

## How ETHS is battling the coronavirus COVID-19

This spring, COVID-19 has greatly challenged individuals and institutions across the globe. The pandemic has forced people to sacrifice their independence for enforced solitude, to distance themselves from others when they must go to essential sites, and to cover their face to protect themselves and others from contracting the virus. No hugs, no handshakes, and smiles hidden behind masks.

**Families and** individuals have stayed inside together or alone learning new ways to entertain themselves and to reach out “virtually” by computer programs such as Zoom, FaceTime, or Facebook Live for meetings, family/friend gatherings, religious services, and by phone, or letter writing.

In times of separation, schools (not to mention parents) have had to be creative to educate and care for their homebound students and staff. No matter what the reason for closing, the state still requires them to make up any lost days. Last year, ETHS practiced closing school and holding its first

electronic (e)-learning day for students at home. All ETHS students and staff have district-issued Chromebook laptops that are used in school and at home, and students and teachers have direct e-mail communication. E-learning can be done using various forms of technology, such as computers, smartphones, or other mobile devices.

**The dry run** went well, so last fall the school board submitted a three-year e-learning plan to the state education office. As a result, ETHS was ready for snow days, polar vortexes ...or a pandemic.

ETHS began e-learning on March 17 before the state closed all schools until April 30. On April 17, the Illinois governor said all schools (public and private) will stay closed for in-person instruction through the end of the school year. Having successfully tested remote learning, Asst. Supt./Principal Marcus Campbell said, “We were able to get this school of over 4,000 individuals (students and staff) online in a matter of hours.”

**Teachers take** attendance through an online form and through students’ completion of their daily e-learning assignments. Teachers create these assignments in advance, and the activities vary by course, subject, skills, and knowledge involved. Completed work is sent online to the teacher. Taking daily attendance also helps teachers check up on their students, and remind them if they have classroom questions or mental-health concerns they can contact the teacher or a school social worker for help.

**For students** without WiFi access to the internet at home, ETHS has 50 district-issued WiFi hotspots that students can check out. There are hotspots across town as well, but such places as libraries, coffee shops, and Northwestern University, for example, are closed during the lockdown.

While of primary importance, e-learning hasn’t



**Asst. Supt. Marcus Campbell (at l.) and Supt. Eric Witherspoon have held weekly fireside chats, six-feet apart, to keep the school community up-to-date about what ETHS is doing to deal with the COVID-19 lockdown.**

been the only concern for ETHS. Keeping the school family up-to-date about school closures, academic concerns, and other local issues have been discussed in live broadcasts on the ETHS website. On March 27, Supt. Eric Witherspoon and Campbell began weekly “fireside chats” on “E-Town Live” on the school’s website. Sitting before a lit fireplace in the school’s main lobby, the two administrators trade comments and news with those at-home. (who can add written comments on the site).

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## From the Alumni Association Executive Director

### KIT Stories Provide Inspiration #KITSPIRATION

“What a strange trip it has been” might be the understatement to describe the world we’ve live in over the past few months. All of our lives have been changed and disrupted to some extent. ETHS, as you may be aware or have assumed, has also been disrupted.

**Our classes** were stopped in mid-March under an “Act of God” proclamation from the Governor of Illinois. We have been subject to a “Stay-At-Home” order along with everyone in the state. In-school activities have been shut out throughout Illinois



**David Futransky '69**

for the remainder of the academic year. Classes are being conducted remotely, events and celebrations have been cancelled or postponed, and the world is upside down.

Your alma mater has been doing what can be done to support our community. Meals are being packed and provided by our Nutrition Services team for Evanston youth who rely

on the schools to provide meals. Other departments are offering wide ranges of support, including the Health Service Clinic at ETHS, which is operating by appointment-only for many of our students.

**But, it’s not** just our students, faculty, staff, and administrative team that continue to move forward with an educational process. We have heard the stories of many alumni who are in the front lines of fighting COVID-19. Many Wildkits are active in research and in medicine. People are providing support in a wide variety of ways to their communities. Many alums work in essential areas of support and business. **We want to recognize them.**



One alumna, **Elin Chang '13**, is an orthopedic nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Since the start of this pandemic, she has shifted her work to focus on helping patients that have been stricken by the virus. Elin and her teammates at NMH inspire each other on a daily basis, working above and beyond to provide healing when

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# Superintendent's Letter

## How's it going at ETHS?

When I announced on Friday, March 13, 2020, that ETHS would be closing for a month and would not reopen until April 13 due to COVID-19, we knew then that we had stepped into uncharted territory.

That day I spoke over the P.A. asking all students, teachers, and staff to take home with them their Chromebooks, chargers, textbooks, projects, musical instruments, and personal belongings such as athletic shoes and gym uniforms. I explained we would begin remote e-learning the next week. Since we were the only school district in this entire region with an approved e-learning plan, and since we had already tried it out last spring, we were ready.

**When everyone** left school that Friday there was a somewhat upbeat feeling. It was like announcing there would be a month of snow days—unexpected and filled with some excitement. We did elbow bumps and said, “See you in a month.” Of course, even then there was trepidation as we faced the unknown and the lingering question, “When will it actually ever be safe to return?” Confirmed cases and deaths caused by a deadly virus were mounting in the United States.

Today, ETHS feels like a very different place. When

I park in the back of the school every morning, it is certainly not difficult to find a parking space in our empty lot. The driver education cars are eerily parked side-by-side waiting for students and their teachers to someday return. The Canada geese have taken up residence on the lawn by our track where they gather for their morning chatter.

**A lone Safety** officer in a glass-encased booth welcomes me, and I walk unobstructed through the empty halls to my office. The fireplaces in the front lobby are dark and still. I'm used to coming to ETHS during off hours when the hallways are empty, but this has a very different feel, a feeling of loneliness. There are a handful of essential personnel here at ETHS daily, but with 1.3 million square feet of space, we maintain our social distancing by way more than 6 feet. There's an occasional latex-gloved wave from someone, and we exchange some muffled conversation through our facemasks.

These days the silence in my office is regularly interrupted by myriad Zoom meetings. And, yes, I believe I can now use the word Zoom as a noun, adjective, and verb—not at all in the same context or meaning that I once used the word zoom.

**All this may** seem serene on the surface, but don't be misled. There's much,

much more to ETHS than what's going on inside this building. All the action is “out there,” not within the walls of the school. Each day we're abuzz with activity and human interactions, albeit virtual.

**As this issue** of *The KIT* documents, e-learning classes are meeting every school day. Thousands of students are attending and teachers are conducting online classes, staying in close contact with their students, providing them with feedback and support. Several clubs are meeting and the yearbook staff is putting the final touches on the 2020 *Key*. The *Evanstonian* has published online. Each week, our student activities department sends a new and customized creative music video of our Friday song. Sports teams are doing conditioning at their individual homes with guidance from their coaches. Collectively, we are figuring out how to keep going in spite of a pandemic that has disrupted ETHS and everyone's life.

**So, is everything** okay at ETHS? Well, only to a certain point. Everyone here has done a Herculean job of making this work and exceed expectations of what is possible. Students, staff, parents/guardians have all been pulling in the same direction.

But it's simply not the same. We belong here. We belong together. School is a place where learn-



ETHS Superintendent Eric Witherspoon

ers should gather, a place where Socratic dialogue and exchange of complex and challenging ideas come together and are tested, a place where there is cooperative and collective critical thinking and in-person creative problem-solving.

**High school** is a place where adult and student learners come together to create a society, a school family with shared experiences each school day. School needs to be a place with shared curricular and extracurricular experiences that are a vital part of learning and growing.

And how are our seniors doing? Their disappointment is palpable. Our seniors have had so much of their senior year taken away from them. They have been denied the rites of passage this spring that they would be celebrating right now. Moreover, the future is unclear for them as they anticipate starting their careers or going to college.

**Next fall** will bring many changes. What those change are we just don't

know. But I do know this. The human spirit is indomitable. Humans have endured wars and famine and plagues, but even in those darkest of times the human spirit has survived and grown stronger.

This month during Staff Appreciation Week we have many fun (virtual) activities and celebrations planned. On May 24, we will have a virtual graduation and cheer for our graduates. This summer we will have (remote) summer school. And sometime in the future we will all come back to our beloved ETHS and physically reunite our Wildkit family. That's our indomitable spirit here.

**At ETHS** our school pride is strong, our love for one another that binds us is unbreakable, and our spirits will never be permanently dampened.

Even in a pandemic, I truly believe that “It's a Great Day to be a Wildkit.”



**It's at a time like this that humanity comes together.**

**It's at a time like this where we need to bring out the best in ourselves, the best in our students, and the best in everybody around us.**

**It's at a time like this when we talk about being the ETHS family.**

**We remind ourselves this is family, and family has to be there for each other.**

**DR. ERIC WITHERSPOON**

**Battling COVID-19, cont. from page 1**

In addition, other departments in the school have reached out to help in these troubled times. ETHS social workers have been on call to help students and staff members work through emotional worries about the pandemic. The Science and Operations Departments scoured cupboards and closets throughout the school and found over 16,000 masks, gloves, and head bonnets that they donated to Evanston and St. Francis Hospitals.

**ETHS's Nutrition Services** Department partnered immediately with the City of Evanston and Evanston/Skokie School District 65 to provide free meals to youth ages 1 to 18 affected by the school closures. Every week, ETHS has prepared 1,700 bags of grab-and-go breakfast and lunches (10 meals per bag per week—that's 17,000 meals!), paid for by the City through government school lunch/child nutrition reimbursements, and delivered to four local park sites, staffed by the

City, on Monday afternoons for pick up. The food includes all hand-packaged items such as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, yogurt, bagels, fruit, veggies, muffins, cereal, milk, and more. There are no income-based restrictions to participate in the program.

**To help** keep social connections among friends alive during lockdown, Nichole Boyd, ETHS Student Activities Director, created a Virtual Spirit Week from March 30-April 3. Monday was Pajama Day asking students to "post a pic of you e-learning or working remotely in your comfy jammies or sweats." Subsequent days for #Wildkit Spirit included: Dress 2 Impress (get dressed up and post a pic); Willie Wildkit Day (show your love for Willie. Post a pic, and display it in your front window); Thankful Thursday (post a pic of someone/something you're thankful for); and Orange & Blue Day (post a video of you performing the Fight Song using correct lyrics).

**#KITSPIRATION, cont. from page 1**

and where possible in a cooperative and supportive way. Elin was inspired to go into nursing from her experience at ETHS. She shadowed nurses at Evanston Hospital as part of her Health Care Rotation course and found a calling. She is just one example of a recent alum who is leading the fight.



