



The Eagle's Eye

December 2023

Holiday Edition

Volume 37 No. 2



Fun For All at Fall Fest

By Joyce Banga

Fall Fest, the most anticipated day of the year by the student body, has come and gone.

After weeks of excited chatter, it was the freshmen's first time to experience so many iconic activities like dressing up in ranch apparel, participating in lively line dancing, ax-throwing, and other fun student-led games. Seniors got to step up and take on their seniority status, leading the crowd through activities and getting to view their highly anticipated Wanted Posters.

Although seniors had an amazing time at Fall Fest, many left with the blues knowing that it was also their last. Senior Robin Daughetee said, "This

was definitely one of my favorite fall fests, and I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't going to miss it."

To break in Fall Fest, juniors and seniors were taken ahead of the underclassmen to The Grove, where they all participated in two fun games, Ships and Sailors and the Noodle Game.

Once underclassmen arrived, Juniors and Seniors gave them a very warm welcome that involved a tunnel, high fives, and maybe just a little pushing. As soon as everyone was settled, we then proceeded with the famous annual Dating Game, hosted by Max Stegall, with the amazing Natalie South as our bachelorette. Her bachelors included Tucker Chipman, Stephen Smith, Kade Butler and

Michael Black, who ended up winning the date with Natalie.

Afterward, we separated by grade, where we all participated in dodgeball, gopherball, ax-throwing, volleyball, and even some 9 square. We all reconvened for a Chick-fil-A lunch, and then, we went into our annual student-led challenges. Drew Turner, Chloe Wright, Karsyn Ford, Trip Fisher, Nick Scher and Emory Bunch were all nominated and doomed to swallow one live goldfish. Trip Fisher came in clutch, taking one for Emory and swallowing both his and her goldfish. Thankfully, this year, our throw-up count was just one. Then, a girl vs. boy tic-tac-toe

challenge commenced, and the boys, Cannon Johnson, Cooper Wilson, Noah Cheek and Weston Murphy, ended up taking the win 3-0.

To end off Fall Fest, Mrs. Lynden Jones led everyone through a senior-freshman and sophomore-junior dance circle, and it ended with the fun line dancing of songs such as "Cotton-Eyed Joe" and "Footloose." This was arguably the best Fall Fest that ECS student leadership has hosted, and I am excited to see what next year has to bring.

Letter from the Editor

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Special thanks also to Tracey
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use of photographs in this issue.



Dear Readers,

Here is the second issue of *The Eagle's Eye*! This is the Holiday Issue with an article on Fall Fest. This issue features Christmas activities on all of the ECS campuses, from Senior Breakfast with Santa to the Christmas card featuring Upper Elementary to the Lower School's holiday adventures.

Joyce shares about her time at Fall Fest, reflecting on the games, dancing and stations. Elizabeth interviewed our Star of the Issue, Miss Lia Sanvee, and it is not an article you want to miss. We also have one of Cooper's famous restaurant reviews and a holiday-themed recipe from Coach Story.

For sports, Ro wrote a great article summarizing the game that made our soccer girls state champions. We have an article about the Boys' Basketball Team by Michael and an article about Girls' Basketball by Nykira and Peyton. We also have pieces on the Grizzlies by Dakota and Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift by Kaylee.

In Fine Arts, we have an article about the Band and

Choir Concert by Evie and quotes from some Upper Elementary students about their work on the ECS Christmas Card.

Caroline, a 3rd-grader, wrote an amazing article on Lower School Christmas traditions. Robin wrote a piece about a senior tradition, Breakfast with Santa.

Thank you all for reading and a big thanks to the whole *Eagle's Eye* staff. From coming up with ideas to writing articles and creating fun activities to editing, every person on staff had a huge part in this issue of *The Eagle's Eye*. Thank you Mrs. Nearn for everything you do!

Happy reading,
Libby Bourland

Star of the Issue: Lia Sanvee

Interview by Elizabeth Fisher

Lia Sanvee is an incredibly hardworking, enthusiastic, talented student who has been attending ECS for the past 5 years. Lia was named MVP at both the Regional and State Championship and assisted in the final goal at State against SGIS with a beautiful combination from junior Taylor Carey.

When asked about how they felt about Lia, this is what one of her teammates had to say: "What I love about Lia is that she is such a sweet person. She has a humble heart; she never

brags about anything, even though she is by far one of the best players on our team. She is well-loved by everybody; I've never met a single person who is like 'Wow, I don't like Lia.' Everybody loves Lia."

