

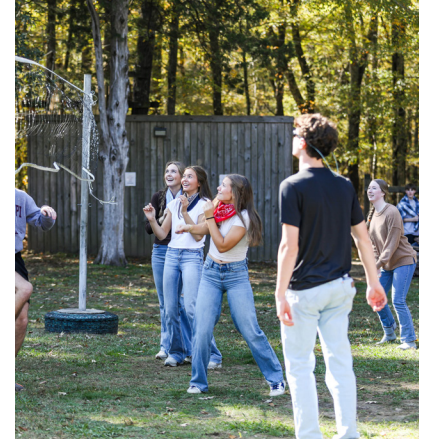


The Eagle's Eye

December 2025

Winter Issue

Volume 39 No. 2



Fall Fest - A Favorite Tradition That Continues Today

By Anna Grace Fletcher

Fall Fest is a longstanding tradition that began in 1991 and is a day that students eagerly anticipate each year. Dressed in their best western attire, students traveled out to The Grove and were able to experience an exhilarating day filled with food, games, and line dancing. As students arrived and entered into the barn, they went to see all the decorations that the Student Leadership Council put up. A favorite always enjoyed by all students are the Seniors "wanted" posters. After everyone arrived, students broke off into their grades and got to travel around The Grove enjoying a variety of activities and competitive games such as Human Foosball, Ga-Ga Ball, Gopher Ball, Nine Square, Axe Throwing, Sand Volleyball

and more! The SLC also organized school-wide games such as the Noodle game and the Pick-Up game.

Although the outdoor games are lots of fun, the indoor games bring many laughs and smiles as well. The indoor activities, such as line dancing, keep everyone on their toes, and the dating game never fails to fill the room with lots of laughter. The dating game is definitely a school-wide favorite where there is a bachelor who gets to choose his perfect date from a panel of bachelorettes. This year, senior Christian Stewart was the bachelor who had to make a hard decision between the amazing panel of bachelorettes: Ella Griffin Edwards, Amelia Grant, Sadie Kalsi, and Kate Spiegelman. The decision was tough, but Christian chose Kate Spiegelman to be his date. After the dating game,

students got to learn line dances from a guest teacher. A favorite is always the Boot Scootin' Boogie. To conclude the line dancing, students got to circle dance. This year, we were surprisingly able to get the whole high school in one large circle to circle dance at the same time! There is no doubt that this year's Fall Fest was packed with lots of laughs and friendly competitions that never fail to make this one of the best days of the school year. Thank you to the Student Leadership Council, who worked hard planning and leading another successful Fall Fest!

Here are some fun facts about the very first Fall Fest from Mr. V.

- Fall Fest was initiated by the

principal Bill Doss who started it as a "mixer" to get people interacting.

- A fun activity was the guys would make a meal/baked item and bring it in a basket and girls would bid on it, like an auction.
- They have always had line dancing!
- There have always been fun competitive games like "What would you do for a dollar?"
- They would have competitions between the grades in which students from each grade would make funny videos, and then there would be a competition to see which grade had the funniest video.
- There were class competitions like tug-of-war and three-legged races.

Letter from the Editor

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



Dear Readers,

Every year, the first semester always seems to go by so fast. I feel like I blink and then we're here, already heading into the Christmas season. But as the days get shorter and the weather gets colder, it seems like everything speeds up around campus. It's a busy time to be an ECS eagle, with

exams ongoing, but the Christmas season makes it a fun time, too. Everything from the Christmas concert to the flurry of decorations around campus help me get in the Christmas spirit at ECS.

I think that our December issue of *The Eagle's Eye* helps spread the Christmas cheer as well. With articles about Christmas around campus, the winter concert, and holiday games, I hope that this issue of the paper helps you get even more excited for the holiday season this year. But, of course, we can't skip over all of the great things that happened at ECS this fall.