**Dan Peterson '53** is one of our not-so-recent alums that is doing his part. Dan has been recognized by both the ETHS Distinguished Alumni Award and the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame. He is a retired coach who led Olympia Milan to great success in the Italian Professional Basketball

League. Dan has been a broadcaster in Italy for many years and is still on the air several times a week. Instead of talking about current basketball games, he is spending his time talking about the similarities between coming back from 15-20 points down in a basketball game to the fight in Italy against the virus.

**These are** just two examples of what we know are thousands of Wildkit Alumni who have stepped up and helped their neighbors and communities. We would like to share their stories with you and with our current students. To that end, we are looking to recognize WILDKIT HEROS as we SHARE STORIES TO INSPIRE.

If you would take a minute and fill out a very brief form, we would like to gather some information. In 50-75 words, we want to gather the stories that vary from policy makers to medical professionals to first responders to people who are just help-

To help ETHS athletes stay in shape during their time at home, the Athletic Department, in particular strength and conditioning coach Mark Feldner, developed a computer app called AthleticU. Students can access workouts and videos for all sports to use at home. According to Feldner in the *Evanston Review*: "They can turn in their workouts, and then we can monitor them to customize everything. We also have group and team chats to help everyone stay in touch."

**To help** promote #Wildkit Spirit, the school has created online programming for Holocaust Remembrance and Poetry Month. In addition, the staff is deeply aware of the loss of graduation for the Class of 2020. On May 24, the school plans to hold a virtual graduation ceremony, and every Friday throughout May from 8:20-8:40pm, the lights and scoreboard at Lazier Football Stadium, plus a searchlight, are lit in honor of the seniors. And they've made sure *The KEY* yearbook will go out.

ing their neighbors by picking up groceries. With your permission, we will share these on a website connected to the ETHS webpage, and post some to social media. More importantly, when the 2020-21 school year starts in August (we hope) we will share these stories during daily announcements with the student body. The goal is to let the stories of Wildkit alums helping their communities inspire the classes of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

**You can** connect to this program by simply going to <https://forms.gle/qkmFwyJ4aBExWNzu6> and completing a very brief Google form to send us your information. Or fill out the box at the right (add a page if you need more room) and send it to the Alumni Office, ETHS, 1600 Dodge, Evanston, IL, 60201.

Thanks for all you do and for providing inspiration to future generations of Wildkits.



**During the lockdown, ETHS's Nutrition Services staff have prepared 17,000 grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches weekly for Evanston kids ages 1-18, delivered by District 65 to four sites in town, and paid for through City of Evanston sources.**

**In the** "fireside chats," both administrators have stressed to students their need to stay home and obey the social-distancing rules. They said that final exams were cancelled for this year, but that students need to check-in daily with

their teachers because online attendance could affect final grades.

As Witherspoon said: "Stay at home, be aware of yourself and of spreading the virus to others. Remember, we are a family. Go, 'Kits."

**#KITSPIRATION Information**  
Please return to  
Alumni Office, ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave.,  
Evanston 60201

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

What is your role in helping get through this crisis?

What keeps you inspired?

What advise can your share with a current student?

What, if anything from your days at ETHS, has led you to do what you do?

YES, You may share my comments on the ETHS website and ETHS social media.

YES, you may share my comments **ONLY** on the ETHS website.

YES, You may share my story with current ETHS students via daily announcements.

# What's New at ETHS?

## Guest artists share their talents

This semester, ETHS hosted two guest artists— young-adult author Tomi Adeyemi and noted jazz composer Omar Thomas.



Recently recognized in the 2020 edition of the Forbes' "30 Under 30" list, Adeyemi is a *New York Times* bestselling author. Her debut novel, *Children of Blood and Bone*, reached No. 1 on the *NYT* bestseller list and is currently in development for a film adaptation. Her sequel, *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*, released in December is the second novel in the Legacy of the *Orisha* Trilogy.

**Prior to a talk** in the ETHS Auditorium, which drew over 200 people, Adeyemi joined members of the ETHS Books 'R' Us Book Club for a special question & answer session where students got a chance to ask questions, engage in conversations, and get their books signed by the acclaimed author. The event was hosted by ETHS, The North Shore Links, and Seminary CO-OP Bookstores.

Omar Thomas came to ETHS in March. Hailed by jazz artist Herbie Hancock as showing "great promise as a new voice in the further development of jazz in the future," educator, arranger, and award-winning composer Thomas is highly in demand as his works are centered around events like Stonewall and the Charleston Church shooting.

He came to ETHS to work in rehearsals and attend a spring concert that featured three of his pieces performed by the school's

three bands (Freshman Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Symphony).

**The Bequity** (Band + Equity) student group hosted a session with him after school, open to all students, and a reception after the concert. He explained that his trilogy of works that would be performed in the concert—"We Will Know", "A Mother of a Revolution", and "Of Our New Day Begun"—"were pulled out of all forms of African-American musical tradition to capture the pain and loss and eventual forgiveness and hope."



Noting that he grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and is "100% a product of public education," Thomas studied music education at James Madison University, and the New England Conservatory of Music. The multi-award-winning composer currently serves on the Music Theory faculty at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute. His music has been performed in concert halls around the world, and he has been commissioned to create works in both jazz and classical styles.

**Thomas's presence** at ETHS was funded by the Fodor Fund, created by parents, students, and alumni in honor of Band Program teacher and mentor Dr. David Fodor when he retired that will benefit all music students through an annual artist-in-residency program.

## Iowa Caucus field trip: A lesson in democracy

In mid-January, an interdisciplinary team of ETHS teachers took 45 students to Iowa City and Des Moines, Iowa, to participate in the democratic process in advance of the Iowa Caucuses. The Evanston contingent coordinated with the Mikva Challenge that has been leading similar trips to Iowa since 2004.

For two days, the students participated in a variety of activities, including attending political rallies, a mock caucus with other students, and volunteering for the campaigns of Democratic candidates for president.

**According to** teacher Andrew Ginsberg, the students volunteered for the Sanders, Yang, Warren, and Klobuchar campaigns. They knocked on doors, made phone calls, and were able to help the Yang and Klobuchar campaigns set up events and meet the candidates. In Des Moines, the students participated in a Teen Summit run by the Mikva Challenge with 250 students from around the country.

"The kids were all very positive," said Ginsberg. He added: "I noticed, especially at the teen summit, that many students had

increased confidence in their ability to make connections with others, represent their views and speak publicly. Students also seemed to really enjoy campaigning despite the awful weather and fear of rejection." He parenthetically added that their charter bus driver said "he had never driven a cleaner and more respectful group of high school students."

**In the** build up to the field trip, the students participated in a variety of team-building activities at ETHS and successfully raised all of the money for the trip, including obtaining a \$1,500 mini-grant from the ETHS Alumni Association.

The Iowa Caucus proved to be a major technology failure. The system for reporting votes failed to function properly and back-up phone lines seized up. This led to no declaration of a winner, and the various campaigns left

## Alumni Mini-Grants benefit students

This winter, the ETHS Alumni Association board approved a variety of mini-grants requested by teachers and staff to enhance classroom curricula and extracurricular activities.

**Grants went** to departments/teachers in Reading, World Languages, Fine Arts, History, and Physical Education.

- Literacy grants will provide authentic novels for students taking AP Spanish Language/Culture. Another book-related grant gave seniors copies of the novel *Hidden Figures* to coordinate with Northwestern University's One Book program.

- A mini-grant brought a guest artist from the

Muntu Dance Theatre to work with dance students, exposing them to authentic West African dance history, technique, and culture.

- **A mini-grant** was approved to bring ETHS alumnus **Marion Willis '98** (Men Ca) to choreograph the spring musical, *Chicago*. (The production was canceled as the school closed for COVID-19.)

- *The MULE (Magazine of Untaught Languages at ETHS)* received a mini-grant. Written by students in their own heritage languages, and published with translations to the school at large, *The MULE* gives voice to a segment of the ETHS student population whose languages are not taught at ETHS.



Part of the ETHS Iowa Caucus student group worked with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders (Above: back row center, with the scarf and hat). ETHS history/social sciences teacher Andrew Ginsberg (kneeling down front rt.) organized the students' weekend of democratic involvement. Other ETHS students volunteered with candidate Amy Klobuchar (Below: at center). History/SS teacher Yosra Yehia (at l. in headscarf) accompanied them.



town for New Hampshire with no one knowing who won in Iowa.

**When the** ETHS group returned, "The students mostly had questions about how the debacle could happen," said Ginsberg, adding, "They were also frustrated that they may never know how well their candidate did."

- A mini-grant went to help a Reading teacher build a classroom library of independent reading books for her students.

- A mini-grant went to help take 45 students to participate in the lead up to the Iowa Caucuses. (See related story above.)

**The mini-grants**, each approximately \$1,000, sometimes more depending on the need, come from the Alumni Association's budget. While the association no longer collects dues from ETHS alums, the board chose to use the balance to help support educational needs, particularly when academic budgets are stretched thin.

## ETHS national leader in Advanced Placement

In 1952, ETHS was one of seven pilot schools chosen by the Ford Foundation to experiment with offering college-level “Advanced Placement” (AP) courses. Seventy seniors enrolled in one or more of five courses offered in English, European History, French, Spanish, and math. The program was intended to enrich students’ programs of study and to shorten their time in college.

**Now ETHS** offers 24 AP courses that expand on the original five and include psychology, science courses, computer science, Latin, art, and music. Courses have increased as well as the number of students taking and succeeding in them. ETHS’s AP program has gained recognition and high rankings from several national education associations and media outlets, including *PBS News Hour*, *US News & World Report*, and *The Washington Post*.

School board and administration focus on raising



**2019 Pathway to AP Forum panel: (From l.) India Aaron, Mateo Hain, Jasper Huber, Oliver Leopold, Astrid Pene, Nathan Robinson, DeVhon Seivright, Anika Velasco, Macy Aiken, and Asst. Supt./Principal Marcus Campbell.**

the achievement for all students while striving to eliminate racial differences have been central to the program’s success. In 2011-12, ETHS detracked the Freshman Humanities courses (English and History), followed by Freshman Biology the next year, and instituted an earned-honors credit model, which has empowered students to accelerate their own learning and take challenging honors courses during their four years at ETHS, including AP.

**Since 2012**, while ETHS’s overall enrollment increased by 17%, AP enrollment has increased by 26%, as well as a 25% rise in AP scores of 3 or more (on a 5-point scale), and a 21% jump in scores of 4 or more. In 2018-19, 56% of juniors and seniors (over 900 students) took one or more AP exams—for the fifth consecutive year—and over two-thirds of those students scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam, greatly surpassing national averages.

Scholarly research has shown that even attempting an AP class boosts a student’s academic outlook in high school and beyond. Since 2016, all Illinois public universities and community colleges must, by law, award college course credit to students who submit scores of 3+ on AP exams, thereby potentially reducing the students’ outlay in tuition. Those who even earned an AP exam score of 2 had better college performance and higher four-year college graduation rates than students who did not take any AP courses.