I got the chance to ask Lia a few questions. I asked her what teacher had impacted her the most while attending ECS. She said, "I would have to say Mrs. Ellzey because she's just supported me through a lot of things, and she gives really good advice. And she's honestly one of my best friends." When asked what the funniest ECS-related memory that she could think

of was, she said, "Honestly, the whole Dauphin Island trip. I think about that daily just because our van ride there was absolutely hilarious, and it was really funny to see how everyone interacted with each other. It was just a really fun trip overall."

Finally, I asked her, "What was it like to be named MVP of both regionals and state?" Her response: "It was actually kind of surprising and just a little bit shocking to me. I asked my sister about it, and she said that the look on my face was just so shocked and confused and that I just stood

there for a minute. I was just so surprised that I had actually already packed up to leave and had to drop my bags and rush over when I realized that I had received both rewards." Lia is super excited to continue her soccer career as an Eagle and is looking forward to the bright future ahead at ECS.



News

Grizzlies Face Obstacles in 23-24 Season

by Dakota Breeden

For people who follow the Memphis Grizzlies, you may see some new players on the court. The Grizzlies made some key personnel changes this offseason. Memphis traded away Tyus Jones and a first-round pick to obtain a former defensive player of the year and long-time Celtic, Marcus Smart. They also brought

in veteran guard and former Memphis Tiger, Derrick Rose, on a two-year deal. Former starter Dillon Brooks is gone and is now a current member of the Houston Rockets. They also added a couple of new rookies on draft night. With the 45th pick, they took Gregory "GG" Jackson, a forward from South Carolina. Jackson had previously been highly touted due to him being ranked the

number 1 prospect coming out of high school in 2023 before he decided to reclassify. With their second selection on draft night, they selected Tarik Biberović, a forward from Bosnia.

With the likes of high-flying Ja Morant, the former Rookie of the Year and two-time All-Star, being suspended for the first 25 games of the season, other players were now going to have to step up. Jaren Jackson Jr., who was a first-time All-Star last year, and Desmond Bane, who has proven he is a star in his own right, are now even more of a focal point in the offense. Last year, Jackson Jr. averaged 18.6 points per game and three blocks per game last season. Those exciting blocks paved the way for him to be named Defensive Player of the Year. Bane averaged 21.5 points per game and 4.4 assists per game last season. Those stats will need to increase because of Ja Morant's suspension.

The Grizzlies started the season off with six consecutive losses, and their first win finally came against the Portland Trailblazers in overtime.

Some devastating news was announced that Steven Adams would be undergoing knee surgery and is out for the rest of the season. With Brandon Clarke already out with an Achilles injury, the Grizzlies signed veteran center Bismack Biyombo. He immediately came in and gave them a much-needed boost in rebounding.

On another intriguing note, the NBA is having its first-ever In-Season Tournament this year. The Memphis Grizzlies are in the Western Conference Group A with the Phoenix Suns, Los Angeles Lakers, Utah Jazz, and the Portland Trail Blazers. The winning team of the whole tournament earns the NBA Cup, and each player earns \$500,000.



Chris Day/The Commercial Appeal

World's Most Famous Couple

by Kaylee Winchell

Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift have become very popular within the last couple of months. Taylor Swift has not only affected football but has also boosted Kelce's status. When the couple first started dating, it seemed as though Taylor was the only thing shown on football Jumbotron, making many football fans angry. Because of her appearance at several of his games, a lot of her fans started to watch the Chiefs games. With this new group watching his football games, Kelce's jersey sales went up by 400%.

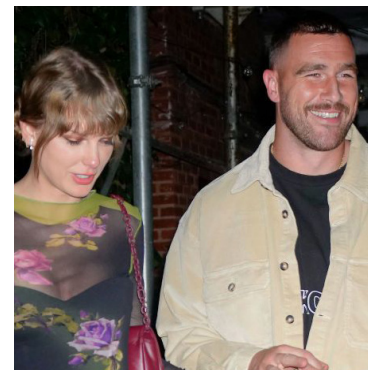
According to an article in *People*,

the couple's relationship has been getting more serious as Travis Kelce has attended Taylor's "The Eras Tour" in South America. During this performance, Taylor changed the lyrics in her song "Karma" from "Karma is the guy on the screen" to "Karma is the guy on the Chiefs," making the crowd go wild. It seems to some people their relationship is moving along quickly because they are allegedly spending Christmas with each other's families.

