



Foundations

East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation & Alumni Association **MARCH 2021**



**Growing with
Classroom
Tower Gardens
Foundation President
Says Thank You!
Enhancement Grants
Donor Roll Call
A Virtual Cup of Coffee
with Peter Meijer '04**

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VIRTUAL CUP OF COFFEE

Peter Meijer '04

Peter is a proud fourth generation West Michigander. Peter's grandfather, Fred Meijer, inspired Peter to pursue a path of purpose and service, and instilled in him a love for West Michigan. After graduating from EGRHS, Peter's first step on his path of purpose was spending a year at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Soon thereafter, Peter enlisted in the Army reserves and deployed to Iraq. A passion for service, and for West Michigan, compelled Peter to continue to serve his community by running for Congress. With the unwavering support of his team, family and wife Gabriella, Peter Meijer was sworn in as the Congressman for Michigan's 3rd Congressional District on January 3rd, 2021.



You can only have one: Rose's caramel corn, an ice cream cone from Jersey Junction, or a Yesterdog. Which do you choose?

Jersey Junction ice cream cone. The flavor is weather-dependent. When it's hotter out, then a fruit-based flavor. When it gets a little cooler, then chocolate. I'm a big fan of cookies and cream too.

What was your path from East Grand Rapids to where you are now in life?

I started out at West Point right out of high school. I loved the army, loved the military, but I decided I didn't want to make a career as a commissioned officer. And I didn't want to take a spot at West Point from someone who did.

At the end of my first year, I transferred to Columbia, and immediately enlisted in the reserves. Between my junior and senior year, my reserve unit was called up and we were deployed to Iraq. That delayed my time at Columbia by three semesters.

After graduation, it was a time of budget cuts and staff reductions in the military. I became active with the Student Veterans for America and helped get the post-9/11 GI bill passed. I was also involved with Team Rubicon and worked in disaster response since I'd trained as an EMT during my time at Columbia. I worked a job in Afghanistan for a couple of years.

Later, I got my MBA and worked in real estate development for a while before taking a look at the political climate in West Michigan and deciding to run for Congress.

What specific thing did you learn in East that has enabled you to be successful?

One of the most impactful things I learned was a real, profound interest in the Constitution. That came through Mrs. Yates and "We the People," which is just an amazing program. When I was at Columbia, I took a class with Lee Bollinger that was similar to a first-year law school class and I felt like my experience in We the People had prepared me extremely well for it.

What were you like in school?

Definitely not a jock. I did run cross country, but only because the extent of the coordination required was to put one foot in front of the other. I think I engaged with a lot of people. I was involved with We the People and the school newspaper, The Vision. I took academics seriously, but I was also up for cooking some steaks on a charcoal grill at a tailgate before the football game.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known then?

You only get to go through high school once. It's hard to appreciate the things you wish you would've done in the moment.

If you had to choose one moment in one location to serve as the signature moment of your East school experience, what would it be?

It was during a Homecoming parade. The cross country team was riding along in a 1970 orange Jeepster Commando and the engine died. We had to put it in neutral and push it for the rest of the parade. Fortunately, it's a very light vehicle.

Do you stay in touch with many people from East Grand Rapids?

A good number. You make a lot of friends along the way. Some slip away over the years, but I stay in touch with a tremendous cohort of people who are leading wonderful lives and doing amazing things.

What advice do you have for young East alums who are just starting out?

The sky is the limit. East Grand Rapids will always be there for you. It's an incredible place and it's important to recognize the privilege and opportunities that come with growing up in a place like East Grand Rapids. You might not appreciate that fully until you've had a chance to compare and contrast it with someplace else. I know many people I grew up with who went off and did wonderful things but then returned to East Grand Rapids to raise their families. Grand Rapids is a grand place. It's big enough to have everything you need but not so big that you can't make a difference.

Bonus question: What are you glad we didn't ask you about?

How close I came to not graduating from high school on time. I'd already earned a 5 on the AP US History exam but I hadn't finished the essays for the year-long online course. About two weeks before graduation, Principal Cwayna told me I was on the list of people who wouldn't be able to graduate, along with all these people who'd been expelled or suspended. I got the essays done, though, and I can assure you that I graduated from high school in good standing.

Want to read more? Visit egrsf.org/coffee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

I've lived in East Grand Rapids nearly all my life and one thing I've noticed is that our community likes to do things together. School open houses, concerts at the Performing Arts Center, the LBW race on the track, parent-teacher conferences, walks around the lake, shopping at D&W, Halloween and Homecoming parades, the Reeds Lake run, Friday night football games, and enjoying ice cream cones on steamy summer evenings—if we're going to do it, we're going to do it together.

