

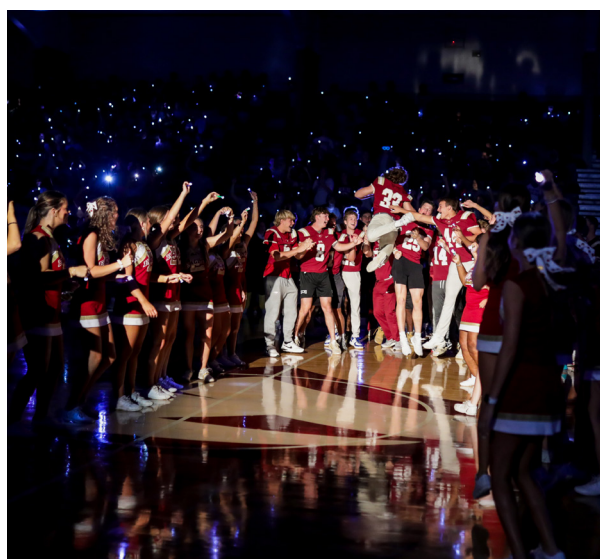


# The Eagle's Eye

November 2024

Homecoming Issue

Volume 38 No. 1



## Homecoming 2024

By Evie Johns

This year, ECS brought on another week of homecoming traditions and all-around school spirit. The high school celebrated all week long with funny dress days, which were Minion Monday, Bikers versus Surfers, Adam Sandler day, and Soccer Moms versus Grill Dads. Of course, we ended the week with School Spirit day and showed off our red and gold to cheer on ECS. Go Eagles!

On Wednesday afternoon, the school held its annual Powderpuff game. The junior girls faced off against the senior girls, and to the surprise of many of the spectators, juniors took the win. Needless to say, this year's sophomore girls

better watch out! We'll have to wait and see whether the Class of 2026 can make it two for two at the next Powderpuff game.

Friday night lights were preceded by the beloved SK Clown Parade as a group of little clowns charmed the fans at Legends Field before the kickoff. The kindergarteners upheld a homecoming tradition that has been a part of ECS now for an impressive forty three years, and they were adorable doing it! ECS's a capella group, Flight, graced the audience with their harmonic rendition of the National Anthem, and then, the moment we had all been waiting for started.

The ECS Eagles began to play against the Middle College Bulldogs. At halftime of the game,

members of the 1983 football state championship team were honored on the field by ECS. Among those on the team was Steve Heinz, whose late father, Jim Heinz, coached the ECS Eagles through several football state titles. Fun fact: ECS is currently tied with MUS for the most football championships in the city, both schools with five championships under their belt. Additionally, the members of this year's Spirit Court, a group of seniors elected by the senior class for upholding ECS' core values throughout their time here, and their escorts were also presented on Legends Field.

The Eagles soared through the second half of the game

and ultimately defeated Middle College High School. As soon as the game ended, the high school headed to the Legacy Center to celebrate the win with an upbeat homecoming dance. The 2024 homecoming dance theme was "Be the Light," taken from Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." The dance was decked out with neon lights, glow sticks, and even a light up dance floor to represent the theme, and high school students had a great time! The 2024 homecoming was certainly a fun and unforgettable week for the entire school.



---

# Letter from the Editor

---

## Eagle's Eye Staff

Editor: Drew Shelton  
Associate Editors:  
Cooper Acuff  
Riley Davis  
Campbell Pallera

Staff Writers for this issue:  
Cooper Acuff  
Dakota Breeden  
Shelby Callaghan  
Jack Colley  
Anna Grace Fletcher  
Evie Johns  
Melody Loftis  
Cole McCauley  
Wilson Mefford  
Broke Scott  
Drew Shelton

Fun & Games Page:  
Whit Dean

Special thanks also to Tracey Simpson and teachers for the use of photographs in this issue.