To encourage student success in AP courses, ETHS created a peer-driven, comprehensive support system called teamASAP that introduces students to AP courses before they even enroll in one, helps build their confidence that they can succeed in AP courses, and supports them throughout the school year as they take the course(s).

Pre-AP school year initiatives include an introductory AP Fair, monthly lunch meetings, training workshops, and summer bridge courses. During the students’ AP year, support is offered with peer tutoring, study groups, targeted review with AP teachers, and test prep before the exams. teamASAP has gained national, award-winning recognition and has been adopted by schools across the country.

Despite overall growth in AP access and success for all racial subgroups, there is a goal to enroll more students of color in AP courses. The administration and school board are determined to increase the literacy rates among incoming freshmen and to strengthen students’ self-confidence and understanding of their own skills, all of which can impact students’ future enrollment and success in AP courses.

## Sustainability efforts benefit ETHS’s bottom line in a variety of ways

The ETHS building will be 100 years old in 2024. Given its age and size (over 1.2 million square feet), environmentally responsible maintenance has been a paramount consideration for decades—and the best practice for fiscal stewardship.

**Some of** the school’s sustainable procedures include heating and cooling the building primarily with steam-water based systems; using a Siemens automation control system since 1988 to set heating and cooling levels; replacing thousands of high-energy fluorescent bulbs throughout the building with T-8 (LED) bulbs that use 25% less energy (and using in-house staff to do the replacements); using environmentally sensitive cleaning products for over a decade; installing automatic shutoff features on all water faucets and lighting in restrooms; and dimming all hall lights when classes are in session.

For more than 10 years, ETHS has taken environ-

mental and sustainability issues into consideration when planning capital projects, working with architects to use natural lighting, energy rated windows, automated systems, and water-energy savings whenever possible.

**Last May**, ETHS joined a partnership sponsored by NICOR and ComEd that oversees energy initiatives and offers financial incentives for energy management—and winning an award for “Most Diverse Energy Team” from the two energy giants. In the first six months of the partnership, ETHS saved over \$40,000 in natural gas usage and close to \$40,000 on electric bills.

Current sustainability initiatives at ETHS touch the students, staff, and community, as well. For example, before 2016, ETHS spent over \$10,000 a year on Styrofoam lunch trays for students, a costly expense that filled landfills. Now they use reusable trays that are washed daily in an energy conserving

dishwasher. During 2018-19, ETHS began composting over 21,000 pounds of food waste, partnering with an Evanston-based composting organization.

**The district** has three different garden lots on campus where vegetables are grown organically and harvested for use in the school’s cafeterias, saving money (\$6,500 in 2019) and yielding enough produce for ETHS to be



considered a self-sustainable Farm-to-School program. The gardens (aka Edible Acres) also provide produce for a summer CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program and for City-run summer day camps.

A new waste-separation pilot program, initiated by “green energy”-related student clubs, is currently underway in one student cafeteria and another for staff. Student volunteers help diners separate their waste into separate containers by

category: landfill, compost, recycling, and liquids. Calculations show that over one school year, over 9,000 lbs. (4.5 tons) of waste will be diverted from landfills, just from the student cafeteria alone. Composting keeps food out of the landfill where it produces harmful methane gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide making it a big contributor to climate change.



**Student volunteers help their peers separate their lunch waste into separate containers: landfill, recycling, compost, and liquids.**

**Future plans** include expanding the waste-separation program and increasing compost output; and working with the school’s Energy Management Team on boiler upgrades and a motion-sensored kitchen exhaust fan upgrade, among other projects. The district has also hired a sustainability consultant, to keep environmentally focused projects at the forefront in future planning.

## 1924-2024: Centennial is right around the corner

Four years can seem like a long time, but it's not much when you consider it part of 100. In summer of 1924, Evanston Township High School (ETHS) opened its building at 1600 Dodge Avenue. While the District started in 1883, the first 40 years saw the use of several buildings, including the facility that was being outgrown on the southeast corner of Dempster and Elmwood.



Supt. Wilfred Beardsley oversaw the process that landed the new building for ETHS on what had previously been farmland. The building has had numerous additions, the largest being built just over 50 years ago. That expansion saw the opening of four wings to serve over 5,100 students at the peak of enrollment.

**We are embarking on a process to celebrate the centennial of the building at 1600 Dodge.** Over the next few months, more than 100 constituents – alumni, students, administrators, current and retired faculty and staff, and community leaders will be

consulted to create plans for 2024. Committees are being created to work on numerous tasks to lead to an incredible celebration.

**Current** thoughts look to working with community partners such as the Evanston History Center, Evanston Public Library, City of Evanston, Northwestern University, and many others. We hope to celebrate the physical architecture by looking at ETHS and its facilities 100 years ago, in the late 1960s, and also at what space for a high school will look like 30-50 years from now. The need to facilitate remote learning during the current COVID-19 era

is allowing us to look at how learning and teaching might change and what physical space may need to be in the future.

We would like to recognize the community members who have volunteered their time and efforts for the district over the past 100 years, including our past and present school board members. There will be opportunities to recognize our Distinguished Alumni award winners (there will be over 100 in 2024) and the alumni who have been recognized by our Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Many retired** teachers still live in the area, and we

hope to host events that can connect them with our alumni. Students will be a key element in planning and in celebrating. The class entering ETHS in fall of 2020 will be the Centennial Class as they will graduate in 2024, the year of our major celebrations.

**Maybe we** can reinvent "Field Day" or find ways to celebrate all of the 'KITS who have gone on to careers in the performing arts. There are a large number of alums who have won national and international recognition in their fields with awards such as Pulitzer Prizes. How can we find ways to celebrate all of these groups?

There are many "treasures" in the attics and basements and storage areas at 1600 Dodge. We might be able to host an amazing "Yard Sale" in 2024.

**We need** your ideas. If you want to help, or to serve on a committee that helps to plan and manage a part of the Centennial Celebration, please contact David Futransky at 847-424-7704 or by email at futranskyd@eths.k12.il.us.

More information will be coming in the next issues of *The KIT* as we make more plans.

## Before it became Evanston Township High School

Originally, the 55 acres that became home to Evanston Township High School was barren farmland. While it isn't clear who owned the land, what is clear is that Carl Steif, a German immigrant who lived in Skokie, built a house and barn on the property in 1906, moved in with his wife Pauline and their growing family (eventually 12 children), and became a tenant farmer.

Several sites had been considered for the new school building but the current site won in a hotly contested referendum by a two-thirds vote. Two years later, in 1921, a \$1 million dollar bond issue to build the new school passed overwhelmingly. Construction began January 2, 1923, and ETHS opened 18 months later. The Steif's barn remained on the property and was used for storage.



**ETHS was built on 55 acres of barren farmland. The house in the background was not on the property.**

When the land was sold to the school district, the Steifs moved the house on July 7, 1922, to 1422 Grey St., adjacent to the new school, and kept the house in the extended family for many years. Some, but not all, of the Steif children attended or graduated from ETHS.



**Pauline and Carl Steif**



**The house and barn the Steifs built on the future ETHS property.**



**Houses on the edge of the property were moved to new locations, as was the Steif home.**

# ETHS Kudos

## ETHS ranked among top high schools in the nation

*U.S. News & World Report* released its “Best High Schools” rankings for 2020, placing ETHS at 37 in Illinois and 773 in the nation. Overall, ETHS received a score of 95.66 out of 100 on the national rankings scorecard.

The *U.S. News* Best High Schools report ranks nearly 18,000 public high schools, out of a review

of more than 24,000 in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. According to *U.S. News*, the top-ranked public high schools around the country include a mix of traditional, charter and magnet schools. The highest-ranked schools are those whose students excelled on state tests and performed beyond expectations; participated in and passed a variety of

college-level exams; and graduated in high proportions.

“I am greatly impressed with our students and staff. We are not a magnet school nor a selective enrollment school and, yet, this high school ranks at the top 3% of high schools in the nation for which data was even considered,” said ETHS District 202

Supt. Eric Witherspoon. “Our Wildkits are proudly keeping up the strong tradition of excellence at ETHS.”

Six indicators were used on a weighted scale to produce this year’s ranking: College Readiness (30% of the ranking); Math and Reading proficiency (20%); Math and Reading performance (20%); Underserved Student Performance

(10%); College Curriculum Breadth (10%); and Graduation rate (10%).

This is the second year the high school rankings have been calculated using its current methodology. As a result, only rankings from the 2020 and 2019 editions are comparable to each other.

## STUDENTS

This winter, ETHS fine arts students **Damien Franchere**, **Jamie Laud-erbaugh**, and **Adji Teoudoussia** earned recognition in the Belin-Blank Center’s Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program at the University of Iowa. The awards program is the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. Panelists looked for artworks that

best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Damien Franchere, ETHS senior, won an Honorable Mention and a Silver Award. Senior Jamie Lauderbaugh won two Honorable Mentions, a Silver Award, and a Gold Award for “Submerged,” a photo montage (see below). ETHS junior Adji Teoudoussia won an Honorable Mention.



On December 6, the ETHS Math Department held its 40th annual Bridge Building and Breaking Contest. The winner of this year’s competition is Annika Gylling with a bridge that held 6.0 kilograms. Gylling is a student in Kayla Goldenberg’s class. The bridge-building contest allows students to apply the math and science lessons from their classes to a hands-on project. Students design and construct small straw bridges that are weighed, tested, and scored by efficiency.

Other top bridge builders included:

2nd place: Liza Imrem (5.7 kilograms; Maryjoy Heine-man and Matthew Kaiser’s class.

3rd place: Isaiah Thompson (5.5 kilograms; Avani Khandhar’s class)

4th place: Violet Weston (4.8 kilograms;



**ETHS teachers and students at the ETHS Bridge Building and Break Contest (from L: Kayla Goldenberg (ETHS Math Dept.), Liza Imrem, Isaiah Thompson, and Kenzo Furukawa (ETHS Math Dept).**



In January 2020, ETHS was selected as a German American Partnership Program (GAPP) School of Distinction, recognizing the school’s engagement and best practices

that facilitate youth exchanges. ETHS is among a select group of schools nationwide to receive the award. The ETHS German Exchange Program has partnered with GAPP

for many years, utilizing awarded scholarship money for ETHS exchange students to visit its partner school in Germany.

## STAFF

ETHS math teacher **Peter Decraene** is one of 15 science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers from across the country named a 2020-21 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow.

Decraene will spend his 11-month fellowship at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., where he will apply his extensive classroom knowledge and experiences gained at ETHS to inform federal STEM education program and education policy efforts.

