

February, 2011

East Mecklenburg High School PTSA Newsletter



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News From Principal Rick Parker

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Dear Parents,

We jump started third quarter with our annual open house, *Passport to the Future Night* on January 31. The event was wonderful! Students and parents of rising ninth graders, prospective IB students, and our current students loved our new approach of classroom demonstrations, club booths, and special informational sessions. Additionally, having our traditional hotdog dinner, with cookies, Starbucks coffee and Pinkberry, was a nice treat. I was very proud to see so many families in attendance touring the East Mecklenburg campus exploring and having a good time. Our tradition of having a family atmosphere was truly captured during this night.

Beginning second semester, we have developed a credit recovery program called *East Mecklenburg High School Enrichment Program*. The program will run as a satellite of the Hawthorne High School Mastery Program, which has a non-traditional mastery approach to learning. Some of the courses will be facilitated through the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) Program, while math and English courses will be facilitated through East Mecklenburg High School. Students enrolled in the NCVPS Program will have the benefit of a certified teacher in the classroom to help blend the material from the virtual teacher with the expertise of a "live" teacher. This program will provide students the opportunity to earn course credits for courses they have failed while in high school. The ultimate objective of the program is to provide students, especially at-risk students, an alternative to dropping out of school and to help students get back on track for graduation. Participation in this program is open to all high school students, focusing primarily on those attending East Mecklenburg High School. The program will be offered from February until May.

To add a little excitement for second semester, I am challenging the students with their EOC scores. Last year our EOC test score composite was 82.3%; I have challenged the students to raise the EOC test scores this year to an average of 85% or better. If students reach this goal of 85% or better, I will do one of the following: color my hair blue; get a mohawk haircut, or paint myself blue and wear school spirit attire for a day around the campus. The students will vote in their homeroom for their favorite choice. We will announce to the school the most popular choice made by the students. My hope is by adding a little fun and challenge to EOCs, the students will respond with higher scores.

Congratulations are in order for many of our students and staff on their accomplishments and awards during the second quarter. Student Congress and Reverse Homecoming Kings collected \$1,227.51 for "Stand-up For Kids", a national non-profit organization that helps homeless youth. The City Of Charlotte was designated as a city in need. Ninety-four percent (94%) of the monies collected go directly to the youth. On another note, Student Congress will be competing March 11, 2011 in the Center for Civics Education – "We The People" competition. The national competition is based on the founding and current application of the Constitution. Also, Student Congress will be volunteering at Loaves and Fishes on February 5th and it is currently running a school-wide drive for new and gently used tennis shoes. Please see Mrs. Deiss with any donation or question. Please email Mrs. Deiss at martha.deiss@cms.k12.nc.us

Congratulations to the students who won Scholastic Gold Key or Silver Key Awards for Art. Maddie Pofahl won the Regional Gold Key Award for her Photo Portfolio, and Brittany Brown was awarded the Regional Silver Key Award for her drawing "Anti-Gravity".

Congratulations to David Ayers in receiving the National Achievement Scholastic Certificate of Achievement. David has advanced to Finalist standing through his demonstration of outstanding performance and for potential for future academic success. Also congratulations to our Exceptional Children's Cheerleading Squad! Our girls competed at Special Olympics, won the Gold and now are headed to the State for competition!

Mark your calendars! These are dates you don't want to miss!

February 10 – Parent University – "Homework without Headache" @ 6:30 pm – Media Center

February 18 & 21 – Snow Make Up Days – Students Report To School

February 24th & 25th – **Music Review** @ 7:00 pm - Auditorium– Students perform songs that have shaped or defined our culture in the last 80 years

February 24th - Spring Sports Parent Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. This is the spring sports eligibility meeting. If you child is interested in playing spring sports, this is a very important meeting to attend.