In addition to the festive Christmas pieces,

this issue offers articles about Fall Fest, the Drew Holcomb concert, and the Model UN competition. We've also highlighted the talented athletes and performers on campus, with articles about soccer, cross country, and the upcoming musical, *Matilda*.

All in all, I hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Eagle's Eye* newspaper as much as I do, and I wish that you have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Happy Reading,
Evie Johns

Stars of the Issue: Abbey & Phoebe Wallace

Interview by Tucker Chipman & Cooper Martin

Pick a number between 1 and 43.
Abbey and Phoebe: 27

What is your favorite fast-food restaurant?
Abbey and Phoebe: Chick-fil-A

What is your biggest fear?
Abbey: Hot dogs
Phoebe: Heights

Who are your top five Ole Miss football players?
Abbey and Phoebe: Quinshon Judkins, Caden Prieskorn, Jackson Dart, Eli Manning, and Trinidad Chambliss

What is your Spirit Animal?
Abbey: Squirrel
Phoebe: Juice Kiffin

What is the most awkward thing that has happened because y'all are twins?

Abbey: When a boy tried to pick her up on a date, I did know that he was here. And so I went to the door to see who was at the door, and I didn't even know he was picking her up, and he went for a hug, and I was just like, (demonstrated hugging him back) and that's what happened.

What is your favorite thing at ECS?

Abbey: My new friends
Phoebe: Garner

If you could start a club at ECS, what would it be?

Phoebe: Probably like a podcast, you know, ask people about their sports

Abbey: And like interview them after games

Would you rather eat a cup of flour or three sticks of butter?

Abbey and Phoebe: A cup of flour



Holidays Across Campuses

Thanksgiving at ECS

by Gabby Goins

Thanksgiving is a highly valued holiday at ECS. Both campuses were able to commemorate Thanksgiving this year with many time-honored traditions. This Thanksgiving, the junior kindergarteners participated in a Thanksgiving feast, in which they ate some delicious food and made personalized crafts.

In the Upper Elementary, they celebrated Thanksgiving with More Than a Meal service initiative. In addition, a few students from each homeroom brought desserts to share with the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. Students were also able to purchase a Thanksgiving meal to enjoy alongside their

peers.

The middle school's National Junior Honor Society participated in a fundraiser. This has been an ongoing tradition for many years past. Because of this student-led fundraiser, the middle school is able to provide Thanksgiving meals to families in need through a church ministry.

These Thanksgiving celebrations allowed for both campuses at our school to come together in a spirit of gratitude, generosity and community. It demonstrates the joy that is found in helping others and coming alongside them. These many activities allowed students to reflect on all the ways that

they should be grateful for God's goodness in every aspect of their lives. Although each campus takes part in its own traditions, the heart behind the celebrations is the same. Thanksgiving at ECS is not solely about a holiday. Thanksgiving at ECS is about

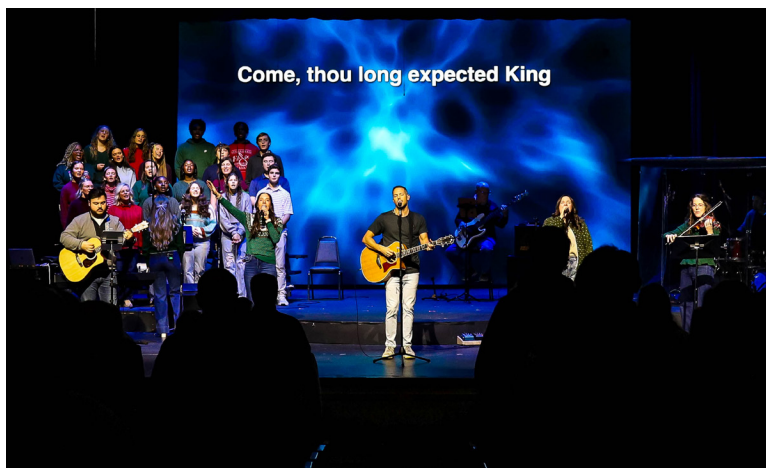
recognizing the blessings in our own lives and being selfless enough to share them with others. This year's events are a reminder that amongst the busy seasons of life, taking the time to be grateful brings our school family closer together.



