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East Mecklenburg High School PTSA Newsletter

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Parent University Upcoming Class

Come join us for a free class "Why School Attendance Matters" in the East Meck Media Center, Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30pm.

**Remember:
Every Eagle
A Success**

Dear Parents,

As we approach the midpoint of third quarter, please continue to stay actively involved in your child's education. Two great ways to keep you updated with accurate information are Parent Assistant and e-mailing each teacher for weekly updates. If you need a parent conference please feel free to schedule one through our guidance department.

It is official! The votes are all in from the students! I challenged the students that if the whole school makes an average score of 85% proficiency or better on their EOCs, I would get a Mohawk hair cut, paint my body East Meck blue, or color my hair blue for a week. The students voted, and getting a Mohawk hair cut won. Yes, you heard right, a Mohawk hair cut. The buzz is going around the school; students are determined to make it happen. If they stay focused and prepared every day, I believe they can do it. Please join in the fun with your child and help them be ready.

Congratulations are in order for our IB Program. East Mecklenburg High School has been selected for a Magnet Schools of America (MSA) Magnet School of Distinction Award. This national award given by Magnet Schools of America is based on a commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful diversity efforts, and the consistent delivery of high quality education to students. The presentation of the Magnet Schools of Distinction award will be May 17 in Indianapolis, Indiana. I am very proud of Heather LaJoie, IB Coordinator, and her team of teachers.

Our Academy of Engineering, under the leadership of Penny Ratchford, had its first Advisory Board meeting on February 21. Fourteen engineers from around the Charlotte area, ranging from civil, mechanical, electrical, and architectural, were in attendance. I am excited about the opportunities this program is going to bring to East Mecklenburg, educating the students about the principles of engineering and encouraging more to choose this career of interest.

Spring sports are underway practicing and preparing for the opening day. Coach Koppe's baseball team has a strong veteran core this year with Lou Trosch, Jonathan Crews, David Daniels, and Wes Bradley. Coach Mazza's softball team is looking to make an impact this year with players Megan Grayson, Arianna Bonner, and Tiffany Hill. Coach Vuncannon and Coach Lasher's track teams are off running for the finish line with runners Sam Shisso, Cory Patterson and Devon McDonald carrying the torch. Coach Statome's girls' soccer team is preparing for a great season with Payton Walters leading the Eagles. Coach Nguyen's boys' tennis team is led by number one player John Leopard. So come out for one of our spring evenings, get a hamburger or hotdog and a drink, bring your lounge chair, and sit back and enjoy an exciting Eagle night.

Prom tickets are now on sale. The Junior/Senior Prom will be May 21 from 8:30 p.m. – 12 p.m. at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Tickets start out at fifty dollars, but increase in price as the event gets closer. So help your child take advantage of the price break now!

In closing, I believe good teaching at East Mecklenburg comes not from following a recipe, but from consistently putting our students' needs first. Thanks for all you do to continue to support our academic programs, fine arts concerts and athletic events. Let's continue to partner together to help your child finish strong and make East Mecklenburg the best school in CMS.

Sincerely, Richard B. Parker

**News from
Principal
Rick Parker**

Volunteers Needed

EMHS Graduation Project Review Board Volunteers April 6, 2-5pm

Community and parent volunteers are needed for East Meck's Graduation Project Review Boards. A brief training session will be given at 2pm sharp in our Media Center prior to your serving on the Review Boards with faculty members and other volunteers. Delicious snacks will be served by our Culinary Classes to all volunteers in the Atrium immediately following the boards.

To volunteer to help our seniors complete this graduation requirement, contact Deb Smith at deborah.smith@cms.k12.nc.us or call 980-343-6430, extension 245.

Art Department News

Congratulations to Brittany Brown for receiving a Regional Scholastics Silver Key for her drawing "Anti-Gravity." Her work is on display at The Mint Museum Randolph until March 6th.

A big congratulations to Maddie Pofahl for winning a Gold Key award for her Photography Portfolio in the Regional Scholastics Contest. Her work will be on exhibit March 2-31 at Johnson C. Smith University: Library and Crutchfield Galleries. Maddie's work will be judged nationally in New York.

The Art Club is selling Bojangles' coupon cards for \$2 each. Individual cards have a coupon for up to \$15 in value. We also have Hungry Howie Pizza cards for \$5 (for a card of 10 buy one get one free). Cards can be purchased in room 202.

Ms. Winiarski's IBMYP Art I & II class recently visited the Mint Uptown on a field trip. The students will be working with visiting artist, Ashley Lathe, on a print making project in the coming weeks. Students lunches were supplemented with funds from the East Meck Art Boosters. The Mint Uptown is providing the grant for the visiting artist and materials for students projects.

Guidance & Student Services

National College Fair

If you are college bound, come to the Park (formerly the Charlotte Merchandise Mart) on Sunday, March 20 from 12-4pm for the 2011 Charlotte National College Fair. Representatives from more than 200 colleges will be on hand to answer your questions and tell you about their academic programs and more. Informational workshops on Financial Aid, Finding Free Money for College and several more will also be held. Admission is free but parking at the event is \$6.00 per car. Students must register now at www.gotomyncf.com! Learn more at www.nationalcollegefairs.org!

EAST SIDE STORIES

The East Mecklenburg Drama Club is proud to present the fourth annual play festival, *East Side Stories*. This production is a combination of short plays, each lasting about ten minutes. The plays are written, directed, produced, and acted by the students, themselves.

Drama Club chooses the plays, trying to find a variety of shows, so that the audience can laugh, cry, or even scream. Everybody is guaranteed to leave with at least one favorite and wanting more. *East Side Stories* will be presented at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23 in the Auditorium. Tickets will be just \$3.00.

"Project Unify" Connects Disabled & Non-Disabled East Meck Students

to bring students (non-disabled and disabled) together through participation in sporting and fund raising activities. Here at East Meck we have approximately 175 exceptional students, with 35 actively involved in Special Olympics. Within the first month of our club, 100 East Meck students have signed up to be a part of East Meck's Project Unify. Project Unify students will pair up with exceptional students, both on and off campus. We have several projects underway already; The Eagle Invite softball tournament in April, Special Olympics and Camp SOAR in June. If you would like more information about how you or your teen could be involved contact Sarah Hanson, 980/343-6430.

Project Unify held their first ever club meeting on Feb 1st. The program is an outreach of Special Olympics geared toward non-disabled K-12 students. It is designed