



TODAY

Volume 34, No. 1
October 2016

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and join us for these great events:

October 7: EMES Grandparent's Day

October 9: EMES Fall Festival

October 20-23: Homecoming

October 20-23: *Pirates of Penzance*

October 21: Teacher Work Day - school closed

November 5: PTF Dinner & Benefit Auction

November 7: Student Visitation Day for Grades 6-12

November 8: Parent Teacher Conference - school closed

November 15: High School Instrumental Concert



Using God's Gifts to Serve

by Elwood Yoder

When LuAnn Miller Bender '81 began teaching Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) at EMS in 2001, Principal J. David Yoder told her that "we grow teachers." Mrs. Bender says this became "super clear" to her, in that teachers could develop professionally while using their full range of gifts in the school. For fifteen years Mrs. Bender used her many gifts in excellent service to students, the EMS community, and to God, until her resignation from EMS in summer 2016.

If you had a class with Mrs. Bender, you know that she had a passion and adept skill for teaching FCS core classes such as sewing, housing, cooking, and human development. Additionally, Mrs. Bender expanded the FCS curriculum by offering students opportunities for independent research and projects, and by developing new courses, including Garden to Table and Ethnic Foods. Mrs. Bender explained that a highlight of her fifteen years included working with wonderful students and teachers and offering students chances to take as many sewing classes with her as they liked.

A graduate of EMHS in 1981, LuAnn Miller Bender graduated from Eastern Mennonite College in 1985. She was in the last FCS class that the College offered before the program was dropped. Today, Mrs. Bender explains, FCS classes are on the rise in high schools across the United States, though there are not nearly enough qualified teachers because so few colleges and universities offer a major in FCS.



Bender family from left: Mary, Michael, LuAnn, Eric, Joseph, and Malinda (courtesy photo)

Mrs. Bender's teaching philosophy is to "love the students, love your subject matter, operate a hospitable classroom, meet student needs, and honor Christ above all." Mrs. Bender indeed did all these things while also creating a welcoming, relaxed and encouraging haven for her students. She joked that she even got her students excited about eating okra! Mrs. Bender's Christ-like teaching skills and care for everyone on the school campus will be missed. She has lived into her profession and has grown as a consummate professional in the FCS field, serving in a variety of organizations. She leaves the FCS program solidly poised for a new era at EMS.



LuAnn Miller '81 Bender (Photo by Elwood Yoder)

LuAnn '81 married Eric Bender '81 and they have four children, all alumni of EMS: Joseph '09, Malinda '11, Mary '14, and Michael '16. Since leaving the school this past June, Mrs. Bender has joined husband Eric to work on their family farm.

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EMS News Updates

Let the children come...

Rebekah Basinger, consultant for our Let the Children Come campaign recently completed 55 interviews over six days as part of a feasibility study to advise the EMS Board of Directors on a reasonable scope for our first step toward a K-12 campus. Rebekah heard many encouraging comments like, "Your community loves EMS," and "Purchasing the MennoMedia property and developing a K-12 campus makes a lot of sense." Additionally she remarked that "the school's ability to keep my interview schedule full is a great sign." Rebekah returns to Harrisonburg on October 3 to present her research findings to the EMS Board of Directors, who will enter a period dedicated to prayer and discernment before announcing the scope of the LTCC campaign this spring. Please join us in daily prayer for this significant community opportunity to benefit the children and the EMS community for years to come!



We're 99 and holding ... but looking forward to our 100th year! EMS Centennial events will take place from fall 2017 through our 100th Commencement on June 3, 2018. There are plenty more details to look forward to, but be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for our Centennial Homecoming joint celebration with Eastern Mennonite University on October 13-15, 2017!

