

NURTURING COVENANT
CHILDREN TO
REFLECT THE MIND
OF CHRIST

ECS BOARD NEWSLETTER

Published by the Eastside Christian School Board

2792 Michigan Street NE·Grand Rapids·MI· 49506 · 616/942-2939

Volume 2, Issue 3

May 2008

Principal's Portfolio

As we come to end of the eleventh year of the existence of Eastside Christian we have cause to reflect on several aspects of these years and especially on the this eleventh year.

Several teachers and many students have come and gone during the eleven years. However most of the current staff of teachers have stayed and almost all the students in this year's ninth grade have had their schooling at Eastside.

Coming to the end of the school year and approaching the annual commencement/graduation we are given cause and stimulus to bid farewell and ask for God's blessing on the ninth grade students—Jason Corson, Matthew DeVries, Caleb Flikkema, and Jordan Newhof. All will be attending Covenant Christian High School. We urge them to remember to practice the teaching of the commencement text they have chosen: "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to have mercy, and to walk in humbly before Thy God?" Micah 6:8b

The conclusion of this year means that we must make plans for the twelfth year of the school—2008-2009. These plans include the acquisition of teachers and support staff. All our teachers will return for the next school year—Mrs. Vicki Dekryger, Pre-K and Kindergarten, Miss Renee Nelson, 1st-3rd grades, Mrs. Judie Feenstra, 4th-5th grades, Mrs. Kristi Thompson, 6th-7th grades, and Mr. Pete Adams, 8th-9th grades. As administrator I extend my sincere thanks to these faithful colleagues. I especially thank them for their understanding and helpfulness during many weeks of the second semester of this school when I had to curtail many of my activities because of difficulties in my home situation.

The retirement of Agatha Lubbers means than an administrator must be selected and appointed. For several years the position was advertised and this yielded no response. The board has decided therefore to appoint Mr. Pete Adams and Mrs. Judie Feenstra as joint administrators. Details concerning the assignment of responsibility will be reported at a later date. I wish them the Lord's blessing as they take up their labors and responsibilities.

Leaving the responsibility of administration, leadership, and teaching at Eastside includes some regret and pain but I leave the work with the joy, satisfaction, and gratitude that under the guidance and control of our Covenant God the school has grown and developed and that I have been a part of the development and presence of the school.

As I look out of hallway window of my office, I see the Eagle and the text that greeted teachers, students, parents, and visitors as they entered the school building. I leave my work using this text as our guide. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

Mizpah,
Agatha Lubbers
Administrator

Operating Fund Drive Update

We have been blessed by our covenant Father in the establishment and continued operation of Eastside Christian School. Parents entrust their children to the dedicated staff and receive a sound education based on the infallible Word of God.

Psalm 34:11 "Come ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Tuition at Eastside Christian School covers 39% of the cost of operations. 42% is covered by the Operating Fund Drive. Our goal for this year's drive is \$148,199. With the help of many contributors, we can meet this target, keeping an Eastside education within reach of tuition paying families. It is our prayer that the Lord will work in the hearts of those who have come to know the true value of Christian education.

Within the coming months our federal government as part of an economic stimulus plan will send a sizeable check to many of our homes. Perhaps there is an income tax refund in your future. These events present excellent opportunities to give to the kingdom cause of Christian education at Eastside.

Your prayerful consideration would be most appreciated.

Financial Report

Once again we give thanks to our God who continues to supply us with the necessary funds to educate our covenant children. We also give thanks to all who generously support our school, some are able to give financially and others are able to give of their time. We need both and we are thankful to God for both.

At the end of April we will be two-thirds the way through our fiscal year. Though we did not quite meet our goal for our 07-08 support drive our expenses have been lower than expected. At this point it looks like our budget will balance at the end of the fiscal year.

At our recent association meeting a proposed 08-09 budget was presented and approved. With thanks to a generous gift from the ECS Foundation we were able to keep tuition the same as our current schedule. As we look ahead to the coming year I ask you to pray that God will continue to supply our school with the necessary means to continue our important work here.

Phillip Kleyn

Promoters

The Promoters would like to thank everyone who has supported the fundraisers this past school year.

Don't forget the upcoming Flower Sale on May 7, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Everlasting Blooms, 1459 Spaulding Ave, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Annual Secretary Report

On March 17, 2008 many members of the society of Eastside Christian School, gathered as men with a common concern, interest and love for the Reformed instruction of our children. Eastside continues to be blessed with children of the Lord to educate in HIS way, and we are humbly grateful for that calling and responsibility. As we look back over the past years, we certainly see the covenant faithfulness of our heavenly Father. His faithfulness is evidenced in the administrator and staff, by their faithful labor and efforts on behalf of the parents, and in the many volunteers who labor on behalf of the school. Above all it is evidenced in the covenant young children that attend here each day. "Lo children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward." Psalm 127:3.

