

# EDUCATE. ELEVATE. ILLUMINATE.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME 10

SEMESTER 2: WEEKS 1 & 2



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 Community,

With midterm season behind us, we want to take a moment to congratulate our students for their efforts in balancing home-school exams with the many performances/presentations at ECA. The ongoing commitment to their work in two schools is commendable and we are proud of their accomplishments. Looking ahead, we're gearing up for a productive second semester. Faculty members are preparing new content to challenge and engage students. Our goal is to create an environment that encourages learning and growth for all.

Beyond academics, we're planning events that showcase the talents and achievements of our students. These platforms will allow them to exhibit their hard work, creativity, and passion. Whether it's in the arts or fields outside of the arts, we want to celebrate every accomplishment.

In the spirit of looking forward, we are embarking on the admissions/enrollment period for the 2024-2025 school year. As part of this process, we need your assistance in determining the number of available seats for newly enrolled students. To help us plan effectively, we kindly request you to fill out the enrollment form linked below. Please note that this form was also sent on ParentSquare on Thursday, January 24th and we share it with you here as a reminder. The information you provide will inform us of your student(s)' plans for ECA next school year.

### [Enrollment Form Link](#)

**Please submit this form no later than February 14, 2024** as this will guarantee a seat for your student. Your cooperation and timely response to this request are greatly appreciated.

Let's continue to support each other as we enter the second semester. Our shared enthusiasm for learning and commitment to creating a positive community will contribute to a successful and rewarding experience in the coming months.

**Kevin & Amy**



## ECA COMMUNITY EVENTS

**On Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>,** our Creative Writing Department held their reading event for a school wide assembly and evening presentation where students shared work that was developed over the past semester. The readings were compelling, moving, and vivid.

Congratulations to our student writers for providing us with this outstanding program and special thanks to our instructors, Saul Fussiner (Creative Writing Dept. Chair), Margie Chardiet, Michael Jefferson, and Bruce Cohen for their guidance and mentorship.



**On Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>,** our Theatre Arts student group, **Ever Chasing Alchemy**, presented "A Night at the Improv," designed by theatre instructor, Peter Loffredo. Students performed, through the art of improvisation, a variety of scenes that relied on audience input. A good time was had by all as evidenced by the laughter. Bravi to our students and Peter for their dynamic performances.

**From Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>,** our Creative Writing students reflected upon their cumulative work through the design of books which will showcase a collection of their selected writings. The added bonus? Their peers penned a foreword for each book that will introduce the collection for the reader.

Thank you to Creative Writing instructor, Margie Chardiet, for providing this experience to our students.



**On Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** our Music Department presented their Winter Concert in the ECA Arts Hall with a dynamic set of musical selections spanning many genres.

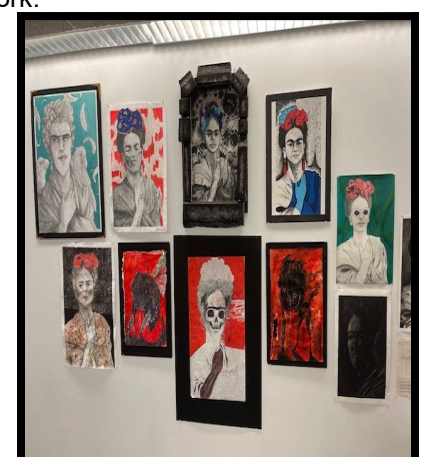
We congratulate our Chamber Orchestra String Studio, Music Theatre Class, Brass Studio, Jazz Ensemble, Studio Singers, and Contemporary Ensemble for such moving performances and express our gratitude to their teachers for their leadership and guidance.

**On Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** the ACES ECA Visual Arts Quarter 2 Exhibition invited a curious crowd which included our ECA families, alumni, and friends of the community. The work, prominently displayed in multiple locations of

our building, showed the immense growth our students have made in their dedicated studies.



Congratulations to our Visual Arts students for their hard work this past quarter. And a special THANK YOU to our Visual Arts faculty for supporting this incredible, thought provoking work.



**FINALLY,** continue to scroll down to view the attachments from the office of **ACES** Family and Community Engagement.

