

Winter 2015



EHS Teacher of the Year Joseph Hughes



Mr. Hughes was born and raised in Gainesville, Florida, where he attended P.K. Yonge and Eastside High School. He graduated from Eastside in 1995, after representing Eastside in All-State Band and as the Ram Band Drum Major. He received a Bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University in 1999, and later a Master's in music education from FSU. He is in his sixth year of teaching at Eastside. He is married, and he and his wife are expecting their first child this summer. His dog's name is Olive.

Mr. Hughes teaches the Marching Ram Band, the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band, Guitar I, and Music of the World. He is proud to be the Band Director at his Alma Mater, and loves coming to work every day.

EHS Employee of the Year Avis Hope



Avis Hope discovered early on that she had a passion encouraging others and that regardless of the situation, there is always something positive in the circumstance. She has always been a "people person", never meeting a stranger. Ms. Hope worked for a few years as a correctional Officer with DJJ and realized then that many of the youth are not bad kids, they just do not make the best decisions; and with a little guidance from the right influence they can become productive and lead successful lives.

Ms. Hope has been with ACPS for 8.5 years, of which she has spent the last 2.5 in the best school ever. Eastside High students have become like family to her. She transferred to Eastside from Kirby Smith during a pivotal point in her education. At the time she was working on finishing a Bachelor Degree in Health Care Studies, with the intent of furthering her education to become a Doctor of Natural Medicine. Once she transitioned and began to get more and more involved she realized that her future was not in medicine, but in the form of an outreach to empower the youth on the Eastside of Gainesville. Ms. Hope is currently 3 classes away from earning a Master Degree in Nonprofit Management and Leadership, with the intent of moving forward and earning a PhD. in Nonprofit Management in the coming years.

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Published by

Diana Rollo

Erica Cuneo

Key Club News

The EHS Talent Show on November 20, 2014 was a success! Key Club, with the help of volunteers from Student Government and UNICEF, raised \$1000 for The Eliminate Project, an organization dedicated to eradicating maternal and neonatal tetanus from the world. Our audience was treated to a wonderful evening of singing, dancing, stand-up comedy, magic tricks, and even circus arts. The performers poured their hearts and souls out to the audience as they vied for the top prize. Volunteers put together an array of cookies, brownies, pies, and other baked goods for guests to enjoy before the show and during intermission. MCs Farah Alzaatari and Fiona Schneider kept us entertained between acts as we waited for the performers to get ready. And let's not forget our amazing backstage crew, who cued the music and lights, carried props on stage, and made sure the microphones were working properly so we could enjoy each singer's melodious voice. The "People's Choice Award" was a fan favorite. This unique award allowed the audience to choose their favorite contender. A huge thank you to the esteemed Mrs. Scruby, the sponsor of the EHS Key Club for her help and guidance. We could not have put on this show without you. Special thanks to our fabulous principal Mr. Charbonnet for giving a cheery and flawless speech for the audience while we waited for volunteers to tally up the votes. A huge thanks to our esteemed judges, the math trio of Mr. Banaszek, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Finelli, and band director Mr. Hughes. And a loud round of applause to everyone who volunteered. Without you all, this Talent Show would have been a far-fetched dream waiting to become reality.

WINNERS:

1st place: Patrick Rao & Tanner Ropp – singer and guitar player

2nd place: Caitlin Dailey – Circus arts. Did you know this girl can balance a unicycle on her nose?

3rd place: Brittany Helm-rifle drill

Honorable Mention: Brandon McDonald-magic act

Honorable Mention: Myqueal Lewis-stand-up comedy

People's Choice Award: Carlton Washington-rapper

Thank you to all our participants!

Moe Alzaatari

Freddy Fang

Taylor Griffith

Bryan Jackson

Ben Morris

Jada Rosa-McDonald

Octavia Williams

Chacity Battles

Marketa Golden

Jeremiah Handley

Hye-Jin Min

Brii Reichard & Derek Walcott

Dezmon Smith



Institute of Culinary Arts

Culinary Arts Program is rated in the top in the Nation

The Culinary Program is in the Elite 50 Hospitality Schools in the nation once again. The program is recognized for excelling in the areas of Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry and Hospitality Management. The criteria include competition, involvement in the community, recommendations, scores on national exams and certifications of students and teachers.



