



TODAY

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Head of School Paul Leaman speaks to Homecoming 2016 attendees about master planning for EMS' future. (Photo by Azariah Cox)

Believing Boldly

by Paul Leaman, Ph.D., Head of School

After hearing the results of our feasibility report from consultant Rebekah Basinger in October, the EMS Board of Directors excitedly and unanimously committed to support *Let the Children Come!* Elementary school faculty are now stepping forward with sacrificial pledges to encourage 100% participation among all faculty and staff. We believe boldly in the importance of LTCC and aim for 100% participation by those of us closest to EMS. By the end of December we expect to know the level of support these groups can provide toward our vision of a K-12 campus.



Capital projects happen when people believe and give toward purposes greater than themselves. The vision for *Let the Children Come* provides smart, sustainable options for the mission of EMS into our second century of Christian education. From January through March we will ask people to believe boldly in our mission and contribute leadership pledges to be given over the next 5 years. From March through September, we will call on all people associated with EMS to join hands to benefit the students of tomorrow with the gift of quality K-12 Christian education.

As our students grow into adulthood they, like you, will become significant contributors within their respective communities. We want them to know, and always remember, that opportunities at EMS only exist because people believe in them and the importance of Christian education. We are exploring creative ways to display names of all participants contributing to the *Let the Children Come* campaign. Please be in prayer and consider linking arms with us to provide permanence for our elementary school as part of an upgraded K-12 campus. Future generations need us!

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and join us for these great events:

November 23-January 6: Christmas Fund Drive Campaign

November 29-December 2: Christmas Fund Drive Letter Writing

December 1, 6 & 12: Christmas Fund Drive Phone-a-thons

December 6: EMES Christmas Concert 7 p.m. in EMS Auditorium

December 9: EMMS Concert 7 p.m. in EMS Auditorium

December 13 & 15: EMHS Presents Handel's Messiah 7:30 p.m. in EMS Auditorium

December 22-January 2: Christmas Break

January 16: Student Visitation Day for Middle and High School



Christmas Fund Drive Season is Upon Us

"Aha" moments about the importance of stewardship happen during our annual Christmas Fund Drive (CFD)! For newer students, the lightbulb comes on during our Celebration Chapel on the first Friday in January when students and faculty report on the gifts and pledges made by friends like you. When students witness your generosity, it affirms their choice to learn and grow in the ways of Jesus. I cannot think of anything more influential than enthusiastic support through encouraging words and gifts. Thank you for receiving our students' letters, phone calls and personal asks for donations during our CFD campaign.

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History Day Allows Students to Step Back 250 Years

by Max Driver '17

History Day has become a welcome annual event in the EMS community, a notable day for exposing students and staff to historic lifestyles. The first two History Days focused on the 1860s and 1950s, respectively, but this year the focus was on the creation of the new United States during the years 1750-1790.



EMS History teacher Susan Melendez spearheaded efforts to make History Day 2016 successful. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

under Mr. Kennison, and traditional music. Other stations focused on period-accurate technology from the 1750s, such as a cannon loading and firing simulation and a blacksmith shop that provided a look into traditional forging and smithing techniques.

We extend sincere thanks to Mrs. Susan Melendez and her family for making the 2016 History Day a success. We also look forward to what EMS faculty will plan for students next fall.

Inspiration for focusing on this time period came from the influence of sixth grade history teacher, Mrs. Susan Melendez. Her extended family annually helps to recreate and re-enact the Burning of Fort Seybert, which originally took place in 1758. The burning of the recreated fort is part of the annual Treasure Mountain Festival in West Virginia.

EMS students in grades six through twelve traveled by bus to Fort Seybert, WV on September 16, the day prior to the annual re-enactment. An undertaking of this size for History Day had not been attempted before. In previous years the student body had remained on campus, so the mere prospect of traveling elsewhere carried the charm and challenge of new adventures.

At the fort site, the students were divided into groups under the leadership of a senior or faculty member and sent out to visit 19 different stations and exhibits that surrounded the fort. These stations allowed students to learn about many aspects of frontier and colonial life. Many stations introduced tools and other instruments of colonial time, such as proper use of the scythe under the tutelage of EMS science teacher Mr. Good, starting a fire from flint and steel



Students learned about 18th century food preparation, storage, and clothing on History Day 2016, Fort Seybert, WV. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)



Musicians taught students 18th century music during History Day 2016. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

A Writing Legacy Blowin' in the Wind

by Leah Huyard '17

For readers of *Today* magazine, the word *Windsock* may spark different feelings. For some of you, "What is *Windsock*?" and for others, "Hey, that's my old school newspaper!" Did you know that it's back after a three year hiatus?

