



TODAY

Volume 33, No. 1
Fall 2015

We're back!

We're pleased to bring you the newly revised Today publication! Look for the latest news and happenings coming directly to you six times a year. We value your feedback as we seek to provide timely and relevant information that keeps you up-to-date and connected to EMS. Send us your story suggestions, feedback and ideas to the Today editorial board: Elwood Yoder (Editor), Mary Golden Hughes (Managing Editor) and Paul Leaman (Head of School) by sending an e-mail to today@emhs.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and join us for these great events:

October 16-18: Homecoming

October 25: EMES Fall Festival

October 30: History Day

November 2: Student Visitation Day
Grades 6-12

November 7: PTF Dinner & Auction
Benefit

Details on these events
and more can be found
on Facebook.



Praying Together

In Matthew 18, when Jesus is asked "Who is the greatest?" he calls adults to the "lowly position" of children and cautions against any teaching or action that causes a child to stumble. What an extraordinary challenge for Christian educators today!

The vulnerable years of childhood are sacred moments of influence. I invite your prayer partnership as a caring community for the following intentions:

- Forty-two EMS students are recipients of the VDOE's **Education Improvement Scholarship** for K-1st grade students and for public school transfers. Please pray for the continued success of this program and encourage new families to explore this scholarship opportunity.
- **After-school care** for EMS students ages 12 years or younger began this fall on Main Campus. Please pray for this program that allow EMS to be a viable option for working families.
- **Online instruction** opens potential course and enrollment opportunities and yet threatens traditional teaching practices. Please pray for wise discernment as EMS explores appropriate integration of technology into our curriculum.
- The **Virginia High School League** has opened competition to private schools. EMS will be weighing the pros and cons of participation in a public school league. Pray for wisdom in our cost-benefit analysis.
- **EMS and MennoMedia** have agreed to option-to-buy terms to explore the purchase of the MennoMedia property on Virginia Avenue for potential future use by our elementary program. We are excited to explore design ideas that create natural light, green space for play, operational synergies, and conveniences for families, while preserving the unique and successful offerings our 10-year elementary program has built. Please pray for adequate resourcing for this "Let the Children Come" facility project.

Please consider *Today* as your reminder to whisper regular prayers on behalf of EMS. Many wonderful experiences are planned for this year and we invite you to join us as frequently as possible.



2015-16 EMS K-12 Faculty and Staff usher in a new year together. (Photo by: Andrew Gascho)

faith excellence integrity service

www.easternmennoniteschool.org

Alumni News & Updates

Join us for “Thy Spirit Leads Our Way,” Homecoming 2015, October 16-18. We welcome all alumni to Homecoming, especially those from graduation classes ending in a 5 or 0, as well as those who just wish to celebrate with us. We’re especially excited to offer a reunion concert and presentation of the beloved and oft performed cantata *David the Shepherd Boy* led by former EMS music teacher Marvin Miller. For more information on these events go to www.emhs.net or call (540)-236-6024.

Thursday, October 15, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* rehearsal.

Friday, October 16, 2015

8:30 a.m., Homecoming Golf Tournament, Heritage Oaks Golf Course
Advanced registration required; call (540) 236-6024 by 10/9.

9:25 a.m., Chapel-Recognizing Allison Yoder Seabeck '00 *Young Alumnus of the Year* Reception follows in the Commons.

8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Alumni Open House. Join us at the Parkwood campus throughout the day for chapel, tours, and visits with faculty, staff and classmates. If you want to join us for lunch, please call for a reservation at (540) 236-6024.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* rehearsal

5:30 p.m., Founder’s Day Dinner - Recognizing Ron Brown '70 *Lifetime Service Award*. **Advance reservations required; call (540) 236-6024 by 10/9.**

7:30 p.m., EMS Student Homecoming Concert

8:30 p.m., Dessert reception in the Commons for retiring EMS staff: Jean Fisher, Jay Hartzler, and Marlin Yoder.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Reunions for classes ending in “5” and “0”

9 a.m. – 11 a.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* dress rehearsal

11 a.m. -12 p.m., 2015 Touring Choir practice

Noon, JV Girls Volleyball

1:00 p.m., Varsity Girls Volleyball

3:00 p.m., Varsity Boys Soccer

5:00 p.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* cast dinner – EMS dining hall

7:00 p.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* Concert

Sunday, October 18, 2015

10:30 a.m., Homecoming Worship Service, Eastern Mennonite School Auditorium Recognizing Joseph Longacher '55, *Alumnus of the Year*. Special seating for the classes of 1950, 1955, 1960 and 1965.

