

THE *Eagle Eye*



November 10, 2016

Eagle Ridge Academy

Volume 36 | Issue 5



Executive Director News

JASON ULBRICH

Executive Director

“He who overcomes his fears will truly be free.”

Aristotle

With the publication of this issue of the Eagle Eye, we now have the election results. As I write this article on Monday, Nov. 7, though, I am unaware of them. This election seems to be the most polarizing in my lifetime, and I often hear the term “fear” being used when referring to the future of our country. However, I refuse to fear the future as I know and understand what our country stands for and was built upon, and I trust in our collective wisdom and strength.

On January 9, 1776, Thomas Paine published the pamphlet titled “Common Sense” as a way to grow the patriot cause among the common man. Paine argued that America should secede from Britain and that “reconciliation is now a fallacious dream.” Many along with Thomas Jefferson condemned Paine because of his extremist views. However, Paine’s “extremist” views and courage detailed in “Common Sense” are credited to bringing the American people together around the thoughts that led to the Declaration of Independence.

This is one example of many courageous actions in our brief history. There will be turmoil and disagreement in the present and future, but we will continue to overcome and adapt. At Eagle Ridge Academy, we believe our graduates will be “exemplary and knowledgeable citizens” and are our hope for the future. I would not dedicate my life’s work to this pursuit if I was not hopeful or was overburden with fear.

“*I refuse to fear the future as I know and understand what our country stands for and was built upon, and I trust in our collective wisdom and strength.*

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Lower School Updates

MELANIE BAIER

Principal, School of Grammar



“The greatest virtues are those which are most useful to other persons.” *Aristotle*

We often speak of virtues at Eagle Ridge Academy. We try to impart virtuous knowledge upon students. We know there is more to an education than the acquirement of academic skills and understand to be a truly happy person one must also be a virtuous person. Being virtuous is within us all. A virtue has been described as a natural ability trained to a pitch of excellence. Students at Eagle Ridge Academy not only learn to demonstrate virtuous behaviors, but they learn to identify them in others. They identify them in other students, figures from history, characters from stories, and adults in their lives. They are also quite capable of figuring out when virtues/virtuous behavior is lacking in an individual.

We like to celebrate the expression of virtues in our students with Pillar stickers. It is a simple recognition of the growth of a virtue for a student. Once a month, I draw five Pillar tickets (the back of the sticker) from the jar outside my office and provide a relational reward to the students. Last month, five School of Grammar students took a fall walk outside the building with me. We enjoyed our time together! Mrs. Twetan kindly took a picture of us on our lovely walk. The adults in the building really look forward to these times to build relationships with students. As we know, relationships are the key component in a true Classical Education.

Community Updates



Upper School Updates

ERICA POWELL

Principal, Schools of Logic & Rhetoric

Eagle Ridge Academy offers an academically rigorous, time tested Classical, liberal arts curriculum that prepares students to be exemplary and knowledgeable citizens. Tuesday, Nov. 8 was Election Day, and Eagle Ridge Academy students in grades 5-12 participated in a local election. Students were assigned to one of two polling locations which were staffed by Eagle Ridge Academy juniors and seniors, where they registered and received ballots. The ballots had them vote for President and Vice President, along with U.S. Representative. Results were announced to students on Wednesday morning.



The second Otium Classicum will be taking place on Nov. 16 from 1:20 p.m. until the end of the day. The topic of the Otium Classicum will be "Classical Movies for Classical Teens." We will be showing five different classical movies that students will get to choose which to attend. We will talk briefly about the significance of each movie and its ties to our Classical curriculum. We will also be serving popcorn and beverages. Parents who would like to volunteer to help with Otium Classicum are welcome to contact [Marilyn Strand](#).



Developing Connections

KELLY SCHIFFMAN

Director of Development

The 2016 Fall Gala, "*A Night on Broadway*," is just one week away! Join us on the red carpet on Nov. 18 for a wonderful evening of camaraderie between parents, staff, and community, all coming together for an evening of merriment, a fantastic meal, sensational music, a silent auction, games, a "selfie booth," and incredible program—all to benefit the students of Eagle Ridge Academy! Proceeds from the Gala will support the Academy's new auditorium. In addition, five percent of funds raised will help start up an endowment for the future of Eagle Ridge Academy. We hope you will join us to help make this happen! The registration deadline has been extended to Nov. 11. [Click here to register!](#)

Our online auction will open up on Nov. 11 at 12:00 p.m., with more than 100 wonderful items up for bid including Weekend Getaways, Twins Batting Buddies, teacher experiences, signed sports memorabilia, roller blade packages, hand-made crafts, beauty products, spa packages, dance costumes, golf bag and driver, dining gift cards, Smart Watches, artwork, birthday party packages, theatre tickets, famed book seller and actor-signed books and photos, dining and bakery items, and much more! [You can view the auction items here.](#) The Auction will close on Nov. 17 at 11:00 p.m. so we can prepare for the live event. There are many items that are "Buy Now." All items that are not bought outright will transfer over to the event.

