



EAST MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

The East Mecklenburg High School Foundation exists to enhance the educational program at East Mecklenburg High School by developing and supporting initiatives, projects, and programs that promote professional development, provide resources, improve the educational environment and otherwise support and encourage teachers, administrators, students and parents.

OUR BOARD

- Cheryl Plonk, President
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- Mark Nixon, Honorary Director
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EAST MECKLENBURG TODAY!

JANUARY 2010, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

EAST MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Our New Principal

MECKLENBURG TODAY!
DARKER



In July of 2009, Richard Bradley Parker, (Rick) became the Principal of East Mecklenburg High School. After serving as one of the Assistant Principals at East for ten years, he becomes the seventh Principal in the sixty year history of this school replacing his mentor and longtime friend, Mark Nixon.

Mr. Parker was born in Charlotte and grew up in the Oakdale community with his proud parents Margaret and Roy Parker. He attended elementary school at Oakdale and University Park, and Coulwood Junior High School. Rick attended West Mecklenburg High School and graduated in 1983. He was an honor student at West and was Vice President of his senior class. He lettered in baseball, basketball, cross country and soccer. He went on to play

Junior Varsity Baseball at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated from there in 1987 with a Bachelors degree in education and then attended Appalachian State University where he earned his Masters in Education in 1989. In 1997 pursuing an interest in administration he attended the University of Winthrop in South Carolina and received his Administrative Degree in 1999.

Mr. Parker has two daughters, Brooke, 17 and Alexis, 10 from a previous marriage and is engaged to be married to Rhonda Barrera in February of 2010. Rhonda is an active supporter of East Mecklenburg High School athletics and events.

There are simple rules of life that Rick Parker considers his rock solid principles. His personal values are to keep a positive outlook on life and always be thankful: to make respect and integrity the cornerstones of his life: to love God, his family and friends: to play fair and be honest; to work hard at everything that he does: to make learning a lifelong process: to enjoy life, have fun and most of all laugh.

Principal Parker's overall vision is to successfully combine his personal and professional values as the Principal of East Mecklenburg High School. These principles demonstrate his passion to make a difference in the lives of children. It is his belief that people, not programs, make a great school, for it is people who genuinely care about students and their education.

We think East Mecklenburg High School has a Winner in Mr. Parker!!!!

THE ECHO FOUNDATION PROJECT

"IN THE FOOT STEPS OF ELIE WIESEL" A Documentary Film Project

East Mecklenburg High School will host the Echo Foundation for their Humanity's Day program on February 3, 2010 and for their Student Dialogue Day on March 24, 2010. The Echo Foundation was founded in 1997 to carry on the message that Nobel Peace Prize Winner Elie Wiesel brought to Charlotte that year—a call to action for human dignity, justice and moral courage.

"In the Footsteps of Ellie Wiesel" was a leadership and travel program that offered high school students the opportunity to experience formative locations in Elie Wiesel's life in Romania, Poland, France and Germany. Students shared a special time with Mr. Wiesel when he was in Charlotte in 2007. The documentary film is the story of this trip by 12 Student Ambassadors representing 15 schools across the Charlotte region. Gabriella Reed, now a senior at East, is one of those students.

On February 3rd students from across CMS and area private schools will see a Film Trailer and have a dialog with Holocaust survivor Susan Cernyak-Spatz, her daughter, Jackie Fishman and granddaughter Lee Beresford who took a similar journey. On March 24th students will be here from all CMS schools and area private schools to see the documentary film screening and have a panel discussion with the student ambassadors.

East Mecklenburg High School is both honored and thrilled to have this event at our school.

THE ECHO FOUNDATION EVENTS ARE SPONSORED IN PART BY THE EAST MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

All Star Teacher Initiative

The mission of the All Star Teacher Initiative (ASTI) is to attract, reward, train, and retain excellent teachers for every classroom of East Mecklenburg High School.

