof: Art is my favorite subject because you see different art in different periods. Art sometimes seems really hard and sometimes easy, but art is really fun. You can have lots of art. There are no mistakes in art. You can make your own art. You don't need to follow any rules!! But that is not all! Going to the Wittenbach-Wege Center for snowshoeing was fun!

Zachary Kleyn: One of my favorite memories of school is going snowshoeing with my class at the Wittenbach-Wege Nature Center. After we went snowshoeing we came inside, looked at the animals, and then drove to McDonald's for lunch. It was really fun!

Grade 2 students

Owen Hayes: One thing I remember from school when we went snowshoeing at Wittenbach-Wege. We saw lots of animal tracks in the snow. I had a lot of fun!

Isaac Kortz: I like art because we can paint and color. And I accomplish many things. It is the best subject I ever had! I LOVE art.

Gabrielle Phelps: My favorite memory of school this year is going snowshoeing at the Wittenbach-Wege Center for a field trip.

Tanner VanPutten: My favorite thing this year was snowshoeing and Klackle Orchard. Art and recess were fun, too. My favorite game to play outside at recess is Kick the Cone and Capture the Flag.

Mr. Mahtani's Class | 4th-6th

Chloe Windemuller: I liked art. I think it's really fun. We do lots of activities and learn about art long, long ago.

Braden VanPutten: I liked the ski trip at Cannonsburg because it was a new experience for me. I got to ski with my friends, which was a lot more fun.

Bryce Wilson: I liked it when we did the push-up test in gym, and I can't wait for the mile.

Noah Hayes: I liked running the mile and playing softball in gym.

Anna Kortz: I enjoyed art because you can make the picture in your own style.

Malachi Windemuller: The activity I loved the most and best this year was the snow sculpture contest, mainly because I was working with my awesome friend and awesome, little brother Simon on a

scary shark. I was even scared of the shark, and I bet you everybody else was too, because I'm usually NOT scared of anything.

Elizabeth Kortz: I like orchestra because it is fun to learn how to play different instruments. It's exciting to play as a group, although you have to practice and work together.

Samantha Byker: Going to Cannonsburg was definitely one of my favorite trips. It was educational in a way where you can learn how your body can move to go fast. The trip was also very good exercise. It worked my muscles, and I was beat by the end of the day. It was also fun because we could see the beautiful creation God has made.

Anonymous: By far, my favorite activity this year was grammar. I completely enjoyed diagramming sentences and figuring out how every single part of a sentence fits together logically. I sometimes even wish we could do it instead of recess!

(Introduction) Dear Gracious and Most Heavenly Father, Thou art the all-powerful God, who hast made all the beautiful forests and all that is in them. As I walk through this forest, I cannot but help to see Your marvelous handiwork in the tall magnificent trees and in the sun's rays streaming through the branches. As I walk through this amazing wilderness that Thou hast made, I think of how great Thou art. I see the animals Thou has created – the squirrels, the bugs, the deer, and the colorful birds. The shy animals watch as I walk by, and the leaves drift slowly to the ground all around me. I hear the birds twitter through the fresh, cool air, and the wind rustle through the leaves making a music of its own. I am serenaded by the gurgling of a nearby stream. I can smell the green moss on the rough bark of Thy trees. I put my hand out and feel the coarse bark of a tree, and a warm breeze drifts across my face, bringing with it the smell of the sweet flowers nearby. I feel the peacefulness and bliss of my surroundings. I thank Thee for the gift to feel this warmth and to enjoy Thy creation as I walk through these woods.

(Distress and Appeal) As I continue to walk, I smell the hideous scent of dung. I think of how that dung is as I am, full of sin and nastiness. I can only think how small and insignificant I am. I see Thy power in this beautiful place and feel so small compared to Thee and what Thou art capable of creating. Help me to keep my eyes on

JUNIOR HIGH WRITING - CLASS PRAISE PSALM

Thee and to know where I am headed. Father, please give me patience and comfort as I am in these woods alone and scared. Help me to forget about how hungry I am and to put away the memory of bugs in my mouth. Fill my stomach and my heart with Thy loving kindness. Protect me in the rest of my journey. Help me to get through this, if it be Thy will.

(Deliverance) I think of how big the trees are and how they are overshadowing me and protecting me from the unbearable heat, and how it is just like Thou dost protect me everywhere I go. As I walk through these woods, Thou art here. I smell the fresh, crisp air and how clean it is, and I know all of my sins are forgiven in Thy gracious love!