Parents are still welcome to honor a teacher or staff member by ticket donation. We are happy to accept donated tickets for our staff for a cost of \$60 per ticket. You may designate a staff member to attend or donate a ticket to the general pool and we will draw names of those interested in attending.

Unable to attend the Gala?

You can still support the auditorium!

Support the new auditorium or another area of interest at Eagle Ridge Academy with a 100% tax-deductible donation. You may do so in the following ways:

1. **Donate directly through the [Gala Registration](#)** by clicking on "Make an additional donation."
2. **Mail in a donation** (or drop off at school) to Eagle Ridge Academy, Attn: Auditorium Fund, 11111 Bren Road W., Minnetonka, MN 55343.
3. **Donate on [Give to the Max Day on Nov. 17](#).** Scheduled giving period for Give to the Max Day 2016 is underway! All gifts made using GiveMN.org through Nov. 16 will be scheduled to process on Nov. 17, making those donations eligible for all Give to the Max Day prizes! Each hour, on the hour, GiveMN draws one lucky donor and donates cash prizes to the charity to which the donor contributed.

All gifts, no matter the size, make a huge difference! We are grateful to you for your generosity. Questions may be directed to kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org.

Community Updates, continued



Board of Directors Vacancy and Call for Nominations

ANN WATANABE

Board Chair

Due to a recent resignation, there is an opening on the Eagle Ridge Academy Board of Directors for a parent or community member. As indicated by the Academy's Bylaws, the Board of Directors will be appointing a new member to complete the term of the vacated seat. The Governance Work Group is coordinating the process of recruiting candidates and accepting nominations for the Board to consider when making the appointment. To make a nomination of an individual with the competence and vision to be Director for the Academy, please discuss the nomination with that person to ascertain their commitment to [the criteria listed here](#), and then contact the members of the Governance Work Group listed below by Friday, Dec. 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Pete Larson: plarson@eagleridgeacademy.org

John Schwirtz: jschwirtz@eagleridgeacademy.org



Quarter One Progress Reports

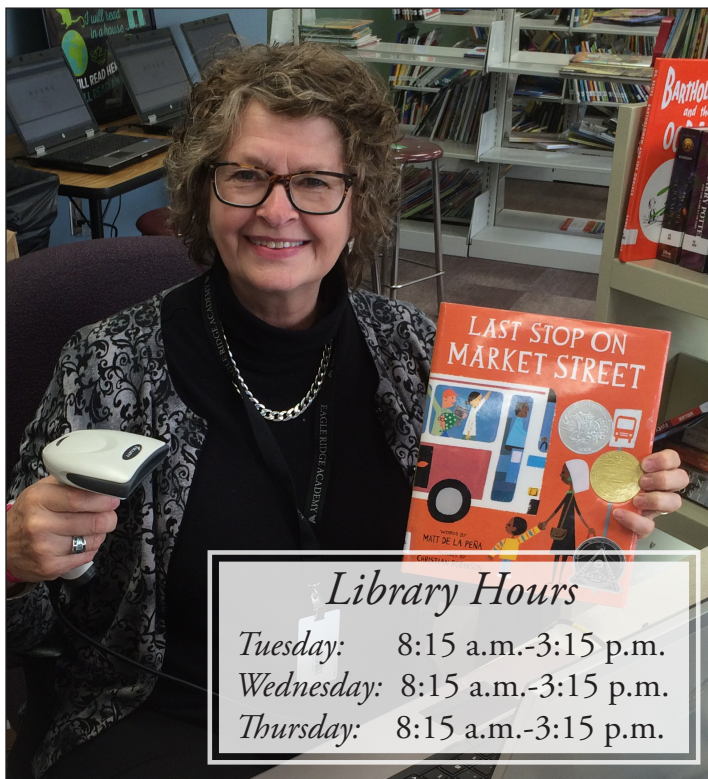
KAREN CONNER

Operations Manager

Quarter one progress reports are now available for viewing on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. To view your child's progress report:

1. Log into your [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#).
2. If you have more than one child attending Eagle Ridge Academy, select the name of the child you wish to view from the drop down at the top of the page.
3. Choose reports in the left index.
4. Choose the correct Quarter one progress report for your child's grade (Grammar = K-5, Logic = 6-8, or Rhetoric = 9-12).
5. You may print for your records. This report will be available for viewing on the parent portal until June 30, 2017.

