

THE *Eagle Eye*



December 15, 2016

Eagle Ridge Academy

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Executive Director News

JASON ULBRICH

Executive Director

Too often in our lifetime we suffer pain, sorrow, and loss that is unexplainable to the human mind and heart. On Dec. 8, a 2015 graduate of Eagle Ridge Academy, Mr. Nathan Weidner, passed away unexpectedly. Nathan attended ERA since the 6th grade and earned his Pin of Perseverance upon graduation. Nathan was a talented musician, a member of the robotics team, and enjoyed the outdoors. Nathan's brothers have also attended ERA; Phillip graduated in 2016 and Andrew is a current student.

The Weidner family has been a great support to many others in our community and we ask that you lift them up in prayer and your thoughts during this difficult time. You are welcome to donate to the Nathan's Gift charitable fund (#1105215) by mailing checks with account name and number in memo field to Fidelity Charitable, PO Box 770001, Cincinnati, OH 45277, Mail Code KC1D-SCS.



Upper School Updates

ERICA POWELL

Principal, Schools of Logic & Rhetoric

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." *John F. Kennedy*

Thank you to staff, students, and parents for making it a great year thus far. We have had a busy few weeks with winter music concerts (images below) and basketball games (images on page 4). The annual Variety Show and Coffee House will be held on Friday, Dec. 16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Eagle Ridge Academy Forum.

Next week will be a short week, and students will be full of energy prior to winter break. Please remind your children that this is a great time to clean out their lockers and bring a few things home. We will be reconfiguring some of the 7th and 9th grade lockers over break and will be having those students empty out their lockers.

Final exams in the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric will be held Jan. 17-19, 2017. Students will have nine days of Quarter 2 remaining when they come back from winter break.

Winter Break Office Hours

Dec. 22: Door 1 open 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Dec. 23-26: **Closed**

Dec. 27-29: Door 1 open 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Dec. 30-Jan. 2: **Closed**

Gr. 7-12 Winter Orchestra Concert Thursday, Dec. 8



LEFT: Ms. Erica Higgins conducts the orchestra. RIGHT: Cellist Celia S., grade 7, plays a solo. | PHOTOS BY ERICA POWELL



"Our Story" is a monthly student-produced videocast created with the purpose of connecting the Eagle Ridge Academy Community. Find us on [YouTube!](#)

Community Updates



Check the Lost and Found Before Dec. 21

KAREN CONNER
Operations Specialist

Our lost and found is overflowing with misplaced mittens, lunchboxes, sweaters, and various other items that students have left behind. Please ask your child to check the Lost and Found for missing items. All items left after Dec. 21 will be donated to a local charity. The Lost and Found is located at the entrance to the solarium.



Developing Connections

KELLY SCHIFFMAN
Director of Development

Last week a colleague and I gave a man a pair of new gloves. He was a bell ringer for the Salvation Army, giving his time to make the world a better place for less fortunate people. The day was frigid and windy, but he was smiling, wishing us a Merry Christmas, and spreading joy as people passed through the doors trying to get out of the cold. This gentleman had nothing on his hands, though, to keep him warm. We had no idea if he didn't own a pair or just forgot them that day. But a simple errand turned into an unexpected heartfelt and meaningful experience for us as we bought a pair of new gloves for his bell-ringing hands. Our day was changed when he smiled, gave us a hug, and gave us a thumbs up as we left the parking lot. A random act of kindness made one man feel special and valued for his own act of kindness. But our small gift to him made our lives more meaningful because it made us feel good that we helped someone else.



Remember this holiday season and all year round to be kind and to be generous in spirit and love. Give the gift of kindness with a smile, a laugh, a hug, an encouraging word, a helping hand, a letter, a small gift, an act of love...that warms your heart, soothes your soul, and



Health Update: Winter is Here!

MOLLY GERBER
Health Specialist



Cold Weather Protocol

Fresh air and outdoor activity, even in winter, can help children reboot so they can focus better in the classroom. All students should be wearing warm hats, gloves or mittens, coats, snow pants, and boots out to recess. I have a lot of requests from parents for their child to stay in for recess because the child has a cold. We cannot keep students in for colds, but wearing scarves across the face can help. The school policy is to have indoor recess when the windchill is at or below zero degrees. Children with medical conditions diagnosed by a doctor stating the reason they cannot be outdoors will be allowed to stay indoors.