One of the most impactful things we do together, of course, is supporting our public schools. By that I don't just mean supporting the Foundation, though I am grateful for all of you that do. I mean being involved in our schools. Volunteering in front offices and classrooms. Connecting with teachers. Coaching teams. Helping your own children and those of your friends and neighbors. Attending performances to cheer them on and appreciate their talents.

Over the last couple of years, I've seen that togetherness tested. Our opportunities to gather have, at various times, been canceled, postponed, limited, socially distanced or masked. As some of our interactions with each other moved online, some of our connection to each other was lost.

There were more profound losses as well. In the past few years, we've lost so many of our community's long-time advocates for public education. We've lost many of the people who helped make our schools the extraordinary places they are, and who helped create the world of experience and opportunity our children enjoy.

We will never get those people back, but I do believe that we can continue to champion the cause that was so near and dear to their hearts: outstanding public education for our kids. I also firmly believe that our partial loss of connection was only temporary, and can be restored as quickly as it was interrupted. It will take work, though. It will take effort. And it will take all of us. **Together.**

Amy Stuursma
Executive Director

2021 DONOR ROLL CALL

The **East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation's Donor Roll Call** recognizes those individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the Foundation from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. This list also includes all supporters who made a pledge to our Now&Forever campaign through December 31, 2021. The Foundation's Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges all who have generously supported our mission through their gifts. This list reflects all outright gifts and does not include participants in Foundation-sponsored events or golf outings. We strive to be accurate and comprehensive, but in a listing of this length errors may occur. We welcome assistance from readers in bringing any inaccuracies to our attention.

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GRANT HIGHLIGHTS | FALL 2021

First Harvest from Tower Gardens | MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Elementary, middle and high school students have literally been reaping the rewards from the Tower Gardens that are growing in six classrooms around the district.

The gardens were a gift to the Foundation from EGR alum Cynthia Daverman Gompers '64. Teachers and students throughout the district have been tending the gardens, providing hands-on learning about biology, ecology, and other concepts.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, middle school teacher Becky Martin's science classes ate plant-based meals that included lettuce and other plants from their Tower Garden. Elementary students have been eating the fruits of their labors as well.

"Fifth Graders have had an awesome time with the tower garden!" says Wealthy Elementary 5th grade teacher Megan Miller. "I put it together before school started. In September, our plants were wilting and not flourishing, so we read about how much sunlight we were giving it and realized it was not enough! As good scientists, we changed our plans. Then, over Thanksgiving break, we experienced a drought (forgot to check the water amounts in base). Some were able to be revived and some partners needed to reseed. It was a good learning experience.

"At the beginning of January, we were happy to see that it was harvest time and we had our first salad taste test of kale, chard, various lettuce, and basil. Chard actually made the top three in taste! Fifth graders have declared that salad is good! Please thank Cynthia! It has been a wonderful addition to our science classes!"

Adds Breton Downs 4th grade teacher Cheryl Radecki, "We are learning a lot! Our most recent 'aha' moment was when we realized why some of our plants were not producing fruits or vegetables. We learned about self-pollinating vs pollinating plants. Looking for a solution for our non-pollinating plants, the kids decided it would not be a good idea to release 100,000 bees in the school. So, students came up with other ways to pollinate the plants, including using the end of a pipe cleaner (acting like the bees). Students are learning to problem solve and enjoying the process. Thank you for this opportunity!"

"We have loved our Tower Garden!" says Lakeside kindergarten teacher Hannah Bailey. "We planted the starter kit and the kinders and I LOVED the salads! We even made lettuce rolls and harvested lettuce for the kids to take home to their families! This next round of gardening is based around Valentine's Day! We planted edible flowers, strawberries, watermelon and tomatoes and threw in a little lavender purple color! Next year, we're going to find a location so that it is the school garden or something for the upper grades to experience. As of right now, I am very grateful!!"

Turnitin.com Subscription | HIGH SCHOOL

EGRPS teachers know that writing is an important and useful skill for every student. Quality of writing matters in college, in the workforce, and for civic participation. Turnitin.com, a subscription service that high school science teacher Jeff Webb recently renewed with a Foundation grant, helps students hone their writing skills.

"Turnitin.com has become a very valuable resource for both our students and teachers," says Webb. Over the last 5 years, EGRHS students have submitted over 4000 papers to Turnitin. The service allows students to learn about writing high-quality research papers with "integrity and authenticity." Students are able to check their work against the robust Turnitin database of submitted papers and teachers are able to check work for authenticity against both internal and external submissions.

The authenticity of the papers is particularly important to EGRHS IB students' submission of work toward their IB diplomas and certificates. With each submission, students must complete a declaration statement assuring that the submitted work is theirs and only theirs. Turnitin.com provides teachers and students an opportunity to check all work prior to the final submission to the IB.

ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

APPROVED WINTER 2022

DRAMA: Professional Musicians for Spring Musical

HIGH SCHOOL | Jason Marlett and Bree Mitchell

Our student musicians play alongside and learn from professional musicians to produce the best show possible.

TEAM BUILDING: 6th Grade Camp Blodgett

MIDDLE SCHOOL | Jill Smith and Jeff Dykhouse

All 6th grade students will attend a one day team building experience at Camp Blodgett at the start of the school year.

ROBOTICS: Team Competition Fees

HIGH SCHOOL | Elisha Murphy

The EGR Robotics Team plans to compete in the Districts as well as the State Competition.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Literature Conference

MIDDLE SCHOOL | Rachel Ries, Danielle Smith, Andrea Adams, Erika Ianuzzi, Amy Marlow, & Jill Smith

What's New In Young Adult Literature and How to Use It In Your Program

QUIZ BOWL: National Competition

HIGH SCHOOL | Brian VanderBee

The EGR Quiz Bowl team will travel to the National Competition in Atlanta.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Replica Hominid Skulls

HIGH SCHOOL | Pierre Sirois

Replica skulls for use in introductory studies of paleontology and anthropology.

INSTRUMENTS: Drumline Replacement

HIGH SCHOOL | Jake Castillo

Full set of drumline instruments, harnesses and stands.

BOOKS: Learning Commons Revitalization

ELEMENTARY | Sarah Webber

Replacement of popular titles and purchase of new titles for all 3 elementary schools.

READING SUPPORT: Leveled Literacy Intervention Kits

ELEMENTARY | Andrea Dudley

Systematic lessons and captivating books used in evidence-based reading intervention.

ADVANCED PROJECTS IN PHYSICS & ENGINEERING: Tool Carts

HIGH SCHOOL | Scott Titus

Carts will aid in organizing and maintaining the course tools and allow for transporting to other classrooms.

SCIENCE: Constant Velocity Tumble Buggies

HIGH SCHOOL | Katie Baker

Battery operated vehicles to allow students to explore constant velocity and rates.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 8th Grade Yoga

MIDDLE SCHOOL | Jacob Babb

Curriculum materials for 8th grade yoga class.

PERFORMING ARTS: Music Library

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS | Bree Mitchell

Materials to augment and update the music libraries.

GAME DESIGN: Game Controllers

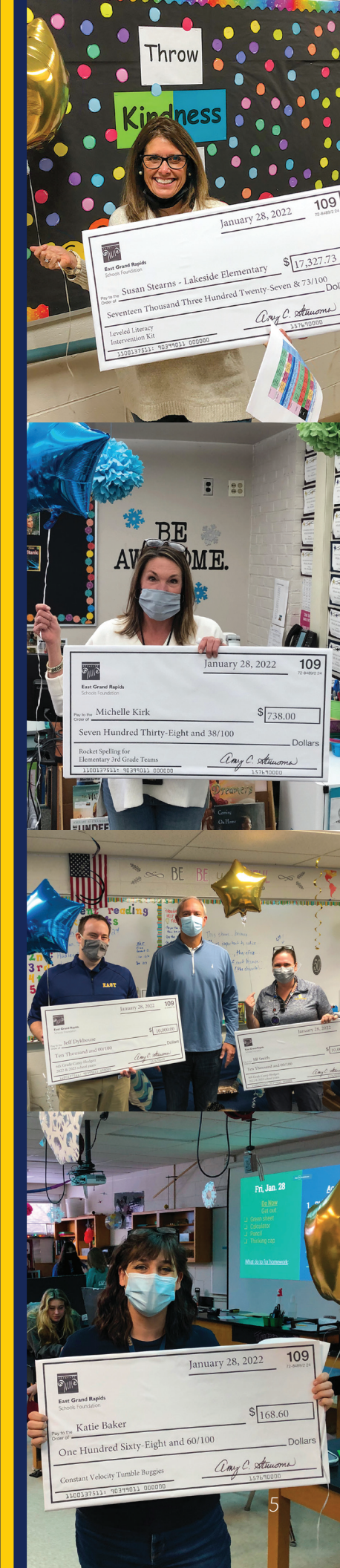
HIGH SCHOOL | Adam Hall and Patrick Reed

