



The Eagle's Eye

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Spring Issue

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An Unforgettable Journey Through Europe

By Tucker Chipman

In January, 36 ECS students from grades 10–12 and eight awesome chaperones went on an incredible trip to Germany and France. It was honestly one of the coolest learning experiences we've ever had. Instead of just reading about history in a textbook, we actually got to see the places where it happened. We made great memories, learned a lot and definitely had a lot of fun along the way.

Our trip started with a long journey from Memphis through Atlanta and Amsterdam before finally arriving in Berlin. It was frigid. Berlin was amazing because it mixes old history with modern life. We saw the Brandenburg Gate and talked about its role in history, especially during the Cold War. While we were there, the city was full of political protests with tractors, activists and even people dressed like Anonymous. It felt like we were watching democracy happening in real life. It was fascinating to see the present day effects of communism. The east and west side of Berlin were polar opposites. The east had been under Russian rule, while the west had been under American rule. The east was harsh and was a concrete jungle. The west had so many more shops and restaurants. The west was full of color and life.

One of the most powerful places we visited was the Holocaust Memorial. Walking through the tall concrete blocks was quiet and serious, and it really made us think about the history we've studied. We also visited Checkpoint Charlie and saw parts of the Berlin Wall, which helped us understand how the city was once divided. Another highlight was going up to the Reichstag Dome, where we could see the entire city and learn about Germany's government today.

We also took a day trip to Wittenberg, where Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation. Standing outside the church where he posted the 95 Theses made everything we learned in class feel much more real. Here my friends and I discovered a great steak house. We ordered two meat platters which consisted of beef filets, chicken, pork chops, and even kangaroo.

After Germany, we took a train through the countryside to Paris. The views from outside the train were picturesque but the views from inside the train were terrible. The 8-hour train ride was one of the most unhygienic things I have had to endure.

Paris was incredible. Walking along the Seine at night, eating great food, and seeing the city lights made it feel like something out of a movie. My favorite part of the whole trip was the meals I

shared with my friends-eating in a street side cafe with a view of the Eiffel Tower while devouring delicious pastas and pastries.

At the Musée d'Orsay we saw famous works by artists like Monet and Rodin.

Later that night, we went on a river cruise and watched the Eiffel Tower sparkle, which was definitely one of the best moments of the trip.

We also visited Versailles, which was huge and beautiful. I got the great opportunity to tour this palace with Mr. and Mrs. Thetford. They are such a dynamic duo and care about each other greatly. The Hall of Mirrors was especially impressive, and many of us loved seeing Marie Antoinette's little village where she escaped the royal court. The gardens were absolutely beautiful, and we explored acres upon acres of thoroughly thought-out agriculture. Back in Paris, we explored cafés, shops and even perfume stores, which made us feel like real Parisians for a while.

Another fun stop was the Shakespeare and Company bookstore, where we got our books stamped with their famous seal. We also visited Notre Dame and Napoleon's tomb, and of course we went

to the Louvre. Seeing all that famous art in person was amazing.

Our final day took us to Normandy. Standing on Omaha Beach and visiting the American Cemetery was a powerful experience. Mr. Cummins gave a moving talk about the soldiers who fought on D-Day, and we listened to "Taps" as the flag was lowered. It was a moment none of us will forget. FYI: Mr. Cummins is a lot cooler outside of school. We made a fun video during a river tour in Paris.

Along the way, we also learned how to use the Paris Metro (which was confusing at first but we got the hang of it!). I felt like a true local by never paying for a ticket and hopping over the rails every time. We laughed a lot, supported each other and made friendships across grades.

When we heard there might be winter weather back home, some of us secretly hoped we might get stuck in Paris for a few more days. But we made it back safely early Monday morning, very tired but full of stories.

This trip was way more than just travel. It helped us understand history, experience new cultures, and grow closer as a group. It's something we'll remember for the rest of our lives, and we're really grateful ECS gives students opportunities like this.

