

# Christmas at East of Hill

December 2015

**Merry Christmas,** East Hill Christian School Family! The blessings from our Father have continued to be poured out upon this school. Allow us to share just a few of those many blessings in this Christmas letter. We have welcomed new families and teachers. Enrollment steadily grows. Our academic excellence continually increases as students are consistently challenged to reach higher than ever. The class of 2015 has 100% enrollment in higher education at various outstanding colleges and universities around the United States. Our campus sparkles with a new parking lot and stately wrought iron gates. Our athletic teams compete with skill, sportsmanship, and a devotion to growth. Opportunities for service in our community and evangelism at home and around the world abound. Our love for the Lord Jesus Christ endures at the center of all we do. As we look towards 2016, will you commit to pray with us as we provide quality, Christian education in a safe, loving environment?

## Campus Improvements

This year has brought many enhancements to our campus. Our parking area on the east side of the building was paved and landscaped, thanks to the efforts of our Parent-Teacher Fellowship (PTF) and other generous donors—both friends and the East Hill family. Also newly installed were a beautiful pair of decorative wrought iron gates bearing our name and an eagle. The main entrance to the school was shifted to 14th Avenue, and this is the location for our attractive new sign. The Woodmen of the World donated a large American Flag, and a flagpole was mounted in the new parking lot area.

Recently, our PTF volunteers held a work day for our playground to add a new blacktop with painted outdoor games, a gravel area, new sand for the relocated sandbox, several learning stations, bird houses, new pic-

nic tables, an awning and painted track for the tricycles, new gardening boxes, and more. Next on the agenda is a shade structure to complement the existing building.

Another thrilling addition to our campus is the new East Hill Christian School 17-passenger shuttle bus. This bus will serve us well on field trips and for athletic transportation. Our active Booster Club added the school name, phone number, and website to outside panels of the bus, along with an eagle logo and the notable phrase “Eagles on Board” across the back of the bus.

We would love for you to come by our charming campus and see all these updates for yourselves!



# CAMPUS NEWS

**ACADEMICS** At EHCS, academic excellence begins in our VPK and elementary school and continues through high school, where students learn in classrooms with a low student-teacher ratio. They participate in academic pursuits such as the ACSI Spelling Bee; the Science Fair; and field trips to destinations such as the Navy base, the Florida Caverns, a corn maze, the Indian Temple Mound Museum, the zoo, the symphony, and the Saenger Theatre.



In the spring semester, several of our students qualified to participate in the county-wide History Fair. Two of our freshmen, Bryce Cox and Myles Herren, developed a history fair project on Hitchcock that won first place at EHCS, second at the Escambia County level and took first at the Florida History Fair in May. In June, Bryce and Myles exhibited their project — "E-E-E Enter the World of Alfred Hitchcock, the Master of Suspense and Horror Cinematography" — at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. as part of National History Day.

**MISSIONS** East Hill students focus on many other pursuits outside of the classroom as well. They take part in missions at every age—Pennies for Paws, Ronald McDonald House, and Beads for Life, to name a few. Each



year, our middle and high school students participate in the annual "One Day Without Shoes" event, which raises worldwide awareness of the need for shoes.

In October, we welcomed Luis Gonzales to share his story of growing up in Panama in poverty. This was a wonderful opportunity to hear a first-hand account of a little boy who received an Operation Christmas Child gift of "insignificant items" and a letter that changed his life. As we approach the holiday season, what a great reminder of how blessed we are and how giving so little can mean so much!

In the summer of 2015, Mrs. Dyster led a group of students on the annual mission trip to Costa Rica to minister to children and families there. Already, the Summer of 2016 Mission Team is at work getting ready for their trip to Costa Rica. You can help by collecting travel-sized toiletries and "Happy Meal" toys (not books) for the team to take with them for the children in Costa Rica. Also, please be in prayer for them both as they prepare and while they are there next summer.

**FUN AROUND CAMPUS** An important tradition at East Hill has always been the old-fashioned school dances. In January, our high school celebrated Homecoming week by walking the red carpet at a Hollywood-themed dance. In February, the middle school students had a week of ballroom dance instruction, concluding with the annual Valentine Cotillion. The "Gatsby"-inspired Junior-Senior prom was hosted this year at the beautiful waterfront home of one of our students.

Hands-on learning takes place in so many areas of EHCS. From the hatching of baby quail in Ms. Ehmann's and Mrs. Wenzel's classes to the successful gardening project in 3rd-5th grades to the fabulous high school musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, East Hill students have educational fun!



