

# COVENANT LINES

9TH EDITION

A Publication of the Eastside Christian School Board

## Association meeting recap:

The agenda for our 3rd Annual Eastside Association Meeting included: reading of the Secretary's Report, adopting the 1998–1999 Operational Budget, and electing new Board members. If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the Secretary's Report, please call Steven Ophoff @ 361–2330. As for the Operational Budget, it was unanimously supported and approved. Jim Holstege and Tim Thompson were elected to fill the two seats left vacant by Dwight Monsma and Steven Ophoff, whose terms of service on the Board expired this year. The Board is grateful to both Dwight and Steven for their devoted labors on behalf of Eastside Christian.

## Pre-K/Kindergarten curiosity:

All who are interested in our Pre-K and Kindergarten Program are invited to gather at the school on Thursday, April 23 at 10:00am to talk with Mrs. DeKryger and to learn more about her plans for the next school year.

Next year, 1998-1999, we will combine the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs. Our students will attend school three days a week—Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Kindergarteners will meet full days and the Pre-Kindergarten students will share in the fun of the afternoon sessions. The activities Mrs. DeKryger has planned, which develop large and small motor skills as well as language abilities are exciting, educational and varied.

Come with your child and share in their curiosity.

## Join our students for Musicfest:

Our students and their music teachers are planning a special evening for the supporters of Eastside Christian. On Thursday, April 23 (same day as the Pre-K/Kindergarten Open House) the students will present their first-ever Musicfest. This is our opportunity to experience the results of their music training this year. All the students, Pre-K through 9th grade, will take part in this program featuring a variety of music, including: sacred and secular; instrumental and vocal; solo, duet & group numbers.

The music teachers report that their students are working very hard and would love to have us join them for this evening of music—so please, mark your calendars and plan to gather at the school on April 23 for the 7:30pm program.

## Math rules at Eastside:

At the February meeting of the Eastside Promoters our math teacher, Mr. Adams provided an overview of our Math Program. Based on the students' competency levels, and the interest of those who heard his presentation, we felt that you might enjoy a summary of this program. What follows is Mr. Adams' educational philosophy as it relates to the teaching of mathematics:

*“There are some basic common sense truths that relate to how students, as well as adults, learn. With the excellent teacher to student ratio that we have at Eastside, I am able to implement the following four rules of learning:*

**Rule #1. Students must begin learning at the point at which they are**—*Especially in mathematics, a student will flounder if he/she has not mastered the previous, foundational materials. The students took a placement test at the beginning of the school year, after which I quickly made changes where needed to ensure that each one began with material that he/she could master. Naturally, placement is according to ability, not grade or age. Each student receives a personal introduction to every lesson. Yes, this means on any given day, we have nine different math classes in session at one time—Math class is exciting for both our students and their teacher!*

**Rule #2. Students must proceed at their own rate**—*The Saxon Program introduces one new concept per lesson and drills and tests the students repeatedly on all previous materials. I require a minimum of one lesson a day, although many students proceed much faster. In September, instead of automatically beginning the school year with a new book, the students will simply continue where they left off in June.*

**Rule #3. Students must obtain immediate feedback on their progress**—*Once a student finishes a lesson, she compares her answers with the score key, grading and recording her progress. This method ensures that she knows right away if she is mastering the work, and if she has a problem—area she can quickly get the help she needs. Also, when she takes a test I frequently score it in front of her, so she can see her grade immediately.*

**Rule #4. Students must receive some reward for their progress**—*The students are each keeping their own progress chart, on which they record their daily lesson—work and test scores. They earn a star for each test they take, a*

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

*candy bar for a perfect score and diplomas for finishing a book. What more could they want?*

*No, we have not arrived at perfection here at Eastside, but as teachers and students develop and adapt in their understanding of how to best take advantage of the strengths we have, I am very optimistic for the future under God's blessing."*

## Promoters meet again:

The next meeting of the Eastside Promoters is scheduled for Thursday, April 16. The Open Court Reading Program is the topic for evaluation and reflection. New members are always welcome.

## Faculty return for 2nd year:

We are delighted to announce that all of our staff will be returning for the next school year. Together they certainly create a positive and nurturing environment in which our students are thriving.



*Mr. Doezema, the janitor for Eastside and his son, Karl, came to school a few weeks ago to show the students a new lamb and the calf born on their farm.*

## Through our students' eyes:

Because we believe our students, as image bearers themselves, possess a valuable perspective on the education they are receiving at Eastside; we asked them to share their thoughts about their school. Although nearly all of the students said that we could include their names, they will remain anonymous for now, since hearing what was said is truly more important than evaluating who said it. Here is a sampling of what they wanted other students to know:

- "We take a lot of educational trips and we have so many different classes."
- "Because we are small, the teachers are more free to help students when they are stuck."
- "We have a lot of freedom."
- "This is the coolest school in the universe."
- "We have wonderful teachers."
- "That . . . [our] school is very, very fun."
- "That just because our school is small it isn't bad and it's neat."
- "This is a very good place where you can catch snakes and other animals and it has a great play area."
- "Because we are small we take school trips instead of class trips."
- "I would like them to know that it is really cool because it is small."

## Thanks be to Him:

As we begin to focus on our second year of operation, may we never forget the rich blessings the Lord has showered on us this past year. Thanks be to Him for providing us with such a competent staff, involved parents, generous supporters and a beautiful, temporary facility. Let's make it our prayer always to follow God's direction, with an unwavering faith in His all wise and good council, as we strive to educate His children.