



TODAY

Volume 36, No. 1
Fall 2018

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for these events -
details at www.emhs.net

Oct. 19 to 21 – Homecoming
Weekend (see details page 4)

Oct. 28, 2 to 4 p.m. – EMES
Fall Festival

Nov. 1 – National Honor Society
blood drive (guest donors welcome)

Nov. 5 – Student Visitation Day
(middle and high school)

Nov. 7 – History Day (all school;
guests welcome)

Nov. 22 to Jan. 10 – Christmas
Fund Drive campaign

Dec. 6, 7 p.m. – EMMS Christmas
program, auditorium

Dec. 11 and 13, 7:30 p.m. –
EMMS Christmas worship
program, auditorium

Jan. 21 – Student Visitation Day
(middle and high school)

Jan. 24-27 – EMMS musical,
“The King and I”

Jan. 29, 6 p.m. – Ready, Set,
Kindergarten! for preschool
families, Commons



Levi Kweba and Birch Stockwell wash each other’s hands as Lynette Mast, peace-building teacher, guides them, during the K-5 Gathering ceremony where students signed the pledge of nonviolence and washed hands to symbolize their care and service to and for each other. Photo by Andrew Gascho

Creative, Cozy, Comfortable: K-12 on One Site

by **Andrea Schrock '82 Wenger**

This fall marks the first time that all grades K-12 are on one campus... and in one building! After 13 years of growth off site, the elementary grades moved into the main building at 801 Parkwood Drive for the school year while expansion and renovation is completed on the adjacent former MennoMedia building and property (See Let the Children Come Update, p. 2).

The summer was abuzz with teachers and staff showing creativity and collaboration:

- Upstairs wing of the new section of the building was vacated to make room for elementary classrooms.
- Upper level teachers who had been in that wing, moved rooms to partitioned areas of the dining hall and elsewhere in the building.
- Elementary teachers sorted and moved from the Route 11 site.

(continued on page 5)



Jodi Beachy’s fifth grade classroom is ready for action! EMES uses chairs and tables of varied heights and yoga balls for seats to support the active bodies that come with active minds. Photo by Andrew Gascho

faith

excellence

integrity

service

Farewell and Welcome

New faculty and staff who began this fall (left to right): Melodie Bomberger '01 May (front office); Andrea Schrock '82 Wenger (director of advancement); Deborah Katz (school counselor); Justin King (high school principal); Zach Sauder (middle social studies and elementary physical education); Chad Siebert (physical education and varsity boys basketball coach); Mary Jo Veurink (front office). Not pictured, Trisha Maust '95 Blosser (development officer).



Photo by Andrew Gascho

We said farewell to the following dedicated faculty and staff members in a spring recognition dinner. Impossible to calculate all the lives touched by this group!

- Susan Swartz – 19 years as English, drama and Bible teacher
- Randa Hendricks – 10 years as social studies and Bible teacher
- Diana L. Suter '70 Berkshire – eight years in development, alumni relations work and volunteerism
- Phil Landes '81 – six years as secondary school principal
- Becky Leichty and Melody Riddle – three years and one and a half years respectively in dining services
- Jon Anderson – 10+ years volunteer instruction of classic languages
- Mary Golden Hughes – eight years as director of advancement



Mary Golden Hughes with her husband, Chris, and children Lilian '15, Ceci '18 and Liam '21. Photo by Elwood Yoder

Let the Children Come! A Campaign Update

Through generous gifts, **we have raised just over \$3 million** toward our goal of \$4.2 million for the Let the Children Come campaign. Thank you! The campaign was launched in fall of 2017. Here's what's happened since then:

- Clearing out the former MennoMedia building and Alive Studios, salvaging as much materials and equipment as possible.
- Asbestos abatement.
- Removal of large trees along the east of the building, necessary due to structural issues caused by root system (the trees are being used for climbing equipment and other uses in the new elementary outdoor learning space).
- Demolition of interior walls, ceilings and floor coverings.

Thanks to the secured funding, we are beginning work on:

- Demolition of the music studio.
- Shoring up the original structure, built in 1966.
- Renovation of classroom space on first and second floors.
- Addition of a welcoming entrance and front office.

- Upgrading HVAC units with more energy efficient systems.
- Replacing the roof.
- Opening interior walls to allow in natural light.
- Addition of a floor in the two-story warehouse space.