Dear Readers,

I would like to begin by thanking you for being a patron of the longstanding tradition that is *The Eagle's Eye* Newspaper. Last year, *The Eagle's Eye* saw many great articles throughout the year, and our editor, Libby Bourland, did an excellent job of leading us. This year, we are pushing *The Eagle's Eye* to a whole

new height, and we hope you will stick along for the ride. I hope you enjoyed our cover article on all the fun traditions and unbelievable outcomes of homecoming week written by Evie Johns. As you look forward, we have a lot of great stories coming from all around the school. Make sure to take a look at the excellent Star of the Issue article written by Wilson Mefford that explores the ins and outs of our very own Wesley Snow. Next, take a look at the sit down interview with Dr. John Grant about the new aviation class written by Dakota Breeden, as well as my very own staple column, Drew's Reviews. I'm excited to announce our new Middle and lower school page where we are able to

highlight the thoughts and lives of our younger students from both campuses. In case you missed it last year, Cooper's Food Reviews are back with a raving review about Tops BBQ. Finally, we have excellent articles highlighting the efforts of the Fine Arts department in Joseph and the renewed ceramics class, as well as a sports focus with Shelby Callaghan detailing the successful golf season and Melody Loftis offering a peek into the volleyball team. Once again, thank you so much for reading *The Eagle's Eye*, and make sure to check out the memes on the back.

---

## Star of the Issue: Wesley Snow

### Interview by Wilson Mefford

This week I had the privilege of sitting down with ECS senior Wesley Snow for a few minutes. Wesley gave me some thoughtful answers to some challenging questions. Proving that he was truly deserving of Star of the Issue.

Wesley, you seem to have a lot of nicknames, such as Snowmobile, Snowman, The Abominable Snowman. But I want you to settle the record here once and for all. What is your official Wesley-approved nickname?

To be honest, I'd have to go with The Snowman. It's a timeless classic; you honestly just gotta keep it simple.

**What is something that you would say is uncommon or rare about you?**

Well yeah, a lot of people actually forget I'm left-handed, which you wouldn't think about it but that's actually pretty rare and unique. So yeah, I just think it's pretty awesome that I do everything left-handed.

**If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life,**

**what would it be?**

I would have to go with bronzed redfish. I can't remember the name of the restaurant, but it was in Destin. Actually it was Marina Cafe.

**You represent our ECS Eagles on the Trap team along with your sister Shea. How has shooting Trap gotten you closer to your sister and your dad?**

I've gotten closer to my dad and my sister since my sister started shooting last year. It gives me something to connect to my family on. We've really been able to bond over it.

**How many Wesley Britts could you take in a fight?**

I think probably around 2.5.

That's all for our star of the week, Wesley Snow! If you see The Snowman in the wild, be sure to give him a shout out!





---

# Lower & Middle School News

---

## 8th Grade Retreat: New Tradition, Fun Memories

This October, our 8th grade class embarked on their annual trip, but this trip was anything but traditional. They swapped out the old format of multi-state travel tourism with parents for a more intimate time of bonding with classmates and teachers out in the woods at the Lakeshore Camp & Retreat Center in Eva, Tennessee.

Straight off the bus, the class was immediately broken into teams of different colors to compete in Survivor-themed challenges, both athletic and academic in nature. They made their own shelter and learned how to make a fire. The immense campus was perfect for scavenger hunts and relay races. And just when the students were ready

for a good night's rest, Mr. Gross woke everyone up for Midnight Madness!

Living in community was one of the themes of the retreat, so eliminating phones and letting kids work together for a common goal drove the activities. Bonding requires the right mix of old friends and new friends. "Although I wasn't with any of my friend group, I still had loads of fun trying to win all the unique challenges placed in front of my team," said one student.

High points of the retreat included watching the sunrise out on the lakeshore, rope courses, canoeing on the Tennessee River and impromptu games of kickball. And while the days were filled with challenges and free play, the evenings were dedicated to devotionals and testimonies from the teacher-chaperones. Coach Eoff brought his guitar and led us in favorite worship songs, just like old Middle School chapels.

With so many activities over the retreat, we thought it would be difficult to zone in on one favorite thing, but overwhelmingly, when asked, students mentioned being able to spend time with classmates they never have class with. One student captured the retreat perfectly: "I was able to talk to people I usually never talk to at school. On this trip I have made many memories such as trying to make a fire in the dark and holding up people on wooden blocks at twelve in the morning. It was very nice to see everyone from school in a new environment. I've never laughed so much in just three days. This retreat was great!"



---

## Senior Service Day at the Lower School



The class of 2025 spent the morning of October 23 at our lower school and enjoyed activities together such as art and science class, reading, recess, P.E. and early childhood learning centers. Seniors also got to meet their SK buddies, an ECS tradition.