Teya Lonquist as "Millie" in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*



# SPORTS UPDATE

The 2015-16 Sports season at EHCS kicked off with our annual and beloved "Red Hot Pep Rally." Here's what our teams have been up to so far this year:

**Soccer** The Eagles Varsity Soccer team responded to the rough start to their season by showing resilience and determination, finishing strong at Regionals. Spring meetings and off-season workouts are already planned. The YMCA Grades 4-5 Soccer Team, coached by Nathan Witter, had success as they wrapped up an undefeated season!

**Volleyball** improved greatly over the course of their season. Both JV and Varsity teams (coached by Jason Conaway) took the court this year. The Varsity advanced to the second round of the regional tournament. A clinic is being planned in the spring for elementary girls interested in volleyball.

**Cross Country** finished their season at the Esca-Rosa meet. This year, each team member improved over his/her personal best. Congratulations on this accomplishment!

**Cheer** In January, the East Hill Cheer Competition squad participated in the Fellowship of Christian Cheerleaders National competition, bringing home a 4th place trophy. The cheer team participated in FCC camp in Birmingham, AL in July. There are JV, Varsity and Competition teams this season.

**Basketball** EHCS has a ladies' team this year, coached by Devin Pierce. JV Boys are coached by Jason Conaway, and Varsity is coached by Tim Coleman. Our teams are participating in the Panhandle Christian Conference. (See [www.ehcs.org/athletics.html](http://www.ehcs.org/athletics.html) for game schedules.) Elementary and middle school basketball teams will begin playing in January.

Over the past year, PTF has sponsored Tailgating events for Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, and Cross Country which brought out more spectators and provided wonderful fellowship.



## ALUMNI NEWS

The Class of 2005 held their 10-year Reunion on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Almost half of the class was able to attend! The group started off with a tour of EHCS, continued on to Pensacola Beach, and had a reunion dinner at Hemmingway's restaurant that evening.

Join us for Homecoming Festivities at EHCS on Friday, January 29, 2016. For more information, see our calendar at <http://www.ehcs.org/calendar.html>.

Check out our new EHCS apparel store at <http://www.ehcs.org/shop-for-ehcs-gear-at-apparel-store.html>.



East Hill Christian School Class of 2005

Our East Hill family is mourning the loss of Jay Windham, class of 1997. Please lift his family up in prayer.

# WELCOME NEW STAFF/FACULTY!

**Mrs. Rebecca Hastings** comes to East Hill with several years of teaching experience as our new K5 teacher. She is a 2004 graduate of the University of Mobile with a B.S. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. **Ms. Kathy Ehmann** moved back to the Pensacola area from Colorado this past Spring. She is a long-time teacher and will be teaching science classes in grades 6-9 and Math 7. She is a 1999 Pensacola Christian College graduate with a B.S. in Biology Education and has a Master's Degree in Education Leadership from UWF. **Mrs. Charity Carnes** is our new first grade teacher, and comes to us with multiple years of teaching experience. She graduated from Lee University in 1999 with a B.S. in Human Development. She received her Master's Degree in Reading from UWF. Her two children, Jonathan & Grace, are also new to East Hill in Grades 2 and 4. **Mrs. Stephanie Thompson** has been a teacher since 2009 in Pensacola and has experience in Title 1 tutoring. She is our new VPK teacher. Stephanie is a 2008 University of West Florida graduate with a B.S. in Exceptional Student Education K-12 and Elementary Education K-6. Her daughter Gili-ah is also new at East Hill and is in Grade 2. **Mr. Jason Conaway** is the new ladies' volleyball coach. He was the assistant volleyball coach for 10 years at Pensacola Christian College. He also is coaching our JV boys' basketball team. He graduated with a B.S. in Physical Education and has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration.



Find us on  
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Find us online at [www.ehcs.org](http://www.ehcs.org)

*Tuition does not cover the full cost of educating a child at East Hill. We count on support from parents, alumni, and friends to help make up the shortfall between tuition revenue and annual operating expenses. We are so thankful for your continued prayer and financial support!*

**Please make your tax-deductible, monetary donation before year end.**



## CHRISTMAS AT EAST HILL 2015

*Please complete and mail the form below with your contribution. Thank you!* **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Choose one of the following:

I am enclosing a check for:  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000  \$5000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to send a check monthly in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

I will pay through PayPal in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Go to <http://www.ehcs.org/donations.html> and click "DONATE"

I want to designate my gift for:  General Fund  Technology  Curriculum  Campus Improvement  Scholarships  Other

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