When Erin Rhodes '16, Rachael Brenneman '17 and I made the decision to start up *Windsock* again I don't think any of us realized what we were getting ourselves into. We had no idea what we were doing, but thanks to Mrs. Mary Cranston, our faculty advisor and English teacher, we learned how to write as journalists, how to recruit fellow students to join our ranks, and how to print and publish issues. We also didn't realize that by involving ourselves with the school newspaper, we had immersed ourselves into a legacy of student journalists and writers that had gone down in "the underside of history," as EMS history teacher Mr. Elwood Yoder often says.

I am proud to be a part of this legacy and I hope that the work we have done will inspire students to continue this tradition. You can pick up a copy of *Windsock* at the EMS Main Campus, or read it online. Go to: www.emhs.net and pull down to "Windsock" under the QuickLinks menu.

Faculty Spotlight

Writing: An EMS Firm Foundation

by Elwood Yoder

EMHS graduate Andrew Ferguson '05 works in the U.S. Supreme Court, serving as a clerk to Chief Justice Clarence Thomas. Post high school, Andrew earned an undergraduate degree in history and a J.D., both from the University of Virginia. He recently spoke to the Class of 2017 during their annual Senior Trip to Washington, D.C. Speaking in a Supreme Court conference room, Andrew stated that the single most important thing he learned at his high school alma mater was how to write. He expanded his compliment of the EMHS English Department by telling Seniors that the most important class he had in high school was Term Paper taught by Mr. Ernest Martin.

Martha Bell '13 was recently recognized for an outstanding essay she wrote during her freshman year of college at Eastern Mennonite University. Martha attended EMS grades 6-12 and learned skills from each English teacher in turn. At EMU, her paper on the mysteries of Chronic Lyme Disease was selected for publication in a nationally used composition textbook. Martha's mastery of writing began at EMS, and like Martha, countless students have been inspired to write well thanks to master teachers in the EMS English Department.

Curt Stutzman has been teaching English and Bible at EMHS for 21 years and has often heard from graduates who tell him that they are the best writers in their area of study in college. Mr. Stutzman emphasizes that this feat happens not only because of quality instruction, but also because EMS has an emphasis on writing across the curriculum. Teachers of each discipline require quality writing, which prepares students for a lifetime of success in their chosen occupation or profession.

Patsy Seitz, EMS Director of Academics and the current chair of the English Department, indicates that students at EMHS are consistently asked to write papers. "Our students," Mrs. Seitz states, "don't blink when asked to write a paper in college." EMHS students are given multiple opportunities to practice forming an essay. They must use critical thinking skills and learn techniques for revising their writing. In an age when intellectual property is often used and reused



From left, Shannon Roth '03, Tim Brenneman, Andrew Ferguson '05, Jodi Hertzler '91, Susan Melendez, and Elwood Yoder (Photo by Micah Riddle '17)

without citation, Mrs. Seitz and other English teachers insist that students properly cite and document their materials.

English teacher Mary Cranston teaches a year-long AP English Literature and Composition class wherein students read, analyze, critique, discuss, and write about poetry, fiction, and drama. Mrs. Cranston requires rigorous reading and writing assignments and brings a great depth of history and literature knowledge to her students. Mrs. Cranston appreciates that English teachers at EMHS are allowed to build their own curriculum, which allows her to teach with excitement, strength, and passion. Mrs. Cranston states that the EMHS English department encourages a "sense of shared professionalism and expertise [that] is very empowering."

English teacher Ben Roth Shank is working on earning his Master's degree in English from Valdosta State University. Mr. Roth Shank pushes himself pedagogically and has redesigned both U.S. Literature and English 10 classes. An article that Mr. Roth Shank wrote for *English Journal*, a publication of the National Council of Teachers of English, will be published in January 2018. If you walk into Mr. Roth Shank's classroom you will discover students investigating the meaning of words, writing essays, exploring poetry, and reading deeply.

In Middle School, Susan Melendez teaches 6th grade students about different literary forms and the craft of writing. She teaches spelling, vocabulary, grammar, editing, and promotes independent reading. In English 7, Susan Swartz seeks to increase the word power of her students and make them more proficient in reading, writ-

VISION:

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

ing, speaking, and research strategies. Mrs. Swartz also teaches her seventh graders the rudiments of rhetoric, giving them practice in making speeches. Jodi Hertzler teaches 8th grade students to appreciate quality literature while building their composition skills, vocabulary, and their grasp of grammar and syntax.

