

EDUCATE. ELEVATE. ILLUMINATE.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME 6

WEEKS 12 & 13



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

THANKSGIVING GRATITUDE

Dear ECA Community:

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is with immense gratitude and warmth in our hearts that we extend our deepest thanks to each and every one of you who make up the incredible ECA community. In this season of reflection and appreciation, we find ourselves overwhelmed with gratitude for the collective spirit that defines us.

First and foremost, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated and passionate staff. Their unwavering commitment to the success and well-being of our students is the bedrock of our institution. Their tireless efforts, creativity, and boundless enthusiasm inspire us all. We thank them for their hard work, resilience, and the countless ways they contribute to the vibrant learning environment that sets ECA apart.

To our extraordinary students who are the heartbeat of our community. Their curiosity, determination, and unique perspectives breathe life into our halls. We thank them for embracing the challenges and opportunities that come their way, for being the driving force behind our educational mission, and for continually reminding us of the limitless potential that resides within each of them.

Equally important are our families and supporters. Your trust in our vision, your partnership in the education of your students, and your active involvement in our community do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for the collaborative relationship we share and the sense of unity that binds us together.

To the extended ECA family, including alumni, friends, and community partners, thank you for your ongoing support. Your contributions, whether through mentorship, sponsorship, or other forms of engagement, enrich the fabric of our community and contribute to the success of our collective journey.

In times of both triumph and challenge, the strength of the ECA community shines brightly. Together, we have created a nurturing environment where ideas flourish, friendships are forged, and dreams take flight. As we pause to give thanks, let us reflect on the richness of our community and the countless blessings that surround us.

May this Thanksgiving be a time of joy, connection, and appreciation for all that we have achieved together. Wishing you and your loved ones a holiday filled with warmth and gratitude.

Amy & Kevin



the school while attending classes of their interest. We are grateful for this partnership with WIMS and excited for our future collaborations. A special THANK YOU to ECA Department Chairs & WIMS faculty, Ingrid Schaeffer and Saul Fussiner, and WIMS Magnet Coach and ECA parent, Ingrid Ellinger-Doviak, for making this special collaboration possible.



ECA COMMUNITY EVENTS

On November 9, the ACES ECA Visual Arts hosted their Quarter 1 Exhibition. Congratulations to our Visual Arts students for their hard work this past quarter. And, a special THANK YOU to our Visual Arts Department Chair, Hanni Bresnick, and Visual Arts faculty for supporting this incredible, thought provoking work.

On November 14, ACES ECA hosted prospective 7th and 8th grade students from ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School (WIMS). Interested WIMS students were able to learn about classes of their interest. We are grateful for this partnership with WIMS and excited for our future collaborations. A special THANK YOU to ECA Department Chairs & WIMS faculty, Ingrid Schaeffer and Saul Fussiner, and WIMS Magnet Coach and ECA parent, Ingrid Ellinger-Doviak, for making this special collaboration possible.

On November 15, ECA hosted its Open House for prospective students and families. We had a wonderful showing of prospective students and families with close to 400 in attendance. Our future students learned about next steps, saw several student performances/presentations and attended sessions on their desired area(s) of study. A special THANK YOU to school counselor, Julie Massaro, for coordinating this event as well as our students, staff, and PACE organization for supporting a special evening. Finally, at the end of the newsletter you will find community resources from the office of ACES Family and Community Engagement.



UPCOMING EVENTS

TOMORROW, Monday November 20th ACES ECA PICTURE DAY

We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with a new vendor, Steady Photography. There is no need to purchase photo packages in advance. Steady Photography will provide proofs shortly after photo day, allowing families to review and decide if they wish to purchase prints. Please know that ECA will also provide a special, senior photo session through Steady Photography in the spring season.

Thursday, November 30th

Our Theater department's production of **THE WINTER'S TALE** will take place in the ACES/ECA Little Theatre at 2pm for the school and at 6:30pm open to the public. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

ACES ECA SPIRIT WEAR

PACE, ECA's family group, has launched a brief, fall t-shirt and hoodie campaign to let you show your love for our school and to raise funds to support the student experience. As ECA families, we know how incredibly rich and special our students' arts and social experiences are at ACES Educational Center for the Arts. In order to keep costs down and to maximize our fundraising efforts, t-shirts and sweatshirts will be printed in batches and sent to buyers once the campaign ends. We set the timing for ECA merchandise to arrive in households by mid-December.