While everyone else is obsessing over what they are doing now, not many know how they first came to be. In July

of 2023, Kelce went to Taylor's "The Eras Tour" in Kansas City and attempted to give her a bracelet with his number on it, but he was not successful and this method did not work out all too well. Rumors about the two of them started in September of 2023 when people started asking Travis questions about it every game. He finally told them that they had hung out twice before and hoped to continue to do it again.

All of the rumors about them becoming a couple came true when Taylor showed up to his games and they were seen holding hands. This now brings



Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce
Gotham - Getty Images

us back to the present time when they are officially dating, the two of them becoming one of the world's most famous couples.

School News

Seniors' Breakfast with Santa

by Robin Daughhetee

Merry Christmas to our seniors! This past Friday was the annual senior breakfast with Santa! The seniors enjoyed a hearty breakfast in their Christmas PJs provided by the parents. Then they got to enjoy pictures with Santa and a snow machine.



Lower School Celebrates Christmas

by Caroline Twiford



I really like Christmastime at the Lower School because of all of the traditions we have. One example is if you are in the Go Choir, you get to sing

Christmas carols at Saddle Creek and at the new tradition of the Christmas Tree lighting. I also like that we get to dress up as Christmas characters at

school. Another thing I liked this year was the third grade field trip when we went to the

the play *A Christmas Carol*. Most importantly, I love that we get to celebrate the birth of Jesus together.



Food

Restaurant Review: Sunrise Memphis

by Cooper Acuff

My friends and I have a rule that if we can sit down and have a high-quality, filling meal and spend under fifteen dollars, we've done something right. The amount of meals that we have spent over fifteen dollars on and weren't good has been enough to make us create the rule. Obviously, fifteen dollars is not what you want to spend every time you go eat somewhere; however, if we are feeling fancy and want like enough food for you, but this isn't your average breakfast place that underprovides and overcharges. All components are served with enough to fill most people up, and the star of the show is the biscuit that is bigger than your hand. When you are handed this plate, a smile immediately comes upon your face, but quickly after, you will be left with confusion: trying to decide what to eat first is



to sit down somewhere, the ten to fourteen dollar range is ideal for us. Today I'm sharing a breakfast place with you because I believe it is the best bang-for-your-buck breakfast spot in Memphis. Sunrise Memphis on Poplar is where you need to be. Specifically, I will be telling you about the "Kitchen Sink" meal. This twelve-dollar meal consists of two eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, grits and a buttermilk biscuit. Maybe this doesn't sound

the downfall of this meal. Personally, I think you must go with the eggs first. I believe the best way to eat this meal is to explore every combination of these breakfast items your heart desires. All in all, I am suggesting this place to you because I know I have never left this restaurant unsatisfied. You will leave filled up, and your wallet won't be so light that you can't tell it's there.

Holiday Recipe

by Cooper Acuff

Coach Story is well-known for his love of cooking and having some of the best recipes to share. I remember when I was a freshman taking Ancient History, and he gave our class his famous pancake recipe. After that day, I went home and made them with my family, and they were amazing. So, when I was going to find a recipe for *Eagle's Eye*, I knew the only person to ask was Coach Story. He gave me the perfect bread to make for this holiday season, and I can't wait to try to make this over Christmas break. Hope y'all enjoy!

Holiday Loaf Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 3 1/3 cups all-purpose flour plus more for dusting
- Generous 1/4 teaspoon instant yeast
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 1/2 cup water



DIRECTIONS

1. In a big bowl, mix all the dry ingredients.
2. Slowly add the water to the dry ingredients, mixing as you pour in the water.
3. Cover, and let the dough rest overnight on the counter (or at least several hours).
4. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface (or a sheet of parchment paper), and gently form the dough into the shape of a round loaf by stretching the top of the dough ball underneath itself.
5. Drop the dough ball into a dutch oven that has been preheating in a 450 degree oven and cover with the lid. Parchment paper might make the process of transporting the dough easier. Bake for 30 minutes.
6. Take the lid off the dutch oven, and bake for another 15-30 minutes, until the bread looks golden brown.
7. Let the bread cool before attempting to cut.

PRO TIPS:

- Slashing a few lines into the top of the dough ball with a sharp knife helps the dough rise while in the oven.
- Spritzing the dough with water from a spray bottle before adding the lid to the dutch oven and placing the dough in the oven will help the bread steam and achieve a nice crust.

