

WALK HIS WAY



An Official Publication of Eden Christian Academy
Fall 2015



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WALK HIS WAY

A Note from the Head of School, Mr. Tom Hughes

As members of the administration team at Eden Christian Academy discussed what verse and theme would be most fitting for the upcoming year, the focus was on more than just our students, it was on our faculty, staff, and parents. It wasn't long before the decision was made: Isaiah 30:21.

Isaiah 30:21 urges us to listen intently for God's voice and allow Him to take the lead; it is God, and He alone, who truly knows the path best suited for us. Did He not warn the leaders of Jerusalem and Judah through Isaiah about their poor choices and the ensuing consequences should they continue down that path?

The voices our students hear come from numerous directions: God, parents, teachers, coaches, youth leaders, the media, as well as from their peers. And, the voices do not necessarily come in that order. They may come from the front of the classroom, from the sidelines, from the neighborhood, or from behind, similar to a parent teaching a child how to ride a bike for the first time. The point is students will hear voices offering countless opinions.

As followers of Christ, we are called to listen for His voice. Deciphering whether or not it is God's voice can be unclear at times. It begs the question, "How do we really know when God is speaking to us?" This question must first be addressed by reading His Word faithfully and then checking His Word with those voices. Next, we must have faith that the voice we hear is from God and understand that He cares deeply about our every decision.

Throughout this school year, our commitment to parents is that we will help their children understand that God cares abundantly for their welfare, and He is constantly offering perfect instructions for His children. It is truly remarkable to observe how this plays out in and out of the classroom. In conversations with a few individuals, I found their insight to Isaiah 30:21 most encouraging:

"It's hard at our age, everything seems like so much fun, but we have to give up on our own intentions and follow God, even when it doesn't seem like it would be fun." -Eden Elementary Student

"Not following the steps of others, but following the steps of Jesus." Eden Middle School Student
 "No matter what I am going through, big or small, He will direct my path." -Eden High School Student

"Following God's direction, no matter the situation. No matter how hard the journey, He is carrying us through the difficulty." -Eden Teacher

"Stay focused on God, knowing that there will be times when you'll be tempted to pull away. Stay focused on Him." -Eden Parent

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

The Warrior is published three times annually by Eden Christian Academy. Eden Christian Academy is committed to providing an exceptional experience by engaging the mind and heart of each student to think and act with Christ-like character.

For the latest news, updates, and photos, log onto www.edenchristianacademy.org.

ECA Alumni: Exciting news to share? Graduations, jobs, internships, and personal accomplishments or milestones are something that the Eden community would like to celebrate with you. Send your news and updates to Mrs. Janet Hughes, jhughes@edenca.org.

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On the Cover: ECA's 2015-2016 Theme: "Walk HIS Way." Artwork by Kate Powell.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

An update with Eden alumna, Sarah Warren ('13)

By Casey Tissue ('18)

*“The world needs dreamers,
and the world needs doers.
But above all, the world
needs doers who dream.”
-Sarah Ban Breathnach*

Sarah Warren graduated from Eden Christian Academy only two years ago, yet she has already established herself as an entrepreneur, student ambassador, development coordinator, ministry leader, and world traveler. She is a dreamer, aware of her ambitions, but she is also a doer, an active servant of the Lord.

After spending almost six years at Eden, Sarah moved ten hours away to Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee where she is currently completing her junior year. “I have had so many great opportunities living in Nashville,” she shares. Sarah is majoring in marketing with a concentration in entrepreneurship. “I love the creative side of business,” she explains. She dreams of owning an event planning company in the future as well as living abroad for some time and supporting organizations that combat human trafficking. She expresses, “I only hope...to live by my faith and incorporate it into my daily life, so that I may be a living testament of God’s love and grace! I know He will lead me to success as long as I trust in Him.”