12:00 p.m., Lunch in the EMS Dining Hall. Cost is \$10 per person. **Advance reservations required; call (540) 236-6021 by 10/9.**

1:00 p.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* cast and choir warmup

1:30 p.m., *David the Shepherd Boy* Concert

2015 Reunion Information

| YR | NAME | CONTACT | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME |
|----|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 45 | Eugene Souder | easouder@gmail.com | Reunion & Lunch | Village Hall VMRC | 12:30 p.m. |
| 50 | Edna Brunk | hebrunk@comcast.net | Reunion & Lunch | Gathering Place – Everence | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. |
| 55 | Bernard Martin | martinbj56@gmail.com | Reunion & Lunch | Harrisonburg Menn Church | 10 a.m. |
| 60 | Eleanor Isner | isnereleanor@juno.com | Friday | Home of Ed & Charlotte Swope | 6:30 p.m. |
| | | | Reunion & Lunch | EMS DH Foyer | 12 – 4:30 p.m. |
| 65 | Lois Maust | wlmaust@gmail.com | Friday | EMU Discipleship Center | 6:30 p.m. – until |
| | | | Reunion & Lunch | Park View Mennonite Church | 11 a.m. – until |
| 70 | Diana Berkshire | wdbshire1971@gmail.com | Reunion & Lunch | EMU Discipleship Center | 10 a.m. – until |
| 75 | Don Shank | dshank3965@comcast.net | Reunion | Shady Oak at Weavers Menn Church | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. |
| | Jude Martin | judemartin@verizon.net | | | |
| 80 | Dianna Lehman | edlehman@gmail.com | Reunion & Lunch | EMS Commons | 11 a.m. – until |
| 85 | Renee Brunk Branner | reneebranner@comcast.net | Reunion & Dinner | Wildwood Park, 600-648 W Bank St. Bridgewater, VA 22812 | 2 p.m. – until |
| 90 | Jay Yutzzy | jay@funkhousergroup.com Facebook Group | Reunion | EMS – Room 105 follow signs | 12 p.m. |
| 95 | Wendy Hochstedler | wwenger@gmail.com | Reunion | EMS FCS room – follow signs | 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. |
| | Heidi Lantz-Trissel | simplehillfarm@gmail.com | Informal gathering | Lantz-Trissel Farm | 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. |
| 00 | Joanna Showalter | joanna.showalter@gmail.com | Reunion & Lunch | Harrisonburg Menn Church Outdoor Pavilion | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. |
| 05 | Rachael Charles | mikerach.charles@gmail.com Facebook Group | Reunion | EMS Library – Look for signs | 10 a.m. |
| 10 | Kaitlyn Revercomb | rcaitlyn@vt.edu | Reunion - 10/16 Friday Evening | Taste of Thai | 7 p.m. |
| 15 | Joy Driver Esther Ghale | 540-830-0229 | Reunion | EMS patio by the auditorium | 5 p.m. |

VISION:

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

EMES 5th grade graduates get congratulations from their younger classmates as they head to middle school. (Photo by: EMS staff)



Before our 8th grade heads to high school, they spend an Explore Week in Philadelphia seeing the sights together and bonding one last time as a middle school group. (Photo by: EMS staff)

History Day 2015 – The Times They Are a Changin'

Join us October 30, 2015 for our second annual History Day, this year focusing on the 1950's and 1960's. EMS History teachers are planning for a day of K-12 activities to teach students about the history and culture of these important decades. All faculty and staff will be involved in some element of the day's teaching and fun. In the afternoon history teachers are planning an all-school one-mile walk along Martin Luther King Jr. Way (formerly Cantrell Avenue) in Harrisonburg. Visitors are invited to campus on October 30, and are asked to register at the front desk upon arrival. For questions on History Day 2015 or to volunteer to help, contact Elwood Yoder at yoderee@emhs.net.



