
Covenant Lines



Winter 2005

A Publication of the Eastside Christian School Board

Glory to the Newborn King

What joy filled our hearts as we celebrated the birth of Christ with a piano and organ concert at First Protestant Reformed Church. Greenery and twinkling lights, childhood carols performed by gifted musicians, and a church overflowing with friends warmed our spirits with unspeakable joy.

We offer our sincere gratitude to God for the many blessings He poured forth on that evening. We thank you for your generous offerings. We also extend our deep appreciation to Brad and Randy Baker and to the Majestic Brass for spending their talents for all of our benefit.

And the memory continues through the 400 CDs that concert-goers and supporters purchased in the days that followed this event. Glory be to the newborn King.

Teacher Re-Certification & Masters Degree Assistance

We would like to help our teachers pay for their continuing education costs by expanding our Teachers' Education Fund (TED). Due to the broader State of Michigan certification requirements and the increasing costs of continuing education, our teachers are, by necessity, spending more time and money maintaining their teaching certificates. As a result of our teachers' seeking professional enrichment and pursuing continuing degrees, Eastside benefits greatly from the increased quality of education that we are thereby able to provide.

We hope to assist our teachers with these added costs by expanding our annual TED fund balance to \$3000 annually. We believe that this increase will meet the needs of the four teachers employed by Eastside Christian. If you would like to contribute to this fund, *please make your check payable to Eastside Christian School, identify TED in the memo area, and send it to:*

*Eastside Christian School
Attn: Treasurer
2792 Michigan St.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506*

Christian Learning Center

This school year we have taken on the assistance of the Christian Learning Center (CLC). CLC is an organization that works with many schools in the community, providing on-site assistance to special needs students and teachers. CLC's desire is to include the special needs student in the normal classroom setting, as much as possible. To this end, CLC works to equip the classroom teacher to meet the educational needs of her students and is open to training others with the necessary skills to tutor a student(s).

During the first semester, Greg Yoder, a psychologist and special needs specialist employed by CLC, has focused on helping our faculty to teach to different learning styles and to identify students with special needs. As a continuation of this goal, this semester he hopes to guide and facilitate the instruction of the students in grades 4-9 in a class titled, "The Mind that is Mine." Through this course, students discover their unique learning styles and skills that enable them to study most effectively for their personal success.

If you are willing to volunteer your time as a tutor for our students at Eastside, contact our Administrator Agatha Lubbers (616-942-2939). This assistance is necessary for our Special Needs Program to operate effectively.

The assistance we receive from CLC is funded by specially designated gifts to Eastside and is not financed as part of our operating fund. Therefore, if you wish to make a financial contribution to this effort, please be sure to designate the *Special Needs Program*.

Website

We are pleased to have registered a domain name: www.eastside-christian.org. Our website includes general school information, the weekly *Eastside Events and Insights*, back issues of the *Covenant Lines*, and we hope to add the student publication, *Eastside Times*.

Mrs. Kleyn and Mr. Adams have also been posting classroom assignments and newsletters on their own pages on our website. We hope to continue making valuable additions to our site.

Computer Equipment

Computers have been an important dimension at Eastside. Our school started with 7 new computers, and as our school ages, so is our technology. Last year with gifts from the Promoters and a private donor, we were able to purchase computers for the teachers and for the secretarial work station, and a laser printer.

This year with gifts from the Promoters and the former ninth grade class, we were able to purchase 2 new computers and 17 *Writers* (see Computer Curriculum). We also received 3 donated computers, the combination of which enabled us to replace most of the oldest computers in our lab.

Our future technology plans include: computerizing the Library card catalog, and check in and check out processes, adding a file server so that students can save their work to the server rather than on floppy disks; continuing teacher training; and automating internet monitoring as a supplement to direct supervision.

Computer Curriculum

While students are taught to use computers and computer software programs as part of our curriculum, the Education Committee recommended that we add keyboarding instruction to our required curriculum. In order to provide this training, we have recently purchased 17 mini-computers called, *The Writer*, for this purpose. This purchase was possible with the gift of the 2004 Ninth Grade Class and the Promoters, and in collaboration with Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School.

Operational Fund Drive Update

We have received \$96,646 of the \$135,000 that was pledged toward the \$147,816 Operational Fund goal. We are ever aware that the school is only possible through your generous support.

Protestant Reformed Teachers Institute Convention & National Art Show

The 50th Protestant Reformed Teachers' Institute (PRTI) Convention was a wonderful experience in a very special way for the ECS teachers, as they hosted nearly 150 educators for this annual event. Attendees came from Australia, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. In addition to the members of the PRTI, teachers from the local Plymouth Christian and Zion Christian Schools also attended the convention.

This year there were five concurrent blocks of five sectionals each.

The Art Show was a truly special addition to the convention this year. It was outstanding to see the artistic talents displayed in more than 200 pieces. This was also a juried show; we are pleased to announce that four Eastside students earned awards for their work.

We express our sincere appreciation to the many participants, supporters and the Promoters of Eastside Christian for making the convention a wonderful and memorable experience.

Eastside Christian School Foundation

Our foundation is officially incorporated and approved by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization. With this step in place, we have decided that all unspecified bequests made to ECS will be directed to our Eastside Christian School Foundation.

We are grateful for the encouragement and friendship you have given by selecting Eastside as a recipient of gifts in memory of your loved ones at their passing. It is our desire that these gifts will continue to bring hope as they are invested in our foundation account.

The Eastside Christian School Association admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

2792 Michigan N.E. • Grand Rapids, MI 49506