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,

I am so happy to be able to share another edition of *The Eagle's Eye* with the ECS community, and honestly, I can't believe that we are almost at spring break. With the surprise snow week, SOAR day of service, and winter break, it feels like the third quarter has flown by! Even though it

has gone by pretty quickly, it seems like we've had a great past couple of months at ECS. So as the weather gets warmer and the spring flowers start blooming around campus again, I hope that this issue of *The Eagle's Eye* will keep you up-to-date on all of our school's best events.

To kick off this issue, we have a report of the high school trip to Europe, which provided students with an exciting experience traveling through Berlin, Paris, and Normandy. We've also covered fun events such as Grandparents Day, the SOAR day of service, and the senior trip to SOTO. Additionally, we have included a review of

the theater department's amazing production of *Matilda* as well as an article about the impromptu snowstorm that we had in January. And of course, it wouldn't be an issue of *The Eagle's Eye* if we didn't have our beloved memes and games to close everything out.

All things considered, I hope that you enjoy the latest issue of *The Eagle's Eye* newspaper and that you have a wonderful spring break this year!

Happy Reading,
Evie Johns

Stars of the Issue: Cooper Wilson

Interview by Tucker Chipman & Cooper Martin

Cooper Martin: Cooper, describe yourself in two words.

Cooper Wilson- Alpha destroyer

Tucker Chipman: Here's some anatomy trivia, who has more bones- a baby human or an adult?

Cooper W.: A grown up.

Tucker- errrr. Wrong.

Cooper M.- what is one super power you wish you had?

Cooper W.: Super strength so

I can pick people up and throw them.

Tucker: Describe the rapture in as few words as possible.

Cooper W.: We're all going to get sucked up into space .

Cooper M.: What's your dream car ?

Cooper W.: A yellow Hummer.



Student Life

A “Grand” Day at ECS

by Braylon Jackson

On January 15, ECS hosted its second Grandparents Day event on the Shelby Farms campus after taking a break from the tradition last school year. This special day gave students from high school, middle school, and upper elementary the opportunity to spend meaningful time with their grandparents as well as allowing grandparents to experience the school their grandchildren attend, create lasting memories and enjoy fun activities together.

Students and their grandparents were placed into one of the three groups — Cardinal, White or Eagle — and followed a rotating schedule of three activities.

The first activity was the Eagle Expo, which took place in both the SUB and the Middle School Gym. In the SUB, students and

grandparents enjoyed popcorn and various types of candies to snack on during the entirety of the event. They also were able to participate in fun conversation prompts placed on each of the tables. These questions encouraged grandparents and grandchildren to learn more about each other. Meanwhile, in the Middle School Gym, families explored different booths where grandparents learned about ECS programs such as security, athletics, discipleship and student leadership as well as being able to take pictures at a photo station.

The next activity was the Fine Arts Showcase, which many grandparents have described as one of their favorite parts of the day. This showcase featured a performance from ECS's Flight, followed by an energetic drumline presentation. The excitement continued as the



cast of *Matilda* took the stage to perform “When I Grow Up” and “Revolting Children,” two highlights from ECS's recent musical.

The final activity of the day was the Open House, where students guided their grandparents through their daily schedule. This gave grandparents the chance to visit classrooms, meet teachers and gain insight into

what students experience on a typical school day.

Overall, Grandparents Day was a memorable and joyful event on the ECS campus. It allowed students and grandparents to connect in meaningful ways, strengthen their relationships and make the day truly special.

A Memorable Senior Trip

by Kaylee Winchell

Every year, ECS's senior class takes a trip to the Shepherd of the Ozarks in Harriet, Arkansas. The Shepherd of the Ozarks is a place where the seniors can lodge in a cabin and live immersed in the mountains for a couple of days. On this trip, the seniors were given various activities they could sign up for like a hike to the goat cave, horseback riding, paintball, a ropes course and the leap of faith. As night approached, seniors played board games and made s'mores by a bonfire. Then, they worshipped and heard a devotion or testimony

from Dr. Holler, Mrs. Shute or Dr. Grant. During the trip, the seniors would go to the on grounds coffee shop where they hung out, got a fun drink and purchased souvenirs.

