



EUGENE CHRISTIAN — SCHOOL —

February 2024 Quarterly Newsletter

Hello ECS Friends and Families,

It is hard to believe that this week marks us as being halfway through this school year already! So much has happened since our last newsletter came out in October. We were able to celebrate Veterans Day and Christmas with some wonderful programs in November and December. We got right back to work in January after our Christmas break and the ice storm hit. A number of our families and staff were impacted by the storm but ECS was able to get through it virtually unscathed. Because of this we were able to return to school a day earlier than the surrounding school districts. We also made the decision to add back an instructional day in February to ensure that our students and teachers continue to have the opportunity to pursue excellence in our academics.

We have also been able to get right back to pursuing service to others with the launch of our third partnership with Sparrow Clubs. This year we are “adopting” baby Lando into the ECS family and through community service our students will unlock money to support Lando’s medical needs. Our partnership with Sparrow Club is at the very heart of what we’re about here at ECS.

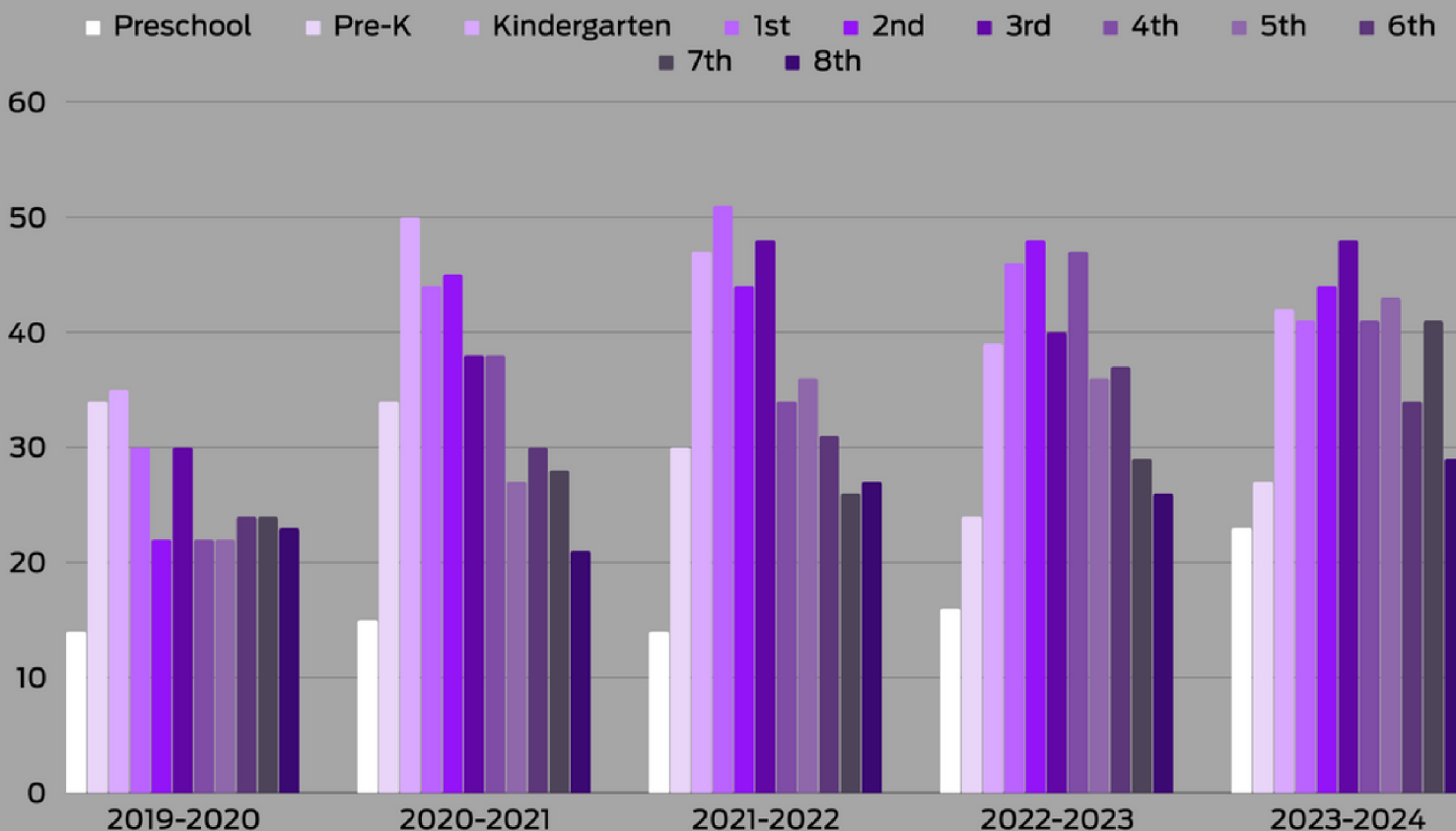
We wrapped up January with our 3rd annual ECS Family Skating event at the Rink Exchange. We get so much positive feedback about this event that we definitely want to keep this tradition going.