Where you'll find our graduates!

Class of 2015

Blue Ridge Community College
Bridgewater College
Catholic University
Eastern Mennonite University
Florida Institute of Technology
Garrett College
Goshen College
Hesston College
James Madison University
LeTourneau University
Liberty University
Longwood University
Marymont University
MCPHS (Boston)
Radford University
Roanoke College
Rosedale Bible College
Shenandoah University
Trinity College Dublin
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
University of Wyoming
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wheaton College
Gap years of service and work.



EMS Secondary Principal Phil Landes '81 awards a diploma to Natasha Kwera '15. (Photo by: Nick Seitz '13)

Congratulations Class of 2015!
We're proud of your choices and hard work!



EMS proudly graduated 54 students in the Class of 2015. (Photo by: Nick Seitz '13)

Discovery 2015: Finding Sustainable Solutions

by Elwood Yoder

Two days after graduation, June 9, 2015, twenty-five EMS high school students and three teachers boarded a motor coach and left Harrisonburg for a 19-day academic expedition through 15 states called "Discovery." Their goal was to seek sustainable solutions to complex issues facing the United States including energy, agriculture, water, and bison management.

EMS Discovery is an academic learning trip that brings together knowledgeable experts in many fields of study with students who are open to learning and questioning various options, and have a desire for faith development. These trips, conducted every other year since 2003, foster a desire to learn about the world, to investigate real-life issues in a hands-on way, and to discover the meaning of faith in the process.

Discovery 2015 students quickly discovered that social and economic issues have multiple perspectives and do not lend themselves to easy answers. Discovery teachers had arranged for meetings with experts who represented starkly different points of view, which forced the students to think and create their own opinions.

The water case study, conducted in Colorado and Utah, pushed students to evaluate their own use of water. From a cool mountain stream in Rocky Mountain National Park to the dry environs of Arches National Park, Discovery students studied the use and misuse of water resources. A three-day rafting trip on the Colorado River, with skilled and knowledgeable guides, challenged the students and teachers to consider their place in God's creation. Erin Hostetler '16 learned that "God calls us to be caretakers of the earth." Holly Mumaw '16 discovered that showers aren't a daily necessity, in terms of water usage, and Leah Wenger '16 found flush toilets strange because of their enormous consumption of water after her own experience using simple pit toilets along the Colorado River.

Reflecting on the 6,000 mile trip, Leah Wenger stated that going out and seeing the vast diversity of geography across the United States has helped her realize the "richness of home" in the Shenandoah Valley. When asked whether Discovery was worth the money, time, and resources, and whether it should be offered again in two years, Holly Mumaw resoundingly said, "Absolutely."

Want to know more? Go to www.easternmennoniteschool.org and pull down to "Discovery" under QuickLinks to view links from past trips.



EMS Discovery, Quinter, Kansas, June 13, 2015. (Photo by: Adam Schmid)



Erin Rhodes, Ellie Pence, Megan Good, and Leah Huyard at 12,000 feet in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, June 14, 2015. (Photo by: Rachael Brenneman '16)

2015 Discovery Participants

Juniors:

Rachael Brenneman
Gabby Forward
Leah Huyard
Caty Melendez
Ira Miller
Lukas Petersheim
Alexander Wagner
Ellie Pence
Lucas Wenger

Seniors:

Caroline Bell
Nathan Cripe
Jacob Eggert
Ryan Gandy
Megan Good
Luke Hertzler
Erin Hostetler
Alan Liu
Holly Mumaw
Lorien Myers
Erin Rhodes
Bailey Rhodes
Addison Rhodes
Drake Wagner
Leah Wenger
Jason Yu

Faculty:

Gretchen Cessna
Lee Good
Ben Roth Shank

Drivers:

Barry Darr
Gary Myers '82
Sara Roth Shank

Support Staff:

Anna Berkshire '09 Haarer
Adam Schmid



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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.



Congratulations to Girls Varsity Soccer - 2015 VISAA Division II State Champions!
Stay up to date and cheer on the Flames by checking www.easternmennoniteschool.org.
(Photo by: Erika Gascho)