

EDUCATE. ELEVATE. ILLUMINATE.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME 9

WEEKS 19 AND 20

aces

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](#), Secretary
[Mariane Banar-Fountain](#), Dance
[Ingrid Schaeffer](#), Theater
[Saul Fussiner](#), Creative Writing
[Johanna Bresnick](#), Visual Arts

Dear ECA Families:

As we kick off 2024, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our school community. To keep you informed about recent events and upcoming activities, we invite you to review the information below. We have had some fantastic events recently that showcased the incredible talents and achievements of our students, and we look forward to sharing these highlights with you which are also listed below.

Special Tribute to MLK, Jr.

As we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we would like to share a special musical tribute that resonates with the values and principles championed by Dr. King. The Maccabeats and Naturally 7 collaborated on a beautiful rendition of James Taylor's cover, "Shed A Little Light," which reflects on the immense contributions of MLK, Jr. To watch the performance, [click here](#)

Additionally, we are happy to promote this special, 2024 MLK Commemoration sponsored by Yale University:

RUBY BRIDGES is the speaker for this year's Yale MLK, Jr. event which is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 | 5:30pm to 7:00pm (Doors open at 5:15 p.m.) at Woolsey Hall, 500 College Street, New Haven. For more information, [click here](#).

The event is free and open to the public however registration is required. [Click here](#) to register.

We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and shared accomplishments. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Kevin & Amy

No Classes on January 15th and 16th: Please be reminded that there will be no classes on January 15 (Martin Luther King Day) and January 16 (ACES Professional Learning Day)



ECA COMMUNITY EVENTS

On **Tuesday, December 19th**, students from our Creative Writing, Dance, and Music Departments came together to showcase their collaborative work from the fall semester through a presentation/performance titled "Three Ways to Tell a Story."

Under the guidance of their instructors, Saul Fussiner, Laura Manzella, and Polina Nazaykinskaya, our students worked for the past three months to fuse their art forms into this powerful, culminating work. Not only did it provide opportunity for them to further growth in their chosen art form, but enlightened them upon the similarities that exist between these three different content areas. Below are pictures that showcase the progress of our students' work leading to their final presentation. Bravi, tutti!

On **Wednesday, December 20th**, our first year theatre students shared, "Moments From Class," where they presented upon their experiences in their theatre studies and performed scenes. A special thank you to their amazing instructors, Ingrid Schaeffer, Pam Newell, and James Luse for their guidance and design of an entertaining night for all.

On **Thursday, December 21st**, the ACES ECA community came together today to celebrate the accomplishments of 2023 with a school assembly. Students across all departments performed/presented work from the fall semester. And our faculty performed/presented, too. Our hearts are full after this afternoon's gathering and we're grateful to all who shared their talents.

On **January 2nd**, our ACES ECA Theatre students were able to connect with many alumni, local and abroad, who took time to share their experiences, post ECA. We are grateful to Theatre Dept. Chair, Ingrid Schaeffer, and our ECA Theatre faculty for making this experience possible. And, we are so thankful to our many, MANY alumni who took time from their busy schedules to participate in this compelling panel discussion as they shared upon the life experiences that exist beyond the walls of ECA.

On **January 3rd** New Channel 8 featured ACES ECA on CT Morning Buzz. A special **THANK YOU** to Amelia Shaw '24 & Dance Instructor, Nazorine Ulysse for their inspiring stories. [LINK TO VIDEO](#)

On **January 8th**, ACES ECA was featured for a second time on News Channel 8's Morning Buzz. ECA Principal, Kevin Buno, and ACES WIMS Magnet Coach and ECA parent, Ingrid Ellinger-Doviak, came together to talk about the power of the arts at their schools. [LINK TO VIDEO](#)

On **January 9th**, ACES ECA began their work with the IRIS- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services After School Program in New Haven. Students across our five disciplines developed engaging activities for elementary and middle school-aged students in an effort to increase connection through our universal arts language.