The National Junior Honor Society hosted a flag football game for middle school students to raise money for Living Waters Church. They raised almost \$2,300!

Christmas at ECS

by Addison Franks



Here at ECS, there are many ways we celebrate Christmas together. While celebrating Christmas on our campuses, we always like to keep Jesus at the center of everything we do. With that said, let me dive into Christmas across the ECS campuses. On our lower school campus, we have a Christmas Shoppe, which allows our

youngest eagles to buy Christmas presents for their families during their school day. It is a day of great fun and generosity for all those involved. This is a very honored tradition at our lower school campus.

Another way ECS loves to celebrate Christmas is our senior breakfast with Santa. This beautiful tradition for our

seniors takes place once every year allowing the oldest students on campus to relive their childhood with all of their classmates.

Another fun tradition that allows the ECS community to celebrate Christmas on campus is our annual Tree Lighting and Night of Worship. This is a very special tradition here at ECS where people of all ages gather together on December 5 to glorify God through songs of worship. The night begins with everyone gathered around the tree drinking hot chocolate awaiting the beautiful tree lighting to begin. Once the tree is lit, everyone heads to the auditorium for a wonderful night of singing praises to the one true God!

Each and every one of these traditions are very precious to our ECS community. They provide ECS with a wonderful atmosphere of joy and appreciation for

everything the Lord has done and is continually doing on our campuses.



Student Life

ECS Celebrates 60 Years with a Drew Holcomb Concert

by Braylon Jackson

Following the final home game of the season for the ECS varsity football team, which doubled as Senior Night for our fall sports and ended in a win, the lights on the Shelby Farms campus continued to shine later than usual as families and friends gathered in the chapel amphitheater with lawn chairs, blankets, and steamy cups of hot chocolate in hand to welcome back an eagle who has soared far beyond Shelby Farms.

As a part of ECS's 60th anniversary festivities, the school community was ecstatic to welcome back acclaimed singer-songwriter and talented alum Drew Holcomb, class of 2000, of the famed band Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors. Drew and his wife, Ellie, who is also an accomplished singer/songwriter, performed an acoustic concert for the



community on October 30.

It did not disappoint to see Drew and Ellie live in concert together back at Drew's alma mater! During the concert, Drew and Ellie delivered heartfelt renditions of beloved songs like "I Want You to Live Forever," "I Will Carry You," and "I Lift My Eyes." Between songs, Drew reflected on his time as a student at ECS and how it has helped to

influence his life today by shaping his faith, character and passion for music. The ECS community was proud and blessed that Drew would come "home," honoring his ECS family roots. With his parents, siblings, former teachers, classmates and nieces and nephews in attendance, it truly felt like a family reunion.

Many attendees remarked on how meaningful it was that Drew

returned to perform at his alma mater during such a milestone year. His presence highlighted the deep roots, strong traditions and sense of community that have defined ECS for six decades. As ECS continues celebrating its 60th year, events like this remind us of the many alumni who carry the school's values into the world and return home to inspire the next generation.

Model UN Gives Students Tools for Life

by Kaylee Winchell

ECS students attended the Model United Nations conference in Nashville on November 21-23. Each fall, the Model UN conference convenes high school students from across the state to learn about the United Nations by participating in a reenactment of the organization's activities.

At Model UN, students play roles as delegates from different countries to debate various global issues and propose how they should be handled. This process involves researching solutions to real world problems

which develops skills such as public speaking and leadership.

During the process of drafting a bill, students researched their country's biggest problems and decided how they should resolve it. Team Australia created a shared document to collaborate on ideas on the best possible approach to their issue. After research, students brainstormed about how the United Nations could help them with their solution.

