

EDUCATE. ELEVATE. ILLUMINATE.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME 7

WEEKS 14 & 15



Educational Center for the Arts
203-777-5451

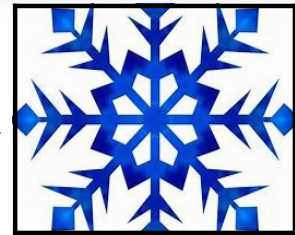
[Kevin Buno](#), Principal
[Amy Christman](#), Assistant Principal
[Julie Massaro](#), School Counselor
[Marsha Guglielmino](#), School Nurse
[Seth Harris](#), Technical Director
[Cynthia Cotto](#), Administrative Asst.
[Mariane Banar-Fountain](#), Dance
[Ingrid Schaeffer](#), Theater
[Saul Fussiner](#), Creative Writing
[Johanna Bresnick](#), Visual Arts

ACES ECA UPCOMING EVENTS...

As we enter the month of December, we are thrilled to announce a lineup of wonderful events that will showcase the hard work of our students from the first semester. It's a time to come together, celebrate achievements, and support the creative spirit that defines our ECA community.

Below is a list of upcoming events:

Monday, December 4 (6:30 pm) - **Contemporary Scene Study in the Little Theatre**
Thursday, December 7 (2 pm & 6:30 pm) - **Modern Scene Study in the Little Theatre**
Wednesday, December 13 & Thursday, December 14 (6:30 pm) - **Rough Edges Dance Performance in the ECA Arts Hall**
Thursday, December 14 (1:30 pm) - **Music Recital in the NMS Recital Hall**
Monday, December 18 (6:30 pm) - **Acting I Sharing in the Theatre Studio**
Thursday, December 19 (6:30 pm) - **Storytelling Collaboration in the ECA Arts Hall**



We encourage you to attend these events, share the excitement with friends and family, and help us create a supportive and enthusiastic audience for our students. Your presence means a lot to them, and your applause will undoubtedly be the highlight of their hard work.

Finally, in light of our commitment to effective communication, we want to address an ongoing issue with email correspondences to our ACES accounts. We are actively working on resolving this matter. If you find that you haven't received a timely response from us, please feel free to reach out to our office directly at 203-777-5451. Your understanding and patience are greatly appreciated.

Let's make this December a month of celebration, appreciation, and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you at these events and sharing the joy of our students' accomplishments.

Amy and Kevin

ECA COMMUNITY PAST EVENTS

On Thursday, November 16, ACES ECA was highlighted on CT LIVE! (NBC) where Principal, Kevin Buno, and Theatre Student, Daia Jade '24, talked about the advantages of the ECA experience. Please follow the link to access the clip: <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/entertainment/ct-live/ct-live-aces-educational-center-for-the-arts/3150880/>

On Thursday, November 30, ACES ECA Theatre Department presented two performances of "The Winter's Tale" (Shakespeare) in the Little Theatre. The afternoon performance provided an opportunity for our ECA students to watch their peers on the stage and also engage in a Q&A session with the actors, thereafter. Congratulations to our student performers, Director and ECA Instructor **Benjamin Curns**, Choreographer and ECA Instructor, **Angharad Davies**, and Technical Director, **Seth Harris**, on an outstanding production.

FINALLY, Please review the attachments that come from the office of ACES Family and Community Engagement



"I love those moments when a student sings, dances, or delivers lines with such finesse and conviction, you sit up and realize all over again how children grow up, and grow into their own works of art."
— Scott Simon, NPR



ACES ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Creative Writing

Over a series of three days, three student poems and their corresponding dance pieces are being filmed in multi-camera shoots by students in the Dance and Creative Writing departments.

Saul Fussiner, Department Chair



Dance

The Dance Department is looking forward to their upcoming performance of *Rough Edges* on December 13th and 14th in the ECA Arts Hall. Both performances will begin at 6:30 pm. Through the collaboration and exploration of the creative process, all choreography is created and performed by dance students. Please see and share our poster in the forthcoming pages.

The Dance Department is also excited to collaborate with the Creative Writing and Music Departments on their upcoming performance, "Three Ways to Tell a Story," which will be presented on December 19th at 6:30 pm.

Mariane Banar-Fountaion, Department Chair

Music

Congratulations to our 25 students who participated in the CMEA Regional Auditions on Saturday, November 18th, at Foran High School in Milford! We are so proud of their hard work as they prepared music to showcase for feedback. We look forward to seeing those students selected for the Regional Ensembles perform in January.

Students are preparing for December performances which will include our Music Recital on **December 14th** (listed in the calendar of events), the Studio Singers performance in New Haven Ballet's production of the "Nutcracker" at the Shubert Theater on **Friday, December 15th**, and our Jazz Ensemble's holiday performance at IKEA on **Friday, December 8th**.

Beyond these performances, many of our students are developing their musicianship through the lens of composition, conducting, arranging, and the exploration of new genres of music that are broadening their skills. We are in awe of their efforts and eager to showcase this work in the forthcoming months.

Amy Christman & Kevin Buno, Co-Chairs

Visual Arts

ACES ECA Visual Arts students are in the process of designing/creating hundreds of luminaries which will be prominently displayed at the Edgerton Park Winter Solstice Luminary walk in mid-December. Here's a preview of our students' current designs.