Additional gifts of \$1.2 million raised by Dec. 31, 2018 will fund:

- The Christopher Robin Gathering Space, named in honor of Chris Mast '84, an early visionary for the elementary school. The space – energy efficient with solar panels – will be used for elementary gathering before school, after-school care, lunch, community programs, mixed grade activities, and a beautiful venue for rental purposes.
- A covered wooden foot bridge connecting the two campuses to enhance community space and outdoor learning.
- Paving of the parking lot east of the existing gym.

Call Paul Leaman, head of school, to discuss how you might be involved: 540-236-6012. Watch for updates and find more details at: emhs.net/support/ltcc.cfm

Alumni Touring Choir Romania Trip, Summer 2020?

Interested in joining a two-week alumni touring choir trip to Romania in April 2020? We are testing interest to begin planning. Minimum requirement of four voices per part. Participants must have sung in an EMHS Touring Choir (Miller, Hartzler or Stutzman). Spouses who are not alumni or former choir members are welcome after enough spots are filled with needed singers.

- Led by Jay (long-time choir director) and Sheri (accompanist) Hartzler, who have been serving in Romania in recent years.
- Two-week tour includes: rehearsal, sightseeing, historical overview, programs in Cluj, Oradea, Sighisoara, Tigmandru, Brasov.
- Participants would meet up and depart from Bucharest, planning and purchasing their own airfare (approximately \$1,000).
- EMHS fee of \$2,000 to \$3,000 includes all in-country costs (travel, lodging, meals, tour guides).
- Proceeds from the trip will benefit the ongoing music program of Eastern Mennonite School.

Contact the alumni office to indicate your interest. Include voice part and whether you would want to bring a spouse. Email alumni@emhs.net or phone 540-236-6025.



Fifty-four former Touring Choir members spanning four decades practiced over the summer for a program in August to benefit the work of Jay and Sheri Hartzler in Romania. Check out the glorious sound at www.emhs.net/alumni/alumnichoir.cfm
Photo by Jim Bishop

Let your light shine!

by Elwood Yoder

This fall, the class of 2018 is letting their light shine at 25 different colleges and universities, in various workplaces, and in service assignments around the globe. Susan Melendez helped to launch the cohort onto their journey beyond EMS during last spring's graduation weekend when she challenged them with Jesus' call to "let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16).

The seniors had selected their former sixth grade teacher to speak in their last chapel service at EMHS. Mrs. Melendez was a new teacher at EMS in the fall of 2011 when the seniors entered her classroom, so they shared a special bond.

Mrs. Melendez encouraged the seniors to have faith in God to lead them, to use their gifts and talents to glorify the Lord, and to let their lights shine brightly. The theme carried throughout the weekend as baccalaureate and commencement speakers challenged graduates to better humanity and build up God's kingdom. In their class song, the graduates from the 100th EMS class declared that they

would serve the Lord with all their hearts. In their class Scripture, they affirmed that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).



Teachers – lifelong mentors and cheerleaders – line the walkway to celebrate the class of 2018 following commencement.
Photo by Jaden Hostetter

Homecoming Weekend

October 19-21, 2018

Something for Everyone



Join the fun Oct. 19 to 21. Activities for current students, families, alumni and friends.