The 2020-2021 Einstein Fellows come from K-12 schools across the country and represent diverse teaching backgrounds—

with expertise in science, engineering, computer science and mathematics. Federal agencies and U.S. Congressional Offices will benefit from Fellows’ real-world experiences as educators. In return, Einstein Fellows will gain understanding of the role of the Federal Government in the U.S. education



**Photo by Lynn Trautmann, LT Photo**

enterprise, knowledge of resources available to students and educators, and broader perspectives on national education issues that can be applied to the classroom or to leadership positions in their districts or elsewhere.

## Distinguished Alumni Award 2019

Six ETHS alumni received the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award at an induction ceremony on November 18, 2019. The ETHS District 202 Board of Education and the ETHS Alumni Association sponsored a recognition ceremony where the recipients were honored: **Josephine Allen '91, Austin Brown '03, Martin Cohen '69, Morris "Dino" Robinson**



**The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award winners and their student hosts: Back row (l. to rt.): Connor Falls, Jadyn Denlow, Mauranne Vernier, Cohen, Brown, Jerome Smith, Williams, Soren Dorr, Jazmine Morrow; Front row (l. to rt.): Allen, Lembke, Tietov, Robinson, Aldric Martinez-Olsen**

To be nominated, alumni must have distinguished themselves through achievement, service, and/or contributions to society. Nominees must have graduated from or been enrolled at ETHS at least 10 years ago.

Anyone may submit a nomination, whether or not you attended ETHS. Alumni may not nominate themselves. Posthumous nominations will be accepted. Using the online form (at [www.eths.k12.il.us](http://www.eths.k12.il.us) on the alumni association site), list the nominee's "vitals" and explain—in 500 words or less—why this person should receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. Include your own contact information. Once the nomination is received, the candidate will be asked to provide additional

'85, **Frances Tietov '62, and Rodney Williams '79. Anna Lembke '85** won the award last year but was unable to be at the 2018 induction ceremony. At the Senior Assembly, the honorees shared advice and answered questions from the senior class before visiting ETHS classrooms throughout the day.

personal information. For multiple nominations, you must fill out a separate form for each candidate.

A Selection Committee, made up of students, current and former ETHS faculty and staff members, community members, and alumni, will evaluate the nominations and select the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards. All nominations will be kept on file and reconsidered for three years. After three years, a candidate must be renominated for consideration.

**To nominate an ETHS alumna or alumnus for a Distinguished Alumni Award, please complete the online form. Deadline for submitting nominations is June 15, 2020.**

## ETHS Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

### March 2003

- George W. Ball, 1926, Undersec'y of State for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson
- George Conn, 1951, advocate for disabled
- Dr. John Bryson Eulenberg, 1960, Developed artificial-language technology for the disabled
- Nancy Gustafson, 1974, Opera singer, philanthropist
- Dr. Charles Johnson, 1966, Award-winning author, educator
- Gordon Segal, 1956, Founder/CEO of Crate & Barrel
- Dr. Charles R. Thomas, 1952, 1st ETHS Black educator, among 1990's Top 100 School Executives

### December 2003

- Dr. David Burge, 1947, Composer-pianist
- Delores Petway Holmes, 1957, Co-founder, Family Focus
- William H. Logan, Jr., 1951, Evanston Police Chief, founded Nat'l. Org. of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Dr. Robert M. Nerem, 1955, Expert in cellular/tissue bioengineering
- John Edward Porter, 1953, Award-winning Congressman
- Fredric N. Tulsy, 1968, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

### December 2004

- Dr. Fred H. Geisler, 1964, Neurosurgeon
- Pam McAllister Johnson, 1963, journalist, 1st Black female newspaper publisher
- Julian "Junior" Mance, 1945, Jazz pianist, composer
- David A. Mount, 1961, Entertainment industry leader, philanthropist
- Thomas Eddy Tallmadge, 1894, Prairie-style architect

### December 2005

- Dr. Barbara Brauer, 1955, Deaf educator/advocate
- Lester Crown, 1943, Businessman, philanthropist
- Robert Galvin, 1940, Business leader
- The late Dr. Barbara Sizemore, left ETHS in 1944, 1st Black female supt. of a major school district
- Robert Wiczorowski, 1945, Investment banker, Executive Director of the World Bank

### December 2006

- Dr. Michael Chamberlin, 1955, Biochemist, educator
- David Cole, 1976, Attorney, civil rights defender
- Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen, 1955, Aviator, member of "Mercury 13" training program for female astronauts
- Arthur McZier, 1954, Advocate for minority-owned businesses, humanitarian
- Major Gen. Mitchell J. Waters, USMCR, 1953, "Father of the Modern Marine Corps Reserve"

### December 2007

- Dr. Alan D. Kaplan, 1961, Cardiologist, theater owner
- Daniel L. Peterson, 1953, Basketball coach, sports writer, TV commentator
- Leonard Schaeffer, 1963, Healthcare industry administrator/CEO

### December 2008

- Dame Libby Komaiko, 1967, dancer, choreographer, founder of Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre, honored by King of Spain
- Denise Guillebeaux Martin, 1969, Educator, ETHS administrator, community volunteer
- Dr. Michael Werner, 1959, Astrophysicist, Project Scientist/NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope/Jet Propulsion Lab.

### December 2009

- Dr. Philip B. Gorelick, 1970, Neurologist, leader in stroke prevention
- Thomas G. Murdough, 1957, Entrepreneur, philanthropist
- Dr. Edward S. Traisman, 1975, Pediatrician

### December 2010

- Barbara A. Boyd, 1947, Award-winning journalist and news anchor
- Dr. George M. Bridgeforth, M.D., 1972, Medical doctor, author
- Eddie Doucette, 1955, Sports broadcaster/marketing ambassador
- George Weisz, 1969, Legislator, governors'/mayor's policy advisor

### December 2011

- Scott Burris, 1975, Lawyer, public health policy advocate
- Bob Cranshaw, 1952, Renowned jazz bassist
- Dr. Joseph D. Croft, 1954, M.D., advocate for patients with rheumatic diseases
- Rita Sallis, 1972, Principal/Yucaipa Companies, Deputy Comptroller-Chief Investment Officer/City of New York, philanthropist

### December 2012

- Gene Bell, 1950, Helped found sports league Fellowship of Afro-American Men (FAAM)
- Dr. William Cross, 1959, Theorist on black identity development
- Jeffrey Gettleman, 1989, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
- The Hon. James Zagel, 1958, Federal judge, attorney
- Dr. Faith Vilas, 1969, Chief Scientist/NASA Planetary Data System

### December 2013

- Dr. Iva Elaine Johnson Carruthers, 1963, Educator, educational software innovator, social justice leader
- The Hon. John M. Ferren, 1965, Sr. Appeals Court Judge, civil rights advocate
- Jeremy Piven, 1983, Actor, philanthropist
- Joseph Saunders, 1963, Retired CEO of VISA, Chair of Teach for All
- Eric (Astro) Teller, 1988, Technology industry phenom, science/technology innovator

### January 2015

- Cleopatra Bugelas Alexander, 1966, Community leader, philanthropist, arts/education advocate
- Henry Engelhardt, 1975, Admiral Group CEO, UK insurance industry leader, Moondance Fdn. founder
- David Epstein, 1998, Reporter/author focused on science/sports,
- Willie Miller, 1971, Attorney, corporate/community leader with FAAM, ETHS school board member
- Jack Rakove, 1964, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, constitutional law/American history expert
- Neal Wolin, 1979, Corporate/government leader, served as Sec'y of U.S. Treasury

### December 2016

- Steven Gilford, 1970, Attorney, Vice-Chair of IL State Board of Education, ETHS school board member
- Tanika Island, 1991, Managing Director at U of Chicago Urban Education Inst., education leader
- Gregory Klaiber, 1978, Retired Evanston Fire Chief, community leader, Northwestern U's emergency mgmt. director

- Megan Twohey, 1994, Award-winning investigative journalist
- Lynne Williams Twist, 1963, Global visionary fighting hunger/poverty, social justice supporter

### December 2017

- Ken Arlen, 1971, Internat'lly known saxophonist/band leader, philanthropist, music industry leader
- Edwin (Skip) Gage, 1959, Marketing/travel/hospitality world leader
- Roberta Gassman, 1966, Government labor leader at federal/state level, community leader
- Donald Rubin, 1961, Noted Harvard U statistics professor, World-cited/prolific author
- Amie Wilkinson, 1985, World-recognized math dynamical systems expert, U of Chicago math professor
- Dr. Isabella Garnett, born in Evanston 1872, one of 1<sup>st</sup> African-American female physicians in IL, founded Evanston's Community Hospital for African-Americans
- Elizabeth "Betsy" Wood Knapp, 1960, Pioneer in online interactive computer software, angel investor, philanthropist

### December 2018

- David Baskin, 2008, Founder/CEO of Ani Shlishi, used-clothing and vocational training enterprise for Israeli at-risk youth
- Pam Cytrynbaum, 1984, journalist, educator focused on criminal justice and wrongful conviction
- Anna Lembke, 1985, medical doctor, Stanford Asst. Professor of Psychiatry/Behavioral Science, opioid addiction expert
- Robert Reece, 1964, businessman; key, award-winning community leader in Evanston
- Fred Hutchinson Jr., 1932, self-taught aviator, trainer of Black military cadets at Tuskegee for WWII service, Congressional Gold Medal awardee
- Dr. Warren Frank Spencer, 1932, medical doctor, one of first African Americans to earn M.D. degree from Northwestern U, practiced in Evanston and Chicago

### November 2019

- Josephine Allen, 1991, Cardio-vascular researcher on impact of space travel on the human heart
- Austin Brown, 2003, Co-Head of Basketball/CAA Sports, fosters professional athletes to do community involvement
- Martin Cohen, 1969, Leading expert on energy policy, artist, political activist
- Morris "Dino" Robinson Jr., 1985, Founder of Shorefront Legacy Center, historian, community archivist, artist
- Frances Tietov, 1962, Principal harpist/St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, leader for women's equal rights in orchestras

## The KIT Newsletter of the ETHS Alumni Assn.

### Alumni Assn. Officers

Avery Mayne '08  
*President*  
Doug Nickels '72  
*Vice President*  
Nicole Marks '85  
*Secretary*  
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### ETHS Superintendent

Dr. Eric Witherspoon  
  
David Futransky '69  
*Senior Manager, Institutional Advancement*  
Kathy Dalgety Miehl '64  
*Editor, The KIT*

**ETHS Alumni Assn. • 1600 Dodge Ave.,  
Evanston, IL 60201**



## ETHS students help create a public mural

A new mural entitled “Fluent Foundations” is now on display in downtown Evanston at the Grove Street Metra underpass. ETHS students, including **Mayerli Collantes Cook, Ailsa Caughran, Caroline Roche, and Saige Severin** worked closely with Chicago muralist Molly Zakrajsek, along with students from Beacon Academy and Roycemore School, to design and paint the piece.