By trusting in God, Sarah has been able to see His intervention throughout her years in college so far. “I have really seen God work in my life since I graduated,” she says. Each of her experiences, including her trials, has aligned with His perfect plan. For instance, when she injured her knee at freshman orientation, God transformed an



untimely obstacle into an opportunity for new friendships. In the midst of surgery and physical therapy, Sarah was able to power through her first semester and develop relationships along the way. The ordeal even gave her the chance to become good friends with a freshman who helped her on the day of the accident. “All throughout those first few months...I experienced the love of Christ all around me in the people I met,” she shares.

While in Nashville, you might find Sarah meeting with her sorority, Phi Sigma, or the “I Am Second” Team, interning at a non-profit organization called Survival Fitness, working at her university’s Career Development Center or, of course, studying. Her boundaries stretch much farther than the college’s campus, however. Recently, she embarked on a mission trip to the Baja Peninsula in San Quintin, Mexico where she ran a Vacation Bible School and built a house. “The people there changed my life and heart forever,” she reflects. Later, in May 2015, she studied abroad in London, taking business classes and touring major European companies. “Some of the best things about living in London were getting to experience the culture, attending an Evensong Service at Westminster

Abbey, and riding the Tube,” she says. She is spending the current semester in Pittsburgh, working full time and volunteering as the middle school ministry leader in her church.

Sarah’s action and service-oriented attitude flourished at Eden where she participated in a multitude of activities, including student council, National Honor Society, the speech team, sports, and choreographing the musical. “Eden put some of the most foundational people in my life to equip me for success,” she says. “All the faculty and staff were a true testimony of what it is to be a follower of Christ in our modern culture.” Sarah, like other recent Eden grads, is already crafting her legacy and making a positive impact on our world. Behind her actions stands the most powerful doer, Jesus Christ.



Left: Post-grad Night Nation 5K with Eden friends: Alia Bradford ('13), Cianna Nuzzo ('13), Sarah Warren ('13), Morgan Adler ('13), Anita Bynum ('13), and Emily Morgan ('13). Right: In San Quintin, Baja Peninsula Mexico Spring 2014.

ECA SENIOR RECOGNIZED

Mason Zadan published in Harvard's Journal of Emerging Investigators



ECA senior, Mason Zadan, was recently recognized by a publication at one of the nation’s most prestigious institutions: Harvard University. Mason’s study, “Comparative Gamma Radiation Analysis by Geographic Region” was published in Harvard’s Journal of Emerging Investigators (JEI). JEI is a national online journal for high school students with a staff of 200 graduate and postdoctoral students from around the country that are dedicated to publishing high school students’ research. Mason began his research during his freshman Biology class where he started with radiation levels around the Pittsburgh area. He then expanded his research using a Geiger counter that he used to collect data from six countries and six states. In total, Mason collected more than 230 points. Using statistical tests, he cross referenced radiation levels with factors such as cancer rates, elevation, and proximity to the nearest nuclear power plants. Mason submitted his research and after a year of revisions was honored to be included in the JEI publication. Congratulations to Mason on his outstanding achievements. The ECA community is excited to see how God will use you next!

Read Mason’s full article here: <http://www.emerginginvestigators.org/2015/07/gammaradiation/>

"BUILDING" UP OUR CAMPUS

An update on ECA's building campaign

By Maddie Aiken ('17)

There's always something exciting about anything new. Whether it's a shiny bike, a sweater, or the latest iPhone, people are drawn to the feeling of newness. In 2014, Eden Christian Academy announced an expansion project that would build a brand new addition to the Mt. Nebo Campus.

The new building will be located in the area to the right of the administrative building. The addition will be three stories high and will add nine new classrooms, two state-of-the-art science labs, a cafeteria, a student-run store, and a media center to the campus. It will solve Mt. Nebo's perpetual problem of overcrowded hallways and will make the campus more visually appealing. It will also help create a separation between the middle school and the high school.

As of October 5, 2015, the building's pledges have totaled at 1.6 million dollars. The goal is to complete all three floors provided the money is available. When the building is constructed, the first two floors will be completely finished, but the third floor will remain partially unfinished. Mr. Tom Hughes would love to see the Eden body support this project through prayers and "seeking God's counsel on how they might become involved in this project."

