



Volume 8, Issue 2

September 2015

State of the Den

The very best part of my job is spending time in the classrooms because that is where the magic happens! It is exciting to see the challenging activities the students participate in even at our youngest grades. Some of this challenge is part of the ideal Endeavor was founded on. We believe that all children will grow academically when they are challenged and nurtured.

Another part of the challenge comes from the Common Core State Standards, the curriculum we follow. The CCSS have been in the news recently. Our state has joined other states in reevaluating this curriculum. One of the complaints frequently heard is that the CCSS presents unreasonable expectations. I saw a woman on the news recently express her horror that in the CCSS kindergarten students were expected to write argumentative/persuasive paragraphs. She found this unreasonable and absurd. I wonder if she has ever met a kindergartener. I have yet to meet a five-year-old who was not a skilled negotiator when asked what type pet, dessert, or vacation he or she would like to have. Those five-year-olds can do exactly what the curriculum asks - make a choice, explain the choice with multiple reasons, and provide a conclusion. Tell a five-year-old that it is bed time, and you will get another skilled example of persuasion! Do the kindergarteners all write neatly, spell correctly, and punctuate as older students do? Of course not. However, they are much more interested in working on their sentences, spelling, and punctuation when provided interesting and challenging topics. This is generally true of students of all ages. Students like a challenge!

I believe that all our students are capable of great things, and I believe that they all should be challenged. Often the challenge comes from the subject matter itself. Sometimes the challenge comes from using a new technology, incorporating specific vocabulary, or speaking in front of an audience. Sometimes the challenge comes from working appropriately with others. We seek ways to challenge all of our students. Our goal is to continue challenging all our students in a variety of ways because challenge is where growth comes from. If the CCSS represents challenge, then we believe our students can handle that challenge and will be better off for it!

- Christi Whiteside



Upcoming Events

Sept 3:
Terracycle "Trash 4 Cash" Brigade

Sept. 4:
Early Release Day,
Flip Flop Friday

Sept. 7:
Labor Day Holiday,
no school

Sept. 14, 7 p.m.:
Board Meeting, MPR

Sept. 14-18:
Box Tops Drive

Sept. 22.:
Early Release Day

Spirit Event at Flying
FroYo

Sept. 23:
Yom Kippur Holiday,
no school

A Message From Our PAWS President

Isn't it great when you get just what you want? Like when you ask the kids to clean their rooms and you climb the stairs to find out they actually did. How about when you head out to Target and are able to find everything on your list? Then there are those times when you get more than what you want. When the kids surprise you by cleaning the whole house, when those shoes you have been eyeing go on sale for half price or when you are exhausted from a long day to find dinner prepared for you when you get home.

That's what this past month has proven to be at ECS. Sometimes you get what you ask for and ***sometimes you get more.*** Take a look:

- 139 families signed up as PAWS volunteers
- 80+ families attended our First Quarter Common Grounds meeting
- 25 Giving Tree donation credits
- 289 PAWS members – over 75% of our school
- 50 bags of trash collected on our first Terracycle Thursday
- 34 room parents
- 5,502 Café Days lunches ordered towards PAWS biggest fundraiser
- 41 volunteer hours committed to Café Days in 24 hours

Folks, all of this happened in just one short month!! You "showed up." We all did. You showed up with bags of trash, Giving Tree donations and Box Tops. You showed up for lunch duty and to serve Café Days. You showed up to link your cards, you asked to be a volunteer and you answered the emails for help. And when asked to come to our first Common Grounds meeting...YOU SHOWED UP by the dozens! I am so proud of us! You see, the thing I didn't tell you about "showing up" is that when you show up you inspire the people that you are showing up for, you make them want to keep "showing up" as well. See how it works? You all started something here!

And to those of you reading this and thinking silently, "Oops, I forgot to show up." It's okay, we get it, it can't always work for everybody at the same time in the same way, and when you do show up there will be plenty of room for you. It takes a village to run a school and we need all of us.

I strive to live an inspired life and you all inspire me every day. You make me want to show up. Thank you for that.

Keep on keeping on...

- Susan White, PAWS President

News

Meet Endeavor's New Assistant Director, Craig Atkinson

Endeavor's new Assistant Director, Craig Atkinson, was born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada and moved to the U.S. in the year 2000 to start his teaching career. As a member of the Visiting International Faculty (VIF) program, he was placed at South Granville High School in Creedmoor, N.C. to teach Earth Science and Biology. After three years in Creedmoor, he was recruited to join East Wake Academy, a charter school in Zebulon N.C. East Wake Academy was starting a high school in 2003 and Mr. Atkinson named the first Science Department Chair. After 10 rewarding



Anything
is "PAWS"ible!