---

# School News

---

## Students Reach New Heights with New Aviation Class

by Dakota Breeden &  
Jack Colley

We decided to interview Dr. Grant because he is the teacher of the new aviation elective. We wanted to hear his perspective of how the new class was going and what exactly they partake in.

**Q: When and why did the class start?**

A: Mrs. Shorten could give the full backstory to the origins of the class. Here's the quick version. There's been a group of parents meeting for a few years about how aviation might be an option at ECS. This was the year it worked out. The high school needed a wider variety of electives, an aviation curriculum existed, and they found

a teacher interested in "piloting" the course.

**Q: What is your background with aviation? Why were you interested in aviation?**

A: I've been interested in aviation since my early teens. The fact that hunks of metal carry tons of weight at incredible heights and wild speeds is fascinating.

**Q: Could you detail some of the activities that your students do in the class?**

A: We start each day with a daily gospel reading. We attempt to pay close attention to the words. Why is this important? Paying careful attention to the things right in front of you is critical for pilots. When



you fly a plane, many things need to happen quickly and with great care. You can't be a successful pilot if you cannot pay attention. (You won't be very successful if you can't pay attention!) Then, we spend time going through the necessary ground knowledge that will be required for the FAA private pilot's knowledge

test. That test will be part of the course.

**Q: How many students do you have taking the class, and how many do you hope to have next year?**

A: We have 13 students in the class, which seems to be a great number for a course like this.

---

## New Beginnings at ECS

by Cole McCauley

Last year there was a new addition to our school, the Upper Elementary. It is located in Eagle Hall and houses the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. In the past, the 4th and 5th graders were at the Forest Hill campus and the 6th graders were part of the Middle School at the Shelby Farms campus. The new campus addition allows for 4th and 5th graders to have

the benefit of being able to better prepare for 6th grade, and meeting their new teachers won't be as daunting because they've already seen them one or two years in advance.

As one of the 5th graders moving up to 6th grade, I was really looking forward to being in Middle School, but the Upper Elementary was a pleasant surprise. The sixth graders benefitted from being part of Upper

Elementary because it really helped us prepare for being "real" middle schoolers. For me, it has helped with managing time and school work, and that is something I am grateful for. Also Upper Elementary adds more of a novelty to being a "real" middle schooler. When you're in 6th grade and finally move to 7th, something my peers and I have been waiting for, you feel more anticipation than you would

have if you had just come from the Forest Hill campus. An added benefit to moving from Upper Elementary to Middle School on the same campus is being able to say hello to your past teachers. In conclusion, the Upper Elementary is an addition to ECS that not only better prepares students for Middle School, but is also just a great experience and I am so happy I got to be part of it!

---

# Reviews

---

## Movie Review: *Nickel Boys*

by Drew Shelton

Welcome back to Drew's Reviews! This year, amidst my pursuit of enhancing my movie-critic skills, I had a unique opportunity to attend the New York Film Festival. The New York Film Festival is an annual event that takes place over

the span of three weeks at the Lincoln Center, a historic theater in the heart of New York City. The central idea of the festival is for artists and viewers to be together, enjoying films and having meaningful conversations about them, which is further elevated by the directors and actors of the feature films being in attendance.



I was fortunate to attend the opening night of the festival on September 27th, and the screening that night was for the new feature film, *Nickel Boys*. Before the film began, RaMell Ross, the director of *Nickel Boys*, came out and detailed the exigence and making of his directorial debut feature, and he spent time thanking each and every person who helped make his dream possible. *Nickel Boys* is a deep-rooted historical fiction about the lives of two boys, Elwood Curtis and his friend Turner, who navigate the horrific ins and outs of Nickel Academy, a brutal reformatory in the Jim Crow South. Because of the movie's format in entirely point-of-view style camera work, it creates the illusion that you are Elwood, experiencing the discrimination and abuse within the facility firsthand. *Nickel Boys*

is a true work of cinematic art that innovates in very exciting and promising ways; however, I found myself feeling frustrated at the end of the film. In my opinion, Ross sacrificed both entertainment and true mastery in pursuit of artistic integrity, which made for a story that demanded to be told but simply failed to be executed effectively. Overall, I would say that *Nickel Boys* is an essential story for American history, but this adaptation simply misses the mark.