For one of the activities, the seniors went horseback riding where they rode a beautiful trail on the mountain. Another activity the majority of the seniors went on was the goat cave hike where they got to see the beautiful view awaiting them at the top of the mountain.

On Saturday there was a lot of rain, but the seniors didn't let that stop them! They made the

most of the night by playing games indoors and spending quality time with their favorite teachers.

The seniors were so grateful and had such a blast spending time together and growing in their faith

on this trip.

If I were to give advice to the next seniors, I would tell them to try everything and don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone.



Student Life

A Successful 2nd Annual SOAR Day of Service

by Evie Johns

This February marked ECS's second year participating in a school-wide day of service. On February 11, the students at ECS were given the amazing opportunity to serve others around the city and in their community.

High school students were able to leave campus and serve at different organizations and non-profits around the Memphis area. They were able to spend the day learning about the organizations that change people's lives around the city and help out with different tasks at the locations. High school students and teachers spent the day cleaning, preparing food, organizing and even painting!

In addition to helping out their community, students and teachers alike were able to spend the day growing in fellowship and discipleship with both the people that they met during SOAR day and



each other.

ECS partnered with My Town Miracles, a non-profit organization in Memphis and served at a variety of sites around the city, including For the Kingdom Camp and UniverCity Grocery.

After the SOAR day of service,

several high school students shared about their experiences serving others during chapel on Wednesday. The students got to share personal testimonies from SOAR day, recount the ways that they helped at their sites, and express their gratitude for the opportunity to serve people in the

Memphis community.

All in all, SOAR day was a wonderful opportunity for the ECS community, and I hope that we can continue this meaningful tradition in years to come.

Snow & Ice Close School for a Week

by Anna Grace Fletcher

The week leading up to the big snow and ice storm in Memphis, the National Weather Service said to expect around 3-6 inches of snow. The next week, week of January 25 - January 31, Memphis and the surrounding area was covered in snow and ice. Weather services reported an average of 4 inches of snow and ice covering the streets.

The weather was coldest on Saturday, January 31 with the

low of 6 degrees and windchills around -3 degrees! Schools were closed, and students got to go sledding and play in the snow.

While the snow days were fun, they brought lots of uncertainty as well. People were wondering how long they would have to close their business doors, and grocery stores were running low on certain food items.

Brooke Muckerman, a writer for *The Commercial Appeal*,

quoted Scott Morgan (director of Memphis public works) in one of her articles: "The city had over 2,000 tons of salt, 16 salt trucks, and 6 or more plows on standby..."

Governor Bill Lee also issued an executive order for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to work on local roads so that power line workers could restore power to residents sooner.

Also on Saturday, the city of Memphis had applied more than

100 tons of salt. After all of the snow storm chaos, most schools were able to open the next week.

Next time a snow storm comes through Memphis, be sure to go check out Shelby Farms and Overton Park for the best sledding hills!

Restaurant Review



Elwood Shack

by Thomas Cameron

For our restaurant review, we went to Elwood's Shack. It quite literally is a small shack on Summer Avenue next to a Lowe's.

I ordered a brisket sandwich and got a bag of jalapeño kettle chips for my side. My total was around 23 dollars which I personally think is ridiculous, but I'm also unemployed and have no source of income, so that could just be me.

The brisket was nice and tender. It had a great smoky taste to it as well. The bun was soft and toasted which made it kind of crispy on the

bottom. That alone made the sandwich top-tier. The BBQ sauce they used on it was solid as well. The chips were pretty good with a bit of spice.

All in all, I'd say this is the best thing I've had so far, and I'd rate Elwood's Shack a 9.5/10. Some of the best food you will find in Memphis!



Fine Arts

Matilda: A Clever & Magical Performance

by Addison Franks



Miss Honey, played by freshman Emery Lewis, perfectly brought the warmth and kindness of Miss Honey to life.