**Anything is
PAWSible
Inspiration and
Challenge**

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."
- Harriet Tubman

We currently have 289 PAWS members for the 2015/2016 school year. We are 78% of the way toward our goal of 100% participation!

Be on the lookout for your invitation to join PAWS and help your class achieve their goal of 100%! All of the proceeds earned during our membership drive will be used to support the school, students and our amazing teachers. The Membership Drive is scheduled to end Sept.30. We know that 100% is an ambitious goal, but here at PAWS we believe "Anything is PAWSible"...[join today.](#)



years at East Wake Academy, he was accepted into the N.C. Principal Fellows Program in 2013. After one year on campus at N.C. State University, Mr. Atkinson spent the last school year as an intern assistant principal at Heritage High School in Wake Forest.

Mr. Atkinson is a proud husband and father of his two-year-old son, Andre. He lives within the Endeavor community in a home close to the Falls River neighborhood. In his free time, Mr. Atkinson likes to be active and is an avid hockey and tennis player. Travelling is one of his passions and he has been to more than 25

countries around the world.

Mr. Atkinson is very excited to be joining Endeavor. He was drawn to Endeavor because of its excellent reputation in the local community and in within the charter school community. He is eager to work with the bright students, caring teachers and involved parents that Endeavor is known for. Mr. Atkinson is looking forward to meeting everyone and encourages everyone to stop by and say hello when they see him on campus.

PAWS Celebrates our Volunteers: Spotlight on Room Parents

*"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."
~Winston Churchill*



PAWS celebrates our room parents this month by acknowledging their dedication and commitment to our classrooms. We have 34 room parents this year with every classroom having at least one room parent and the fine arts team having two team parents. Room parents assist teachers in classroom organization and communication as well as help parents keep track of special days and events in our teacher's lives. A big thank you to all of our room parents.



Common Grounds Meeting Review Susan White, PAWS President

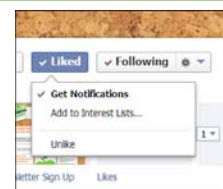
Over 80 families attended our first Common Grounds meeting for the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you to all who attended. We had a full agenda including presentations regarding morning meeting, public speaking, service endeavors, upcoming special events and a review of the Home Base on-line grading system. Dina Rafferty and the Fine Arts Team were special guest speakers and Boosters and PAWS presented a full update. [Click](#)



Volunteer Today

We need you!!

Please consider [signing up](#) to help one of our many committees today. [Email PAWS President Susan White](#) to be added to our volunteer distribution email list.



Follow ECS Families on Facebook

Stay connected and informed – follow [ECS Families on Facebook](#).

Visit our page from your home desktop or laptop and opt into NOTIFICATIONS from the LIKE button! Don't miss out on important news and updates!

[here to view the minutes](#) of this important meeting. We look forward to seeing you on Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. for our next Common Grounds meeting.

Passive Fundraising -- We Need Your Help!

Colleen Icenhower



Keep clipping Box Tops for our upcoming "Box Top Drive" Sept. 14-18. Send in your Box Tops in a bag labeled with your child's name/homeroom teacher that week. The top three classes will be rewarded! 1st place will win a pizza party, and 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive a doughnut party.

Keep Collecting Trash for our next Terracycle Thursday on Oct. 1 during morning carpool. [Check out the new items added](#) to the list of those we collect.

Don't forget to Re-Link your cards today: Target, Harris Teeter, Lowes Foods, and Kroger. Endeavor earns a percentage every time you shop!



Boosters Update

Indy Harris

THE 1ST QUARTER SEASON IS WELL UNDERWAY FOR THE ENDEAVOR PRIDE!!

With all credit given to the generous support of our school community, our Boys Soccer Team hosted their first home game of the season on our beautiful new field! Please consider attending a home soccer game or cross country meet on the Endeavor Charter School campus...
-SEE THE PRIDE IN ACTION-

[See Cross Country.](#)

[Girls Tennis And Boys Soccer Event Schedules And Locations](#)

Save The Date: Our next Spirit Event will be Tuesday, Sept. 22 at The Flying FroYo! Stop by any time that day to enjoy a cup of frozen yogurt – a portion of all proceeds will be donated in support of our student athletes! [Directions to the Flying FroYo and more 1st Quarter Spirit Event info.](#)

Cooler weather is around the corner - Fall/Winter Spirit Wear will be offered online at the beginning of 2nd quarter!