ECS's Australia team chose to spotlight the problem of safety in the Indo-Pacific and use their

proposal to defend their country against attacks.

Australia has one of the biggest trading hubs in the Indo-Pacific. Without this area protected, it would put Australia's economic stability at risk. This makes creating a bill to fight attacks on the Indo-Pacific very valuable to Australia. To bring this solution to life, the United Nations would be peacemakers and bring security to the Pacific. After a formal debate with the teams, the chair would decide on a final vote to see if the bill has passed.

One of team Australia's members,

Niya Johnson, said her favorite part of being a part of Model UN is "getting to meet new people, and hearing different points of views from different countries." She loved getting to see through the eyes of others and learn how to solve real world problems.

During the conference, awards were given to deserving participants. Congratulations to Ross Henley for being named Outstanding Delegate! Also, three teams representing the USA, Israel and Australia were called to the Security Council for further debate.

Restaurant Review



Food Review

The Commissary

by Thomas Cameron
& Stephen Smith

Thomas:

For our food review, we went to The Commissary in Collierville. I ordered a beef brisket sandwich with fries and onion rings. The place was practically empty when we showed up so seating wasn't a problem. It was pretty cold since they seated us by a window. The service was pretty slow, the servers seemed more interested in talking to their friends instead of refilling our drinks. When the food finally got to us, they got my order wrong and gave me a pulled pork sandwich. I was so tired of waiting for my food, I ended up eating it. It was fine but the pork was kind of dry. The fries were well seasoned, and the onion rings were actually really good. Other than the onion

rings, I was not impressed. To top it all off, we had to wait so long for the check we had to find the employees and tell them we were ready for it. The combination of them getting the order wrong, the food taking a long time, and staff not paying attention to us leads me to my rating of 5.3/10. I was thoroughly disappointed but still satisfied by the food.

Stephen:

During our trip to The Commissary in Collierville, the first thing I noticed when we walked in was that we were the only people there, which excited me because I was hungry and wanted to eat soon. I ordered a half plate of barbecue pork nachos and a jumbo barbecue pork

sandwich. I've been here countless times, and the food is usually great quality. With that said, I didn't enjoy it nearly as much this time around. Due to the slow service and no refills, it just didn't feel quite the same as usual. I enjoyed the sandwich, but the barbecue nachos I got had

barely any chips and were buried in cheese. My buddy Chase also got the nachos and believed there were few chips in it. With all the factors going into it, I would give it a 6.4/10 because some of my past times there have been better.



Fine Arts

Annual Christmas Concert

by Kora Ford



The Christmas Concert has been an annual tradition at ECS for many years, in which ECS's talented group of choir students perform their songs for our school community before Christmas break. The concert took place this year on December 11 at night.

Parents and students had the opportunity to admire and watch the talent of the program. There are a few groups within the choir that perform separately in the concert. This year, the high school choir performed several songs including: "Orion," "Carol

of the Bells" and "All I Want for Christmas."

The middle school choir also performed, singing even more fun Christmas songs and carols!

Later, Flight, ECS's talented a cappella group, performed. They sang multiple songs such as "Dream a Little Dream." Alongside the choir and many wonderful singers is the ECS band, who performed some Christmas pieces as well.

The Christmas Concert is an annual event meant to celebrate the holiday season and present the talent and hard work of our students and instructors. Mrs. Loreant, the choir and Flight director at ECS, and Mr. Byrd, the band director, each put an incredible amount of effort and time into the concert. It was a great night for our students to

use their gifts to celebrate the season and glorify the Lord.



Matilda Preview

by Parker Barton & Nykira Sengstacke

It's that time of year again, and Fine Arts is officially back on stage with a brand-new winter production. This year, they are taking on *Matilda* the musical, the beloved Broadway hit written by Tim Minchin and based on Roald Dahl's classic book. The story follows Matilda Wormwood, a brilliant and bold young girl with telekinetic powers, as she learns to stand up for herself while dealing with her neglectful parents and the strict Miss Trunchbull. The show is directed by Mrs. Lynden Jones, co-directed by Ms. Sierra Glossan, choreographed by Ms. Brooke Jerome, and musically directed by Mrs. Emily Hale Loreant, who are all thrilled to bring this story to life.