March 16 – Parent University – "Why Attendance Matters" - @ 6:30 pm – Media Center

April 14 – Parent University – "High School 411" 6:00 pm – Media Center

May 16 – Parent University – "Transition to Middle and High School" - 6:30 pm – Media Center

May 21st – **Prom** – Nascar Hall Of Fame 8:30pm – 12:00 am

As many families make their choices for next year, let's continue to spread the word about the commitment East Mecklenburg has to always strive for excellence. I thank you for your support and remind you of the importance of everyone working together to set and enforce the high standards that East Mecklenburg has defined and exemplified over the last 60 years. I close with this thought: Webster defines the word mirror as something that gives true representation. There is an old saying, "Life, like a mirror, never gives back more than we put into it." What is your mirror reflecting to your children and to other people? **WE ARE EAST MECK!**

Sincerely,

Richard B. Parker

Remember: Every Eagle A Success!

Guidance and Student Services Information

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

- Any family planning to move or who has moved please contact Melissa Ross, registrar at 980-343-6430, extension 297, or visit the CMS website.
 - Juniors should begin planning to take the SAT or ACT this spring. Visit www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org to register.
 - Visit the East Mecklenburg Home Page and click on school counseling office for very valuable information.
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COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

This is an incredible opportunity for a student(s) of strong academics for a free 4 year college ride if they attend one of the 1890 AG schools listed below:

Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Oklahoma, Lincoln University, Missouri, North Carolina A&T University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas, South Carolina State University, Southern University, Louisiana, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, Alabama, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University, West Virginia State University.

The purpose of the application is to foster interest in the 1890 schools listed above and therefore the scholarship is open to any student and not limited to the black community which is a common misconception. However, minority and underserved students are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is February 1st, which is a very short time to consider this application, so you may want to encourage your sophomores and juniors who are in the initial stages of planning their college options so they can prepare for next year. The information in the application indicates the target group is in an Ag. Related field, however we have administrative support, financial management positions, civil engineers, computer GIS positions and public information specialists on our staff which we consider as Ag. Related positions.

FRENCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Are you interested in hosting a French student from France April 23-May 8? This is two weeks where the French student shadows the American student at school. We try to match age, gender and interests. Hosting families receive a \$500 scholarship should their student want to travel to France the following summer.

WHO ARE WE?

Terra Lingua/Terre des Langues means "World Of Languages." This exchange program has its own unique connection with North Carolina, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Outer Banks for the past 15 years. We bring French students to the United States and also help American students travel abroad. A Host family provides the ideal setting to discover, firsthand, a different culture. It becomes a "real-life classroom."

What is expected of you? As a host family, you will provide a foreign student the opportunity to participate in your daily life and a range of activities. In the spring, they are expected to attend classes. Your daily life gives them many learning challenges. If you are interested in any aspect of these opportunities please contact Diane Smith, 704-649-2531 or diane.smith@cms.k12.nc.us. Visit the Terre des Langues website TLTLHOST.COM for more

JROTC REMINDER

JROTC Parents: If your child is not enrolled in the JROTC course at East Mecklenburg and you have not returned their uniform, please make an effort to return the uniform by the end of February.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

College Foundation of North Carolina will be offering help filling out the FAFSA from on February 19th at the following sites: FAFSA at Johnson and Wales, and FAFSA day at UNC Charlotte. For more information, additional sites, and to register please go to www.cfnc.org.

Good News To Share

Orchestra News

The East Mecklenburg Orchestras have been having a wonderful year. We had a great performance back on December 14, 2010. Great job by all.

On January 15th, 2011 the Western Regional Orchestra Auditions were held at Ardrey Kell High School. The orchestra extends their congratulations to freshman violist, Kate Stevens for auditioning and being selected to participate in the Repertory Orchestra at Appalachian State University March 4-6, 2011. Congratulations are also extended to senior violist, Elaine Phong, senior violist, Maria Martinez, and freshman violist Eliza Erneston for their hard work and being selected as alternates for the orchestras. Way to go ladies!!

On January 26, 2011, the East Mecklenburg Orchestras were among 5 high schools in Charlotte to be invited to UNC-Charlotte to see the Harlem String Quartet. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students. Thank you to Elsie Erneston, Heather LaJoie, and Margaret Steitz for chaperoning this event.