Athletic Department Partial Wish List

Pitching Machine for Baseball \$4,000
35 Warm Ups for Coaches \$3,500
Gator \$8,000
Commercial Washer and Dryer \$9,000
Shoot-a-way \$6,000
Ice Machine
(can be new or used)

Oh What a Night !!!!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010

The "Jersey Boys" are in Town Winner 2006 Tony Award Best Musical

You are invited to join us for a very special night. We have reserved 200 lower balcony seats to the Saturday, April 17th performance of "Jersey Boys" at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, Belk Theatre. This is a fundraiser for the East Mecklenburg High School Foundation's "All Star Teacher Initiative" program.

Time magazine proclaims, "They wrote their own songs, invented their own sounds and sold 175 million records worldwide - all before they were 30! Jersey Boys, winner of the 2006 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album and most recently, the 2009 Olivier Award for Best new musical features their hit songs, "Sherry", "Big Girls Don't Cry", "Rag Doll", "Oh What a Night" and "Can't take My Eyes Off You". It will run for centuries!

We would like to invite you to be a part of a fun and special evening. The night will begin with cocktails and dinner at the homes of Alumni and Friends and then we will all go together to see "Jersey Boys" at the Blumenthal.

Tickets are \$150.00 per person; this includes your theatre ticket and dinner. The tax-deductible portion of your ticket is \$90.00. We hope you will join us for a night of friendship and fun to support a great cause. **At this time, we simply want to know if you would like to join us and if you do, please remit the cost of your theatre ticket for \$60.00 per person to The EMHS Foundation, 6800 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28212 to hold your reservation.**

You may pay the balance to the same by March 15, 2010. For more information, please contact Joan O'Brien at joan.obrien@cms.k12.nc.us

ASTI NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS MS. HEDRICK!

East Meck's Science Department Chair Mona Hedrick was honored at a dinner recently for being selected as one of three science teachers who are state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. Ms. Hedrick has been nominated to receive this award, the nation's highest honor for math and science teachers, which recognizes her superior subject area knowledge and her strong abilities to motivate students. In addition to honoring Ms. Hedrick's individual achievements, this nomination recognizes her contribution to excellence in science teaching. Congratulations to Mona Hedrick!

First Annual Fund Appeal

In February of 2007, we had the most famous luncheon in the history of East Mecklenburg High School! In 2006, we had just started the All Star Teacher Initiative, (ASTI) and little did we know what a great success story it would become. We should have guessed the outcome based on the excitement of that February day....the Pep Band, the Eagle mascot, Pop Miller and of course the ever popular Rod Hoover singing the Alma Mater. It made for a day of school spirit not soon forgotten. We raised \$265,000 that day toward Bob Silver's \$500,000 challenge grant.

Originally planned as a five-year program, the East Mecklenburg High School Foundation board, which runs ASTI, recently decided to continue the program for another three years. To do that, we need your help! Your contribution to an Annual Fund will help us continue to support our teachers who train our children to be the leaders of tomorrow. Teacher retention last year of 98% was due in large part to the ASTI mission to "attract, reward, train and retain excellent teachers for every classroom at East Mecklenburg High School".

Many of you will be receiving a request in the mail, we hope you will consider supporting this new Annual Fund or you can send your check today payable to EMHS Foundation to 6800 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC. Thank you for your consideration.



Alumni Association News

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President

Teresa Arim Fesmire '73

Secretary

Rachel Dulin Harkey '59

Treasurer

Wes Carter '87

George Couchell '58

Jennifer Degen '96

Liz Downing '79

Brett Harris '85

Suzanne Chapman Mecum '65

John Miller '76

Catie Reed '03

Don Stedem '81

Velva Whitescarver Woollen '57

Nancy Abernathy Young '59

Alumni Director

Joan O'Brien

FIRST ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

On October 26, 2009, 92 golfers hit the links at the Golf Club at Ballantyne for the First Annual East Meck Alumni Golf Tournament. Participants spanned many years from the Class of 1957 to the Class of 1989. The men outnumbered the gals but the gals won the spirit award! They braved the cold weather early in the morning but their enthusiasm for the event was contagious. The Carter brothers, Wes, Rob, Rich and their friend Jimmy Lee were the big winners. Second Place was the team of Dan Rice, Tommy Moore, Walter Phillips and Barry Lindeman. Third Place was Dan Seaborn, Rex Savage, Russell Mansfield and Evan Miller. Closest to the pin was Walter Phillips and the longest drive was won by Tim Harris (295 yards).