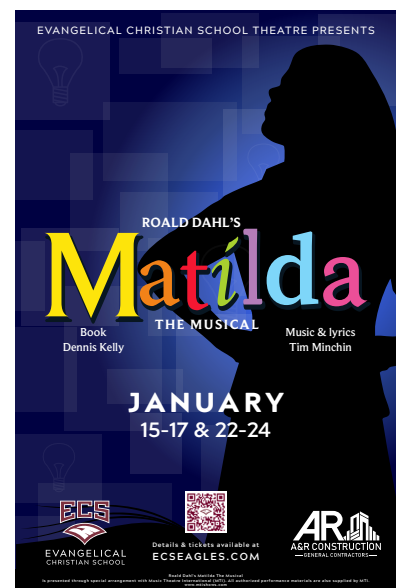
ECS students are fired up

to share the stage again, especially because the cast includes performers from grades 6 through 12. Junior Cooper Gordon, aka Hades, from last year's production of *Hadestown*, steps into the role of Mr. Wormwood and is already loving the energy of this year's cast. He says, "It's amazing to see how much work everyone in 6th through 12th grade is putting in. It's a long and difficult process, but we do it for the glory of the Lord and, for me personally, to be an example for the younger kids who are the future of the Fine Arts program."

The directors have loved seeing older students step up as leaders while younger cast members bring fresh enthusiasm to the stage.

Seventh grader Libby DePriest is taking on the title role of Matilda, and she describes rehearsals as a full commitment in the best way. She shares, "I learned that if you're going to do this, you have to put in the work. It's a full commitment. It totally glorifies God because it's so fun, and being connected to the other cast members shows how good He is." Her excitement and dedication are helping set the tone for the entire cast.

The team cannot wait to share their God-given talents and put on another unforgettable production for the ECS community. You can come support the cast January 15 through 17 and January 22 through 24. Grab your tickets, bring your friends, and get ready to be entertained!



Sports

Varsity Girls Soccer Finishes as State Runner-Up

by Molly Fuhrman

The soaring Lady Eagles soccer team led by head coach Jordan Thompson and assistant coach Dave Thompson finished the 2025 season, 14-6. Much like last season's finish of 14-7-2, it was not perfect on paper, but it delivered the type of season that coaches dream about.

The community and environment cultivated by the ECS soccer program is life-giving, intentional and exciting. Each season is undoubtedly different from the last, but this season was particularly special. Our season did not have the ideal beginning. Suffering an awakening 0-6 loss versus the Mustangs and 0-3 to Arlington did not fill us girls with hope for a repeat state title. Nonetheless, we grew. We grew and built upon that brick by brick, practice by practice. Nev-

er once did Coach Thompson lose faith in us. Like any other sports team, our roster was missing players due to injuries, sometimes feeling like a curse to our team. Regardless, we shared one common goal around a love for the game and hard grit. Every player and staff member gave 100% of whatever they had every day.

Coach Thompson told us that you might not be 100% all the time, but as long as you give 100% of what you've got that day, you are helping the team be better. He also reminds us that everything we do affects the team, whether that is in a negative or positive way. Going to bed 30 minutes earlier or drinking a little bit more water makes a difference. We are either all for the team,

or nothing can come from it.

The scoreboard on October 30 is a deceiving display of our season. Coach Thompson said, "I'm proud of the way they played..." and if you were there, those words are very evident.

I'm proud to be their keeper and honored to be a part of their mission. I learned something in those 90 minutes. A hard fought season is the product of a gritty team, and a gritty team consists of girls with the right mindset and attitude.