Thank you again to all of our wonderful donor friends who continue to make it possible for us to continue to improve our programs and facilities. We have completed all of our security upgrades and now have a wonderful new security fence and gate on the east side of the building. Speaking of wonderful donors, Virginia “Gingie” Anderson, a long time friend and generous donor to ECS went to be with Jesus recently. We are so thankful for her and her generosity to ECS over many years.

We are looking forward to the days and months ahead with excitement as we continue to see God move in our community.

Jeremy Hugo - Head of School

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL



ECS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Paige Goeser (formerly, De Paepe)

Grades attended at ECS -

I attended Eugene Christian school from the fourth to the eighth grade. Starting with Ms. Teresa Burke in the fourth grade, my elementary and middle school teachers were Ms. Patty Duncan, Mrs. Carolyn Hennen (and her basset hound Jordan), Mrs. Connie Kempf, Mrs. Chris Hammond, Mr. Bill Altmiller, Mrs. Kathy O'Bannon, Mrs. Laurie Imhoff, Mrs. Kincaid.

What ECS campus did you attend (Amazon or Chad Drive) -

I was a student at the Amazon campus. Whenever it rains, I get a flashback of running the mile on the Amazon trail in PE, and the soggy sawdust that filled your socks.

Favorite teacher at ECS -

I have to give a few people specific mentions for their significant contributions to my career, character, and life direction. Mrs. Duncan infused art into every aspect of her classroom, which developed my love of drawing into a more serious skill. Mrs. Kempf instilled a caliber of writing excellence that set me apart in high school, and carried me through college. To this day, I think about her writing guidelines – I've broken at least three of her rules in this paragraph.

My start in graphic design began in Mrs. Hammond's computer class, on a project in MS Paint. I think she would be blown away at what I can do now as a professional.

Favorite memory while at ECS -

I have many fond memories of ECS: My acting debut as a card soldier in the middle school performance of Alice in Wonderland. Being the first student to help illustrate the play program. Selling wreaths for the DC trip. Writing books and stories in fifth, seventh and eighth grade (I still write books and stories, I love book binding). Not many people can say they wrote their first 20 page research paper in the seventh grade. Building an acropolis out of printer paper and paper clips. Winning a medal for Word Masters (okay, super nerd). Spending a whole summer with a net and enlisting friends and family to collect insects for the bug project. Playing capture the flag all over campus. I've tried to describe to people what performing in a bell choir is like, but no one really gets it. Absolutely crushing books like it was nothing. Playing wall ball at recess, getting slightly sweaty. I took a card-making elective once and I think that helped me understand how to develop a layout.

A specific story: I remember one time Mrs. Kempf gave us a true/false test about whether certain beliefs were actually core tenants of the Christian faith. One statement on the test was something to the effect of "there should be no limit to the amount of wealth you can accrue." It surprised me that it was false – this was maybe my first experience seeing the divide between traditional American values and actual Christian beliefs. It was important to have this realization early because it helped me to question my assumptions and test cultural values against actual scripture.

I can confidently say I have matured in my faith since then, but I am very thankful for the foundation and the experience I had at ECS.

Looking back, what advice would you give to current ECS students?

To students generally, I would encourage them to try a lot of new things now and don't worry about how "good" you are at them. There is a lot of pressure to specialize very early. You have your whole life to learn and change and grow.