(Testimony) I stand in wonder of the vastness of this forest and the beauty of the trees and leaves. I feel the cool, fresh breeze and hear it whistling through the treetops. I hear the birds chirping, and I see Thy majestic creatures. I see and feel the solid ground beneath my feet. I love all that Thou hast created! Thou art an amazing God! Thank You for all this beauty that surrounds me. In Thy Name, Amen.

2013-2014 7th/8th Grade Class Psalm

Olivia Miedema, Madelyn Monsma, Hannah Windemuller

JUNIOR HIGH CLASS TRIP

The seventh and eighth grade girls and their mothers headed off to Mackinaw Island for a two-day trip in the middle of May. They left Wednesday evening, and after almost hitting a deer, arrived safely to spend the night in Mackinaw City. On Thursday morning they took a ferry to the island and spent an evening overnight there. While on the island they toured Fort Mackinaw, biked around the island (being careful to avoid the remaining piles of snow!), and toured the Grand Hotel, picnicking on the front lawn there.

Friday morning they returned to Mackinaw City and visited Colonial Michilimackinaw and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park where the highlight was a 425 foot zipline. They left for home Friday afternoon, nibbling on fudge the whole way, and arrived home Friday evening.



FACES OF EASTSIDE - PAST AND PRESENT

We are grateful for seventeen years of God's covenant faithfulness to our little school, and recognize that God has provided support from many people to make our school a possibility. In this series we will hear from some of the teachers, volunteers and former students about their history, role or experience at Eastside.

Heidi VanBaren - Volunteer

I would like to express how richly rewarding it is to volunteer at Eastside Christian School as I am guided by teachers to work with students. I began volunteering on a regular schedule when our youngest child began Eastside full time as a first grader. Up to that point, I thoroughly enjoyed my role as a room mother and working with other moms to organize monthly book-it parties, classroom parties for any special occasion (like Dr. Seuss' birthday, etc.), and assisting teachers with the extra details of field trips. I truly enjoyed those days of building and strengthening relationships with other moms by working together to provide all the little extras that made our children's school days memorable!

With the 2005-06 school year, my volunteering became more structured when it was decided that first graders should be taken out of the multi-grade class setting for a few hours of each school day to concentrate on reading. This new role as an 'aide' was shared with Anne Miedema, and Renee' Nelson, the first-third grade teacher, was responsible for organizing and laying out the lesson plans. Through her excellent guidance and communication, she made me feel confident in carrying out the responsibilities that were expected. After a few years, Miss Nelson left Eastside to pursue another calling, and Mrs. Miedema was given the responsibility for the first grade curriculum. I have thoroughly enjoyed being an aide on her behalf and executing the lesson plans she arranges for me. Mrs. Miedema's passion for these young students is evident as well (and contagious, too!); she fully embraces teaching literacy and in recent years has been instrumental in implementing the Daily Five program.

It never ceases to amaze me the amount of information these young minds need to process each day, and the incredible transition these first graders make each school year. In September, these young students arrive very dependent and needing much direction, but by the conclusion of the school year, their confidence in reading and writing has soared and they are so much more independent! Another perk of being at Eastside is that I get to observe all our dedicated teachers nurture and guide students to their learning potential; see how they develop new and creative ways to engage their students; and witness how attentive they are to their students' spiritual growth, applying Biblical truths in so many situations.

God has providentially given me a place at Eastside Christian School, for which I am so very thankful.

OUR GRADUATE - OLIVIA MIEDEMA



Here is Olivia's self-description as proclaimed on her locker door - "Patient"; "Quiet"; "Perfectionist". If I were doing a bio of her, I would agree. She is one who prefers being in the background of things, quietly doing her job. And indeed, if she is into a task, slowly but surely it gets done, well done, especially if it is a painting assignment. This brings us to another portion of what Olivia is like. She likes to paint, sketch, doodle. "Paint" as in a prize-winning Audubon-like rendering of a bird; "sketch" as in extra-credit presentations of an appropriate scene from our current history chapter; "doodle" as in high-level borders around the Bible notes she is recording during class. Olivia will paint, that is, as long as it does not interfere with her other love which is reading. Bookworms have nothing on her. She will devour a book, or maybe its the book devouring her.

Of course, none of these attributes mean anything apart from a life of faith, for Olivia or for anyone else. She speaks as a Christian and lives a life that is consistent with this confession.

Olivia has provided leadership for our classroom and our school, and we with great joy present her as our Eastside graduate for 2014.

- Mr. Adams