Fine Arts

“A Glorious Night” Christmas Concert

Featuring 4th-12th Grade Choir & Band Students

by Evie Johns

On December 7, the band and choir joined together for an evening and gave ECS an incredible musical treat. For the first time ever, the Upper Elementary students performed on the Mark Brink Auditorium stage.

The annual Christmas concert is always one of my personal favorite events held at our school, and the Fine Arts Department has worked long and hard over the past few months to make this year's concert special. The ECS Christmas concert features beautiful performances from Flight, the middle and high school concert choirs, and the middle and high school

band, which our talented band and choir directors, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Hale, have been preparing.

The concert will include some classic Christmas carols as well as some lesser-known tunes and arrangements that are guaranteed to get ECS in the holiday spirit. When I got the chance to sit down with Ms. Hale and talk about the concert and her choir students, she told me, “We’re getting to do music in a way that’s glorifying God and praising Him for what He’s done in our lives, so they’re just super excited about being able to have a performance and have everybody in the

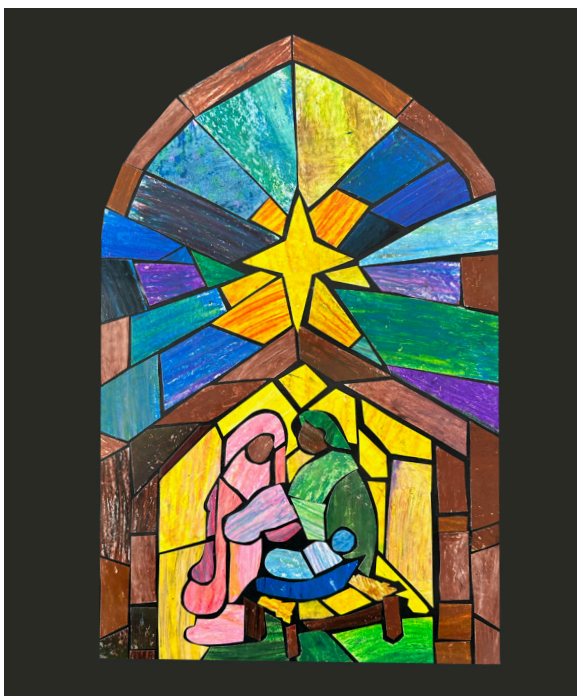
school come support them.”

God has certainly blessed ECS with a dedicated and skilled performing arts department in both our middle school and high school. The band and choir students have given their time and energy to

making this concert the best that it can be. The concert featured many different types of music - acapella, vocal, and instrumental - and was a festive and fun evening for the ECS community to enjoy.



ECS Christmas Card featuring artwork of Upper Elementary Students



While studying stained glass window art in Mrs. Pearson's art class, Upper Elementary students used oil pastels to individually create the different color pieces of papers that would be used to make a collective stained art glass design. Sixth grade students then cut pieces out and assembled them to create the nativity design. Each student had a hand in designing this year's Christmas card. Here's what some Upper Elementary students had to say about making the card:

“It was so cool and fun!”

- Emerson Spiker, 6th grade

“Each grade made different color sheets to put together.”

- Emma Kate Goins, 4th grade

“It was fun making your own colors.”

- Avery Hoffert, 4th grade

“I had a fun time.”

- Andrew Leschak, 5th grade

“I think it was a great experience knowing that I was contributing to something that tons of families would enjoy.”

- C.C. Lamia, 5th grade

Sports

Soccer State Champs!

by Rowan Richardson



St. George's came out flying. They were playing quickly, physically, and honestly, better than us for the majority of the first half. Our nerves had gotten to us, and we were letting them control the game. You made one mistake, and your teammates would be yelling at you to fix it. We got into our teammates' heads and our own.

Throughout the season, we were

a team full of encouragement and a team that celebrated each other. However, in those first forty minutes, we were playing for ourselves. We wanted to win so badly that each player on the field wanted to be the one to do it. With all that being said, we were not playing our game.

Thankfully, our defense held its own, maintaining a 0-0 score at the half. At half-time, you could tell that we were exhausted, physically and mentally. Like at every half-time talk, you talk about what's wrong and how to fix it. As a team, we felt that we were not playing for God's glory but our own. We understood that there are a lot of factors in a game that you can't control, but how you treat your teammates is something you can. Coach Thompson reminded us that we were, in fact, not losing

the game and that we had beaten them twice and could do it again.

