

# EDUCATE. ELEVATE. ILLUMINATE.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME 8

WEEKS 16 AND THE BREAK AHEAD



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 approach the final week of classes in 2023, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible support and unwavering commitment you have provided to our school community. The ECA family has once again demonstrated the strength that comes from collaboration and shared dedication to the arts and education. We are grateful for each and every one of you.

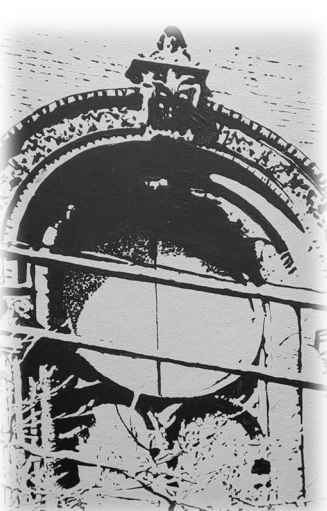
As we continue to navigate this holiday season and approach a well-deserved break, we want to extend our warmest wishes for a period of rest, relaxation, and reconnection with loved ones. The fall season has been a journey filled with artistic endeavors, personal growth, and community spirit, and we want to express our sincere appreciation for the part each of you played in making it memorable.

We hope that amidst the holiday festivities, the impact of ECA will be a topic of conversation as you reflect upon the past few months. Your contributions, whether through support at events, dedication to your craft, or simply being present in our community, have made a significant difference. We are fortunate to have such an engaged and enthusiastic group of families as part of our extended ECA family.

As we look ahead to the new year, we hope you can take time to discuss the aspirations you plan to embark upon, both artistically and personally, in 2024. The start of a new year brings with it the opportunity for fresh beginnings, and we are excited to witness the continued growth and achievements of our talented students.

On behalf of our entire school community, we extend our warmest wishes for this holiday season. May it be filled with moments of joy, laughter, and the company of loved ones. Thank you for being an integral part of the ECA family, and we look forward to the continued journey ahead together.

Sincerely,  
The ECA Faculty & Staff

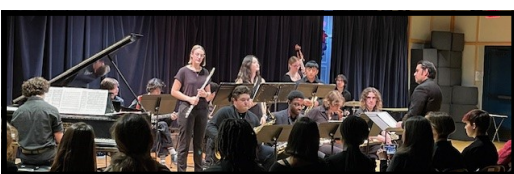


## ECA COMMUNITY EVENTS

On **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**, our theatre underclassmen students performed "Contemporary Scene Study" in the Little Theatre. They had the audience laughing, pondering and, at times, in tears. Special thanks to Director and ECA Instructor, Liz Daingerfield, for bringing these many scenes to life.



On **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, Acting III students provided moving performances in "Scenes from American Modern Theatre." We congratulate the cast and extend our gratitude to ECA Instructors/Directors Brett Epstein and Peter Loffredo AND Technical Director, Seth Harris, for their extraordinary work.



On **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, the Jazz Ensemble performed as special guests for IKEA's holiday feast, Julbord. Julbord is a Swedish holiday buffet where crowd pleasers such as gravlax, herring, and ham, and of course some meatballs, are accompanied by an abundance of local and individual additions. A special THANK YOU to ECA Jazz Director & Instructor, Will Cleary, for making this opportunity possible for our student musicians.

On **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**, ACES ECA hosted the Elm Shakespeare Company's Youth Festival of Shakespeare which featured four high school groups, including ACES ECA and their production of "The Winter's Tale" directed by ECA Instructor Benjamin Curns and choreographed by ECA Instructor, Angharad Davies. Congratulations to our many students for their performance. Our gratitude to Technical Director, Seth Harris and PACE for making this event possible.



On **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** the Dance Department performed three moving and compelling performances of "Rough Edges." The program featured the work of our many students who played a critical role in designing the choreography from start to finish. Under the guidance of their wonderful instructors, students developed performances that, at times, engaged audience input and left all on their feet applauding. Bravi to our dance students, Dance Department Chair, Mariane Banar Fountain, and ECA Dance Faculty Angharad Davies, Laura Manzella, Nazorine Ulysse, Seny Camera, Michaela Coppola and Joseph Getter for their extraordinary work on this program.

On **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Music Department presented their Recital in the Neighborhood Music School Recital

Hall, featuring a variety of selections from their fall repertoire.

Congratulations to the Percussion Ensemble, Musical Theatre Class, Studio Singers, Composition Class, String Studio, Chamber Orchestra, Saxophone Studio, Jazz Ensemble, and our many student soloists on their outstanding, moving performances.

On **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**, the ECA Studio Singers performed for New Haven Ballet's production of The Nutcracker at the Shubert Theater. Under the direction of ECA Music Instructor, Yiran Zhao, our singers moving performance enhanced the authenticity of this embraced, holiday classic.