How did your time at ECS prepare you for the future (spiritually and educationally) -

If you plan on attending college, your middle school graduation marks only the halfway point in your educational career (and even less if you continue to grad school). ECS did an incredible job of teaching me how to learn. The methods for taking notes, making outlines, and writing papers put me at a huge advantage in both high school and college – unfortunately very few of my peers knew how to study in a way that was best for them. Having come from public school in early elementary, I distinctly remember how different the atmosphere of Eugene Christian School seemed. It was a safe place to learn. Graduating from ECS, I felt capable in all subjects, like I could succeed in any field I wanted. Looking back, I think the hands-on project-based curriculum helped me develop a sense of craft and story, which is a vital part of my job today.

There is also a study component to the spiritual side of ECS. We learned how to read the Bible with a strong understanding of the total narrative of scripture, in historical context, and we spent time in books that are less traveled in typical Bible studies. At one point, I knew all of the judges and kings of Israel and Judah, and the hallmarks of their leadership. As a believer now, I still draw from this book knowledge in my personal study. More importantly though, the relationships you develop as a young person have a huge impact on your faith. Watching teachers who have walked faithfully with Jesus for decades can form your idea of what it means to be a Christian, beyond what you have seen in your parents. Particularly in that stage of life, I think it developed my idea of long-term faithfulness, and it gave me a broader context for Christian beliefs outside of the denomination I was familiar with.

Where do you live -

I live with my husband in Los Angeles, California.

What is your occupation -

I work in advertising as a Senior Art Director. In my job, I'm responsible for developing campaign ideas and visuals for everything from TV commercials to small website banner ads to experiential pop-ups and museum installations. I'm blessed to say I love what I do and I hope to keep doing it for a long time.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Bryn Fredrickson - 4th Grade Teacher



How long have you been here at ECS?

I started at ECS in 2022 making this my second year teaching 4th grade at our school.

Where did you teach before ECS?

For the 15 years prior to arriving at ECS, I taught 3rd in Springfield at Page Elementary for 15 years. In between Page and ECS, I was a full-time tutor for one year, teaching individual students between the ages of 3 years old up to 8th grade.

Why do you love teaching here at ECS?

It has been such a pleasure to incorporate the Lord into my teaching. Although I had always looked for ways to teach the characteristics of Christ to my classes (grace, forgiveness, mercy, patience, gratitude, etc), I was never able to freely speak about our Savior. Praying with my students for our day, before tests and before meals, memorizing scripture and reading God's Word together has been delightful.

It has also been an honor to teach with such supportive and encouraging families! Working together as a team for the spiritual and academic success of each student is a gift that I will never take for granted.

Who inspired you growing up?

My parents set the example of how to love, serve and honor God. Hard work was taught and modeled, gratitude was a family value and memorizing God's word was a priority. They raised us to have a personal relationship with Christ and to obey God through obeying those that God had placed above me. To this day, they are diligent in spending time in God's word, they pray fervently for us and they continue to set an example of how to live a life that glorifies God.

What is something about you that people may not know?

I'm talented in the garden and terrible in the kitchen!

What church do you attend?

Twin Rivers Church in Springfield

What is your favorite classroom activity?

Room transformations! This is when I decorate the classroom to immerse the students in what we're learning so that they can "experience" the material. It takes a lot of time to set up a room transformation so when it happens, it's a special day in our classroom.

What is your favorite hobby?

It's a tie between thrifting and yard work!

What is the perfect Saturday?

A morning walk that leads to coffee, hitting up a thrift or two, a nap, yard work, then ending the day at an event with family or friends (an event could be anything from a movie, a sporting event, a dinner out or a game night!). Can all that be done in a day??

What scripture really resonates with you right now?

Our 4th graders are memorizing Ephesians 6:10-18... the armor of God. In today's world, we must be diligent to arm ourselves everyday to be a follower of Christ. As a leader of young Christ-followers, I need to be especially diligent in preparing each day to guide them correctly in their understanding of Christ.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3/14 - Spring Open House
- 3/15 - Wizard of Oz Production
- 3/25-3/29 - Spring Break
- 3/31 - Easter Sunday
- 4/25 - Celebrate ECS

Every year we host Celebrate ECS - a special evening that benefits our Student Scholarship Fund. Did you know ECS provides over \$500,000 in tuition assistance and discount programs every year? Our Student Scholarship Fund is an integral part of our ability to provide Christ-based education to many of our ECS families.

We would love to have this year's entire Celebrate ECS event sponsored. If you or your business are interested in participating, please contact our Director of Development, Patrick Schoenherr for more details.
pschoenherr@eugenechristianschool.com