The foundation for writing well begins in the elementary school, where students are taught to brainstorm, make an outline, construct a beginning and end, and then edit and publish. EMES students practice this procedure over and over at each grade level, becoming more independent writers with each grade level. EMES Principal Maria Archer notes that writing at the elementary level always has a purpose—students are given reasons to write that help motivate them to do their best.

A firm foundation from Kindergarten to Senior year, EMS is



English teachers at EMMS and EMHS. From left Patsy Seitz, Jodi Hertzler, Sue Swartz, Mary Cranston, Curt Stutzman, Ben Roth Shank, and Susan Melendez (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

proud to graduate students with excellent writing skills like Andrew and Martha. Have writing accolades of your own to share? We'd love to know about them. Email them to today@emhs.net.



Centennial Spotlight - Miss Vivian Beachy (1930-2010)

by Elwood Yoder

Miss Vivian Beachy taught English at Eastern Mennonite School for forty years and developed an outstanding English curriculum that many regard as the heart and soul of the academic program of the school. Miss Beachy, originally from Greenwood, Delaware, began teaching English at Eastern Mennonite School in 1955 and retired an impressive forty years later in 1995.

Miss Beachy served on the school's Curriculum Committee, assisted with self-study processes for accreditation, and kept faculty meeting minutes as Secretary. She advised the Philomathean literary society and the school's newspaper *Windsock*. She left her mark, however, by designing and implementing a comprehensive English Department curriculum that has impacted students from 1955 to today.

The writing curriculum developed by Miss Beachy helped many students develop their writing skills as students and later as alumni. Randy Seitz '82, for instance, remembers that Miss Beachy's Basic Composition class was where he learned how to write. Jodi Nisly '91 Hertzler, a current English teacher at EMS, recalls that Miss Beachy taught her the mechanics of developing a classic five paragraph essay in 8th grade.

Miss Beachy served others in overseas and stateside locations, she was active in her local church, and she faithfully pursued her career in Christian Education at EMS. Most would agree that her forty years of English teaching anchored the school as a leader in teaching students the elements, strategies, and knowledge needed for excellent writing.



Miss Beachy created a firm foundation for English education during her forty year tenure. Mark your calendars for our Centennial Homecoming October 13-15, 2017 to honor her and all who enabled EMS to fulfill its mission for our first 100 years. (Photo from: EMU Archives)

Homecoming

Homecoming 2016 was a lively gathering of 16 reunions (classes ending in '1 and '6 from 1946-2016). In addition to productions of *The Pirates of Penzance* and volleyball and soccer sporting events, alumni were honored by the EMS Alumni Board for their service, achievement and support of the Christ-centered mission of EMS. 2016 award winners were: Obe Hostetter '96 - Young Alumnus of the Year; Tim Brenneman '76 - Alumnus of the Year; and Miriam Mumaw '56 - Lifetime Service Award. We extend special thanks to our Alumni Board and the EMS Advancement Department for their roles in making Homecoming weekend a success.

(Below) Alumnus of the Year Tim Brenneman, Ph.D., accepts his award from Alumni Board President Bill Winkler '80 (Photo by Azariah Cox)



(Above) Young Alumnus of the Year Obe Hostetter '96 with his family. (Right) Alumni Board President Bill Winkler '80 enthusiastically welcomes all to Homecoming 2016. (Photo by Azariah Cox)



(Above) Student-led a cappella groups UMAC and Sweet Molasses gave the prelude at the Homecoming Worship Service. (Photo by Azariah Cox)



(Left) Friendships rekindle at Homecoming as alumni re-connect and reminisce. (Photo by Azariah Cox)



(Above) Lifetime Service Award Winner Miriam Mumaw '56 at the luncheon given in her honor. (Photo by Azariah Cox)



(Left) The Dining Hall was full of lively conversation and celebration during the Homecoming Founder's luncheon. (Photo by Azariah Cox)

Today is published six times a year for families, alumni and friends of Eastern Mennonite School. We value your input. Send your feedback and story ideas to: today@emhs.net.

Look for previous issues of Today online at <https://issuu.com/easternmennoniteschool>

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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.



Over 1,100 people attended the EMS production of Gilbert & Sullivan's classic operetta, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Audiences were wowed by the vocal and acting talents of students, by the colorful costuming and sets; the lively choreography and staging; and were probably most surprised by the addition of bumbling policemen played by EMS faculty and staff! We extend our sincere appreciation to directors Joy Anderson, Jared Stutzman and Sue Swartz for their talents in bringing excellent and high quality musical theatre to the EMS stage. Look for future EMS stage productions in 2017 including: Senior Play March 2nd-4th, EMES Dessert Theatre on April 7th, and Middle School Play April 27th-29th.