On **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, the Visual Arts Department designed over 500 lanterns for the Edgerton Park Winter Solstice Luminary Walk. Over 500 lanterns were designed and created by our Visual Arts students. Thank you to Visual Arts Department Chair, Hanni Bresnick, and our Visual Arts instructors for making this possible for our students and the Edgerton Park community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**  
Acting I Sharing • Theatre Studio

**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**  
Three Ways to Tell a Story • Arts Hall

**\*Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 1:30pm**  
School-Wide Share Assembly  
Arts Hall (\*This is a school day for our students. If you anticipate your student to be absent for this day, call the main office to in advance.  
Thank you for your cooperation.

# ACES/ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Department is happy to acknowledge and congratulate the following students for their accomplishments beyond the classroom.

- **Naomi Borenstein '24** for a winning poem at Young Arts.
- **Kai Clayton '26, Micaela Demb '25, Hattie Geertz '26,** and **Emma Higgins '25** for their acceptance as Arts & Ideas Fellows for 2024.

The Creative Writing Department is also excited to collaborate with the Dance and Music Departments on their upcoming performance, "**Three Ways to Tell a Story**," which will be presented on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Scroll down to see the poster for details.

**Saul Fussiner, Department Chair**

## Dance



The Dance Department congratulates their students on a successful performance of *Rough Edges* which took place on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in the ECA Arts Hall. Through the collaboration and exploration of the creative process, all choreography was created and performed by dance students.

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 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Finally, the **DANCE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY POTLUCK** will take place on Wednesday, December 20 at 2:30 pm. Please send in your favorite holiday food as we celebrate the season in the dance department. We will begin with class all together followed by yummy eats and activities. It's a great way for dancers to celebrate all they have accomplished so far this year and to reflect on the upcoming new year.



**Mariane Banar-Fountain, Department Chair**

## Music



We congratulate our music students on the many December performances they have prepared. Here are some highlights of what has taken place:

The Jazz Ensemble's holiday performance at IKEA took place on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> where they performed as special guests for

IKEA's holiday feast, Julbord. Congratulations to our student musicians and a special THANK YOU to ECA Jazz Director & Instructor, Will Cleary, for making this opportunity possible for our student musicians.

Congratulations to the Percussion Ensemble, Musical Theatre Class, Studio Singers, Composition Class, String Studio, Chamber Orchestra, Saxophone Studio, Jazz Ensemble, and our many student soloists on their outstanding, moving performances at the ECA Music Department Recital on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A special THANK YOU to our music instructors, Gretchen Hary, Will Cleary, Polina Nazaykinskaya, Roy Wiseman, Oliver Homann, Cynthia Eggers, Maggie Lieberman, Dean Vitale, Ashley Hale, Will Brennan, Yiran Zhao, Ruben Ortiz, and Michaela Coppola for preparing our students for this special performance.

*(Music cont.)*

The Studio Singers performance in New Haven Ballet's production of the "Nutcracker" at the Shubert Theater took place on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. A special THANK YOU to ECA Studio Singers Director & Music Instructor, Yiran Zhao, for supporting our singers to provide a moving performance for all who attended.

This coming Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, students across the departments of Music, Dance, and Creative Writing will come together to present "Three Ways to Tell a Story," where students will read their poems to the accompaniment of original music compositions and, in three cases, filmed choreography.

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



## Theatre



The Elm Shakespeare Youth Festival of Shakespeare was a success! ACES ECA was the proud host of the first annual Youth Festival of Shakespeare this past Saturday. The Elm Shakespeare Company Teen Troupe, Metropolitan Business Academy, Common Ground, and ECA's Theatre Department

performed four complete works from Shakespeare's cannon. It was a celebration of a community of young artists across New Haven and beyond that shared their hard work and spread Shakespeare's brilliant words. Thanks to all the parents, students, community members, ECA Theatre staff, faculty, and administration, for making the day a win for all!

**Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair**



## Visual Arts

Congratulations to our ECA VA students in the 3D Design class who designed and developed handmade lanterns for the Winter Solstice Luminary Walk. This work was featured at the walk on Saturday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-9pm.

The Art Department will be holding a **Free Art Book Fair** next week which is open to all Visual Arts students.

**Mark your calendars!**

**Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Student Exhibition will be on January 25<sup>th</sup> 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**

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 6:00PM\***
- 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).

### **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. 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.

**aces ECA**  
Educational Center for the Arts

**THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT AT ECA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

***WINTERFEST***

***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

Presents

# Three Ways to Tell a Story

A Collaboration: Music, Creative Writing, & Dance

♩ the paper couldn't keep them together

♩ white knuckle grip clutches nothing-in-it suitcase

♩ a bowtied dog wears his shoes well

♩ She thinks with a sweet inhale

## Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

### @ 6:30 PM

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

Suggested Donation: \$10

[sfussiner@aces.org](mailto:sfussiner@aces.org)

♩ Sasha is trench coat hiding from the rain and her third pack

♩ and french haircut next to purple colored armoire

♩ next to the floor-condemned-mattress a dolphin ashtray

♩ She hides from the water since she can't hide from the flame



aces

Educational Center for the Arts



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# 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**