“Fluent Foundations” was created to exhibit a sense of harmony, energy, and

connectivity. According to Zakrajsek, who led the mural project, “Art has the ability to plant seeds of optimism deep into the human psyche.”

According to Marla Seibold, ETHS art teacher: “This mural is an opportunity for the Painting and Advanced Placement art students from ETHS to participate in a large-scale community mural project.” Seibold continued: “The aim of the mural is to bridge communities, provide beautification, and create a space for the

students to collaboratively express themselves creatively. The mural invites imagery that relates to hope and positivity for one’s path ahead in life.”

The mural was celebrated by the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 19 and is one of many pieces curated by Art Encounter, a non-profit organization responsible for the Evanston Mural Arts Program. Project sponsors for the mural included the Evanston Community Foundation, ETHS Alumni Association, and Teska Associates, Inc.



Street mural ribbon-cutting on October 19 with Chicago muralist Molly Zakrajsek (center). Students pictured (from left): Saige Severin, Caroline Roche, Ailsa Caughran, and Mayerli Collantes Cook.

## 2020 Fall, Winter Sports

by Dennis Mahoney, ETHS Sports Information Director

The abrupt ending to the basketball seasons for Evanston teams—both boys and girls—overshadowed the team and individual success enjoyed by Wildkit athletes in cross country, swimming and diving, wrestling, field hockey, and boys and girls bowling during the 2019-20 school year.

Both the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams were ranked in the top 10 in the state all season. The girls’ squad, seeking only the second trip to the state finals in the program’s history, was denied in an overtime loss to defending state champion Maine West in the sectional championship game. Even more stunning was the cancellation of the boys’ state basketball tournament due to the coronavirus pandemic that swept the U.S. and the world in March. Coach Mike Ellis’s team, poised to possibly earn their third straight trip to the Final Four, instead was sidelined when Illinois High School Association officials made their decision just one day before ETHS was scheduled to play Loyola Academy in the sectional championship game.

### GIRLS’ CROSS COUNTRY

ETHS junior **Hope Leman** turned in one of the best state final performances in Evanston’s girls’ cross country program, finishing 27<sup>th</sup> overall at the Class 3A state meet held in Peo-

ria. She just missed, by 2 places, an All-State designation with her finish, but established a personal best time of 17 minutes, 22.11 seconds over the 3-mile test.

Only four Evanston runners—**Enyaeva Michelin** (2<sup>nd</sup> in 2017), **Stephanie Goodrich** (10<sup>th</sup> in 1991, 18<sup>th</sup> in 1990), **Amy Simon** (13<sup>th</sup> in 1980), and **Kathy McCray** (24<sup>th</sup> in 1979)—have placed higher since the state series was first initiated in 1979. The ETHS junior also made the trip to Peoria as a freshman competing for Deerfield. Leman didn’t do any organized distance running before entering Deerfield as a freshman. She had a plan in place for her high school career, which also included full participation with the marching band once she transferred to ETHS after her freshman year. Now she’s not just part of that community, she’s the leader of the pack.

### BOYS’ GOLF

**Campbell Wagener** needed a playoff just to make the postseason starting lineup for Evanston’s golf team. At the Glenbrook North Sectional, he scored a par on the second playoff hole and claimed one of the 10 individual qualifying berths. At the same time, he felt the pain of eliminating a fellow teammate—**Peter Barbato**—in that playoff. Wagener, Barbato, and Griffin Pohl of Lyons Township all carded

77s to force a playoff for the final 2 state spots. Pohl clinched his berth on the first playoff hole, leaving ETHS teammates Wagener and Barbato in a winner-take-all scenario from then on. Wagener emerged as the survivor after Barbato scored a bogey on the No. 2 par-4 hole and Wagener tapped in a 3-foot final putt for his trip to the state finals. At the state finals, Wagener shot an 87 and didn’t make the qualifying cut for the final day of competition. He shot par golf on 5 holes but couldn’t maintain that pace.

### GIRLS’ SWIMMING AND DIVING

Evanston’s young team placed back in the pack at the state finals, unable to keep up the scorching pace they set the previous weekend that included two school record relay performances at the Highland Park Sectional qualifying meet. At the state final meet hosted by New Trier, junior **Erin Long** earned 10<sup>th</sup> place in the 200-yard freestyle event and the ETHS 400-yard freestyle relay team of Long, **Mackenzie Tucker, Lily Consiglio, and Samantha Rhodes** added a 12<sup>th</sup> place effort to account for Evanston’s points.

Considering that Evanston established 3 new school records at the sectional, it wasn’t exactly a shock that the Wildkit girls couldn’t keep up that fast pace. Head coach Kevin Auger

refused to characterize Evanston’s 31<sup>st</sup> place finish at State as less than a success, even though the Wildkits had designs on a top 10 finish coming off that torrid sectional.

### BOYS’ SOCCER

Evanston’s 7<sup>th</sup> straight appearance in the 3A sectional championship game ended in more postseason frustration as the Wildkits dropped a 2-1 decision to Saint Patrick. The Wildkits dialed up more pressure in the second half but went to the sidelines with a final outstanding record of 18-2-2. And head coach Franz Calixte admitted that his squad might have shown the Shamrocks, who also eliminated ETHS in the 2018 state playoffs, too much respect.

### GIRL’S’ FIELD HOCKEY

Despite a season-ending 3-1 loss to Glenbrook South in the first round of sectionals, Evanston’s field hockey squad finished with a winning record (7 wins, 6 losses) for the first time in program history.

First-year head coach Jenner Johnson led a program that is still in its infancy and will return 9 sophomores and 6 juniors. Several of Evanston’s wins came against more established programs as the Wildkits, led by senior co-captains **Natalie Ward** and **Phoebe Porter**, didn’t back down against anyone.

### FOOTBALL

A roller coaster of a season saw the ‘Kits’ string of four straight appearances in the state playoffs snapped. Evanston scored an impressive 38-0 rout of St. Patrick in the season opener, but couldn’t muster the consistency to even win back-to-back games in a disappointing 3-6 season.

Said Coach Mike Burzawa: “We had a lot of growing pains this year on offense and we never got to play what I call complementary football, we never got to work off each other on offense and defense and special teams. You have to complement each other to win football games, and we never did that.”

Evanston started a sophomore at quarterback, **Sean Cruz**, for the first time in program history and he responded by throwing 9 touch-down passes in 9 games. But hip and foot injuries caused senior running back **Quadre Nicholson** to miss the first half of the season and the ‘Kits never really established a running game until he returned to the lineup. He finished with more than 2,000 yards rushing in his career, one of the few in ETHS history to accomplish that feat.

*Continued on page 10*

## WINTER SPORTS

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

A senior class that aimed higher than any previous class in the program fell short of a trip to the state finals after bowing 42-41 in overtime in a sectional final against nemesis Maine West. Coach Brittany Johnson's squad achieved almost every goal during the regular season, but after stumbling down the stretch with losses to state-ranked teams, couldn't get past West when it mattered most.

The Wildkits had possession at the end of regulation and at the end of the overtime, but couldn't convert a final shot and finished 24-7 overall. It marked the end of their high school careers for 7 seniors, including all-conference selections **Kayla Henning, Ambrea Gentle** and **Jayla Turchin**. Henning was selected Player of the Year in the Central Suburban League South division and became only the second player in program history to surpass 1,000 points in her career.

The Wildkit girls earned their fourth straight conference championship during the regular season and also captured the title at the prestigious Montini Holiday Tournament, regarded as the toughest girls' tourney in Illinois.

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

As a teacher and coach, Mike Ellis couldn't help but give his basketball team a grade of A after compiling a 29-4 win-loss record against one of the toughest schedules in school history. But the final grade will really read as "incomplete" as Evanston's season was cut short by the deadly pandemic in March. It marked the first time in the history of the tournament that the IHSA has had to take



Isaiah Holden, Jake Vasilias, Mackenzie Brewer, De'Vaughn Bell, Jerome Smith "Jigga", Kyle Wilson, Jack Tully, and Mike Ellis. Evanston vs. Hamilton "E-TOWN Showdown" at Northwestern University. Photo by Luke Hales.

such drastic action. Even the fact that all five starters for the Wildkits—**Blake Peters, Jaylin Gibson, Isaiah Holden, Elijah Bull,** and **Daeshawn Hemp-hill**—are juniors and will return next season was little consolation for the abrupt end to ETHS's bid to reach the Final Four for an unprecedented third straight season.

Said Ellis: "The IHSA had the social responsibility to try to limit the spread of the virus. This season will always be an open book now. There's no final chapter."

Evanston earned at least a share of the Central Suburban League South division championship for the sixth year in a row. Peters, Gibson and Holden were all selected to the all-conference team. The Wildkits also won their 7<sup>th</sup> regional crown in a row, then defeated Glenbrook South in the sectional semifinals to qualify for a spot in the finals.

### WRESTLING

Warriors belong on the awards podium, and Evanston hasn't had many wrestlers in the program's history who represent that winning spirit better than **Ricardo Salinas**. And the best may be yet to come for the Evanston junior, who scored a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the Class 3A individual state tournament in the 170-lb. weight class.

The son of ETHS head wrestling coach Rudy Salinas earned his first state finals medal by winning 4 of 6 matches against the state's elite grapplers and became only the second wrestler in ETHS history to earn 50 victories in a single season. He finished with a 50-5 won-loss mark, second only to the 53-0 chalked up by 220-lb. state champ Ramin Abraham last year.

The younger Salinas has developed a knack for finding ways to win on the mat throughout his career and has climbed to 6<sup>th</sup> place all-time on the win list at Evanston. He needs only 26 more victories to surpass the current career leader, older brother **Rafael Salinas**.

### BOYS' BOWLING

Like he does at the end of most freshman soccer seasons, **Harold Bailey '83** made a pitch for his players to also consider playing another sport—like bowling. The Evanston coach didn't know he was putting **Zev Grodzin** on the path to becoming a pioneer in that program.

Grodzin became the first Wildkit bowler to advance to the final day of the state tournament and finished in 59<sup>th</sup> place overall at the 2-day tournament in O'Fallon. Grodzin, a senior, was only the second player in program history to qualify for state and averaged a score of

almost exactly 200 over 12 games, with a total pin-fall of 2,408.

### GIRLS' BOWLING

A mechanical breakdown that caused a delay at the Central Suburban League championship tournament may have cost the Evanston girls' bowling team an outright league title. But the Wildkits still made program history, finishing in a 3-way tie for the title with Vernon Hills and New Trier.

Evanston's pinfall of 5,017 trailed only Vernon Hills total of 5,063 at the tournament. Head coach **Ray Austin '72** will always wonder if his team's momentum was derailed late in the competition before the 'Kits settled for a share of the championship.