Please order your item(s) by November 24th.

<https://www.bonfire.com/pace-loves-eca/>

Please note that there are a few styles and colors or t-shirts and sweatshirts available. Please be sure to click through the style options on the link above. Also, please consider posting this campaign link to your social media in an effort to spread the word.

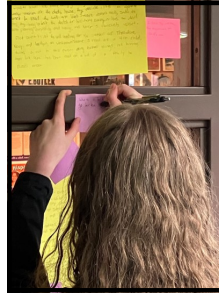
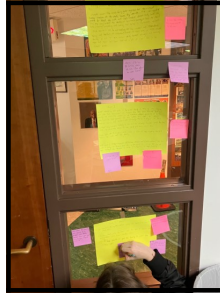
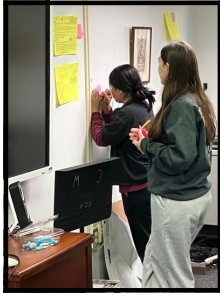
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
PACE (Parents for Arts-Centered Education)

ACES/ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Creative Writing

Students recently engaged in a gallery walk for screenplay outline feedback. The goal was to get students to focus on other students' story outlines and give feedback in a way that was more silent, individual, and attentive than in a verbal workshop. Take a look at our students supporting and elevating writing endeavors across the department.

Saul Fussiner, Department Chair



Dance

Upcoming Events

December 13th & 14th at 6:30pm "Rough Edges"

Students will share dance compositions developed in their Choreography classes. Join us!

Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30pm

From Dance Instructor, Laura Manzella

Dance for the Camera students have been collaborating with student poets from the writing department and composers from the music department. Budding dance-makers, cinematographers, and poets have been busy in weekly meetings, working in teams to choreograph three dances for the screen. In these group sessions, students are currently conceiving, journaling, storyboarding and choreographing. The goal is to create 'screendances' inspired by Saul Fussiner's poetry class and Polina Nazaykinskaya's ensemble. In the true spirit of ECA, this interdepartmental collaboration favors the idea of 'process over product'. We are all so excited to see these students showcase their work.

Mariane Banar-Fountain, Department Chair

Theatre

Enjoy these photos of ACES ECA Theatre seniors working with ACES Wintergreen 7th and 8th graders. It was a successful day all around with 32 middle school students attending classes in Visual Arts, Dance, Theatre, Music and Creative Writing.



Scroll to the end to view the beautiful flyer announcing upcoming performances from the ECA Theatre Department.

Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair



Visual Arts

The ECA Visual Arts hosted their first exhibition of the school year last week which featured student work from Quarter One.

Johanna (Hanni) Bresnick, Department Chair



Music

Congratulations to our 25 students who participated in the CMEA Regional Auditions this past 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.



On Wednesday, November 8th, ACES ECA upperclassman students came together from all five departments to consider how the arts can influence and impact social change.

Students worked with artists, activists, and facilitators Sun Queen

and Ala Ochuamare, to explore, reflect, and create. This special collaboration connects to the upcoming New Haven Symphony performance premiere of Joel Thompson's "breathe/burn," a poignant elegie in memory of Breonna Taylor for solo cello and orchestra.

To learn more about this performance and additional sessions that will be facilitate by Sun Queen and Ala, please visit: <https://newhavensymphony.org/event/breathe-burn-23/>

Amy Christman & Kevin Buno, Co-Chairs



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ECA NURSE:

Please join us in welcoming **Marsha Guglielmino** who joined our ECA staff early November. Marsha will be with us Monday through Thursday for the duration of the school day. Below are some valuable reminders from Marsha. Additionally, as a reminder, if students feel ill during the ECA school day, they should inform their teacher, go to the nurse who will then call home. Scroll to the end for Health Resources shared by Marsha.



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](https://www.bonfire.com/pace-loves-ea/) where all can see our weekly updates and subscribe to our upcoming events.

PACE (PARENTS FOR ARTS-CENTERED EDUCATION)

ECA

T-SHIRTS & HOODIES

style & color options



SCAN ME

[HTTPS://WWW.BONFIRE.COM/PACE-LOVES-ECA/](https://www.bonfire.com/pace-loves-ea/)

MERCH CAMPAIGN ENDS ON NOV. 24

ALL PROFITS GO BACK TO THE ECA STUDENT EXPERIENCE

aces ECA
Educational Center for the Arts

THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT AT ECA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

WINTERFEST

A decorative graphic of several strings of warm white lights, resembling Christmas lights, arranged in a slightly curved pattern across the upper half of the poster.