Historic Season for ECS Cross Country

by Dakota Breeden

The boys and girls cross country teams made history at the TSSAA DII Class A West Regionals in late October! It was the first time that both teams placed 1st simultaneously.

The female racers were Anderson Cummins, Ellie Metcalf, Katelynn Stewart, Emerson Stewart, Addie McCoy, Sarah Hunt and Dakota Breeden.

Anderson Cummins took first place overall as an eighth grader!

The male racers were McCall Weathersby, Chase Ellingsworth, Noah Sansone, Kieran Callaghan, Griggs Robinson, Christian Stewart and Stratton Moore.

Noah Sansone was the top finisher for ECS by finishing in

seventh place! All seven of the boys finished in under 21 minutes. The boys team had a top ten finish.

Both the boys and the girls teams are coached by Max Paquette and David Boyd.

The State Championship meet was held on November 6 in Memphis. This year was also the first time that the state meet was located at the Shelby Farms cross country course. With more than a hundred participants in both the girls and boys Division II Class A category alone, the influx of people from Middle and East Tennessee helped boost the Memphis economy.

The atmosphere of the race was energetic. Since

Fall Fest was on the same day, ECS students were able to come support the boys and girls teams. The location allowed for ECS students, while dressed in their country-themed Fall Fest attire,

to take the short bus ride over to Shelby Farms and cheer on their classmates. The energy and encouragement that they brought throughout the race was greatly appreciated.

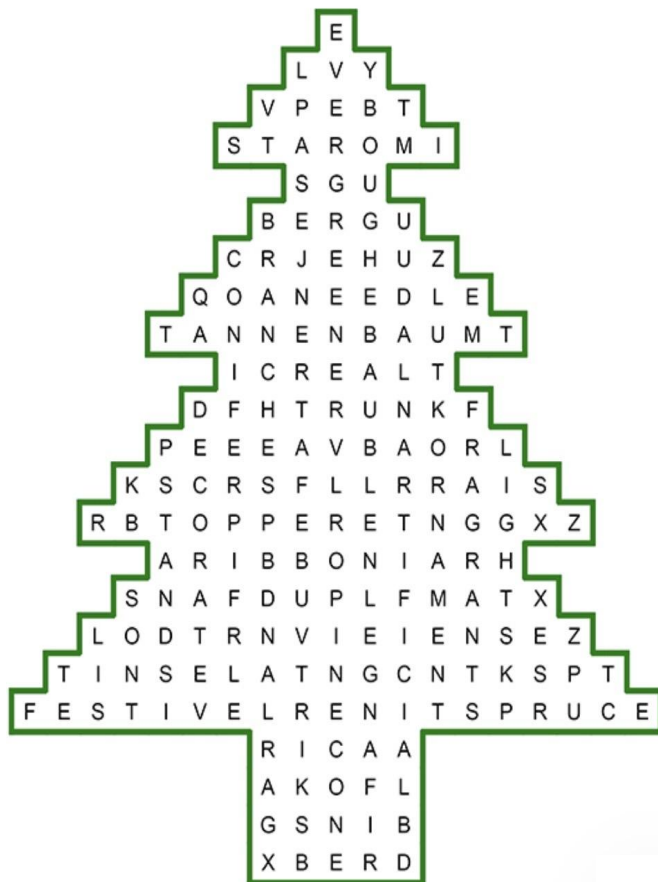


Fun & Games

Christmas Tree

Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid.
Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



<<Word Bank>>>

- > ANGEL
- > ARTIFICIAL
- > BAUBLE
- > BOUGH
- > BRANCHES
- > CONIFER
- > DECORATE
- > EVERGREEN
- > FESTIVE
- > FIR
- > FRAGRANT
- > GARLAND
- > LIGHTS
- > NEEDLE
- > ORNAMENT
- > PINECONE
- > REAL
- > RIBBON
- > SAP
- > SKIRT
- > SPRUCE
- > STAND
- > STAR
- > TANNENBAUM
- > TINSEL
- > TOPPER
- > TRUNK