A special **THANK YOU** to Theatre Instructors, Ingrid Schaeffer and Peter Loffredo for facilitating this work with our students and to our Assistant Principal, Amy Christman, for initiating this partnership with IRIS which will continue through the spring semester.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creative Writing Reading in the ECA Arts Hall, 3rd Floor Theatre Studio & 4th Floor West

Wednesday, January 17th
@ 2pm & 6:30pm

A Night at the Improv in the Little Theatre

Monday, January 22nd @ 6:30 pm

Winter Concert in the ECA Arts Hall
Wednesday, January 24th @ 6:30 pm

Winter Concert in the ECA Arts Hall
Thursday, January 25th @ 1:30 pm

Visual Arts Quarter 2 Show at ECA
Thursday, January 25th from 5pm-7pm

ACES/ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Creative Writing

In two weeks time, the Creative Writing department will again be making handmade books, under the direction of flash fiction teacher Margie Chardiet. This image features a selection of last year's books.

Saul Fussiner, Department Chair

Dance

[Click here](#) to view our "Rough Edges" 2023 performance.

Faculty Repertory Rehearsals: Following our Rough Edges performance, students auditioned for and have begun rehearsals for faculty repertory. This year's faculty choreographers are Angharad Davies, Seny Camera, Mariane Banar-Fountain, Laura Manzella and Nazorine Paglia.

National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA): Current ECA's honor society members have been meeting regularly to plan department events and workshops and later this month, hope to induct new members - ECA dance sophomores and juniors.

Tours:

Middle School Tours: This month, along with all ECA departments, dance seniors Ayla Yildiz and Alondra Perez have been representing the dance department in performance tours of area middle schools. They adapted work choreographed by ECA alumni Jia-Xin Rosenburg into a fantastic duet.

IRIS Workshops: In February, members of the dance department will participate in ECA's partnership with the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS). Seniors Sophia Perrone and Alondra Perez have been planning and will conduct a dance workshop during IRIS's after school program.

Mariane Banar-Fountain, Department Chair



Music

We are proud of and grateful to our music students who participated in "Three Ways to Tell a Story," a collaborative performance with our Creative Writing and Dance Departments. A special thank you to Music Instructor, Polina Nazaykinskaya. We also congratulate our music students who took the time to prepare and perform for our December 21st assembly. Finally, congratulations to our music students who have assisted and performed for our ECA recruitment field trips. Since the start of the year, they have been busy visiting many middle school visits to generate interest in applying to ECA. BRAVI!



We also congratulate the following students, listed below, who have been accepted to the Tri-M Music Honor Society. We will honor all

students in the chapter at our January concert and we will officially induct students during our daytime recital on March 6th.

MUSIC (cont.)

**Matiya Kouassi
June Lanpher
William O'Shea
Wynter Parsons**

**Claudia Persinger
Benadette Sheehan
Amelia Tamborra-Walton
Jason Thomas**

Our students have been active in preparing for the Music Department's Winter Concerts which are scheduled for Wednesday, January 24 (6:30 pm) and Thursday, January 25 (1:30 pm) in the ECA Arts Hall.

We hope you can join us for this performance.

Amy Christman & Kevin Buno, Co-Chairs



Theatre

The Theatre Department has been very busy since coming back from our winter break. Students returned prepared to audition for second semester projects. On January 2, we hosted our "Alumni Day" with over forty alumni attending from across the states and globe! On January 4, we began touring with our ECA showcase to area middle schools and libraries. Students on tour perform and share work from all five departments. On Monday, January 22 at 6:30 PM our seniors will perform our annual "A Night at the Improv" performance which is a fundraiser for the Theatre Department. Tickets are \$10.00. ECA students are free!

Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair

Visual Arts

Please mark your calendars!

Our 2nd Quarter Student Exhibition will be on January 25th from 5-7pm. All students are expected to attend their quarterly opening receptions. Families and friends are also invited and encouraged to attend this celebration of all our students' hard work!

Johanna (Hanni) Bresnick, Department Chair

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Covid is on the up and rising, along with other respiratory illnesses. If you have any symptoms including sore throat, headache, fever, cough, please test and don't come to school if positive.

Finally, scroll down to view attachments that come from the Office of **ACES Family and Community Engagement**

PACE **Parents for Arts-Centered Education**

ACES ECA PACE (Parents for Arts-Centered Education) held its third hybrid meeting on Wednesday, December 13th.

Our families meet with administrators to continue conversations on their vision for the school 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](#).