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 Lix Daingerfield

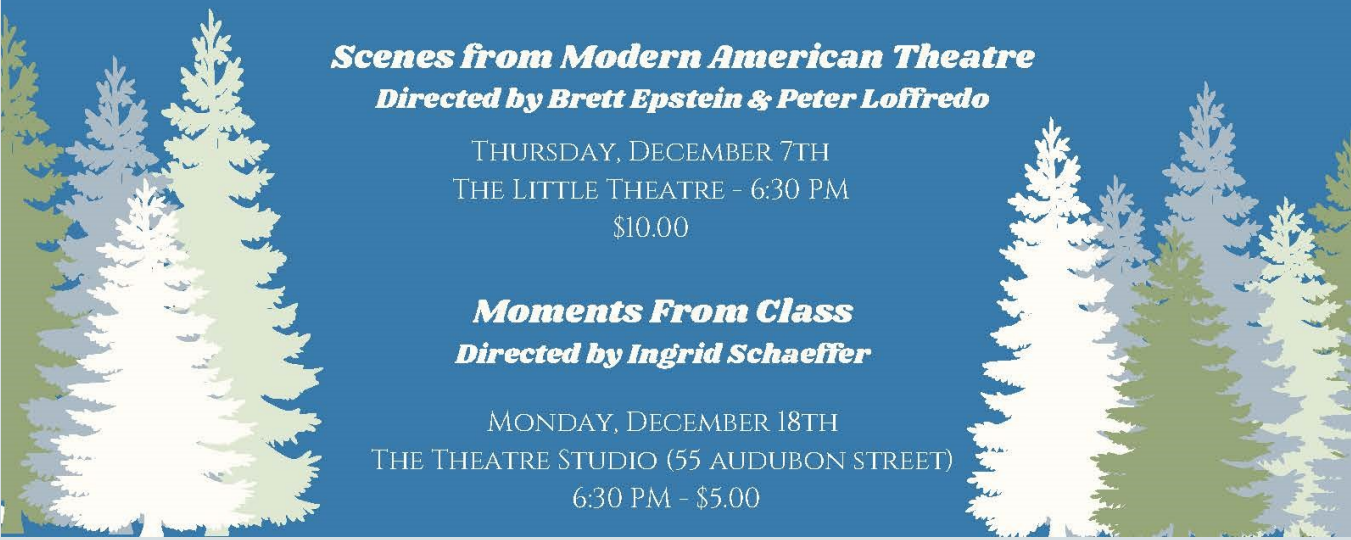
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
THE LITTLE THEATRE - 6:30 PM
\$10.00

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

A decorative graphic of several stylized evergreen trees in shades of white, light green, and dark green, arranged in a cluster at the bottom of the poster.

MENTAL HEALTH matters



Enjoy some quiet time & "unplug."	Try something new.	Be Active.	Give yourself permission to take a break.	Make a gratitude list.
Validate your own feelings.	Get 8 hours of sleep.	Cook a healthy & delicious meal.	Drink enough water	Take a bath or hot shower
Take 10 deep breaths.	Accomplish 1 item on your "to-do" list.	Be Kind to yourself & give yourself a <u>FREE</u> space.	Compliment yourself	Set a new goal for yourself
Spend time outdoors.	Ask for help	Declutter or organize your space	Listen to music.	Go for a walk.
Allow yourself to rest.	Catch up with a friend.	Laugh.	Be kind to someone.	Read a book.



Prevent Respiratory Viruses

STAY HEALTHY ALL SEASON



Wash Your Hands Often

**Clean & Disinfect
Surfaces Regularly**



**Get Your Flu Vaccine
& COVID-19 Booster**

**Stay Home When
You Are Sick**



**Mask Around Others
When Symptomatic**



COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

for residents of Bethany, Hamden,
North Haven & Woodbridge, CT.