Cold and Flu Season: Fever and Vomiting

All students have to be fever-free, below 100.0, without any medication for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child has vomited, he/she will need to stay home for a full 24 hours from the last vomiting episode before returning to school.

improves humanity a little piece at a time.

Warm wishes for a lovely holiday break with your families and friends.



Consider a Gift to Eagle Ridge Academy!

This being the season of giving, please consider Eagle Ridge Academy in your year-end gift planning. A 100% tax-deductible gift to ERA will benefit our students and fill our hearts with gladness. Consider giving a gift in honor of a teacher, staff member, or even your child or family member. All gifts, no matter the size, make an incredible difference in our goal to keep Eagle Ridge Academy a high quality school of choice and an outstanding place for our students and families to call home.

Donate online [here](#), mail or drop off gift to 11111 Bren Rd. W, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (Attn: 2016 Year End Gift), or call 952-746-7760, ext. 1107. Unless designated, your gift will go to the area of greatest need at Eagle Ridge Academy.

Thank you for your important support and for choosing Eagle Ridge Academy.



Buy Your 2017 Yearbook Now and Save \$10

COLLEEN BRENNAN

Art Teacher

Upper School yearbooks currently cost \$50 each, and prices will go up again on Jan. 27. [Order online here](#). This year's book is shaping up to be our best yet (see part of the cover above). Don't miss out. Order today! If you want to check if a yearbook has been ordered for you, see Dr. Brennan in Room 1602.



PTO News

PTO SECRETARIES

pto.eagleridge@gmail.com

Sign Up Now for Festival of Treats

Festival of Treats is an annual tradition to provide some festive treats in the break room for our teachers and staff to enjoy. This year, we have chosen Monday, Dec. 19, with leftovers to be munched on the rest of the week. We need additional goodies for the event! Please consider making a traditional treat that represents your unique heritage, or a family favorite to contribute. Or, choose a treat category and pick up something yummy at the store to send into school. [Click here to sign up!](#)

PTO Ski & Snowboard Club

Ski and Snowboard season is HERE and we had a great crowd of enthusiastic parents and students kick off the season last Friday. Lesson payments for Jan. 6 are due Dec. 21 by the end of the day, with payments placed in an envelope with "ski or snowboard lesson" written on the front, and delivered to Mrs. Strand's Activity Office. We have complementary hot cocoa for everyone. Please mark your calendars for these Potluck dates: Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, and the annual end of season Pizza Party Potluck on Feb. 24. Please [sign up now](#). All are welcome to attend, even if you don't enjoy winter sports! You won't want to miss the fun.

Find all the information about Ski/Snowboard club [here](#).

PTO Redemption Items

Continue collecting your redemption items. Place items in a Ziploc bag with the teacher/advisory name on the front and bring into school. Find more information about this great program [here](#).



Ms. Emily Een

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Een teaches Latin in the School of Grammar for grades 4-6. This is her first year teaching at Eagle Ridge Academy, but she also attended the Academy as a student. She is from Minneapolis, MN.

Q: *What is your favorite part of working at ERA?*

A: I've always appreciated the rigor and the richness of Classical Education, and I highly value the teaching of grammar, logic, rhetoric, and virtues. However, I think my favorite part of working at ERA is encountering the enthusiasm and warmth that the students and teachers bring to the classroom.

Q: *What inspires you?*

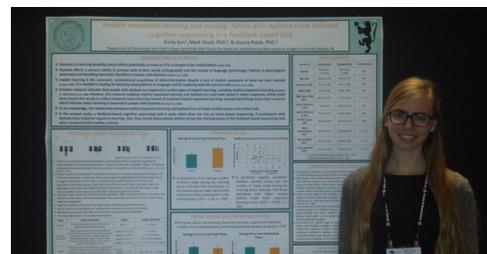
A: It is absolutely fascinating to get to work with so many different types of minds in every class, and each of them is brilliant in their own way. I love how each of my students learns slightly differently, and how each of them has his or her own interests and strengths.