Class reunions for grad years ending in '3 and '8. Full details at emhs.net/alumni/homecoming.cfm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 9:30 a.m. Chapel, featuring Nathan Hershberger '08, the 2018 Young Alumnus of the Year.
- Evening Several classes have informal gatherings at area restaurants and homes.
- 5:30 p.m. Tailgate party, front of gym. BBQ chicken, potato and tossed salads and dessert provided by the Booster Club. Donations welcome. Drinks available to purchase. Open to all. Bring lawn chairs.
- 7 p.m. Varsity boys soccer v. New Covenant, Eastern Mennonite University turf field. Special invitation to Eastern Mennonite Elementary students and families! Half-time event under the lights for elementary students.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 9 a.m. **Founders' Breakfast.** Honoring 2018 Alumna of the Year, Janet Heatwole '83 Hostetter. Reservations required. Free. RSVP at 540-236-6025 or alumni@emhs.net.
- 10 a.m.- Noon **School building open for tours.** Find your old classroom, visit new spaces, see how the elementary students are using the second floor! Self-guided tour.
- 10:30 a.m. **Learn about the *Let the Children Come* campaign to renovate and add on to the former MennoMedia building for elementary program.** Gather at the back (west) entrance to the building. Look for signs.
- 11:30 a.m. Rehearsal for 2017-18 Touring Choir, auditorium.
- Noon Various class reunions. See schedule online.
- 1 p.m. JV Volleyball v. Broadway High School, EMS gym.
- 1:45 p.m. Formal recognition between games of Dave Bechler's 22 years as boys varsity basketball coach
- 2 p.m. Varsity volleyball v. Broadway High School, EMS gym. Free to all EMS students and families.
- 4 p.m. Informal celebration of Dave Bechler's 22 years as boys varsity basketball coach, tent outside gym foyer. After game, approximately 4 p.m.
- Evening Various class reunions. See schedule online.
- 7:30 p.m. Homecoming concert, EMS auditorium. Featuring Junior and Senior Choirs, band and orchestra.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 10 a.m. **Worship service, EMS auditorium.** Honoring J. Ernest Martin '63, 2018 Lifetime Service recipient. Special music by 2017-18 Touring Choir members under the direction of Jared Stutzman.



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- Teachers, staff and students cleaned up the tennis court area to create outdoor elementary learning space, including a gaga court.
- Library staff and volunteers created beautiful facilities for library needs for all levels.
- Facilities staff and student workers hauled, lifted, painted, cleaned, organized and made it all work.
- Dining hall staff developed systems to accommodate K-12 lunchtime needs.

By day one, all was ready to welcome the nearly 350 students who make up our community!

During our first K-12 convocation, each student received a tile/stone/button to symbolize how each person contributes to the whole. During the service, students and staff put their unique piece in a jar to create one beautiful piece. Readers from each division shared Scripture and we learned American Sign Language to “Jesus Loves Me.”



School day out at Highland Retreat is a long-time tradition at EMHS. The sun shone on this year's time of community building and fun. Photo by Anna Stempel '21



Jakob Gerlach '23 sends a Frisbee flying while Abdullah Babel '23 looks on at Westover Park during the middle school's First Friday of fun off site. Photo by Andrew Gascho

Donors Overhaul Gym Foyer

Under the leadership of Jeff Shank '90, board member and parent, more than 25 area businesses and individuals contributed some \$30,000 in supplies, labor and cash to renovate the gym foyer this summer. Thank you! All of the contributors are alumni or parents/grandparents of current students or recent grads. They include: Blauch Brothers Inc.; Mast Landscapes Inc.; Cline Electric; Schlabach Drywall; Green Solutions; Weaver's Flooring America; Classic Kitchen & Bath; McDaniel Contractor Services, LLC; Weaver's Insurance and Financial Advisors; Barb Weirich (interior design); Hans '98 and Sarah Harman; Jeremy and Jen Litwiller; Carl '65 and Nancy Litwiller; Eric and Kim Pisk; Lloyd '42 and Sara Marie '42 Weaver; Jeff '90, Julie, Ryan '21, Tyler '24 and Emilee Shank; and Radella, Alec '15, Chad '19 and Bryse '20 Vrolijk.



Photo by Andrew Gascho

Today is published three times a year for alumni, families and friends of Eastern Mennonite School. Send feedback, story ideas and reader survey responses to today@emhs.net

Find past issues of *Today* online at <http://www.emhs.net/about/publications.cfm>

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MISSION:

Eastern Mennonite School joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.

VISION:

Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.

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AND INSTAGRAM!



TODAY Reader Survey

Help us use our resources wisely! In 2018-19 we will mail three hard copies of *TODAY* (September, January and May). Between issues we will send the *TODAY* Ezine (electronic magazine). The electronic magazine will link to news on our website which you can also access any time at www.emhs.net/about/news.cfm.

Please complete this brief survey to help us know how to best connect with you in our print version! As a thank you gift, you'll be entered into a drawing for a school fleece blanket. Complete the enclosed card and drop in the mail; send your answers to today@emhs.net; or fill out the online survey at www.emhs.net/about/publications.cfm

Thank you,

Andrea Schrock '82 Wenger
Director of Advancement



**WIN AN EMS
FLEECE BLANKET!**