# Urgent response for children's mental health crises.



- Thoughts of suicide or self-injury
- Feelings of depression, anxiety or hopelessness
- Out-of-control behaviors
- Substance misuse
- Any mental health crisis

**No appointment needed**

At the four walk-in **Urgent Crisis Centers (UCC)** for children and adolescents ages 18 and under, trained staff will:

- ✓ De-escalate the crisis
- ✓ Complete an evaluation
- ✓ Connect youth to services

## Urgent Crisis Centers



1680 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 297-0520  
[thevillage.org/UCC](http://thevillage.org/UCC)



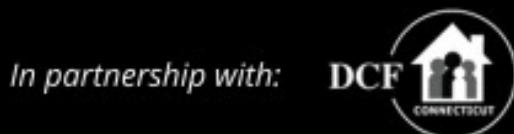
255 Hempstead St, New London, CT 06320  
(860) 437-4550  
[childandfamilyagency.org/urgent-crisis-center](http://childandfamilyagency.org/urgent-crisis-center)



141 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702  
(203) 580-4298  
[wellmore.org/urgent-crisis-center](http://wellmore.org/urgent-crisis-center)



20 York Street, New Haven, CT 06510  
(203) 688-4707  
[ynhh.org/childrens-hospital/services/emergency-services](http://ynhh.org/childrens-hospital/services/emergency-services)



*If a youth needs immediate medical attention,  
call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital.*

# Open Enrollment

**WE ARE OPEN YEAR ROUND**

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- Build positive relationships with other children and adults.

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ADDRESS: FARNAM NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, 162 FILLMORE STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT 06513



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**We are looking for volunteers to help facilitate our Real Talk groups. Real Talk is a safe space to talk about it ALL and take care of our mental health!**

Interested? Email: [tmo@newhavenpridecenter.org](mailto:tmo@newhavenpridecenter.org)  
or signup on our link tree: [youthnhpc](#)





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- » 10 weeks only, plus continued 1:1 mentoring if desired

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January 8 & February 12**

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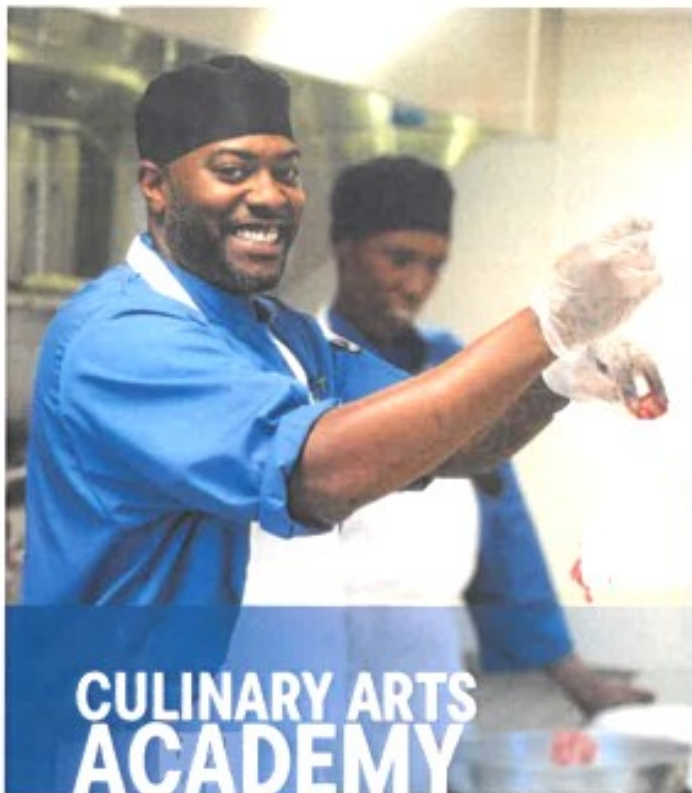
Free tuition thanks to Eversource.  
Use code '**POWERUP**' at checkout



[programs@girlswithimpact.org](mailto:programs@girlswithimpact.org)



[www.girlswithimpact.org/register](http://www.girlswithimpact.org/register)



Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology



## COURSE OUTLINE

FOOD SANITATION & SAFETY

CULINARY SKILLS

INTRODUCTION TO BAKING

AMERICAN REGIONAL CUISINE

ART OF GARDE MANGER

HEALTHY COOKING

CAFE OPERATION

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This program is designed to fulfill the market demand for trained culinarians in the food service industry. Emphasis is placed on instilling excellent culinary skills while producing well rounded culinarians equipped to enter the fast-paced environment of hospitality.

The Culinary Arts Academy will also give graduates the opportunity to acquire their national ServSafe certification while enrolled in the program.

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New Haven, CT

**Hamilton Park**  
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**New Haven Lawn Club**  
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**Union League Cafe**  
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**Pacifico Restaurant**  
New Haven, CT

**Zinc**  
New Haven, CT

**Texas Roadhouse Restaurant**  
West Haven, CT

This program is SNAP approved

SCAN ME!