We are thankful for the dedicated staff at Eastside for their tireless work and commitment to Reformed education. We report that all the teachers have signed a contract for next year.

The board has been busy over the past year in its various committees. Here are some areas of specific interest:

- The Education Committee is finalizing a curriculum project that they have been working on since 2005. This work could not have been done without the indispensable help of Dan VanderArk. This will allow Eastside to define, in each subject, how we reflect the mind of Christ.
- The school has also retained The Christian Learning Center (CLC) for another year. They assist the school in the area of special needs and gifted students. Greg Yoder, our CLC advisor, plays an important role in helping our para-pro Dawn (Young) Furrow and our staff in the educational needs of some of our students.
- The Building Committee has been working hard at keeping our school beautiful, while chasing down the occasional water leak.
- With enrollment going down slightly, the Finance Committee has been working diligently to keep the tuition affordable for our families.
- As technology keeps improving so do we as a school. The Technology Department is doing its best to keep our students supplied with the best technology we can provide.

We would like to thank the retiring board members; Mr. Gerald VanBaren for his technological savvy and for serving as Education Committee chairman and Mr. Brian VanFarowe for serving as the Building Committee chairman. We welcome to the board, Mr. Pete VanPutten and Mr. Craig Dykstra.

As the year has gone on, we have seen the creation and completion of a combined school Ninth Grade Study Committee. Some of you may have seen and read the newsletters that the forum has distributed. For those of you who have not been aware of this study, it was formed to study the feasibility of having the Ninth grade enrolled at Covenant Christian High School. Much time and effort has gone into this study and we here at Eastside are pleased to be part of such a study. As the year progresses, keep an eye out for more information to come.

How could we operate Eastside Christian School without our wonderful volunteers? We would like to say Thank you to them.

- Mrs. Heidi VanBaren who works with Renee Nelson on Monday and Tuesday mornings.
- Mrs. Anne Miedema who works on Wednesday mornings with Renee Nelson.
- Mrs. Lois Monsma who helped out Vicki Dekryger in the pre-k/kindergarten room on Wednesdays.
- Ms. Naomi Schimmel who comes on Wednesdays to teach art to the Sixth and Ninth grade students.
- Mrs. Mary Haak and Dr. John Gillette continue to produce great music in the choir and the band.
- There are many other volunteers, coaches, mothers, fathers, and grandparents who make Eastside a place of continued learning and fellowship.

On a special note, the Board would like to announce the retirement of Miss Agatha Lubbers. There is not enough time to say the many thanks and gratitude we owe to her. With the beginning of Eastside she gave the school instant credibility. With her historical perspective on Reformed education it provided staffs, boards, parents, and all who worked with her the ability to reap the rewards from her. Ultimately it shows in the covenant youth who have become the graduates of Eastside Christian School. We give thanks to God for providing Eastside with Miss Lubbers to do the work that she was called to do. Thank You.

In her place, the Board has instituted a two tiered approach. We have hired Mrs. Judie Feenstra to be the Administrator in addition to her teaching duties. She will be taking care of the behind the scenes portion and will be meeting with boards and committees. We have hired Mr. Pete Adams to be the Principal in addition to his teaching duties. He will be taking care of the discipline and dealings with day to day conflicts and solutions. The board, along with the faculty, feels this is the best direction to go.

The board covets your prayers and support as another year closes and a new one is about to begin. May the Lord continue to bless the work here at Eastside Christian School and graciously give us the wisdom and strength to heed his command that we "bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" Ephesians 6:4.

*Updates are included since the reading of this report on March 17, 2008.

Erin Windemuller

Administration Retirement

We have enjoyed a great treasure at Eastside Christian School, a teacher's teacher, gifted with organizational skills and a lifetime of educational experience in the person of Miss Agatha Lubbers. By the end of this school year, D.V., she will have spent 56 years in education, 11 of them at Eastside Christian. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Miss Lubbers for her work at our school.

On May 14 there will be a dessert reception at First PRC from 7-9 p.m. The School Board invites you to come and show your appreciation to Miss Lubbers for her years of service. We ask the Lord to continue to provide rich blessings and offer our best wishes for her future.

Dan Monsma