The supporting cast also brought a tremendous amount of depth to the stage providing each scene with a wonderful blend of energy and emotion. The ensemble filled the stage with amazing choreography and strong vocals for every scene. Each student put their all into each performance, allowing the crowds to be swept up in the story line.

Finally the technical crew for *Matilda* provided the play with jaw dropping elements, such as four swings that descend from the ceiling. Two large mobile set pieces were thoughtfully designed to give each scene a natural flow. Costumes designed by Sarah Scott added just the right amount of personality to each character. Lighting and sound gave the play the perfect finishing touches with dramatic elements fit for Broadway.

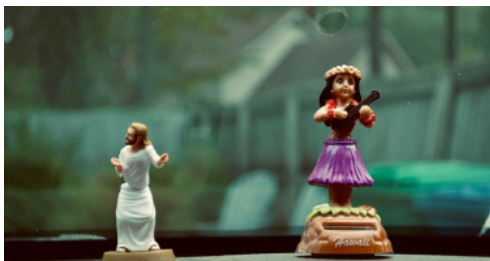
The play *Matilda* was colorfully brought to life by Evangelical Christian School this winter. Students from grades 4-12 came together day in and day out to make *Matilda* the masterpiece it was. Despite the setback due to the snow storm, the cast never skipped a beat. The star, Matilda Wormwood, was played by 6th grader Libby DePriest. She

so beautifully captured the boldness, cleverness and quiet strength that held the audience captive from the moment she stepped on stage.

Agatha Trunchbull, played by senior Kate Speigelman, effortlessly embodied the essence of Miss Trunchbull's exaggerated strictness and humor.



West TN Regional Art Competition Winners



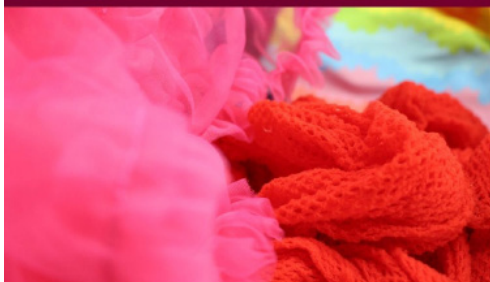
Molly Sparks 12th grade- Photography- "Heaven in Hawaii"
Best in Photography



Knox Bourland 11th grade- Photography- "Color Palette"



Machin Gielselmann 10th grade- Photography- "Still Growth"



Ella Doby 12th grade- Photography- "Costume Closet"



Machin Gielselmann 10th grade- Photography - "Dice Games"



Stephan Leschak 9th grade- Photography- "Blind Photography"
9th Grade Honorable Mention

Sports

Brotherhood: A Recap of the Boys Basketball Season

by Knox Bourland

The boys basketball season started not in November, but in early June with summer practices and summer tournaments. When November came around, we were ready to get in the action.

Led by seniors Charlie Coolidge, Ashton Carr and Nicklaus Scher, we started off the season strong and had a non-district record of 13-0, including beating MHEA by 28 points and Brighton by 52 points after having lost to both teams last year.

We also won the Hoops for House Christmas Tournament with a win in the championship against Jackson Christian. District 6 proved to be a tough district with many talented teams. While there were some close losses in district play, we finished strong and ended the

regular season with a record of 20-6. In the first round of the playoffs, we traveled to Tipton Rosemark Academy and beat the Rebels by 2 in what was one of the most exciting games of the season! Nick Scher hit all 3 free throws with 1.7 seconds left to lift the Eagles to victory!

Unfortunately, in the second round, we lost a close game to rival St. George's. Although it was a disappointing end to the season, I will remember this season not because of the games that were won but because of the 12 guys on this team that worked for each other every day.

Senior Nicklaus Scher said it best: "I have never been a part of a team that was so close to one another. From team

sleepovers to pregame meals, it was always a great time with these guys. It was an honor and a blessing to go to war with my

brothers on the hardwood, and I knew that the last time I stepped off that court that I had this family for life."