Limited on time?
Let your voice be heard
by completing our
online surveys



SCAN ME

Visit www.qvhd.org/survey
or scan the QR code



QVHD

Quinnipiac Valley Health District

TRANSFORMING TOMORROW: A FUNDRAISER FOR HOPE & PEACE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 FROM 4-8

WHITNEYVILLE CULTURAL COMMONS

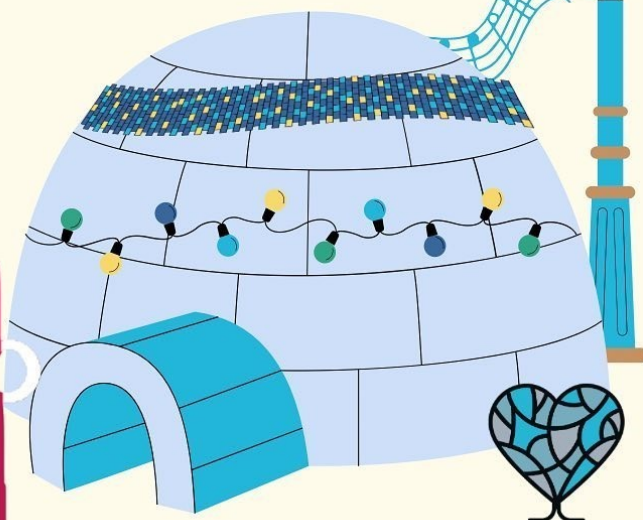
**FOOD & DRINKS * SEASONAL CRAFTS
MUSIC * WELLNESS * SILENT AUCTION
+ SPECIAL GUESTS**



Supporting
Eli's Garden of Healing

Tickets: \$25 in advance
\$35 at the door
\$5 kids 15 and under

Register at:
www.elisgardenofhealing.com



TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN 2023 FALL ADULT SOCIAL

SEPTEMBER 7

NORTH HAVEN FAIR

DROP OFF: 5:00 p.m.

PICK UP: 9:00 p.m.

There's plenty to do and see at the North Haven Fair. Enjoy the exhibits, entertainment, animals, rides, games and of course the food. Drop off & pick up will be at the main entrance. The group will meet at the main entrance of the North Haven Fair.

SEPTEMBER 14

LINEAR TRAIL/PICNIC DINNER

DROP OFF: 5:00 p.m.

PICK UP: 7:30 p.m.

Weather permitting, we'll get some exercise and enjoy nature at the same time as we walk or jog the Quinnipiac Linear Trail. Please bring your own picnic dinner and a bottle of water. The group will meet at the Quinnipiac Linear Trail.

SEPTEMBER 26

BOWLING

DROP OFF: 5:00 p.m.

PICK UP: 7:00 p.m.

Get a little exercise while you have fun bowling with your friends. The group will meet at Amity Bowl, 30 Selden Street, Woodbridge.

OCTOBER 3

DINNER AND MOVIE

DROP OFF: 5:00 p.m.

PICK UP: 9:30 p.m.

We will meet and enjoy dinner at Panera Bread. After dinner we will walk to the movie theater, sit back and relax for a night at the movies.

OCTOBER 16

NORTH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL GAME

DROP OFF: 4:30 p.m.

PICK UP: 7:00 p.m.

Tonight we will support the North Haven High School Nighthawks Girls Volleyball team as they take on the Titans of Sheehan. The group will meet in the main lobby of North Haven High School.

OCTOBER 26

PIZZA & PUMPKIN DECORATING

DROP OFF: 5:30 p.m.

PICK UP - 8:30 p.m.

We will decorate our own pumpkins using a variety of arts and crafts supplies. The group will enjoy a pizza dinner. Costumes are optional. The group will meet at the North Haven Recreation Center.

NOVEMBER 9

GAME NIGHT

DROP OFF: 5:30 p.m.

PICK UP: 9:30 p.m.

Tonight we will get together and play our favorite board games. Snacks will be provided. The group will meet at the North Haven Recreation Center.

NOVEMBER 21

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER & BINGO

DROP OFF: 5:30 p.m.

PICK UP: 8:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of food and fun! Tonight we will sit around the table and try foods made by our friends. After we eat, we will enjoy a night of Bingo. The group will meet at the Recreation Center.

DECEMBER 4

HOLIDAY DINNER/GRAB BAG

DROP OFF: 5:30 p.m.

PICK UP: 8:30 p.m.

We'll get in the spirit of the season with a Holiday dinner at Grand Apizza in North Haven. For those who want to participate, please bring a \$5.00 grab bag.