A love of cooking has paid off for Aaliyah Harris, a senior at Eastside High School who won the title of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' regional student chef ambassador for Northeast Florida. Aaliyah, 18, a student in the Institute of Culinary Arts at Eastside, is one of just five student chef ambassadors in the state of Florida. In her new role, Aaliyah said, she will talk to students throughout Florida about nutrition and healthy eating habits. "I'm very excited," Aaliyah said, adding that she also received a \$100 gift certificate to Sports Authority and was reimbursed for the cost of her ingredients and travel expenses.

There were two levels to the competition, which was sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture to encourage children to incorporate healthy foods in their meals. First, Aaliyah had to submit her original recipe — chicken medley crostini with apple crisp — before being selected for the final competition, where she prepared her recipe at the Publix Aprons Cooking School in Jacksonville while also answering questions from the judges.

Aaliyah, is enrolled in Advanced Placement courses at Eastside, holds a 3.9 GPA and plays varsity volleyball. Aaliyah is well into her culinary career. For about a year, Aaliyah has been working at the Warehouse Restaurant on South Main Street, where she has created salads, appetizers and desserts, and she is now a line cook whose duties include preparing food, helping other kitchen workers prepare food items and other activities as instructed by the chef. Her plan is to continue working at the Warehouse while also pursuing an associate degree in business at Santa Fe College, followed by a degree in culinary management from Daytona State College in Daytona Beach. Her goal is to become an executive chef and the manager of her own restaurant. She said Chef Billie DeNunzio, director of Culinary Arts at Eastside, has made a big difference in her life. "She teaches us everything she knows," Aaliyah said. "She tells us cooking is hard but manageable. She's always there to help." Her advice to other students: "Surround yourself with people who have the same goals you do and are positive people."

Institute of Culinary Arts (Con't)

McDonald's Reopening Party

Eastside High School culinary students spent Friday morning tweaking their latest creations: delicate Southwestern filo pastry, bite-sized chicken cordon bleu and chilled strawberry soup with balsamic pearls. One twist: All of the ingredients came from a McDonald's kitchen. "This is all fresh," culinary arts instructor Billie DeNunzio said, gesturing to a table laden with mixed greens, heavy cream, sliced tomatoes, blocks of cheese and flats of eggs. The food was donated by McDonald's for the reopening of its east Gainesville franchise at 1030 E. University Ave.

Students will cater the reopening party on Tuesday afternoon, using almost entirely ingredients used by the fast-food chain in its own kitchens. McDonald's has been working with the school for a couple of years, DeNunzio said, sponsoring cooking competitions and awarding scholarships to the winners. Two months ago, the restaurant challenged the program to come up with appetizers made only of ingredients McDonald's uses. Students dreamed up appetizers based on the list and put in their orders, and McDonald's gave them the food.

At one station in the Eastside kitchen, Erin Livingston, 16, prepared to make balsamic vinegar pearls using molecular gastronomy, a subgenre of food science that explores unusual chemical and physical properties of ingredients. She added Agar-Agar powder to balsamic vinegar warming on a burner, then, using a squeeze bottle, dripped drops of the mixture carefully into a bowl of cold olive oil. One by one, the drops congealed into pearls and fell to the bottom of the bowl, which she then scooped out and placed on top of a dollop of strawberry soup in a decorative spoon.

Near her, Veronica Hicks, 15, brushed honey over strips of bacon with a paintbrush, then rolled the strips around pieces of chicken breast and Swiss cheese, and topped them off with rosemary.

James Newman, 17, deviated very slightly from the all-McDonald's directive by using some white balsamic vinegar for his chicken bruschetta. Disguising the taste of Chicken McNuggets, the base of his appetizer, was an uphill battle, he said.

Peyton made a "twisted chicken biscuit" by stacking a chicken nugget and a biscuit and topping them off with spicy sauce and a piece of candied bacon.

The company employs several chefs who are certified by the Culinary Institute of America, one of the most highly regarded culinary schools in the world, which DeNunzio said is an angle she hopes her students consider if they continue in their culinary studies.