It is hoped that they will break ground in January 2016. Construction of the building will take roughly nine to ten months; although this estimation may change due to weather conditions. The new building will help the school immensely and has already earned its spot in building a legacy for Eden Christian Academy's students and families.



SEE YOU AT THE POLE

On Wednesday, September 23rd, students across all three campuses gathered at their campus flagpole to participate in the annual, "See You at the Pole" (SYATP). The global event has been around for about 25 years, encouraging youth to publicly gather at their school flagpole to pray for their school, friends, communities, and nation. At this past SYATP event, each campus had a time of prayer and worship to our Savior, uniting the body to continue to serve and grow in Him.



K-LOVE SINGLE MOMS EVENT

By Anju Sivaram ('17) and Julia Edelmann ('17)

On September 25th, K-LOVE held its 2nd Annual Single Moms Event at the Mt. Nebo campus. This night was designed to be an evening of relaxation and pampering for single moms in the Pittsburgh area. Local vendors donated and offered free dinners, massages, manicures, family portraits, and much more for the moms. Eden students donated items for gift bags and volunteered at the event as well. In total, the event impacted and blessed close to 300 single moms that evening. "Many of them came up to us after the event and thanked us, because they couldn't have afforded to do those things on their own," says Nicole Namachar, the Lead Events Team Representative from K-Love

Pittsburgh.

When organizing the event, Namachar mentioned several goals that provided a vision and mission for the evening. The first goal was to make sure that each woman walked away from the event knowing that they are valuable. Another goal was to let each mom know that the daily joy of raising their beautiful children is not ignored. The last, yet most important goal, was to remind the moms that God loves them no matter what circumstances they find themselves. Namachar concludes, "Our goal was to make each mom in attendance feel loved and appreciated, and with the help of the Pittsburgh community, we think we did just that!"





Kathleen Hyland ('16), Hannah Griffith ('16), and Mimi Obley ('16)



Lauren Gillogly ('19) and Ashley Beauchamp ('19)



Jessie Nassif ('24) and Corrine Hicks ('24)



Lillia Pollock ('17) and Asha Vellody ('24)



Credy Chang ('17)



Gretchen Eckert ('17) and Rachel Steinheiser ('19)

GET INVOLVED:

Join the ECA Parent Association

By Lillia Pollock ('17)

As an Eden parent, you may wonder, how can I become more involved in the ECA community? There are many ways to participate in the social atmosphere at Eden – cheering on athletic teams at sporting events, attending the all-school musical, or serving lunch. Another important way would be to join the Parent Association. The Parent Association is a great way for parents to get involved and help with all things Eden!

What is the Parent Association?

The Parent Association is a group of parents who volunteer their time to enlarge the involvement of parents in the everyday student body. The group plans to pursue the mission of the school and keep it alive. The head of the Parent Association, Shawna Haynes explains, "[The mission of the Parents Association is] to foster parental participation in building school spirit, community and resources for educational and spiritual enrichment".

What are the Parent Association's goals for this year?

The Parent Association always hosts the Annual All-School Picnic, which was held on the 26th of September. However, there is still a lot of time to join and help with next year's picnic! The members also help with multiple events throughout the year, ranging from elementary game nights to the school ski trip. In addition to all of these things, the group

raised enough money to buy a tent with the Eden logo on it to use at school sponsored events.

When does the Parent Association meet, and how can you join?

The Parents Association's guiding committee meets upstairs in the Student Union on the Mt. Nebo campus. It meets from 9–10:30 AM on the 2nd Monday of every month. This gives the steering committee, a chance to update all of the other members on what is happening in their particular campus. To get involved in the Parent Association, it is best to contact the leader of the "steering committee" in your particular campus. Feel free to contact them at any time, and join the Parent Association today!