## Food Review: *Tops BBQ*

by Cooper Acuff

A new Tops BBQ location was recently opened close to school, and I had the chance to try it out three separate times. Now, just as the Elwood's Shack review went, I understand that this location is not the ideal one. I acknowledge that the closer to the city you get, the better the food is for Tops. From my experience, I have always been advised to get a burger at Tops, even though it is a BBQ place. I am sad to say that I cannot give you a

concrete review on this restaurant. The main aspect that is lacking about Tops is consistency. For instance, I have had the BBQ, burger, and fries multiple times, and not once have my critical taste buds had similar experiences. In my most recent and worst trip to Tops, I had a poorly done burger but good BBQ. However, my first ever trip went the exact opposite way: good burger, bad BBQ. I want to give the Memphis legend its credit; I see what everyone else has for years.

However, as I reflect, I only

have myself to blame as a food critic. No longer will I make the foolish decision to visit newer versions of great Memphis restaurants. This is a lesson that I have now learned after two poor experiences (Tops BBQ and Elwood's Shack). So, what would I recommend? I suggest you go to the older Tops locations, but if you need food close to

school, then pray you catch Tops on a good day.





---

# Fine Arts

---

## The Return of Ceramics

by Brokke Scott



I have fond memories of my oldest brother, Dayton Scott (ECS class of 2020), speaking about his time or projects in ceramics class. It was one of his favorite classes at the time. To this day, he still has one of the things he made in his high school ceramics class in his room. When I first found out ceramics would have to be leaving ECS it was fairly sad

as I had always wished to do it because of how highly my brother had spoken of the class in previous years. Thankfully this year, the class made a return! In what used to be the black box now is a fully functioning ceramics studio. The class is instructed by David Butler (Fine Arts Department Chair). Mr. Butler is known

for his large personality and talkative nature making for a very interesting and active classroom environment that students enjoy. When I asked students about their thoughts on the return of ceramics class at ECS, Sarah Grace Clinton (ECS senior) stated she had “no words” and that “you just have to experience it.” Sounds like if you want

to experience the joy of ceramics, you’ll just have to sign up next year! Ceramics students, we cannot wait to see the things you make this year and wish you luck on your clay endeavors.



## ECS Theatre Department Presents Joseph

Anna Grace Fletcher

This fall, the Fine Arts department and high school students are hard at work preparing for the performances of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This show is an upbeat chronicle of the story of Joseph as told in Genesis 37-50. The directors chose this production because Mrs. Rooks said, “Joseph is something that the audience will love and the process would be fun because of the upbeat music and camaraderie of the cast.” Each year, the directors look

to find an overarching Biblical message in the shows they’ve chosen. The directors have said that with *Joseph*, it has been cool to dive deep into the story and find more information about the characters and the family lineage. When asked about adjectives that would describe the play, Mrs. Rooks answered cheerily, “Colorful, fun, energetic and entertaining”. Don’t miss out! Come support the cast and Fine Arts department November 14-16!

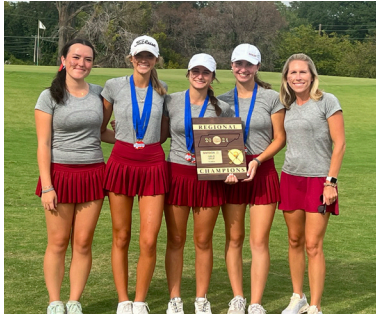
---

# Sports

---

## Girls Golf: Region Champions & 4th in State!

by Shelby Callaghan



Varsity Golf: Region Champs!

This year has been nothing short of exciting for the ECS girls golf team. From going undefeated in the district to winning regionals by twenty strokes, the golf team ended their record-breaking season with a fourth place finish in Sevierville at the state championship. When asked about her experience coaching the team since 2018,

Beth Miller said, “It’s so fun to walk alongside my girls as they develop skills, all while learning this game that points us to Jesus.” Starting every golf match and practice with a prayer, Coach Miller finds importance in reminding her girls that the challenges of golf teach us to work hard with God-given talents. With a team of only four players, the girls had the unique opportunity to grow close and cultivate personal relationships with each other. Freshman Mathile Walker said she has learned a lot by being the youngest on a team with three seniors. She says, “I feel like we all really

built a connection and the seniors are like my big sisters. I have really learned how to lean on them and cheer them on. Having the support of these girls while going through the same highs and lows on the golf course means a lot.” This year, the golf girls chose Philippians 4:13 as their theme verse to remind themselves that anything is possible with Christ. Despite a remarkable season full of victories, having a Christ-centered response to athletics has been life-changing for each and every girl.