The excitement of the day reached its peak as the yellow helicopter hovered over the practice range and dropped 100 golf balls for the "Great Golf Ball Drop". Two of those gold golf balls landed in the cup and the lucky winners splitting \$5,000 were Ruth Blackley Harris and Carter Drinkard! Congratulations to all winners!

We are already working on next years event and hope all who played will come back and join us. Many thanks to a **fabulous** committee who created a **fabulous** event!



Participants and players at the First Alumni Golf Tournament.

Joan's Corner

Congrats to Coach Bosc, who is headed to NC Soccer Hall of Fame

Larry Bosc coached the East Meck boys in 1987-2007 and had a career record of 453-169-51. His teams advanced to the state final three times ('90, '96, '04). He was 117-110-19 as a girls' coach at East (1991-2004 and '09), with his teams making the state playoffs 10 times. Larry was also the boys' coach at Chapel Hill High (1980-83), where the Tigers won the NC 4A championship in 1983. Larry currently teaches History at East Meck. He will be inducted in the Soccer Hall of Fame January 23 in Greensboro.

E-mail alumni news to: joan.obrien@cms.k12.nc.us

'59 Reunion

The East Mecklenburg Class of 1959 held its 50th Reunion September 11-12. On Friday afternoon, the East Meck Alumni Association hosted a reception at the school. There were student lead tours, fabulous refreshments made and served by the award winning Culinary Arts Department, and a time together in the auditorium where they were warmly welcomed by principal, Rick Parker. Jerry Helms greeted everyone and the class presented the school with a hand carved eagle. That evening everyone enjoyed a BBQ at the home of Richard and Judy Vinroot. Saturday evening there was a dinner dance at Ballantyne Country Club. The program was given by Pete Little, our class president, and our three foreign exchange students, Heide Hilse from Germany, Maurice Bourquin from Switzerland, and Hans Nielsen from Denmark. There were renewed friendships, delicious food, fun 50's music and interesting conversations. Everyone left saying, "This was a special time in our lives. Let's not wait another five years to get together".



Class of 1959 at their 50th Reunion

1969 40 year +1 Reunion

The Class of 1969 is planning a 40 plus 1 year reunion. For information, please contact Rick Heedick at: rheedick@carolina.rrcom or Ellen Caldwell at flydusty@bellsouth.net

50th Reunion, Class of 1960

On Friday, October 1, 2010 at 4PM, East Meck will welcome back to their alma mater the Class of 1960 in honor of their 50th Reunion with tours of the school and refresh-

ments. Following the East reception a Barbecue will be held at William R. Davie Park on Hwy.51.

On Saturday, October 2 there will be a Garden party in the afternoon at the home of Missy Westmoreland Anderson and that evening there will be a buffet dinner. The time and place of the dinner has not been decided.

For more information a web site has been set up for your convenience, www.emhs60.com or you may e-mail Don Kendall at dkendall7300@yahoo.co

East Mecklenburg High School Alumni Association

All Star Teacher Initiative

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

I am a graduate of East Meck, class of _____

Fill out the **above information** and **one** or **both** of the boxes below

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

- \$25 for **Individual Annual Dues**
- \$35 for **Couple Annual Dues**
- \$350 **Life Individual Membership**
- \$500 **Life Couple Membership**

My Check is enclosed *

Please charge my Visa M/C
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Yes, I would like to support the
All STAR TEACHER INITIATIVE**

I/We wish to pledge the total sum of \$ _____

payable over _____ years (up to 5)

Please bill me Semi-Annually Annually

My Check is enclosed*

Please charge my Visa MC
Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

My Company matches and I will contact them.

If you wish to make a gift of stock, please call 908-343-6430 ext.312

***Please make checks payable to: East Mecklenburg High School Alumni Association and send to 6800 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28212**
Check us out on the web at: www.eastmeckfoundation.org

***Your contribution is tax-deductible; East Mecklenburg High School Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

If you would like more information please contact Joan O'Brien at 980-343-6430 ext. 312

East Mecklenburg High School Foundation
6800 Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28212