Souper Fun Sunday Competition and the Chili Cook Off

Thirty-five Gainesville restaurants and caterers along with Eastside High Culinary Team competed in the Eighth Annual "Souper" Fun Sunday hosted by St. Francis Catholic High School, 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday. Celebrity judges and guests voted for the best in seafood and non-seafood categories at the event, which showcases soups prepared by some of Gainesville's best restaurants. Eight Eastside students volunteered and entered their own Chicken, Kale, and Sweet Potato Soup served along with fresh baked Kale Chips. Students had the opportunity to taste all types of soups as well as met with chefs and owners from all around Gainesville.

Along with entering the Souper Fun Sunday competition they will also be competing in the upcoming Annual Chili Cook off and Cow-A-Dunga event on Saturday, February 7, 2015. This family friendly event will feature over 60 chilis competing in various categories for the best Chili in Gainesville. The kids will enjoy face painting, pony rides, bounce houses and a variety of carnival games. The afternoon fun includes Cow-a-dunga, a raffle decided by a cow! Proceeds from the event will benefit the Weekend Hunger Backpack Program of Catholic Charities.

All-State Band and Chorus

Congratulations to the four all-state band members and two all-state chorus members from Eastside High School. Representing Eastside in the all-state concert band were sophomores Cindy Ai on Clarinet, Elena Newman on Clarinet, and Hyun-Jun Lee on euphonium. Representing Eastside in the all-state symphonic orchestra was Katherine Warren. In the chorus, Patrick Rao represented Eastside in the High School Mixed Chorus and Elizabeth Helton was a member of the High School Women's Chorus.

The students went to Tampa for three days to work with internationally renowned conductors. After only two days of rehearsal, they performed a concert in the Straz Performing Arts Center. It was a really great experience for all of them, and we're really lucky to have such fine musicians representing Eastside High School to the state of Florida.

Swim and Dive Team



The Eastside Swimming and Diving teams made a huge splash in 2014. The girl's team was a perfect 6-0 in dual meets going undefeated for the first time in school history. The girls also brought home District and Region championships for the first time since 2009. Nine athletes qualified for the state meet, which was a record number for the girl's team. FHSAA State qualifiers included: Kirschtine Balbuena, Ava Joy Cockey, Maddie Fillmer, Briana Fletcher, Stephanie Lampotang, Naomi Peng, Tara Tovkach, Grace Sanchez, and Meera Srinivasan. Their sixth place finish at the state meet was tied for third best in

team history. The 200 medley relay consisting of Lampotang, Tovkach, Srinivasan, and Sanchez broke a school record that was set back in 1990. Kirschtine Balbuena broke the school record in the 200 freestyle surpassing a mark set in 2009.

The boy's team, led by senior Lucas Zhou, finished second at District and fourth at Region. Both of these finishes were tied for the highest in team history. Freshman Karo Adu advanced, as an individual, to the state meet in the 50 freestyle.

Not only did the Ram Swim and Dive team dominate in the pool, but they were also elite in the classroom. The girls were FHSAA Academic Team Champions and the boys were runners up. They had the highest and second highest unweighted GPAs in the state.

At the conclusion of the season, Eastside Biology teacher and head coach Jon Allen was named The Gainesville Sun's coach of the year. "I am so proud of the accomplishments of our kids. It has been such a pleasure to teach and coach this group. Both teams are packed with underclassmen and we hope to have another successful season next year."

Senior Information

Reminder that Graduation is on June, 3rd this year, which is a Wednesday. It is at 7pm. Practice is that same day at 9am. Both are at the Phillips Performing Arts Center. There are limited seats available, so each senior will be allotted 5 tickets. Every human body, including children, requires a ticket to enter. Tickets will be given out in May. Parents/Guardians that are on file with the school in Infinite Campus will be the only ones allowed to sign for the tickets.

Cap and Gowns can only be ordered via the internet now at www.herffjones.com. Prices do go up February 1st. Cap and Gowns will be distributed on June 2nd at 2:30pm till 3:30pm outside the Hungry Ram. Seniors need to start clearing their debt if any is owed.