# ACES/ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Creative Writing

This week, all students in Creative Writing had the opportunity to create, print, and sew handmade books based on their writing portfolios in their various classes. This was a lovely end-of-semester activity after last week's very successful Winter Readings.

This project was created and led by Flash Fiction instructor Margie Chardiet, who deftly taught our writers to think visually and to create a lasting

artifact of their own writing. For each book made, the writer receives two copies, and one copy stays with the department as a legacy.

**Saul Fussiner, Department Chair**

## Dance

Our End of Quarter Sharing took place on Tuesday, January 23 where students from Jazz Dance History and Dance for the Camera classes shared their creative work.

**Dance for the Camera:** In this class, students learned to utilize digital video technologies to create dance for the camera, studying video production and choreography as an artistic tool as well as the equipment and skills required to communicate a unique artistic vision. Students explored fundamental camera operations, movement, and composition. Choreographic studies introduced and reinforced elements of effort, shape, theme and variation, repetition, and reordering.

**Project:** Students chose one aspect of filmmaking that they have been studying over the quarter to focus on. Using this as their primary focus, each student created a short study that illustrated this interest. Below are links that share culminating projects from this class:

- [Clara's Project](#)
- [Addie's Project](#)
- [Khaili's Project](#)

**Jazz Dance History:** Afro-Caribbean and American Vernacular Jazz Dance History class is designed to introduce students to the origins of jazz dance in America. The study of jazz emphasizes African and Caribbean, as well as "street" and "ballroom" influences. Basic jazz movement, jazz music, and rhythmic awareness skills are included. Articulate the ethical dimensions surrounding the creation, circulation, and interpretation of the history and culture of jazz dance.

**Project:** Students were assigned a jazz choreographer and musician to research for their final presentation. Students completed a 2-page paper and created a 2-minute piece of choreography based on their research.

## National Honor Society for Dance Arts Sponsors

### WARM WINTER DRIVE: HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES AND SOCKS

January 29<sup>th</sup>-February 8<sup>th</sup>

People really need these items to stay warm! Donate unused hats, gloves, scarves and new socks. Boxes will be placed around the school, just drop them in by February 8.

All donations will go to the Columbus House.

**Mariane Banar-Fountain, Department Chair**

## Music

Congratulations to our students and teachers who performed for the Music Department's Winter Concerts on Wednesday, January 24th and

Thursday, January 25th! Our student musicians prepared and performed a set of selections spanning many genres that entertained families, friends, and students. Thank you to our Chamber Orchestra/String Studio, Music Theatre Class, Brass Studio, Jazz Ensemble, Studio Singers, and Contemporary Ensemble for such moving performances and a special thank you to our music teachers, Polina Nazaykinskaya, Roy Wiseman, Ruben Ortiz, Cynthia Eggers, Ashley Hale, Will Cleary, Yiran Zhao, and Gretchen Hary for their leadership and guidance which has supported such growth in all of our student musicians. BRAVI, TUTTI!

**Congratulations to all ECA students who participated in the 2024 CMEA Southern Region Music Festival!**



These students spent last Friday and Saturday working with other high school musicians from across southern Connecticut in large ensembles, under the direction of conductors from local colleges and universities.

They put a great deal of time, effort, and artistry to collaborate with others, learn new repertoire, and share impressive and impactful performances.

**Jazz Ensemble: Angel & Isaiah**

**Choirs: June, Natalie, Amelie, Mila, Amelia, & J**

**Band: Emmy & Emilio**

**Orchestra: Amelia, Israel, Claudia, Hannah, & Matiya**

Many thanks to ECA Studio Class teachers for their roles in supporting student preparation for auditions and festival participation, and to Michaela Coppola, ECA Faculty member, who attended the festival with students and enthusiastically supported their work!



Finally, congratulations to ECA-North Haven student musician, Amelia Shaw, who is one of three winners of the Neighborhood Music School Concerto Competition! Amelia will be featured as a clarinet soloist in a performance of Krommer's Concerto for Two Clarinets, at the Greater New Haven Youth Ensemble Spring Concert.