Girls Lacrosse Looks to Repeat Their State Title

by Molly Fuhrman

The 2025 girls lacrosse season at Evangelical Christian School was more than a championship run — it was a championship mindset. From the first practice to the final whistle of the state title game, the Lady Eagles carried a grit and a belief that hard work would pay off. At the center of that belief was a new coach, MeriTaylor Pickle, both fun and fierce, who reminded the team daily that "pressure is a privilege."

That quote was not just something she said in the locker room. It was printed on their warm-up jerseys, worn over their hearts as a constant reminder of who they were becoming. To Coach Pickle, pressure meant opportunity. It meant that expectations were high because the team was capable. A team of

girls, some seasoned players and some brand new, rose to the challenge because their coaches believed they could!

Instead of fearing big moments, the Lady Eagles learned to embrace them. What does that look like? Practices were intense, focused, and purposeful, reflecting a high standard set by a coach with a big vision. In tight games, the team stayed composed. When the Eagles faced local opposition against longtime champions in the sport, they stepped into the faceoff with determination and trust in the work they had put in. During playoffs, when the stakes rose and the crowds got loud, they did not shrink. They leaned into the pressure. The players understood that

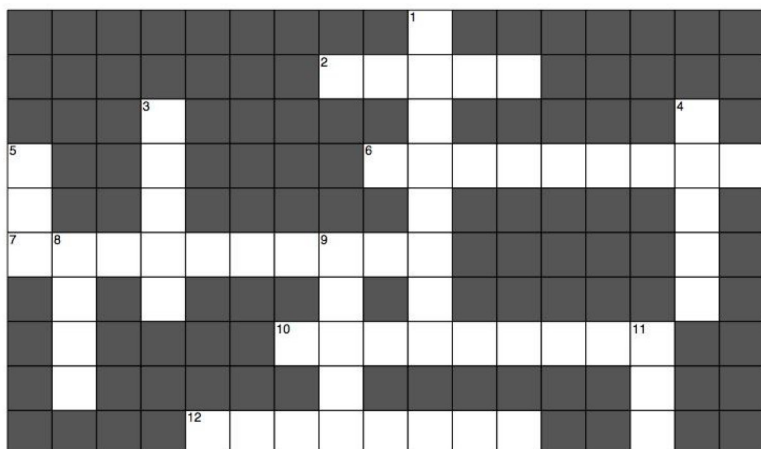
being trusted with pressure meant they had earned their place among the best.

By the time they reached the state championship, the moment did not overwhelm them. It energized them. Pressure began to feel familiar. Wearing the words "pressure is a privilege,"

they played confidently and together, ultimately securing a historic title- the first girls lacrosse state championship in ECS history. The season proved that pressure is not something to avoid — it is something to be thankful for, because it means you are exactly where you worked to be.



Fun & Games



ACROSS

- 2 A phrase used to describe a form of content, a piece of media, or a person who is so popular they almost become "infectiously" prominent
- 6 A slang term for something that's super easy---making it feel less "heavy."
- 7 A term for someone who shares a lot of personal details online, to an excessive amount.
- 10 A word used to refer to something visually appealing, such as someone's style, room, Pinterest board, etc.
- 12 To cut off communication abruptly or without warning. As if one died and became a ___ [ing].

DOWN

- 1 Content so ridiculous it may physically ruin your mind.
- 3 A term used when someone is being overly dramatic. Also the name of a popular gum brand.

- 4 A term named after a food that refers to money
- 5 A nick name named after a family member that many use to refer to friends---but recently it seems to be used to refer to anyone, or simply as an expression.
- 8 A term for something that's inexplicably cool or enjoyable
- 9 short videos seen on instagram
- 11 A word used to call out a lie, or a fake or exaggerated story (also named after a hat)

SUDOKU

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9. if you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

SUDOKU 93

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SUDOKU 94

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SUDOKU 95

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SUDOKU 96

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