If you have question regarding your Infinite Campus Parent Portal, please contact Karen Conner, kconner@eagleridgeacademy.org. Questions regarding your child's grade should be directed to the teacher issuing the grade.



Library Hours

Tuesday: 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Thursday: 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Welcome Mrs. Erickson, Librarian

Leslie Erickson, the library media specialist at Eagle Ridge Academy, has previously been a second grade teacher, science prep teacher, and a librarian, all at St. Paul Public Schools. When she retired, she heard about the wonderful opportunity at ERA and jumped at the chance to interview for the job! Being married with two adult children, she loves children, but has no grandchildren yet. Building a new library collection for a school has been a true joy! She is at the Academy three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and also works at Mackin Educational Resources in Burnsville on Mondays, where she has access to new exciting books for students' pleasure. Mackin is the company that built our library collection! Being in two book clubs and deeply involved in social issues keeps Leslie well rounded.

Stop into the library and visit. Volunteers are truly welcome to come in and assist with checking books out as well as shelving the returned books while Leslie is teaching classes. Our statistics on book check-outs exceeds **2,200 books for the month of October!** We also accept used books in good condition that other children would relish the chance to read.



Basketball Registrations Are Still Open For 4th & 5th Grade Boys and 6th – 12th Grade Girls. [Click here to sign up.](#)



Fall 2016
State of the Academy
Tuesday, Nov. 1 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Did you miss the State of the Academy?

[Click here](#) to view topics and presentations from the evening, including:

- Technology and Classical Education
- Year in Review: 2015-2016
- Question & Answer Session Meeting Minutes



EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

YOU ARE INVITED

Veterans Day Celebration

The celebration includes a musical performance from our students, a flag ceremony, recognition of Veterans in attendance, and a speech from a Veteran.

Friday, November 11

Grades 2-5: 8:25 - 8:50 a.m.

Grades K-1: 9:00 - 9:25 a.m.

Grades 6-8: 9:35 - 10:00 a.m.

Grades 9-12: 10:10 - 10:35 a.m.

Eagle Ridge Academy

11111 Bren Road W.

Minnetonka, MN

55343



PTO News & Information

PTO SECRETARIES

pto.eagleridge@gmail.com

PTO Ski & Snowboard Club

It is only 23 days until our first scheduled Ski and Snowboard Night at Hyland Hills in Bloomington (Dec. 2), and the big question is, when will it snow?

We have contacted Hyland, and they do not have an expected open date yet due to the warm weather.

Please check the next Eagle Eye as well as the [school calendar](#) at this link for snow and event updates.

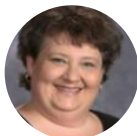


We know it will snow eventually, so here are the details:

Discount lift tickets and rentals will be available for purchase from the ERA PTO inside the Hyland chalet. Anyone can come weekly – you do not “join” ski/snowboard club – come once, come every week. Even friends and family can take advantage of our special rates. Group lessons will also be available weekly for \$10, with prepay by the Friday before the lesson. If you want to have a lesson on Dec. 2, please pay for your lesson no later than Friday, Nov. 18, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and remember to indicate if taking a ski or snowboard lesson. If the lesson is cancelled due to lack of snow, you will receive a refund. If Hyland is closed on Dec. 2 such that the lessons are cancelled, the lesson reservation is applied to the next lesson on Dec. 9 (conflicts can be worked with Kelli TenPas). All waivers and payments should be placed in an envelope with PTO on the front and brought to the Activities Office/Mrs. Strand. Please refer to our [FAQ info at this link](#).

PTO Annual Contributions Still Accepted

We continue to accept annual contributions to our PTO. We utilize these funds for many student and staff events toward the second half of the year including: the last day of school ice cream truck, staff winter party, senior dinner after graduation, teacher appreciation week, microphones for the school spring play, and staff conference meals. With a minimum donation of \$5, you will receive two window clings. Please contact us at our email address if you did not receive your window clings from a previously paid annual contribution. If you would like to donate, [please check out this link](#).



Activities & Events

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10 - Nov. 30

For more information and more events, visit the [school calendar](#).