Financial Aid help for Seniors and Parents:

The Guidance Department will host two events to help seniors and parents fill out their FAFSA financial aid. All seniors were recently brought into labs to complete their sign up for Bright Futures, Florida Financial Aid, and to create their pin for FAFSA. Parents need to have their taxes filed before March 1st in order to really be eligible for financial aid packages at their schools of choice. The first session for help is on **Sunday, February 22, 2015 from 2-3:30pm**. The second session is **Tuesday, February 24, 2015** from 5pm – 6:30pm. You can attend either session if you need help. Please bring your student, student social security number, student pin number for FAFSA, your social security number, your current filed taxes, and if you already have a FAFSA number. You can fill out the FAFSA with estimated tax information if it is similar to the previous year.

Santa Fe College and Alachua County Foundation Scholarships are now available to sign up. Both are online. Seniors have been given recent Scholarship Newsletters with the information listed and it can also be found on our website at eastside.sbac.edu under Student Services, School Counseling.

Coca-Cola Scholarship

Coca-Cola Scholarship Semifinalist:

Congratulations to Maria Merolle who has been selected from an initial pool of 102,600+ applicants as a Semifinalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program! Maria will now continue through the selection process with an opportunity to receive a \$20,000 scholarship. To learn more about the Coca-Cola Scholars Program for school seniors, visit their website at www.coca-colascholars.org.

Media Center News

Maritime Museum exhibit documents history of Florida Slave Trade

The EHS media center proudly sponsored an exhibit from the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West documenting the history of the slave trade in Florida. The exhibit consisted of ten large panels illustrating the slave trade routes, the role of pirates in the slave trade, and the economics of slavery.

The exhibit also featured the sinking of a slave ship the *Henrietta Marie* in 1699, and the underwater archeology that excavated the ship in the 1908s. The site of the *Henrietta Marie* is now an underwater historical preserve, and the National Association of Black Scuba Divers has placed a plaque there in honor of the Africans who died while being transported to the New World.

The exhibit came with a teacher's guide, which provided lesson plans, State Standards, and activities for classes to enjoy while visiting the exhibit. This exhibit is an example of the curriculum enrichment resources that EHS teachers always seek for our students.



French News

By: Lucas Zhou and Yong Shan.

Madame Torres, the IB French teacher and Congrès sponsor, graciously offered her home to her students in order to prepare for the Congrès competition in Orlando, Florida in mid-March. The students were also able to explore a French tradition called "Epiphanie" by trying different types of king cakes that were filled with a delicious almond cream. In addition, a wide variety of cheese, crackers, quiches and other pastries offered a truly unforgettable brunch. After the meal the students worked individually on their parts—Discours, Déclamation, Lecture, Casse-Tête— as well as with their team members on Pièce to perform a play in French.

Another crucial component of the competition is the Album, a scrapbook that summarizes the activities, events, and work that the students on the Congrès team and in the French Club have accomplished this past year. Thank you to all of those who have and are diligently working on their Album pages. They look great so far! Eastside has a strong tradition in dominating the competition, placing first in Florida for the past twenty years. I have no doubt that this tradition will continue under the new guidance of Madame Torres and Madame Daignault.



Oceanography Team



The Eastside High School Oceanography Team captured first place at the Florida Regional Spoonbill Bowl on Saturday, February 7 in St. Petersburg. This is the second year in a row that an EHS team has won the state oceanography championship and the fourth time they have won in five years (they did not compete in 2013). The Team A members are Emily An, Zosia Caes, Ike Gugel, Alex Janelle, Liliana Valle. A second EHS team composed of Joseph Elston, Promotto Islam, Ally Jacobs, Camille Kima, and Stephen Smith also competed. Team A has qualified to compete against 24 other regional winners in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl on April 23 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi (all expenses are paid by the national organizers). In past years they have travelled to Galveston, Texas, Baltimore, Maryland, and Seattle, Washington for the National competitions. The bowl is a quiz-style competition with questions drawn from the technical and scientific disciplines used in studying the oceans—physics, chemistry, atmospheric sciences, geology, biology—as well as topics on the contributions of the oceans to national and international economies, history, and culture. The theme of the competition this year is The Science of Oil in the Ocean. The overlying goal of this competition is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans on the part of high school students, their teachers and parents, as well as to raise the visibility and public understanding of the national investment in ocean-related research. The Eastside team practices three days a week, and is coached by Anne West-Valle and UF professor Arnoldo Valle Levinson and the faculty sponsor is Jon Allen.

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