Johanna (Hanni) Bresnick, Department Chair



Theatre

Please view and share our Winterfest poster in the forthcoming pages, which will outline all of our December performances. Additionally, on Saturday December 9th, ACES ECA will host the Elm Shakespeare Company's Youth Festival of Shakespeare which will feature four high school groups, including ACES ECA. From festival coordinator, **Sarah Bowles...**

"Elm Shakespeare Company's Youth Festival of Shakespeare consists of four high school groups who have been working hard rehearsing a Shakespeare play all semester. On Saturday December 9th, the groups will come together at the Educational Center for the Arts, and they will each perform their play for each other and the community... all on one day. This year we happen to be doing one title from each category in Shakespeare's canon, and it is quite the line up of blockbusters. The shows are:

2pm: Elm's Teen Troupe: Henry V

4pm: Metropolitan Business Academy: A Midsummer Night's Dream

6:30pm Common Ground High School: Macbeth

8pm: ECA: The Winter's Tale

The mood of this festival is celebratory, it is NOT a competition. Rather, it is a chance for Festival participants and (audiences) to take a vacation from competition. In high school, students are often pitted against one another; within their grade, school, and against other schools and neighborhoods. They have to compete to get into colleges. They compete socially. They compete in sports. This is a break for them from that. There will be no awards. No winners or losers. Rather, we'd like to highlight instead the thing they all have in common: they are ALL working on something challenging, beautiful, wild, and epic. They are each presenting stories with devastating lows, and ecstatic, astonishing highs, which likely mirror their own experiences in adolescence. My hope is that they will meet, mingle, make fast friends, and cheer wildly and raucously for each other's shows, as Shakespeare's own audiences would have done. I love that this program reminds us all of this key life concept: that MY success does NOT have to depend on someone else's failure."

Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair

PACE Parents for Arts-Centered Education

ACES ECA PACE (Parents for Arts-Centered Education) held its second hybrid meeting on Thursday, November 16th. Our families meet with administrators to discuss their vision for the school year ahead and opportunities to support our students in their artistic endeavors. Please consider joining this wonderful organization which provides immense support to the ongoing needs of our school. PACE is in the process of organizing sub-committees to help support the school's forthcoming endeavors. To indicate your interest in PACE and to join the mailing list, we invite all ECA families to complete this short form.

The officers of PACE for the 23-24 school year are:

- Sara Armstrong, president (parent of ECA visual arts student '24 & theatre alumnus '21)
- Kitty Clemens, vice president (parent of ECA music student '25)
- Nick Perrone, secretary (parent of ECA dance student '24)
- Lisa Leamon, treasurer (parent of ECA creative writing student '25 & theatre alumna '23)

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- Wed., Dec 13 at 6:00PM** (note early start so interested parents can attend the 6:30PM dance performance that evening)
- Wed., Jan. 17 at 6:30PM
- Wed., Feb 21 at 6:30PM
- Wed., Mar 20 at 6:30PM
- Wed., April 24 at 6:30PM
- Wed., May 15 at 6:30PM

All meetings will be HYBRID, meeting in person at ECA with online access as well. There will also be an ECA administrator at each meeting to report to the ECA family community about current happenings. PACE relies upon the involvement of our many families to support these and future events. To learn more about the organization and becoming involved, please email PACE at pace.eca@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

"SEE IT. SNAP IT. SHARE IT." - Do you have a picture connected to an ECA event? Please consider sharing with us as we'd like to include it in our social media postings!

Thank you, also, to all who have "liked" our Facebook page over the past two weeks. We invite you to encourage your friends and family to like our page as well. Let's increase our social media audience by having them visit **ACES Educational Center for the Arts** where all can see our weekly updates and subscribe to our upcoming events.



CONN CORP
IMAGINE GREATER



MEN'S CLOTHING DRIVE

Please donate gently used or new clothing and shoes for men, all sizes.
Special need: coats and winter wear.
Also looking for men's toiletries.
All donations for the Family Re-entry; Bridge to Recovery.

 Mon-Fri the entire month of November  9-4:30pm

 The Lab at ConnCORP
496 Newhall Street/265 Morse Street
Hamden

 Johnisha LaFrazier 617-645-2075
jlafrazier@crj.org
Cedric Burden 617-645-2023
cburden@crj.org
Call for any questions or arrange after hours drop off options.



THE HAMDEN
MOBILE
Food Pantry
FREE FOR EVERYONE

2023 DATES

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
306 Circular Ave.
St. Paul's Parish Parking Lot

AUG - 2, 16, 30
SEPT - 13, 27
OCT - 11, 25
NOV - 8, 22
DEC - 6, 20

For the full schedule visit www.ctfoodshare.org

Park/Walk-up - In parking lot across from Sapori

   Don't forget to bring bags!

THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT AT ECA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

WINTERFEST

The Winter's Tale

Directed by Benjamin Curns

Choreography by Angharad Davies

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

THE LITTLE THEATRE - 6:30 PM

\$12.00

An Evening of Contemporary Theatre

Directed by Liz Daingerfield

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

THE LITTLE THEATRE - 6:30 PM

\$10.00

Scenes from Modern American Theatre

Directed by Brett Epstein & Peter Loffredo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

THE LITTLE THEATRE - 6:30 PM

\$10.00

Moments From Class

Directed by Ingrid Schaeffer

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

THE THEATRE STUDIO (55 AUDUBON STREET)

6:30 PM - \$5.00

ACES Educational Center for the Arts Dance Department
Presents



"ROUGH EDGES"

Wednesday, December 13th
&
Thursday, December 14th

@ 6:30pm

The Arts Hall @ ECA
55 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT

Suggested Donation: Individual \$10, Family \$40

Reservations: 203-777-5451

mbaranfountain@aces.org



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Educational Center for the Arts

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