Centennial Spotlight

Samuel O. Weaver '52

by Elwood Yoder

Golf is a hobby and passion for alumnus Sam Weaver '52. In the 2016 EMS *Fore the Flames* golf benefit tournament, Sam golfed with his Eastern Mennonite High School friend (and former Philomathean basketball teammate) Ed Collins '53. Sixty-plus years after they graduated, Sam and Ed formed a tournament foursome with Sam's son-in-law Steve Leaman '75, and Sam's grandson Jonathan Leaman that posted an impressive 14 under par 56 to clinch first place! Sam calls golf a "lifetime sport," something he learned from his father over 50 years ago. Sam was happy that he and Ed Collins (pictured here), both in their 80s, were on the winning team of the EMS Alumni Board event. 150 players competed at the last tournament which raises funds for EMS financial aid and athletics. Sam was also the first "Principal" of EMS from 1969-1981 (prior to 1969, administrators were called "Directors"). Sam and his wife Sarah received the *EMS Lifetime Service Award* in 2012. Be sure to save the date for this year's *Fore the Flames* benefit tournament: Friday, May 5, 2017!



Lifelong friends Sam Weaver '52 and Ed Collins '53. (Photo by Elwood Yoder)

Academic Excellence

2016-17 School Year is Off and Running!



(Photos by Andrew Gascho)



Middle School Enjoys First Friday!

To build community and to mark the first Friday of school, EMMS teachers and students spent the morning team building and getting to know one another. In the afternoon they traveled to Westover Park to play games, sports, swim, and have lunch together. EMMS

will build on their theme “We Seek: looking inward, looking outward, looking upward” to ensure a healthy community that learns and serves together while respecting one another.



VISION:

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

Thank You and Welcome EMS Board of Directors!

Last spring at the Board and Employee Appreciation dinner, EMS recognized and honored three Board of Director members whose terms were completed. Pictured here (from left) are EMS Head of School Paul Leaman, Gloria Diener, and John Bomberger. Not pictured is Beryl Jantzi '77 who also completed a term of service. We thank these board members for their dedication to serving EMS through the years. On September 10, 2016, EMS welcomed the 2016-17 Board of Directors at their annual retreat held at the home of EMS Community Relations Coordinator Mary Kay Slonaker. Board of Directors members for this year are as follows:



(Photo by Elwood Yoder)

Kathleen Roth, Chair
Matt Weaver '92,
Vice Chair
Tim Stutzman, Treasurer

Liesel Yoder Showalter
'88, Secretary
James Åkerson
Teresa Anders

John Beiler
Susan Huyard
Joseph L. Lapp
Amy Mumbauer

Jeff Shank '90
Sarah Slabaugh
Radella Vrolijk
Aaron Yutzy '06



High School Celebrates School Day Out!

EMHS students enjoyed the traditional School Day Out event at Highland Retreat on the first Friday of the school year. Designed to be a relaxed day spent out of the classroom that focuses on relationships, School Day Out is planned by Student Council officers and faculty advisors Mr. Jesse Blosser '98 and Ms. Jennifer Young. Students spent the day enjoying a variety of activities, had a cookout together and ended the day with class bonding activities including a Freshmen/Sophomore Olympics competition, a Junior swim at Blue Hole, and the annual Senior Swim.



(Photos by Leah Huyard '17)



Elementary Opens Near Capacity!

EMES opened this year at near capacity with waiting lists formed in several grades. Students were greeted on opening day by teachers and administrators and with festive balloons from the Parent Teacher Fellowship. New students and parents were warmly welcomed in to the community through orientation, a back to school potluck, and a morning coffee gathering on the first day of school. Kindergartners got right to work learning their way around campus and helping cook their daily snack.