The orchestra is now preparing for a very big orchestra event. We will be traveling to UNC-charlotte on March 10, 2011 for our Music Performance Adjudication. This is our version on an EOC. We will be adjudicated and rated by guest judges on our performance. In preparation for this performance, the orchestra will have after school rehearsals on every B day from 2:30pm-3:30pm, starting January 27, 2011. Lets work hard together...practice is the key!!

In closing, a couple of dates for the end of the year! May 20, 2011 is our End of year Concert. It is a Friday evening. Also the orchestra will be performing at Graduation this year. Graduation is slated for Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 3:30pm. All members are required to participate.

Thank you again for supporting the East Mecklenburg Orchestra!

Culinary Arts Team WINS at CMS competition!!!

Culinary Arts students competed in the CMS Regional Culinary Competition at CPCC on January 7, 2011. East Mecklenburg Culinary Arts Teams brought home the TOP FOUR scores in CMS!! The three top scores are Culinary Arts I students! Congratulations to the following students for their fine job done in competition!

Jonathan Card	Gold Medal	Stanley Weaver	Gold Medal
June Nean	Gold Medal	Matt Anderson	Silver Medal
Stanley Weaver	Gold Medal	Aaron Grant	
Taylor Luu			

These students did a beautiful job representing East Mecklenburg! Please congratulate them and wish them well as they advance to NCFCCLA State competition at Johnson & Wales University on March 25th.

HELP US HONOR OUR STUDENTS

East Meck wants to recognize your student for his or her hard work. It's time to start reporting your scholarship earnings! If you are offered ANY scholarship money from ANY school (even if you will not be attending that school) you need to make a copy of the award letter and give it to Ms. S. Ross in the School Counseling Office to receive recognition.

The class of 2010 was awarded **\$4,312,912** in scholarship money, but we know the class of 2011 will be awarded even more!

Good News To Share

REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to **Maddie Pofahl** for winning a Regional Scholastics Gold Key Award for her Photography Portfolio! Congratulations to **Brittany Brown** for winning a Regional Scholastics Silver Key Award for her drawing "Anti-Gravity".

CONGRATULATIONS EAST MECK ART WINNERS

The following students of Marilyn George and David Veto were recent winners at the annual Charlotte Junior Women's League Art Festival:

First place winners: Timothy Boardman in Graphics, Elaine Phong in Colored Pencil, and Hunter Raineri in Dye Craft. Emily DeZubay took home 2 blue ribbons in Creative Stitchery and Weaving. Tetyana Yosypiv had three first place finishes in Decorative Painting, Nature Craft, and Mosaics.

Second place winners: Riley Turner in Graphics, Nancy Le in Colored Pencil, Tetyana Yosypiv in Dye Craft, and Katelyn Simmet in Mosaics. Cristina Rodriguez had two second place wins in Nature Craft and Decorative Painting.

Third place winners: Aurelie Merezette in Graphics, Ladarius Logan in Colored Pencil, Katelyn Simmet in Paper Craft, and Emily DeZubay in Decorative Painting. Cristina Rodriguez had two third place finishes in Dye Craft and Mosaics.

An **Honorable Mention Award** went to Nancy Le in Watercolors.

Congratulations to all of these talented students, for their individual achievements, and for representing East Meck with a tremendous showing at the Art Festival.

MUSICAL REVUE...A MUST SEE!!

Mark your calendars!

What is the soundtrack of your life? Do you remember the song you and your friends sang all through seventh grade? Did you beg your parents stop singing some tune from their high school days? What songs have shaped or defined our culture in the last 80 years?

Musical revues, a form of theatrical entertainment, reached the height of their popularity in the 1930's. That tradition remains strong at East Mecklenburg high School.

Join us as the choral department presents:

***Music through the Decades, 1930-2010** on February 24th and 25th at 7:00pm in the East Meck Auditorium. Tickets are a bargain at \$5 and all proceeds support the choral music program.*