BH Campus: Mary Benson, Elysha Bey, Michael Kettel, Lorrie Groetzinger, or Amber Muir

WEX Campus: Shawna Haynes, Deneen Hicks, Michelle Rice, Becky Vittone, or Amy Fowler

MT. NEBO Campus: Aimee Azur, Lori Cook, Margie Delposen, Rebecca Martelli, or Erin Soza





Varsity Boys Soccer Team

VARSITY AND JV BOYS SOCCER

By Jay Batch ('16)

This year's Eden Boy's Varsity Soccer team finished 8-7-0 overall and 5-7-0 in section play. Led by seniors Ben Comstock, Drew Laird, Josias O'Brien, and Mason Zadan the team finished with the best record in Eden WPIAL soccer history. Heading into the season without a coach, Mr. Michael Hall took over and the results showed as the team came together for key victories against Bishop Canevin and North Catholic. The top three leading scorers this year were Drew Aiken, Ben Comstock and Drew Laird. Drew Laird said it best, "This years team was such a blessing to be on. Everyone was so easy to get along with and even easier to play with. All in all, this was by far one of my favorite teams." The team had a successful year and is looking to build on all that it accomplished this season. Likewise, the JV boys team had an impressive record of 5-2-2. The style of play was both energetic and aggressive. Their strength and endurance showed throughout the season as they did not have any subs. Coach Ben Potter reflects, "We were under-manned but not under-willed."

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

By Jay Batch ('16)

ECA Varsity Cross Country team experienced great success this season. Through their hard work and dedication, the boys and girls team had many highlights. One of those being the Red, White, and Blue Classic with the boys finishing in 8th and the girls finishing in 3rd. Their success at the WPIAL section meets continued to

advance the team forward. At the North Catholic meet, the boys went 0-3 and the girls went 1-2. Perhaps the crowning achievement for the cross country team was on October 29th, the WPIAL CC championships. Lauren Gronbeck ('16), Kayla Ostafte ('17), and Jenna Snavelly ('16) all qualified for the PIAA Championships. The entire girls team placed 5th out of 21 teams, a tremendous ending to an already successful season. Senior Lauren Gronbeck ('16) reflects, "I'm so proud of how our girls pulled together as a team over the course of the season. Through rainy workouts, muddy meets, and early-morning long runs, we truly bonded with each other and made each other stronger." Junior Andrew Medure ('17) lead the boys team who placed 14th out of 26 teams. With youth on their side, the boys team is certain to come back even stronger next season.

VARSITY AND JV GIRLS SOCCER

By Emily Schmeltzer ('17)

The Lady Warriors have had a season full of hard work, dedication, and a few wins. This is their 3rd season of playing since being established in 2013. This season, the girls drew in their first win against Seton-La Salle in overtime; the final score was 2-1, shots were made by Brittany Cejer ('16) and the winning goal by Carley Hall ('18). The team was guided by Coach Gary Laird and new assistant coach, Amanda Frederick with co-captains, Leah Bovard ('16), Jenny Bodine ('16), and Brittany Cejer ('16). Leah Bovard, who has been captain for two seasons now, has highlighted her favorite memory, "Highmark was my favorite game

because all the fans that came out to support the team allowed us to see how far we have come in just three years." Also, Mr. Laird added to how he felt about the season, "Our team continues to rise to new levels of accomplishment. We have grown from a group of girls who like playing soccer to a team who competes to win in every game. The girls worked extremely hard this season and we achieved some significant milestones this season, including 3 section wins. And we're not done yet... next year we hope to qualify for playoffs." Since the team has grown more than the past years, they were able to add a JV team. Their overall record was 4-11-2, and look forward to competing strongly next year.