(Photos by Staff)



Faculty Spotlight

Love of God and Love of Language

Walk into any Spanish classroom at EMS K-12 and you'll find a very evident love of God and a love of language. Though each of EMS' Spanish teachers focus on separate skills for their divisional classes, all approach instruction by embracing the concept that we are all part of God's global community. Learning another language exposes students to others ways of looking at the world and those around them. It also reinforces gifted behaviors for learning success including advanced planning, discipline, persistence, advanced vocabulary, reading with comprehension and understanding, and sensitivity and empathy to others. New skills are put into practice daily, as the majority of instruction takes place in Spanish. Faith is reinforced through memorization of prayers and Bible verses in Spanish as well as classroom discussion on Spanish service and missionary opportunity. EMS is blessed to have three excellent and highly skilled Spanish instructors. Señora Loly Martinez, a native of Honduras, teaches elementary students in grades Kindergarten through 5. Mrs. Rebecca Yutzy focuses on Middle School grades 6 and 7 and teaches one section of Spanish 1 (open to qualifying 8th graders and high school students). Mr. Wendell Shank '98 teaches Spanish I, II, III and IV and has mentored high school students interested in independent Spanish study and research. Through creative and engaging lessons and thoughtful curricular planning, our Spanish faculty create a supportive continuity of learning. This enables EMS students to become more proficient in speaking, writing, reading and comprehending Spanish.



EMS Spanish faculty from left Rebecca Yutzy, Loly Martinez, and Wendell Shank '98 (Photo by Elwood Yoder)

Welcome Mrs. Haarer!

EMS welcomes Anna Berkshire Haarer '09 as the new Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at EMS. As an EMS student, Mrs. Haarer admired the positive impact Mrs. LuAnn Bender had on her students and she hopes to continue that tradition in her new position. Anna would like to see more students take advantage of the FCS curriculum and the life skills they offer. A graduate of Bridgewater College with a degree in Family Consumer Sciences, Eastern Mennonite School is a family affair for Mrs. Haarer. She met her husband Duane Haarer '08 at EMS and her parents Allen '69 and Diana '70 Berkshire are graduates, along with her sisters Allison '94, Abigail '96, and Audrey '00.



Anna Haarer '09, Family and Consumer Sciences (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

Welcome Mrs. Miller!

EMS welcomes Lizzy Miller to our math department, teaching Grade 7 Math, Geometry, and AP Statistics. Mrs. Miller grew up in Baltimore as an adopted daughter within a loving Christian family. She attended Catholic schools through high school and graduated from James Madison University, where she was active in Campus Crusade for Christ. After six years of teaching math for Shenandoah County Public Schools, Mrs. Miller sensed the call to serve the EMS community. Mrs. Miller and her husband are active members at Mt. Olive Brethren Church and if you look closely, you'll spot Mrs. Miller in the EMS production of *The Pirates of Penzance* this fall!



Lizzy Miller, EMS Mathematics (Photo by Elwood Yoder)

Throughout the 2016-17 issues of Today, we will be highlighting our excellent faculty and diverse academic programs, beginning this issue with new faculty and our Modern Languages department. To learn more about the breadth of courses available in the EMS curriculum, log on to our website and look for the Academic Handbook in our Academics section of the website.

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>

**Editorial Board:
Elwood Yoder (Editor),
Mary Golden Hughes (Managing Editor),
Christine Fairfield (Copy Editor),
& Paul Leaman (Head of School).**



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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.

Eastern Mennonite School Presents:

The Pirates of Penzance

October 20* 7:30 p.m. • October 21 2:00 p.m.
October 22 7:30 p.m. • October 23 2:00 p.m.
Eastern Mennonite School Auditorium, 801 Parkwood Drive

A comic operetta
By Gilbert & Sullivan

Reserved tickets \$15 (all ages); General Admission \$12 adults, \$10 students/senior citizens
*October 20 performance is Pay What You Will Preview Night
www.easternmennoniteschool.org

Pirates (and Opera!) Invade EMS October 20-23!

Come enjoy the comic operetta genius of Gilbert & Sullivan as Eastern Mennonite High School Presents *The Pirates of Penzance*! Not your typical high school musical, *The Pirates of Penzance* is a time-honored classic filled with rich, complex vocals and orchestral music that follows a frolicking and humorous plot, suitable for all ages. Tickets are available by going to www.tix.com and entering "Pirates" in the search field. Spread the word and support the talented cast, crews, musicians, and directors at EMS!