Spirit Night Sept. 22 at Flying FroYo

Back the Pride - join us at The Flying FroYo Tuesday, Sept. 22!

[2930 Forestville Road #100, Raleigh](#)

Stop in anytime that day - load up on toppings!



Plan Ahead for School Pics

Get those smiles ready – school picture day has been scheduled for Oct. 22.



Cafe Days Update

The Cafe Days team would like to thank everyone who signed up to volunteer with

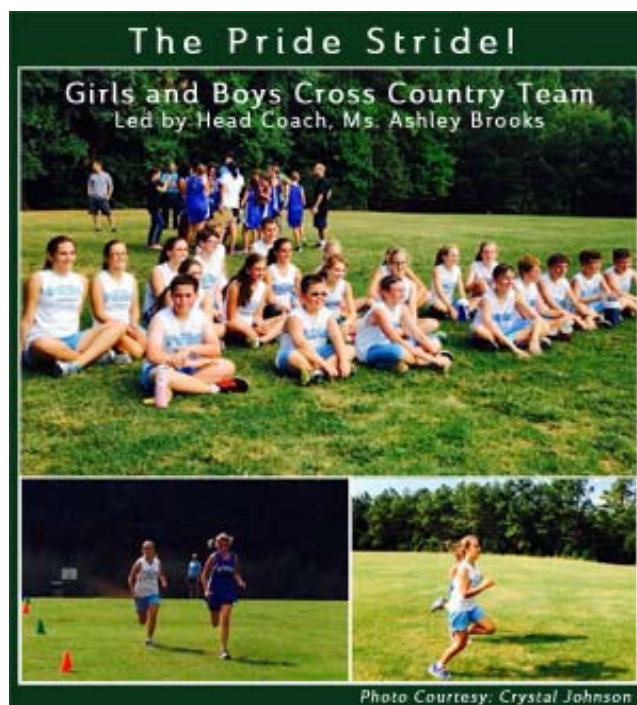


Photo Courtesy: Crystal Johnson

Registration for Girls and Boys Basketball will open to all 7th and 8th grade students mid to late September. All related forms and athletic fees will be due during that time.

Huge thanks to all who expressed interest in the possibility of adding a co-ed golf team to the ECS Athletics Program! We are continuing to gather the information required to field this exciting new opportunity for our students -- stay tuned!

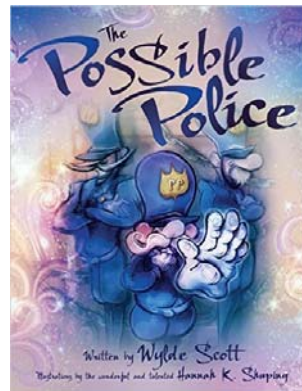
Head coaching and potential head coaching opportunities are now available for Girls Basketball, Co-Ed Golf (TBD) and Girls Soccer (TBD). Please [contact Athletic Director Josh Burt](#) for details if you or someone you know is interested.

**Head coaching jobs are paid positions*

BACK THE PRIDE - INVEST NOW - ENDEAVOR TO PLAY

Cultural Arts Committee Presents *The Possible Police*

The popular children's book *The Possible Police* by Wylde Scott is being set to a ballet and performed by The International Ballet Academy at our first event sponsored by our Cultural Arts Committee on Sept. 30. The author will be part of this very special production and will be available for a book signing. Be on the lookout for an order form to order one of these fantastic books that the author will sign the day of the performance! PAWS will receive a portion of all book orders placed through ECS and will be using these funds to enhance programs offered through our Cultural Arts Committee.



Editor's Note

Please send newsletter submissions to me at chelewalker@att.net no later than the 28th of the month for inclusion in the following month's PawPrint. Text may be sent in Word (.doc) format, and pictures in JPG format.

Michele Walker

Forward this email



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us for 1st quarter. Our Sign Up Genius filled up in record time with A LOT of new parents diving right in. Hooray!

Mark your calendars -- ordering for 2nd quarter is already approaching. Ordering will open on Sept 19 and remain open for two weeks. Food service will begin on the first day back from track out.