Q: *What is one of your goals for the 2016-2017 school year?*

A: Get to know the school! There are so many great students, parents, and teachers here. It's exciting to have so many amazing people to get acquainted with!

Q: *If I'm not at ERA, I'm probably...*

A: ...rock climbing, working on my psychology research (implicit sequencing and dyslexia), or spending time with friends and family. •



Ms. Een presenting research at a conference in San Diego, CA in Nov. 2016.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMILY EEN

Community Updates, continued

BELOW: Thank you to all students, staff, and community members who made our first home basketball game on Dec. 2 so much fun! | PHOTOS BY MARILYN STRAND



For game and practice information, visit the [TCAC Calendar](#).

Athletics

4th/5th Grade Team

12/17 at ISM:

8:00 a.m. - Maroon vs. Guardian Angels
9:15 a.m. - Gray vs. Holy Name
10:30 a.m. - Girls vs. St. John School - Savage

1/7 at AWAY:

11:00 a.m. - Maroon vs. Carondelet
11:45 a.m. - Gray vs. Chapel Hill Academy

1/14 at ISM:

8:00 a.m. - Girls vs. Notre Dame Academy
9:15 a.m. - Gray vs. Calvin Christian
10:30 a.m. - Maroon vs. Annunciation

Boys Middle School

12/15 - 4:30 p.m.
AWAY vs. St. Therese of Deephaven

12/16 - 5:45 p.m.
HOME vs. Our Lady of Grace

1/8 - 5:45 p.m.
HOME vs. Nativity of Mary

Girls Middle School

12/16 - 4:30 p.m.
HOME vs. Carondelet

12/19 - 4:30 p.m.
AWAY vs. Calvin Christian

1/10 - 7:00 p.m.
HOME vs. St. Michael's Catholic

Boys Junior Varsity

12/16 - 6:00 p.m.
AWAY vs. Christian Life

1/3 - 5:30 p.m.
AWAY vs. Charter Stars

1/6 - 5:30 p.m.
HOME vs. Community of Peace

1/7 - 1:30 p.m.
AWAY vs. Nova Classical

1/10 - 5:30 p.m.
HOME vs. Hope Academy

1/12 - 6:30 p.m.
AWAY vs. Cristo Rey Jesuit HS

1/13 - 5:30 p.m.
HOME vs. Calvin Christian

Boys Varsity

12/16 - 7:00 p.m.
AWAY vs. Christian Life

1/3 - 7:00 p.m.
AWAY vs. Charter Stars

1/6 - 7:00 p.m.
HOME vs. Community of Peace

1/7 - 3:00 p.m.
AWAY vs. Nova Classical

1/12 - 7:30 p.m.
AWAY vs. Cristo Rey Jesuit HS

1/13 - 7:00 p.m.
HOME vs. Calvin Christian

Boys C Squad

1/12 - 5:00 p.m.
AWAY vs. Cristo Rey Jesuit HS



Upcoming Events

Dec. 15 - Jan. 12

For more information and more events, visit the [school calendar](#).

- Dec. 15 – 6:30 p.m. – Gr. 7-12 Winter Band Concert
- Dec. 16 – Spirit Wear Day
- Dec. 16 – 6:30 p.m. – Upper School Coffee House & Variety Show
- Dec. 19 – PTO Festival of Treats
- Dec. 19 – 9:00 a.m. – Schools of Logic & Rhetoric Tour
- Dec. 19 – 1:35 p.m. – Battle of the Books (Gr. 3-5)
- Dec. 21 – Free Dress Day
- Dec. 21 – 9:00 a.m. – School of Grammar Tour
- Dec. 21 – School of Grammar Winter Parties (Times Vary by Grade)
- Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 – No School, Winter Break
- Jan. 3 – 8:00 a.m. – School Resumes
- Jan. 4 – 9:00 a.m. – School of Grammar Tour
- Jan. 6 – 5:30 p.m. – Home Boys JV/Varsity Basketball Game vs. Community of Peace
- Jan. 9 – 9:00 a.m. – Schools of Logic & Rhetoric Tour
- Jan. 10 – 5:30 p.m. – Upper School Prospective Student Information Night
- Jan. 10 – 5:30 p.m. – Home Boys JV/Varsity Basketball Game vs. Hope Academy
- Jan. 10 – 5:30 p.m. – School Board Listening Session
- Jan. 10 – 6:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- Jan. 12 – 5:30 p.m. – School of Grammar Prospective Student Information Night

Volunteer at the Library!