Eastern Mennonite School
HOMECOMING
October 20-23, 2016

Celebrating 99 years!

Free to live for God.

www.easternmennoniteschool.org



faith

excellence

integrity

service

Homecoming Schedule

Thursday, October 20, 2016

9:18 a.m. Chapel and reception honoring 2016 Young Alumnus of the Year Obe Hostetter '96

Friday, October 21, 2016

All events are on us!

Seating for Founder's Day luncheon and musical are limited so please RSVP by calling 540-236-6000 or emailing millerj@emhs.net.

10 a.m. to Noon Alumni Open House – drop in tours

12:00 p.m. Founders Day luncheon honoring the 2016 Lifetime Service Award winner Miriam Mumaw '56.

Reservations required

2:00 p.m. *Pirates of Penzance* school musical. **Seating is limited, please RSVP by calling 540-236-6000 or emailing millerj@emhs.net to reserve your tickets.**

4:30 p.m. JV Soccer vs. St. Anne's Belfield School

5:30 p.m. Booster Club pre-game tailgating in the auditorium parking lot

7:00 p.m. Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Carlisle Academy, EMU turf field, under the lights!

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Reunions (years ending in "1" and "6")

12:00 p.m. JV Girls Volleyball vs. New Covenant School

1:00 p.m. Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. New Covenant School

7:30 p.m. *Pirates of Penzance* school musical

Sunday, October 23, 2016

10:00 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service, EMS Auditorium Honoring 2016 Alumnus of the Year Tim Brenneman '76. Special seating for the classes of 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966.

Please visit www.easternmennoniteschool.org for up to date information on reunions, tickets & homecoming events.

Class	Coordinator	Location	Time	Details	Contact	Email
'46	Doc Deputy & Henry Brunk	Park Place Dining Room @ VMRC	Noon	Lunch & short program, \$10 at door	540-560-1759	
'51	Miriam Kauffman	Village Hall @ VMRC	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Meal will be served \$11/pers.	540-564-3463	
'56	Ruby Sawin	Wood Grill Buffet	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Also Shady Oaks Sat., 6-9 p.m.	540-282-7895	rubysawin@yahoo.com
'61	Jan Showalter	VMRC Detwiler Auditorium	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Also 5 p.m. at home of Rosemary King	540-560-1481	showjs@aol.com
'66	Kathryn Fairfield & Elsie Weaver	Silver Lake Bed & Breakfast	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Meal will be served at noon	540-271-3450	glhclh@comcast.net
'71	Kenny Weaver	EMS Commons	Brunch 10 a.m.	Brunch catered, pay at the door	540-820-1071	weaverkw@shentel.net
'76	Tammy Driver	Bluestone Vineyard	6 p.m.	Meal catered, pay at the door	540-470-0205	tammydriver@comcast.net
'81	Doug Lehman	Eric & LuAnn Bender's Farm	11:30 a.m.	catered lunch, \$10/pers.	202-403-4339	
'86	Michael Weaver	EMS Family Consumer Science Room	10:30 a.m.	Noon lunch catered by Qdoba, \$13/pers.		mike@weavers.us
'91	Jodi Hertzler	Pale Fire Brewery	4 p.m.	Join us!	540-236-6024	jodinhertzler@gmail.com
'96	Virginia Showalter & Randa Hendricks	EMES	5-7 p.m.	Family potluck dinner	540-560-0084 540-383-3409	showalva@hotmail.com
'01	Melodie May	HMC Pavilion	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Family potluck lunch	540-421-6155	maymelodie@gmail.com
'06	Kristin Bell	Ruby's Arcade	6 p.m.	Join us!		bellkr211@gmail.com
'11	Zander Pellegrino & Kelsey Brubaker	EMS	Saturday a.m.	EMS Outdoor gathering	540-383-7240	kelseyblosser@gmail.com
'16	Erin Hostetler	EMS	approx. 2 p.m.	EMS front lawn	540-236-4683	erin@hostetler.info