VARSITY AND JV GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

By David Williams ('17)

The 2015 Warriors Volleyball team, led by Coach Hannah Liermann, posted a very respectable 8-9 record on the season (6-6 in section play). This is particularly remarkable considering what the team lost by way of players who graduated the past school year. 9 of the 11 players in 2014 had been seniors, leaving this year's team with only 2 returning starters, seniors Nicole Hauskins ('16) and Maddie Blue ('16), who also served as the team's captains. Hauskins is sad to see her years on the team go, as it "has always been a fun and exciting environment for me to play in with my friends." That "fun and exciting environment" was emphasized by the Red Sea Student Section, who came out in packs to support the team in their home game against South Side Beaver. Our Lady Warriors needed a win

to be able to compete in the playoffs, and fought valiantly, yet came up short. The turnout of their peers that night did not go unnoticed by the team, as “their support meant a lot and encouraged us to keep fighting,” says Hauskins. The squad’s goals on the year were to grow as team, improve their abilities, and form a group that could be handed the baton to lead the program next year. They also aspired to be competitive within their section, and were successful in doing so, as is evident by their .500 record in section play. The JV team, led by captains Hannah Werner (‘18) and Elizabeth Arnold (‘19) and Coach Jessica Schiren, likewise posted a respectable 8-9 overall record.

VARSITY GOLF

by David Williams (‘17)

Heading into the 2015 golf season, the players did not really know what to expect. Having lost 5 of the 6 starters due to graduation following a tremendous 2014 season, the only returning starter was Alexander Witouski (‘16), who served as this year’s captain. Any doubts of the team’s ability to compete were quenched as the team went on to have a fine season. Finishing with a record of 8-5 (7-5 in section play), the team surpassed even their own expectations, as Witouski was “surprised” at the result. Led by Coach Sean Parees, the remaining 5 starters were Andrew Hachmeister (‘17), Jack Hasley (‘18), Theodore Hart (‘18), Adrian Nguyen (‘18), and Collin Witouski (‘19). As there were only 2 seniors on the team Alex Witouski (‘16) and Ryan

Tillotson (‘16), next year’s team will return most of their players, including 5 of this year’s 6 starters. They will look to build on this year’s success and make a push for the playoffs in the 2016 season.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER

by David Williams (‘17)
and Jay Batch (‘16)

This 2015 middle school soccer team experienced a rebuilding year. With a first-year coach and many first-year players, a new foundation was laid for the program. The focus for the squad was placed on learning to play well



Makenzie King (‘17)



The Cross Country Team: Ben Hudock (‘18), Chance Reinerd (‘18), Sawyer Zadan (‘18), Andrew Medure (‘17), Joseph Dandrea (‘16), Mason Hicks (‘18), and Mario Cosentino (‘18)

together and working hard to be the team in the best shape for every match. As Coach Jordan Kolarik (‘10) put it, “We said early on that we would be the best conditioned team on the field. A number of times (it) really gave us an edge over our opponents.” The team was successful in their goals for the year, and thus had a successful season overall, whether or not the scoreboard indicated so. Every player made vast improvements to their abilities on the field. Coach Kolarik “was very proud to coach this group of young people” and cannot wait for the opportunity to do so again next season.



Hannah Griffith (‘16), Maddie Blue (‘16) Nicole Hauskins (‘16), and Kathleen Hyland (‘16)



Liz Arnold (‘19), Emily Plants (‘19), Emma Steele (‘19), and Paige Balla (‘19)



The Varsity Golf Team (right to left): Theodore Hart, (‘18) Alex Witouski (‘16), Jack Hasley (‘18), Coach Parees, Collin Witouski (‘19), Andrew Hachmeister (‘17), and Adrian Nguyen (‘18)



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Upcoming Events at Eden Christian Academy

12/8 BH/WEX CHRISTMAS CONCERT

12/9 MN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

12/18 ALUMNI NIGHT

12/21– 1/1 CHRISTMAS VACATION

1/15 END OF QUARTER 2

1/18 NO SCHOOL – MLK JR. DAY

Berkeley Hills Campus

3-4 year olds
PreS-6th Grade
206 Siebert Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412.364.8055
Fax: 412.364.8330

Wexford Campus

3-4 year olds
PreS-6th Grade
12121 Perry Highway
Wexford, PA 15090
Phone: 724.935.9301
Fax: 724.935.9354

Mount Nebo Campus

7th-12th Grades
318 Nicholson Road
Sewickley, PA 15142
Phone: 412.741.2825
Fax: 412.741.1101