



# East Mecklenburg High School PTSA Newsletter

May 2011

## General PTSA Meeting

Monday, May 16  
at 6pm in the  
Media Center

## News from Principal Rick Parker

Dear Parents,

The State of East Mecklenburg Luncheon on April 28 marked another historic day for our high school. Four hundred thirty people were in attendance including alumni, community members, former principals and teachers, and others that have a love for East Mecklenburg. Sonja Gantt and Moira Quinn welcomed everyone, the band drum line and the chamber choir performed, several teachers gave their testimonies, a video was shown of our students thanking their teachers for all they do, our new mascot costume was revealed, and last but not least, Bob Silver challenged everyone to keep his dream alive! It was totally an amazing event! The luncheon raised \$170,000 in pledges over the next five years and the East Foundation believes it will reach \$200,000. Truly, the State of East Mecklenburg can be summed up in four words: "We Are a Family!"

As we head into the home stretch with less than thirty days in the fourth quarter, I am reminded that there are three types of people in the world: people who watch things happen, people who make things happen, and people who wonder what happened. I do not want any of my students wondering what happened because they did not plan or prepare to be successful! Finishing strong should be their top priority. Of first importance is attendance. Attendance is the key to success and your child should know how many days he or she has missed in each class. Students can only miss ten days in a class and must do recovery for any absences over ten. Secondly, all exams are important and students should be present at school during final exams, June 1-6. Make-up Days for exams are June 7-10. Parents, please plan all appointments on days other than exam days. In connection with exams, each department is holding review sessions, called EOC Blitz, for students needing extra help to better prepare for their exams. I highly recommend for your child to take advantage of this opportunity as I am preparing to have my hair cut in a Mohawk style if students reach their testing goals. Lastly, all fees should be paid before the end of the year. Any senior with delinquent fines will not be able to participate in graduation!

There are several notables to highlight as we reach the middle of fourth quarter. Zachary Brown was selected as the winner of a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship. This scholarship is underwritten by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. David Ayers is a 2011 recipient of a National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship, awarded to David in recognition of his academic promise and

## Important Dates:

**Wednesday, May 18 (5 & 7pm)**

**Culinary Arts "Gold Feathers" Dinner**

This annual fundraiser will support the Culinary Arts program's gold medal winners, Matt Anderson, Stanley Weaver, and Jonathan Card, as they compete in the nationals in California.

**Thursday, May 19**

**Band Concert (7pm, Auditorium)**

**Friday, May 20**

**Orchestra Concert (7pm, Auditorium)**

**Saturday, May 21**

**Prom (8:30pm-12am, NASCAR Hall of Fame)**

**Tuesday, May 24**

**Awards Night (7pm, Auditorium)**

## Moving?

If you are moving during the summer, please contact the school to let the Registrar know that you need to withdraw from East Mecklenburg High School. It is helpful for East Meck to know that you will not be returning in the fall, and is also will expedite your student's enrollment at a new school.

**Remember:  
Every Eagle  
A Success**

## Information for SENIORS

### Report your Scholarships!

East Meck wants to recognize our students for their hard work! If you are offered ANY scholarship money from ANY school (even if you will not be attending that school), give a copy of the award letter to Ms. S. Ross in the School Counseling Office to receive recognition.

### College-Bound Seniors

It's time to request your final transcript. GREEN FINAL TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORMS are available in the guidance office.

- Complete form with parent signature if you're under 18.
- Include a #10 business size envelope addressed to the college you will attend + two stamps . (Larger or manila envelopes require MORE POSTAGE!)
- Return request to the FINAL TRANSCRIPT box in the Guidance Office.

Questions? Call (ext 237) or stop by Guidance and speak to Amy Wiebke.

## Art Department NEWS

### Student's Photo Displayed in D.C.

Congratulations to Maddie Pofahl! Her photograph "Water Spray" has been accepted to be exhibited at the Department of Education in Washington, DC as a part of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools "Charlottes Got A Lot!" Exhibition. Maddie and her art teacher, May Winiarski, travelled to Washington for opening reception and ceremony on May 2. The work will be on display all summer.

### Art Booster Parents Needed

We are looking for parents to help with Art Boosters next year. We will need a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please contact May Winiarski in room 202 or [m.winiarski@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:m.winiarski@cms.k12.nc.us). Thank you for supporting the Arts!

## Students Participate in Light Factory Project This Semester

Fifteen English as a Second Language students at East Meck are participating in the "My Family, Our Stories" photography and writing project this spring semester. The project is part of The Light Factory's yearly outreach to selected schools in the Charlotte area.

The Light Factory, a contemporary museum of photography and film at Spirit Square, sent guest instructor, Van Miller, for eight weeks to Ms. Busto's ESL English IV class. Students in the class come from Burma, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Nepal, India, Cuba, Mexico, Vietnam, France, Moldova, and the Dominican Republic. They are all recent arrivals to the US and have many stories to tell about their journey to this country and their experiences as they adjust to a new school and a new life. Mr. Miller, a professional photographer and writer, gave them twice weekly lessons on photography and writing. They were loaned cameras and given photo/writing assignments.

At East, you will see their work on display in the glass case near the auditorium. Their photography and writing will also be in exhibition at The Light Factory gallery in Spirit Square, 345 N. College St., from April 27th to August 1st. The Opening Reception will be on Thursday, May 12th, from 6-8pm. The entire East Meck family is invited to the reception to celebrate the creativity and talent of some of our newest members!

For more information, contact Justine Busto at [justine.busto@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:justine.busto@cms.k12.nc.us).

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### Principal's Letter, *from page 1*

distinguished performance in the competition in the year 2011. On April 26, Special Olympics of Mecklenburg County honored East Mecklenburg High School's Project Unify group by presenting them with the Outstanding Project Unify School of the Year Award. This is the inaugural year for this prestigious recognition, which will be presented annually to the Project Unify School that makes the greatest impact on the advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities through their involvement with Project Unify. Communities in Schools held their "Celebrating Our Graduates" Luncheon at the Convention Center and East Mecklenburg Senior Viraj Patel was awarded a \$6,000 Patricia Fields Scholarship, which is funded through Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

All of our students are shining stars! Thank you for your continued support and partnership with East Mecklenburg.

Sincerely, *Richard B. Parker*