### BOYS' SWIMMING AND DIVING

Evanston sophomore **Aryeh Lesch** climbed five spots in the diving competition and scored a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish at the state finals. Teammate **Brendan Long** (11<sup>th</sup> in the 500-yard freestyle in 4:41.76) and the 200 freestyle relay team of **John Martin, Charlie Herrick, Aaron Martin,** and **Charlie Duffy** (9<sup>th</sup> in 1:26.04) also moved up after the first day of preliminary competition, but it was Lesch who was the headliner. The sophomore standout, who never competed in the sport until he started high school, now ranks among the state's elite after squeaking into the finals with the 12<sup>th</sup> best prelim and semifinal score.

### GIRLS' GYMNASTICS

Senior **Jamie Otwell** earned Evanston's first regional gymnastics championship since 1999 and advanced to the state sectionals for the fourth year in a row. She fell short the next week in her bid to reach the state finals, but only after capturing the floor exercise title at the regional with a score of 9.1. She's the first ETHS gymnast to win a regional gold since **Liz Iacuzzi '99** won the uneven bars and all-around competition her senior year. Otwell also qualified for the sectional on bars (tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place), balance beam (3<sup>rd</sup>), vault (5<sup>th</sup>) and all-around (2<sup>nd</sup>) and sophomore teammate **Ava Axelrood** also punched a ticket for the sectional on balance beam (2<sup>nd</sup>) and all-around (5<sup>th</sup>).

## SPRING SPORTS

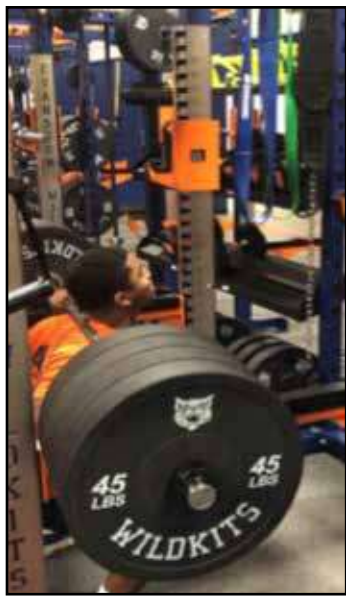
On April 21, the Illinois High School Association announced the cancellation of the spring sports season. This follows Gov. J.B. Pritzker's decision on April 17 to keep school buildings closed statewide throughout the rest of the school year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Craig Anderson, IHSA Executive Director: "Given the logistics, we simply felt we could not conduct state tournaments that meet the expectations of our member schools this spring. As disappointing as it may be for students, it is the right decision for their health and safety, as well as for the health and safety of the general public..."

Keep in Touch  
with the  
ETHS Alumni Association

Email — [Alumni@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:Alumni@eths.k12.il.us)  
Phone — At ETHS: 847-424-7704  
Facebook — [Facebook.com/ethsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/ethsalumni)  
Twitter — [Twitter.com/ethsalumni](https://www.twitter.com/ethsalumni)

## Sports Specific Training helps students train individually, even at home



Sports Specific Training (SST) is a new course this year that takes advantage of the new Wildkit Wellness and Performance facility that opened last fall. The first semester provided students with an orientation to the Center, including a new perspective and approach to training in Physical Education.

As the semester progressed, students were provided with incremental

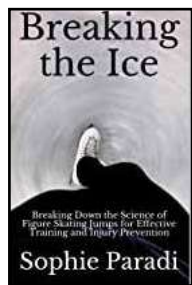
instruction on both workout execution and the science behind strength and conditioning training. The semester culminated with an exam in which students built and created their own training plan that included a scientific rationale behind the program design.

The success of the first semester has made way for the next steps in curriculum design for the SST course. Through an intensive individual fitness evaluation, the staff and students have collaborated and built student-specific training plans. The students are then challenged to take personal responsibility by executing their fitness plan and tracking their daily progress.

The instructors will continue to meet individually throughout the remainder of the school year, even remotely, to assess progress and adjust as needed to make this the best ex-

perience for each student that partakes in the Sport Specific Training class.

### The Science of Figure Skating



Sophie Paradi is currently a student in the SST class and is a great example of the

individualized learning that is occurring within the course. Sophie is unique in that she is already an author of a book that breaks down the science of figure skating. During the SST class Sophie has been able to design and enter her own workouts in AthleticU and perform them on a daily basis in the new Wildkit Center.

With her unique background and coaching experience she is able to take advantage of instructional

class time in a way that is uniquely beneficial to her. Our Strength and Conditioning Specialist and PE Instructors have been able to develop a curriculum that is individualized to her meet specific training needs. Sophie has been able to take advantage of the allotted class time during the day that has resulted in her ability to take personal ownership of her training and reach new levels of success.

### Dominique's Success

Another student, **Dominique Bahombwa**, has found a new home in the Wildkit Wellness and Performance. He was born in a Tanzanian refugee camp 18 years ago after his parents fled war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Dominique is currently enrolled in the SST course and has truly found a sense of belonging here at ETHS. He has taken advantage of his opportunity



to work incredibly hard in SST class, eagerly learning new exercises and training during class and after school. Some of his impressive stats: Back Squat 115x3 to 185x3 and Bench Press 115x3 to 145x3. We are extremely proud of his accomplishments and his commitment to lifelong wellness.

By Mark Feldner, Strength/Conditioning Specialist, and Meghan Koons, PE Administrative Assistant. Photo by Ozzie Ramsey

## Class Notes

### 1940s

See **Andy Lareau '71** about **Janet Procter Lareau '48**.

### 1960s

**Craig Plassmeyer '63** and his wife, Joan, sold their Home Health Nursing business in March 2018 and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in December 2017. They still maintain a house in Thousand Oaks, CA, since their 4 children and 5 grandkids all live nearby. He said he enjoyed this past Thanksgiving at Big Bear Lake in CA, even though they were snowed in with 3-feet of snow and 6-foot drifts. Craig started a yacht charter business in 2014 that he relocated to FL in 2016. His fleet consists of a 115-foot Benetti motoryacht named "Siete" and a 92-foot Horizon motoryacht named "Belisarius" with a fishing cockpit. Both yachts have clients who are "A-list" celebrities, with Belisarius having appeared in commercials and TV shows. Over the past decade Craig and Joan have traveled the world: Mediterranean, Europe, Baltic, South America,

Caribbean, and Asia. He has also visited 45 out of 50 United States.

**David G Scott '66** released his comedy CD, *Let Me Give You a F'rinstance!* Go here for some sound bites, and/or to download a copy: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/davidgscott>. CDs are available from David. Contact him at: [DavidGScottCleanComedy@gmail.com](mailto:DavidGScottCleanComedy@gmail.com). Go, Wildkits!

**Holly Zweigler Schroeder '61** has moved out of Arizona permanently. "I find Florida absolutely beautiful, so lush with foliage, plenty of humidity and lots of aquatic birds. My daughter lives nearby in Windermere, just outside of Orlando. Haven't ventured over to Walt DisneyWorld as of yet. Maybe next spring. I send greetings to all members of the Class of 1961. Please make certain that I am not deluged with phone calls from persons who have no interest in my welfare."

### 1970s

**Andre (Andy) Lareau '71** was going through

his mom's scrapbook and came across a page from the June 11, 1948, *Evanstonian*. He writes, "I was very surprised to read that my mom, **Janet Procter (now Janet Lareau) '48**, wrote the Class Song for the Class of 1948: "As we depart from Evanston we look back o'er the years, We see again the laughter, the pleasures and the tears. We wear your colors proudly, we praise your shining name, We sing to you our Evanston, of glory and of fame. We laud you, our dear Evanston, we'll make your honor true, And always through the passing years we shall remember you!"

She went on to study music at Rockford College and Northwestern. Mom will be 90-years young this June. **Pierre James (Bud) Lareau, '45**, served in the US Army in WWII and passed away in 1980.

**Ronald Sorkin '71** relocated to Southeast Florida with his wife, Carey Jacobs Sorkin, in June 2014. Carey grew up in

Glencoe and is a 1982 New Trier West grad. They have three daughters: **Rachel Sorkin-French ETHS '11**, who is a US Marines Sergeant and lives in San Diego; **Sarah Sorkin '12**, who just introduced a new daughter to the world (Siena Marie, born 10/22/2019), and lives with her parents in Sunrise, FL; and their eldest daughter, Kelly Frost, age 34, who lives in the Florida Keys. She has four kids that live in Mississippi.

### 1980s

**Frances Chiu '81**, who lives in West Hartford, CT, just completed the first textbook on Thomas Paine's Rights of Man for Routledge. It was scheduled for publication in March 2020. Frances is a graduate of Smith College (A.B.), Northwestern University (M.A.), and Oxford University (Ph.D). She teaches at The New School in New York, NY.

**Andrew Nelson '87** has been promoted to Director, National Accounts at Hitachi Healthcare Americas. He has responsibility for

North American radiology imaging equipment sales in MRI, CT and Ultrasound. Andrew credits his successful 20+ years in the radiology field by having a very strong math & science foundation at ETHS. After highschool, Andrew graduated with honors from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. When not working, Andrew enjoys competing in slalom waterski events and the vibrant Cincinnati Art community with his wife Lisa.

**Jeffrey Grossman '87**, the Morton & Claire Goulder and Family Professor in Environmental Systems and MacVicar Faculty fellow, has been appointed head of the Dept. of Materials Science & Engineering at MIT. Grossman has a PhD in theoretical physics from the U of IL and performed postdoc work at the UC-Berkeley. He was a Lawrence Fellow at Lawrence Livermore National Lab and returned to Berkeley as director of a Nanoscience Center and head of the Computational

Cont. on page 12

Nanoscience research group, with a focus on energy applications. In fall 2009, he joined MIT, where he has developed a research program known for its contributions to energy conversion, energy storage, membranes, and clean-water technologies. In recognition of his contributions to engineering education, Grossman received the Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching, as well as being named an American Physical Society fellow. He has published more than 200 scientific papers, holds 17 U.S. patents, and co-founded a company, Via Separations, to commercialize graphene-oxide membranes.

### Allison Wildes '86

recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of her business, *Elegant Engagements of Cape Cod*, a wedding design, planning and coordination agency located in Massachusetts. Her creativity and success has been recognized regionally in Boston and Newport publications and featured nationally on event industry websites and blogs. Allison has taught Event Management courses and is on the board of the Cape Cod Wedding Committee and an active member of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. Allison adopted three children have now graduated from Lesley U, Tufts, and Boston U. She lives on Cape Cod with her youngest son, currently 17 yrs old, who attends an International Baccalaureate charter school for music & art. Visit her website [ee-capecod.com](http://ee-capecod.com) or instagram [@eecapecod](https://www.instagram.com/eecapecod).