With a renewed sense of strength, we took to the field. I don't think I can describe what it felt like in the second half, but it felt different - a good different. The nerves had been shaken off. Our words were encouraging, and we were playing with confidence. We had possession a lot more, and we played better as a whole. Both teams knew that the first person to score would most likely take home the state championship title, so both offensive and defensive sides were tense. Many shots just wouldn't go in. It wasn't until the last five minutes of the game that we got a goal. Freshman Ellen Mills managed to take a shot that hit off one of their defenders and landed in the goal. We screamed in relief and excitement. After

we began to play again, we were quickly reminded that a lot can happen in five minutes. St. George's was playing as hard as they could trying to get a goal in, and they were scary close.

With about 40 seconds left, MVP Lia Sanvee scored the second goal. This was when we knew we were coming back as state champions. You could see the chills on your teammates from the exhaustion and excitement. We could not help but smile and laugh for at least two hours after she scored the second goal. Time ran out, and tears of joy were streaming down our faces as the rest of the team stormed the field to join us. We won! We did the very thing every team dreams of. The state championship game was an experience of a lifetime.

Boys Basketball Preview

by Michael Black



Under new coaching by Tim Wise, the ECS Men's Basketball Team has opened their season. On November 21st, the team returned with only one senior, Connor Ross, who has been at ECS since his junior year. Also returning are Tyler Jones, Ryan Scott, and Landon Royston, who all have been key players during their many seasons at ECS. It's a team of mostly juniors, but there are quite a few skillful sophomore and freshman players. It is expected to be an

exciting season with many wins for the Eagles.

Come out and support the guys this season as they need their student section to be in their corner against opponents like CBHS, FACS, and most importantly St. George's.

So far this season, the Eagles have proven themselves with their efforts in their games, consistently being able to go toe-to-toe with bigger schools like CBHS and Collierville. These past few games make it look like a promising season for Head Coach Tim Wise and the young ECS Boys' Basketball Team.

Girls Basketball Preview

by Nykira Sengstacke & Peyton Smith

The Girls' Basketball season is finally here, and it is not too early to say that it will be great!

These girls have been working hard at practices and started off their season with a great scrimmage against Houston High School, which allowed the girls to create a greater connection than they already had. Our head coach for girls' basketball is Steven Kasper, who won a state championship at ECS and played college ball at Bucknell. As well as our players, the coaches have been working hard since the summer to prepare the players

for this successful season to come.

The girls would love to see the student Eagle fans at their games, encouraging, and cheering them on throughout this season.



Follow @ecs_slc on Instagram for game dress themes.

Fun & Games

The last thing a Christmas Ornament Sees



Before It Dies

CHRISTMAS SONG WORD SCRAMBLER

Can you unscramble some of the most popular Christmas songs of all time??

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 geinjl lelbs | 2 lal i nwta rfo itcsrmsa si uoy |
| 3 rmay idd uyo nwok | 4 tsi eth osmt nfouwlrdie mtie fo eth aye |
| 5 rmuedrm oyb | 6 wetih itcsrmsa |
| 7 efzil vdidana | 8 satl itcsrmsa |
| 9 byba tsi ocld usitoed | 10 urdploh eth edr-soned rideerne |

Key

White Christmas
Feliz Navidad
Drummer Boy
All I Want for Christmas is You
Jingle Bells

Baby It's Cold Outside
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Mary Did You Know
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
Last Christmas

The WordSearch.com

Christmas

T	L	A	N	O	M	E	R	R	Y	T	E	L	S
N	I	D	O	E	L	F	U	S	L	A	R	E	G
E	Y	L	L	O	J	R	D	E	T	Y	T	A	D
S	D	A	T	R	A	E	O	L	E	S	C	G	O
E	E	M	S	E	T	O	L	E	N	R	L	I	A
R	C	O	O	Y	N	C	P	G	N	H	T	N	O
P	E	L	R	T	A	O	H	N	T	R	T	G	S
F	M	I	F	S	S	E	I	A	C	T	N	E	T
M	B	G	K	O	S	L	E	I	G	H	E	R	A
S	E	H	C	R	W	R	T	N	R	I	M	B	R
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O	R	S	J	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	Y
W	G	N	I	K	C	O	T	S	T	A	R	A	M
E	A	R	R	E	W	I	N	T	E	R	O	D	A

PRESENT
GINGERBREAD
JACK FROST
MERRY
CANDY CANE
WREATH
WINTER
DECEMBER
STOCKING
ANGEL
LIGHTS
ELF
STAR
TREE
JOLLY
SNOW
ORNAMENT
FROSTY
SANTA
RUDOLPH
SLEIGH

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6350365/>