Nov. 11 – Times Vary by Grade – [Veterans Day Celebration](#)

Nov. 11 – [Formal Dress Day \(Gr. K-12\)](#)

Nov. 11 – 3:20-5:15 p.m. – JCL Movie Night, Rm. 1226

Nov. 12 – 1:00-3:00 p.m. – [3rd Grade Cake & Conversation](#)

Nov. 15 – 5:30-7:30 p.m. – [School of Grammar Information Night](#)

Nov. 17 – 5:30-7:30 p.m. – [Schools of Logic & Rhetoric Information Night](#)

Nov. 18 – 8:00-9:00 a.m. – [Kindergarten \(Ms. Soash & Ms. Toso\) Parent Coffee at Yum! \(sponsored by the classroom parents\)](#)

Nov. 18 – 6:00-10:00 p.m. – [Fall Gala: "A Night on Broadway"](#)

Nov. 19 – 9:30-10:30am – [1st Grade \(Ms. Basic\) Parent Coffee at Eden Prairie Starbucks \(sponsored by the classroom parents\)](#)

Nov. 22 – [Spirit Wear Day \(Gr. K-12\)](#)

Nov. 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break – School Closed

Nov. 28-Dec. 9 – [Fall Driver's Education Class](#)

ERA Homecoming Dance 2016

The Homecoming Dance was a great success. It was held on Friday evening, Oct. 28 at MN Harvest Apple Orchard in Jordan. There were 130 students in grades 9-12 that attended the dance. Our students had a fun time dancing, playing games (Apples to Apples, of course!), going on tractor rides through the apple orchard, s'mores at a bonfire, and eating caramel apples. This night could not have been a success without the 25 adult chaperones that gave of their Friday night to ensure that our students were safe and had a great time.

Thank you to all of our chaperones: Derek Lutz, Emily & Craig Alvarez, Melanie Rees, Dan O'Brien, Dee Martin, John & Deb D'Alessandro, Krista Paster, Clara Bano, Colleen Brennan, Nate & Julia Demakis-Haustein, Jane Wegener, Erica Powell, Matisse Murray, Janice Gerheart, Austen Rockcastle, Chris & Molly Gerber, Stieg & Marilyn Strand and ERA parents: Sally Kuehn, Merry Jo Orr and Sara Carson! We would also like to thank MN Harvest Apple Orchard, MTN Bus Company, and our DJ, Chris from Northern Lights.



Volunteer Opportunities



Sign Up To Volunteer:

- Admissions Information Event
- Lunchroom Team

Volunteering is a great way to get to know other ERA families as well as help and support our school. A complete list of volunteer opportunities with sign-up links can be found on the [Volunteer](#) page of the school website.

We are still in need of three Lower School classroom parents for Mrs. Mills (K), Ms. Soash (K), Ms. Feist (Gr. 4), and Mrs. Walker (Gr. 4). Please contact [Marilyn Strand](#) if you are interested.





Mrs. Missy Madigan

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Madigan teaches 4th Grade at Eagle Ridge Academy and also serves as a Classical Coordinator. She was born and raised in St. Paul, MN and now lives in Eagan, MN. This is her eighth year at the Academy.

Q: *What is your favorite part of working at ERA?*

A: I love being part of the Eagle Ridge community because I know I have found my home. The students, parents, and staff are so thirsty for learning. I know I am among honored people who accept me for who I am - in all the nerdy glory I bring!

Q: *What inspires you?*

A: I am continually inspired by the way a child's mind is capable of such amazing things. At school, the wonder, joy, awe, and excitement that students bring to our learning is unsurpassed. My students show me every day what life is all about when they think, grapple, contemplate, and wonder as we read captivating stories of adventure. They share in that excitement with me. They are well equipped for their pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness. At home, my own children inspire me. When we sit together as a family and read, my boys absorb the story with true excitement! My son clinging to my arm during the tornado in *The Wizard of Oz* shows the thrill a story can bring.

Q: *What is one of your goals for the 2016-2017 school year?*

A: My goal for the 2016-2017 school year is to bring my passion for Eagle Ridge and Classical Education to more families. When one is able to seek truth, admire beauty, and strive for goodness, he/she is then free to live a life of freedom. A



*Top: Mrs. Madigan with her family: husband Kevin, Collin (Kindergarten), and Easton (age 3.5). PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSY MADIGAN Bottom: Mrs. Madigan reads *Rip Van Winkle* aloud to her fourth grade class. PHOTO BY MARY CORNELIUS*

life that sees learning not as a stepping stone to later life, but to see learning as life itself.

Q: *If I'm not at ERA, I'm probably...*

A: ...enjoying family time. I love to build forts, have movie nights, and read with my two kids at home. We also like to bake and play board games. In my alone time, I like to read and catch up on conversation with friends and family. •

Would you like to nominate a staff member for the spotlight? Email suggestions to Mary Cornelius, mcornelius@eagleridgeacademy.org.