### 1990s

Comedian, author, and blogger **Samantha Irby '97's** most recent book *Wow, No Thank You*, a collection of essays, was released in March and already is on bestseller lists. Her first book *Meaty* will be adapted into a television show. Plans to shoot the pilot in Chicago are underway. She lives in Kalamazoo, MI, with her wife.

### Rebecca Pontikes '90

owns a small civil rights and employment law firm, Pontikes Law LLC. It specializes in issues particular to gender: sexual harass-

ment and assault, family responsibilities (also called caregiver) discrimination, gender pay inequality, and pregnancy accommodation and discrimination. She said: "I was recently featured in a short film by students at Harvard Law School in partnership with the *Boston Globe*. I spoke about accommodating pregnant women in the workplace. It is part of the *Boston Globe's* Legal Lens series.

### 2000s

Award-winning actress **Jessie Mueller '01** recently participated in the live-streamed fundraiser "Chicago Offstage! Live at Home" to aid Season of Concern that supports local theater artists in distress. She sang "What's Inside," her signature song from *Waitress* for which she was nominated for several theatrical awards, including the Tony, for Best Actress in a Musical. Jessie won a Tony Award in that category for her portrayal of Carole King in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. She currently is slated to star alongside Tracy Letts and Armie Hammer in the play *The Minutes* on Broadway once theaters in NYC now closed due to coronavirus reopen.

**Beni Keowan '19**, who attends Northwestern University, was among 18,000+ college students who took an online quiz to become a contestant on the "Jeopardy!" quiz show; 250 were invited to regional tryouts, and 15 were invited to Culver City in February to compete for a grand prize of \$100,000. Beni was the only college freshman to make it. He made it to the final round of the semi-final game, but sadly gave the wrong answer to the prompt, "This word for a concept in Eastern religion comes from Latin roots for 'made in flesh' and 'again'." His answer was "orthodox," which was incorrect (the answer was "reincarnation").

Two ETHS graduates, Class of **2016—Isaac Lichter and Nick O'Brien**—have invented a new cell-phone case that will help kill coronavirus and other bacterial diseases. Lichter and O'Brien,



In December, **Romeo Tran**, ETHS class of **2013**, emailed the ETHS

alumni office with news about himself and a request. "I'm currently deployed in Afghanistan," he wrote. "Is there any way y'all can send a care package to help me boost my moral. It's been hard out here, and I am feeling a bit home sick."

Sarah Schmidt, Associate Executive Director of the ETHS Foundation, happily responded, asked for his shirt size, and immediately sent off a t-shirt proudly stating "I Still Bleed Orange and Blue."

Tran wrote back, telling all that's new with him. "I'm currently in Afghanistan. I'm a Sgt. in process of a promotion to Staff Sgt. I've been in [the military] for about 6 years with an additional 3 years left. I have been on active duty, stationed in NC.

"I am part of an airborne unit. So I jump out of



planes as well as train, mentor, and lead other soldiers to accomplish missions. Besides being trained in countless other duties, my official job is a culinary specialist. The army has taught me amazing culinary techniques and food handling safety standards. I plan to use what I learned and open a successful business in a competitive city like ours.

"Being enlisted has taught me a lot about life and opened my eyes to who I want to be and where I want to go in life.

"Sadly, a few months ago, a fellow Chicagoan within my division passed away while out here. I knew him very little, but it's hard knowing someone that you see often will not be around anymore. It's dangerous and scary out here. But, I am lucky to have a wonderful family and

friends to support me when things get tough.

"Being a soldier gave me a sense of purpose and a drive to protect those closest to my heart no matter the cost.

"I'm proud to see other classmates from '13 within the service, too. Either navy, air force, national guard, Marines, or reservist, we all are trying to do our part to keep the conflict away from our backyard and make Evanston a place to return to."

Here's Tran's most recent address:

Tran, Romeo  
D Trp/ 5-73 CAV  
FOB Dahlke  
APO AE 09322

His email address is [romeo\\_tran8606@yahoo.com](mailto:romeo_tran8606@yahoo.com).

Schmidt said sending a care package to our alumni in the military is the least we can do to help cheer them and let them know that ETHS cares about them. If you are interested, please contact her at [schmidts@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:schmidts@eths.k12.il.us).

now students at Vanderbilt University, and another student came across an article about the power of copper to provide long-lasting antibacterial activity and inhibit the buildup of disease-causing bacteria. After intense research into the science that supports this claim, they chose to apply a copper alloy to something most people carry around with them: their cell phones. They founded Aeris (which means copper in Latin) to manufacture their new germ-resistant phone case. And now for every sale of their Copper Case, they donate one to a medical worker.



*Evanstonian* staff writer **Sarah Parisien '20** (at L) had the opportunity to interview ETHS Distinguished Alumni **Megan Twohey '94**, 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* reporter and author

of the best-seller *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement*. Twohey was in town for a community presentation hosted at ETHS by the Family Action Network. "My reporting partner and co-author, Jodi Kantor, and I have traveled all across the country," Twohey told North By Northwestern. "But I have to say that this event, being back at my high school, being back in this auditorium, feels the most special of anything we've done so far," she added.

**Grace Naqui '19** (at L) worked for Pete Buttigieg's presidential campaign as a campus coordinator at Boston University (where she goes to school), and, coincidentally, for the New Hampshire co-chair of the campaign, **Maura Sullivan '97**. They met at an event in Keene, NH.

# In Memory

## 1930

Ruth Burchmore Kelly, 1936, died in 2011

## 1940

Norma Herchenrider, 1940, 8/11/2015  
 Betty Lanisus, 1941, 5/18/2019  
 Elizabeth Shanesy Kiralis, 1941, 12/2017  
 Stuart Allen Evans, 1941, 1/13/2020  
 Albert E. Norman, Jr., 1942, 11/4/2019  
 Franz Hildebrecht, 1942, 11/10/2019  
 James Cameron, 1943, January 2019  
 Audrey Gunnerson Truss, 1944, 3/6/2020  
 Ruth Kerr Auburn, 1944, 8/18/2019  
 Charlotte Poeppel Latham, 1944, 3/19/2017  
 Charlene Ferris Palm, 1945, 12/18/2019  
 James MacDonald Stormont, 1945, 3/29/2020  
 John "Jack" King, 1946, December 2018  
 Walter Burr, 1947, 1/18/2018  
 Carol Swanson Ipijan, 1948, April 2019  
**Ruth Dell Thiel, 1948, 10/27/2019\***  
 Marjorie Gillett Myers, 1948, 12/27/2019

## 1950

Richard Stickrod, 1950, died in 2020  
 Rosamund Brown Sanders, 1950, 12/2019  
 Jane Erickson Blochwitz, 1951, 12/23/2019  
 Samuel John Lang, 1951, 6/23/2017  
 John F. Rowley, 1951, 6/14/2015  
 George G. Klimpke, 1952, 6/14/2019  
 Richard 'Dick' Mason, 1953, 11/7/2019  
 Dick Kindig, 1954, 11/1/2019  
 John (Jack) Brewer, 1956, 3/15/2020  
 Ellen Abrahamson, 1956, 11/9/2019  
 Bruce Goodhart, 1956, 4/14/2020  
 Spencer Scott Willison, 1957, 11/2015  
 Neil Kramer, 1958, 9/14/17  
**Edwin C. "Skip" Gage III, 1959, 2/26/2020\***

## 1960

Valerie Halla, 1960, died in 2016  
 Harry Wyatt Jr, 1961, 3/8/ 2019  
 John Charles Seyer, 1961, 11/28/2019  
 Robert W. Smith, 1961, 1/31/2020  
 Linda Heath Lauer, 1963, 2/6/2020  
 Jaclyn Tipp, 1964, 2/6/2020  
 Ilene Katz Lowenthal, 1964, 11/5/2019  
 Marvin Gross, 1965, 11/6/2019  
 Sidney R. Caselberry, 1965, 1/9/2020  
 Daryle Johnson, 1966, 11/2018  
 Merideth Stewart, 1967, 10/21/2018  
 Richard Silberman, 1967, 1/ 28/ 2017  
 Elaine Sternquist Saffold, 1969, 10/8/2018  
 Tom Beck, 1969, 8/2014  
 Robert "Bob" Sheldon, 1969, 1/17/2020

## 1970

Michael Slottow, 1971, 2/26/2014  
 Barbara Woolridge Irving, 1971, 4/2019  
 Joseph Pietrzak, 1972, 3/21/2020  
 Graham Grimes, 1972, 3/20/2020  
 Patrick Wade, 1973, 2/16/2018  
 Diana Lynn Johnson, 1975, 4/5/2020  
 Barry Joel Herschman, 1978, 12/2019

## 1980

Alvin Elton, 1982, 3/22/2020

## 2010

Samuel Wiener, 2013, 3/24/2020

\*

**Ruth Dell Thiel, 1948, served on the Alumni Board as member, President-Elect, and President**

**Skip Gage, 1959, was an ETHS Distinguished Alumni Award winner.**

# Reunion Roundup

## Classes postpone reunions

**Class of '70** decided to postpone their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion until September 9-12 of **2021** due to the continuing threat of COVID-19. The best way to keep track of the Reunion status is by visiting the ETHS Class of 1970 website at [www.eths70.org](http://www.eths70.org).

**Class of '90** is also delaying its 30th reunion from this summer to possibly sometime in **2021** due to the virus. Look for updated information on the class website.

**Class of 2000** intends to hold its Roaring Twentieth reunion, but the reunion will not take place this summer. For future updates, please join the "ETHS Class of 2000 20th Reunion" Facebook group or visit our blog feed at <https://ethsclassof2000.wordpress.com/>.

## Class of '60, maybe Sept., maybe not

Planning for a fall reunion is underway. At this time the committee has not cancelled the reunion. Given the dynamic nature of the healthcare crisis, the timing and scope of our 60th reunion on September 11/12 2020 is unavailable at this time.

We need to protect the health and well-being of our classmates. So over the next few months, we will determine the feasibility of postponing and rescheduling the reunion. We will provide you via email new information as it becomes available.

In the meantime, please email co-chairman Elena Pappas or Alan Graham with your updated emails, address and/or questions. Send to [elenapappas5929@yahoo.com](mailto:elenapappas5929@yahoo.com) or [alan-gr33@comcast.net](mailto:alan-gr33@comcast.net).

## Class of '56 gathers for lunch



Members of the Class of '56, lead by Class Alumni President Tom Hall and former president Sid Condit [standing], celebrated the holidays by enjoying each other's company at its annual seasonal luncheon at Westmoreland County Club last December. Seated from l. to rt. are Jack MacGregor, Paula Will Sbertoli, Mary and Ron Strandberg, Kitty Gustafson, Cornelia Perutz (Marcia Opdyke), Sally Campbell and Sandra Lynne Mock Napolitan. Not shown are Sue Small Ruder, Marge Verhulst Bradford, Juliet Van Pelt Roth, Joy Church Harrison, Stanton Noskin, D.D.S. and Howard I. Richardson. Get ready, mates. Number 63 is only one year (2021) away!