**Amy Christman & Kevin Buno, Co-Chairs**

## Theatre

On Wednesday, January 24, the ECA Theatre Department held our annual Shakespeare Competition. All 17 students that auditioned were amazing, so much so, that the faculty needed to have call backs before making their final decision. A special thanks to all the students who auditions and prepared so well. Also, a special shout out to Benjamin Curns and James Luse who coached these students.

First place winner is Daia Jade.

She portrayed Juliet from "Romeo and Juliet." Second place winner is Madeleyna Gugliotti. She portrayed Isabella from "Measure for Measure." Both Daia and Madeleyna will represent ACES Educational Center for the Arts at the state competition in Greenwich on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Coming up on Saturday, February 10 at 6:30 PM at the Little Theatre is our Staci Sweeden Quick Play Festival.

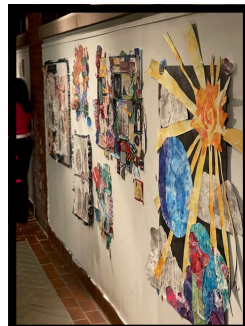
In 24 hours, students write, direct and mount a short one act play. We hope to see you there!

**Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair**

## Visual Arts

Our 2nd Quarter Student Exhibition was a success! Congratulations to our students for their hard work and dedication over the past couple months. And a big THANK YOU to all who came to support us. Below are highlights of the work that was on display.

**Johanna (Hanni) Bresnick, Department Chair**



## **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](#).

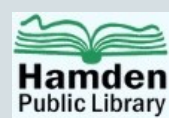
The officers of PACE for the 23-24 school year are:

- 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., 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](mailto: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](http://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**





# Warm Winter Drive

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January 29th-February 8th

**HATS, GLOVES,  
SCARVES, AND SOCKS!!!**

People really need those things to stay warm! Donate any **\*UNUSED\*** items off of that list **into the brown boxes around the school** so that we can help people in need stay warm this winter season.

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Organized by the National Honors Society  
for Dance Arts

# HOLISTIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LLC

## IN-HOME THERAPY

### ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

#### Accepted Referrals

- Children 6 yrs and older
- Families
- Adults with Disabilities

#### Services Location

Hamden, New Haven,  
& West Haven, CT



### HEALTH INSURANCE

Husky, Aetna, Anthem, & Cigna

To Enroll Contact: Karina Cordaro  
203-604-9009 ext: 402  
Email: [Kcordaro@holisticbhwc.org](mailto:Kcordaro@holisticbhwc.org)

Question's about the program  
contact Dr. La'Shondra da Cruz at  
[Ldacruz@holisticbhwc.org](mailto:Ldacruz@holisticbhwc.org)

[www.holisticbhllc.com](http://www.holisticbhllc.com)





**Announcing the Family Assistance & Social Determinant Fund  
Providers!**

**Do you know a family that needs financial assistance to pay for  
mental health and/or substance use intervention, treatment, or  
medication for their child(ren) ages 0-18?**

For a limited time, funding assistance is available for those that qualify\*.

Completed referrals can be sent to:

**The Family Assistance & Social Determinant Fund**  
**FAX: 833-370-8773 or E-mail to [FASD@carelon.com](mailto:FASD@carelon.com)**

Funding may be accessed for services rendered for a child, ages 0 up to 18,  
needing:

- ✓ Mental health and/or substance use treatment or prescribed medications
- ✓ Adolescent psychiatric services, intensive in-home or intensive outpatient or other recommended community-based service

**AND**

The family has been unable to access that care because:

- ✓ The family has sought but been denied coverage or reimbursement by their health carrier or have exhausted their benefits,
- ✓ The family is unable to bear the cost of the intervention due to financial hardship.
- ✓ The family has encountered barriers based on social determinants of health such as discrimination, poverty, housing or food insecurity, unemployment/underemployment, adverse early life experiences, or other social determinants related to mental health.

**QUESTIONS? Contact Carelon Behavioral Health at: [FASD@carelon.com](mailto:FASD@carelon.com)**

\*Funds are made available for a limited time by the CT Department of Children and Families through the American Recovery Plan Act. Funds may apply for services rendered up to 120 days prior to the date of the request.