Eagle Ridge Academy's library opened this fall with the generous help from many who supported with a financial gift for books. We are now ready for volunteer support to help our library specialist with various tasks (shelving, bar coding, check-in/out, assisting with book selection, book repair, stamping new books, etc.) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We would love your presence in our beloved library that is now home to 10,000 books.

To assist in the library, [sign up here](#).



New 6th Grade Concert Date

ERICA HIGGINS
Band Teacher

Due to a high number of students in 6th grade band and orchestra this year (it takes a little longer to ensure everyone is on the right track!), I have decided to postpone the winter concert for 6th grade students.

The new concert date is Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Please check your family calendar and inform Mrs. Erica Higgins via e-mail at ehiggins@eagleridgeacademy.org if you have any conflicts.



Free Dress Day Wednesday, Dec. 21

2016-17 FREE DRESS DAY DATES:
Oct. 7, Dec. 21, March 24, and May 26

What is Free Dress Day?

Free Dress Day is a school fundraiser for various departments at Eagle Ridge Academy. Students pay \$5 to be able to wear non-uniforms to school on specific "Free Dress Days."

One Week Before:

Dec. 15-20: K-12 students may bring \$5 to their homeroom or first hour teacher in order to participate in Free Dress Day.

The Day of:

Dec. 21: The cost is \$6 if students pay on the actual Free Dress Day.

Guidelines for Free Dress Day from the ERA handbook are:

All shoes must have backs, boots are permitted. Long and short sleeve shirts are permitted. No strapless, spaghetti straps, or sleeveless tops are permitted. Jeans are permitted; however, jeans with immodest rips in them are not. Sweat pants are permitted. Any logos on clothing must be school appropriate. Shirts are not to be tied back with elastic bands, but may be untucked. Heels should be no more than 1". Skirt and shorts length should be modest, and no more than 2" above the knee. Costumes and masks should not be worn. No hats are permitted. Leggings and yoga pants may only be worn with modest shirts, tunics, shorts, and skirts.

Dec. 21 Free Dress Day funds are going to support:

- **Kindergarten** - Bus transportation for community service project to a senior living community
- **Gr. 1** - Raz Kids subscriptions
- **Gr. 4** - field trip bus transportation
- **Gr. 11 and 12** - Bus transportation for humanities field trip to Park Square Theatre
- **Athletic & Activity Club scholarships**
- **Drama Club** - script rights and props

Questions? Contact Lower School or Upper School Principals.



Drama Update

MARYBETH HODGENS

Drama Club Advisor

The drama club has been meeting to join its collective, creative energy each week. They are excited to perform their one-act play "The Internet is Distract—Oh Look a Kitten!" a short comedy by Ian McWethy © Playscripts Inc. on **Saturday, Jan. 21** in the ERA Gymnasium. Admission will be FREE and performances will be held at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The club is in need of stuffed animals depicting the Angry Bird pigs and a pair of real boxing gloves. If you have any you would be willing to lend, please drop them at the Activity Office in a bag marked "Drama Club" and your

name so we may return them to you.

The full-length spring production will be "The Little Princess," adapted by Cynthia Mercati from the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This is a large cast play with 23 female and 7 male roles.

If you like having fun, being creative, and projecting your articulate voice, please consider signing up! Auditions will be held the second week of January for grades 7-12 during the Upper School lunch time. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and on Saturday mornings, with some flexibility in scheduling, if the director knows of conflicts ahead of time.

Please consider joining our stage crew! Sets, costumes, lights, and sound are all done by our talented ERA students, so

this is another opportunity for you to get involved. Stage crew will meet on Saturday mornings February-March, and will join the Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals in April.

Parents and Staff, we are in need of an adult supervisor to head our dynamic stage crew! Please see the posting under ERA Volunteer Positions.

If you have questions about the one-act or spring play, please contact our Drama Director, Marybeth Hodgens at mmhodg@gmail.com.