## Class of '64: Dinner in the desert—2020



After applying copious amounts of hand sanitizer and trying to practice social distancing wherever possible, a group of the Class of '64 classmates gathered at Mark and Dale Goldman's home on March 18, 2020, in Cave Creek, Arizona. Many thanks to the Goldman's for allowing us to contaminate their beautiful home. Willie the Wildkit was there in spirit...and we enjoyed a large variety of deli foods. Tasty food, good stories, great friends!

L. to rt.: Fred Brostoff, Shelly Brostoff, Phil Kaplan, Jan Kaplan, Karen Kennedy Lawrence, Mark Goldman, Tristram (Karen's friend), and Hank Gideon (in mask, protecting us from his cold). After dinner, we relaxed and exchanged stories.

**Class of '80** isn't postponing anything. It's just changed it's 40th reunion dates from Oct. 2-4 to **Oct. 16-18, 2020.**



**Wildkit Alumni,**

From all of us at ETHS and the ETHS Foundation, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You share our commitment to equity and excellence. For the past 12+ years, your gifts have enabled the ETHS Foundation to fund many worthwhile enhancements, expanding educational experiences for all our students. And the Foundation plans to fully engage in supporting future advancements on campus.

But we also recognize that if we are truly serious about fulfilling our mission, we need to do everything possible to assist ETHS in addressing immediate needs when they arise. And there is not a more critical time than the challenges confronting the school in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the Governor’s mandate to stay-at-home.

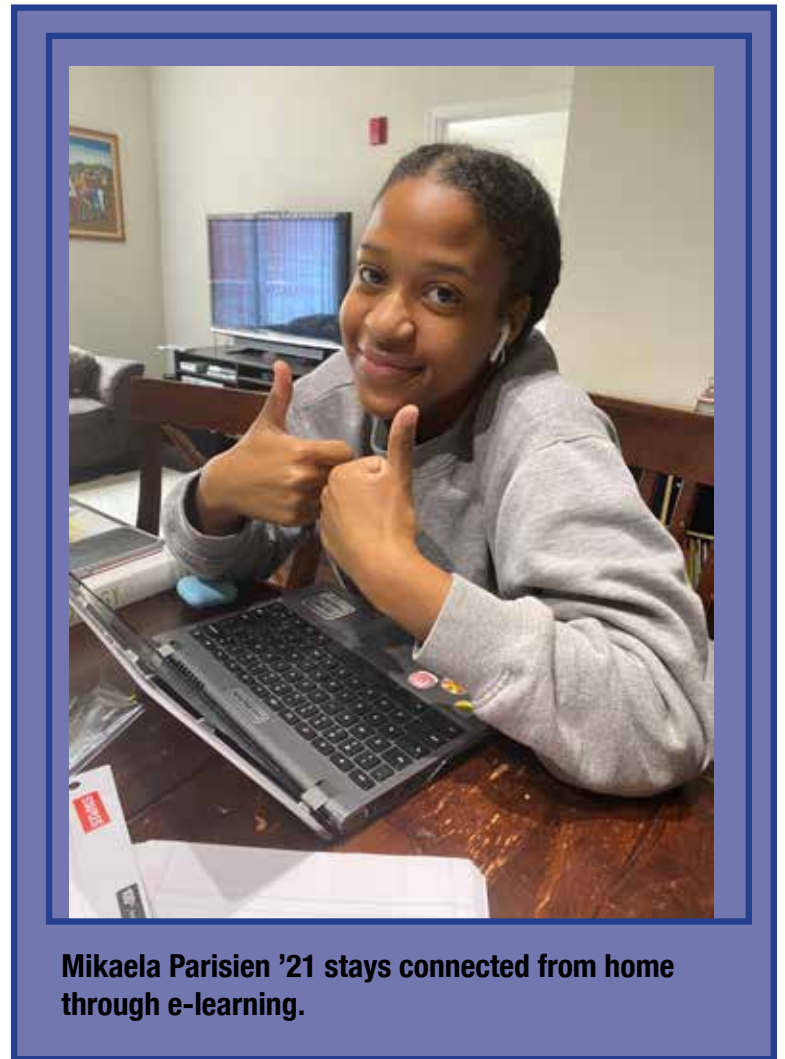
We understand that members of our ETHS alumni family are looking for ways to stay connected and involved in supporting ETHS during these trying times. In response to offers of assistance, the ETHS Foundation has established the **Student Response Fund**. If you wish to make an alumni gift, your support will allow us to provide flexible resources to the District to support the unexpected costs related to distance learning, without depleting critical future educational resources.

The Response Fund will help provide funding for such needs as **food security** (ETHS is providing on average 17,000 grab-and-go meals per week for students ages 1-18), **e-Learning technology** (i.e. Internet hot spots, Chromebooks), and future tutoring and **educational resources to put students back on track**. The ETHS Foundation will work in concert with D202 administrators to determine the areas of greatest need.

Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2020. If you have not made an annual gift or would like to make an additional gift to support this emergency fund, please fill out the contribution form (and mail it to ETHS Foundation, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201) or go online to **supporteths.org**.

With Wildkit gratitude,  
 Kirk Hoopingarner, President, 2019-20  
 & Joanne Bertsche, Executive Director

*P.S. We hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy.*



**Mikaela Parisien '21 stays connected from home through e-learning.**

**My gift in the following amount is enclosed:** (Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized at the Champions for ETHS Giving Levels.)  
 \$10,000    \$5,000    \$2,500    \$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$150    \$50    Other \_\_\_\_\_

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My check payable to the ETHS Foundation is enclosed  
 Please charge my:    Visa    Master Card    American Express

ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me regarding:    making a planned gift    making a stock gift

**Questions:** Contact the ETHS Foundation at (847) 424-7158 or [foundation@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:foundation@eths.k12.il.us)  
 The ETHS Foundation is a 501©3 organization, your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.  
**Donate online at [supporteths.org](http://supporteths.org). THANK YOU!**

**This gift is:**  
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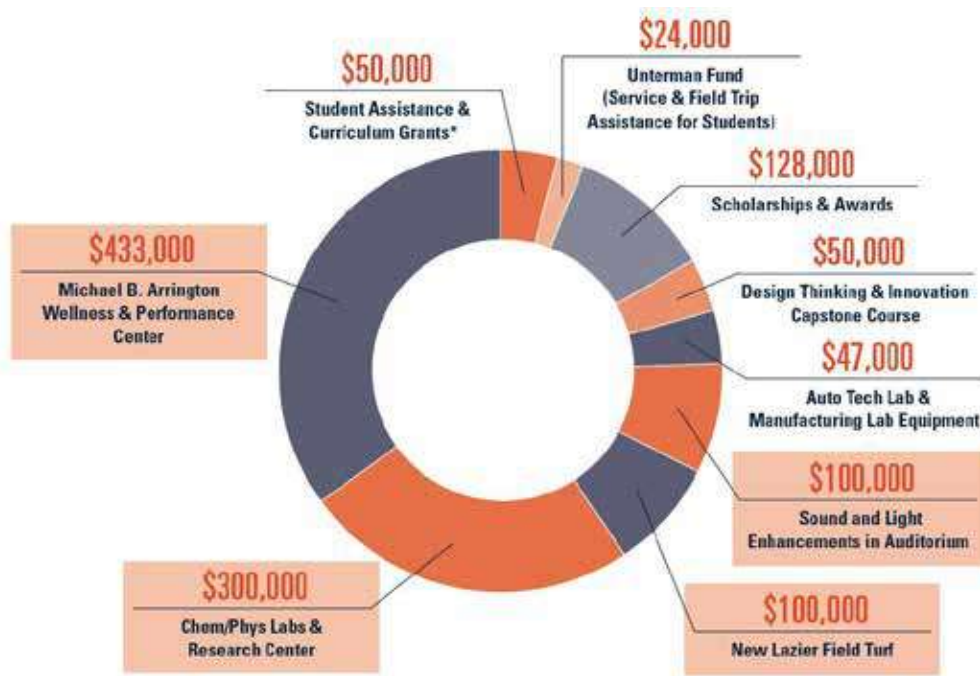
\_\_\_\_\_

Please email [foundation@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:foundation@eths.k12.il.us) to provide us additional information if you would like us to notify the honoree or their family.

## Thank you ETHS Alums – You make a Difference for our Wildkits

Generous alumni, parent, and donor gifts have provided campus enhancements, curriculum grants, student assistance, and scholarships that impact every area of student life.

### ETHS Foundation Funding Impact 2018-19



**ALUMNI**

60,000+ living ETHS Alumni residing in

- All 50 states
- 8 US territories
- 45 countries
- 6 continents

**80%** Total Foundation support that comes from ETHS Alumni

**\$6.9M** *Thank You!*

Total Foundation grants in 12+ year history; over \$5M for new learning spaces and campus advancements

### A WILD Night of Support for ETHS

On Saturday, February 29th, over 300 alumni, parents, faculty and friends of ETHS gathered at Ignite Lounge in Skokie to celebrate and support all Wildkits through WILD for ETHS, the Foundation’s 2020 major fundraiser. Guests enjoyed live music courtesy of Arlen Music Productions and Ken and Nancy Arlen ‘71, food and drinks and even a visit from ETHS mascot Will E. Wildkit.

Through generous sponsorships, donations, and a silent auction and paddle raise, over \$140,000 was raised to support updates to the dated sound and lighting systems in the ETHS Auditorium. These updates will impact all students, guests and community members who utilize this unique Evanston space. We thank you for your support and look forward to making this an annual Wildkit event!



## WILD FOR ETHS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**Arlen Music Productions**

**JEANNE & DAVID HUSAIN**

**CAITLIN & JIM BROWN**

**MARK VEND CO.**

**KEVIN & STEPHANIE KELLY**

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### **WHY IS MY KIT COMING TO “WILDKIT ALUM”?**

You may have looked at the addressee on this issue (and the Spring issue) of *The KIT* and wondered, why is my KIT coming to Wildkit Alum and not to me? The Alumni Office has found we have several thousand duplicate addresses in our 50,000+ data base. In an effort to reduce postage costs, and keep people from getting 2, 3 or more copies of *The KIT* cluttering up their mail, we decided to try and be more efficient. This cuts the paper printing cost as well as postage and allows us to still be able to send the ETHS Alumni newsletter to you.

### **NEWS FLASH: You can help us further reduce costs by having your KIT emailed to you!**

We publish a full-color electronic version (fall and spring), and you can change how you receive your subscription—print or email—by completing the short form at <https://announcements.wufoo.com/forms/kit-by-email-request-form/>