Varsity Girls finished 4th in the state!



Claire Todd placed 4th in the state!

## Valiant Volleyball Effort: A 2024 Season Recap

by Melody Loftis



Max effort. Relentless pursuit. Competitive greatness. These three “non-negotiables” are the catalysts for the Lady Eagles volleyball program, and were forged during the team’s annual Cape Girardeau camp taken during the summer, which also unveiled glimpses of the

chemistry they would continue to build off of throughout their season. Whether they were competing in a match, bowling after a team meal, or simply singing their hearts out at karaoke, each athlete would agree that this trip was crucial in the program’s growth as it builds immense trust between players, coaches, and staff. As this most recent volleyball season wrapped up, these traits, along with many others, were evident

on the court on many occasions. During games such as the Eagles’ 3-0 sweep against FACS or their tenacious 3-2 victory versus Harding, they courageously left the gym with impressive stats as well as an increased amount of joy shared from the sport of volleyball and each other. Although the team was unable to advance as far into the season as they had hoped, they were able to develop strong bonds of sisterly camaraderie on and off of the court through the application of sound encouragement along with a growth mindset.

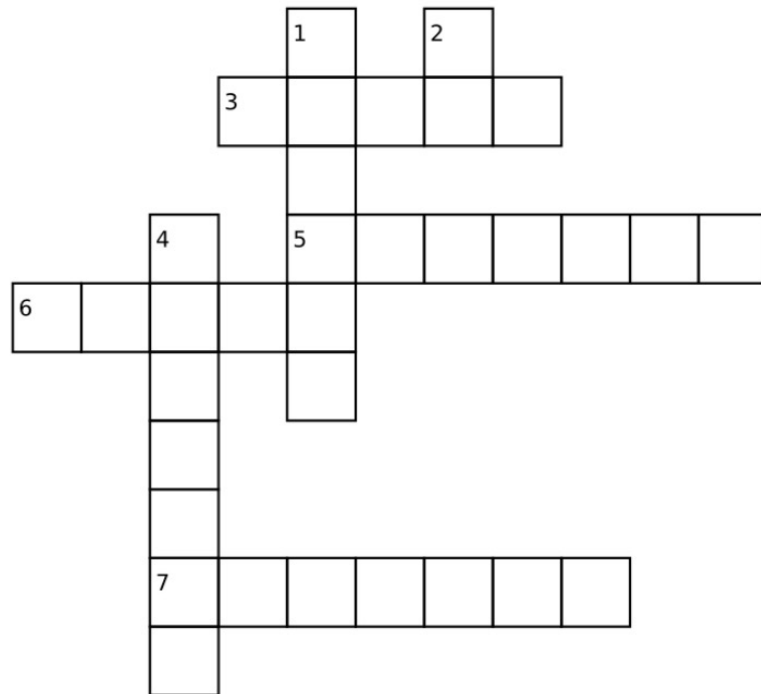
Additionally, the girls were given the opportunity to invest in the lives of each other and even younger Middle School and

Elementary Eagles by showing up to be consistent support and encouragement at games all across the volleyball program. The bonds across courts became more steadfast than any other year, whether girls played with a Volley Lite or a K-1.

Evidently, the companionships and mindsets built during this season would not be possible without the wise guidance of esteemed coaches Michael and Andrea Sansone, along with assistants, managers, and staff. ECS volleyball is flourishing under their direction and will continue to be an outlet for success in ECS athletics in the near future.



# Fun & Games



Down:

1. last name of the teacher who was most recently a student
2. does Jeff Payne have hair
4. last name of shortest male teacher

Across:

3. what is this year's theme
5. best selling tea at sips
6. what color is the White House?
7. what is scott hauss's nickname

Underclassmen  
seeing the ice  
cream machine



But They realize it's  
only for the seniors



made with mematic