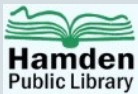
The officers of PACE for the 23-24 school year are:

- **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., 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.



TEEN READS **SEMI-SILENT** **BOOK CLUB**

Not your traditional book club.

Date: Tuesday, January 30

Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Friends Room | Miller Library

2901 Dixwell Ave

203-230-3770

**Teens in
Grades 7-12**



The Teen Reads Semi-Silent Book Club has no assigned reading or forced conversation. You can read a book of your choosing, discuss books with others, or do both.

Registration is encouraged. Register at hamdenlibrary.org.

This program is free and made possible by the Friends of Hamden Library.

ST LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[Home](#)[Welcome](#)[Outreach](#)[Guilds/Ministries](#)[St. Luke's Partners](#)[Preserve our Parish](#)[Follow Us!](#)

St. Luke's Services, Inc. (SLSI) has as its mission: a) the provision of wholesome and appealing meals, in a cheerful, no-questions-asked setting where men, women and children in need are welcomed; and b) the offering of varied additional support services to guests who choose to utilize them. In a land of great plenty for some and demeaning poverty for others, we believe that providing food for the hungry is a compelling necessity, but that meals alone constitute a "band aid" measure. We therefore feel responsible for addressing some of the causes of dysfunctional living as well, by making available a range of life enhancing opportunities.

The sustaining philosophy of our work is the time-honored belief that there is God in every man, woman and child. Translated into soup kitchen terms, this challenges us to share respect consistently among lunch guests, paid and volunteer staff, and professionals. Not always an easy task where intensely difficult life issues often make for a precarious balance of tempers. However, respect works! Women express their appreciation for the special St. Luke's atmosphere, and - very importantly- give us their trust, thus enabling us to assist them with services which range from pastoral counseling to children's programs.

It has been 22 years since St. Luke's Services fed its first six luncheon guests. The lunchroom doors were opened June 1989 and a full course meal was prepared by the late William Johnson. In 1994 St. Luke's Services, Inc., was incorporated as a non-profit organization, governed by its own board of directors and separate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The two maintain an active and valued relationship by parishioners who continue

to serve on the Board.

In 2010 St. Luke's Services distributed 2,531 meals in our friendly "no questions asked" environment. The mutual respect found in this lunchroom opens opportunity to lend a hand in a variety of ways. By that, St. Luke's Services operates a food pantry, diaper bank and clothes closet. Each year, students of the Hopkins School assist "Santa" by sharing their bounty with families from St. Luke's Services along with the parish of St. George Catholic Church in Guilford, Connecticut. Thanksgiving baskets are provided to needy families. The items included assure a full thanksgiving meal with the trimmings. We are grateful to St. George Catholic Church which continues to provide generous support in this area.

Submitted by Yvette Barnard, SLSI Secretary/Treasurer

St. Luke's Services Weekly Operations:

Diaper Bank: every First Tuesday of the month, 10a.m.-12 noon

Women & Children Lunch Program: 12 noon -1p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays

Wednesday Breakfast Program: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Clothes Closet: Thursdays 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Food Pantry: every First and Third Friday of the month, 10a.m.-12 noon

POWERED BY

EAST ROCK RANGER PROGRAMS 2024

CLIMATE EDUCATION

- Get outdoor lessons and programming that support new CT state mandates for climate education in K-12 public schools (HB 5282)
- Understand the ecological and social issues that cause climate change & how New Haven will be affected
- Including...
 - Social Justice
 - Indigenous History & Knowledge

RECREATION

- Promote physical health by having fun in the outdoors!
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change by engaging in active transportation
- Including...
 - Biking
 - Nature Hikes
 - Snow shoeing

HEALING ACTIVITIES

- It is proven that spending time outdoors improves mental health & wellbeing
- Build stronger relationships with the outdoors & your community by participating in...
 - Mindfulness Hikes
 - Recovery Yoga
 - Support Groups

*Programs can be tailored towards the needs and interests of the group participating.

VOLUNTEER/INTERN

- Need to complete community service hours or hands-on projects? Join us at the park as we take care of our ecosystems, remove invasive species, and maintain our trails!



**RANGER
SYDNEY**

**Please Contact to
Schedule: (475) 306-4804
scollins@newhavencct.gov**