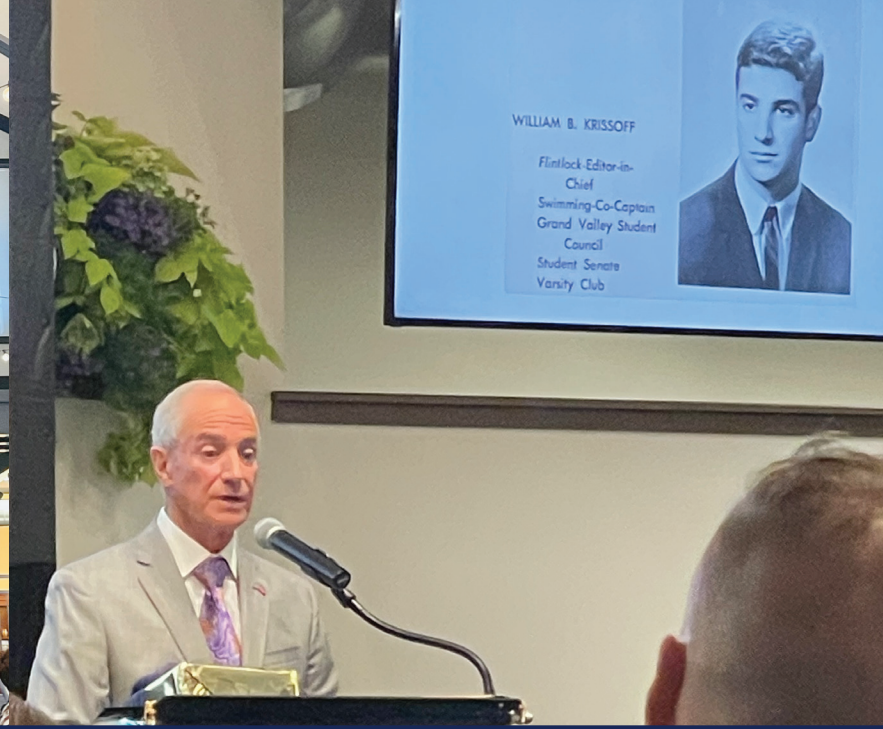
Game controllers to enable students to test computer games they have developed.

THIRD GRADE: Rocket Spelling

ELEMENTARY | Michelle Kirk

Online platform to help students master spelling concepts at an individualized pace.





MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

It has been a sincere honor for me to serve as President of the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation. I wish to recognize and thank the hard work of the past presidents I've served under—Mike Reid, Eric Starck, Jill Miller, and Brian Schwartz. Through our leadership, and the efforts of Amy Stuursma and her incredibly dedicated administrative staff, and many committee members, the Foundation has grown its endowment from approximately \$3 million to nearly \$14 million.

It has been truly impressive to witness firsthand our superb and caring teachers, our supportive parents, and this incredibly engaged community. Our schools are at the heart of East Grand Rapids and are shaped by our community. Without your support, the efforts and achievements of the Foundation would be impossible.

As we begin 2022, I look back upon both the challenges and the successes we've had in the past year, and I can't help but feel a great sense of optimism as we move forward. We'll never know what the future holds, but there is truly much for us to be thankful for today, despite the historic setbacks we've endured over the past couple of years.

At the same time, the Foundation is considering new ways of ensuring every student has access to everything our district has to offer. For instance, we are looking at ways to eliminate any barriers that keep some of our students from participating in co-curricular and extracurricular activities. With you as our partner, we'll find the best way to make that happen.

The Foundation will always stay true to its mission of enriching the educational experience of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning that requires financial support beyond the district. We are and will continue to be fully committed to work with our teachers, parents, businesses, and the rest of our great community to empower and inspire our students in all their future endeavors.

Joel Iakiri
2021-2022 President



EVENT RECAP | Community Service & Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner Recap | SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

"This is one of the best events we've ever had." Time and again, we heard that on September 30, as we honored former EGRPS Custodial Supervisor Bruce Towne and CDR. Bill Krissoff, MD, Medical Corps, United States Navy (Ret.) as the guests of honor at the Foundation's Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.

Towne is still one of the best-known, best-loved people around East Grand Rapids. He spent 23 years as an EGRPS custodian, but that barely scratches the surface of the contributions he's made to our community. His enthusiasm, friendliness, energy, and passion are infectious and inspiring. Towne was honored with the Community Service Award.

Commander Krissoff, who graduated from EGRHS in 1964, is an orthopedic surgeon who honored his fallen Marine son Nate in an extraordinary way. After Nate was killed in action in Iraq, Dr. Krissoff, at age 60, decided to join the United States Navy Medical Corps. He served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, caring for injured soldiers. Commander Krissoff was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Both honorees participated in school events during the week. The day of the dinner, Commander Krissoff spoke to all high school students in the Performing Arts Center, and then met with a smaller group of students for lunch and an engaging question and answer session. Towne appeared in the Homecoming parade and even helped set up the stage for the Homecoming court at halftime of the football game.

At the event, Krissoff was introduced by longtime EGRHS English teacher Bert Froyland. EGRHS principal Craig Weigel gave a heartfelt, emotional introduction to Towne. Before the night was over, there were laughs, tears, and joy at the opportunity to honor these two remarkable people. Videos of both men's remarks, along with other highlights from the night, are available on the Awards Dinner page on our website.

HURRAH! March 26 | 7-11pm | egrsf.org

TOGETHER AGAIN



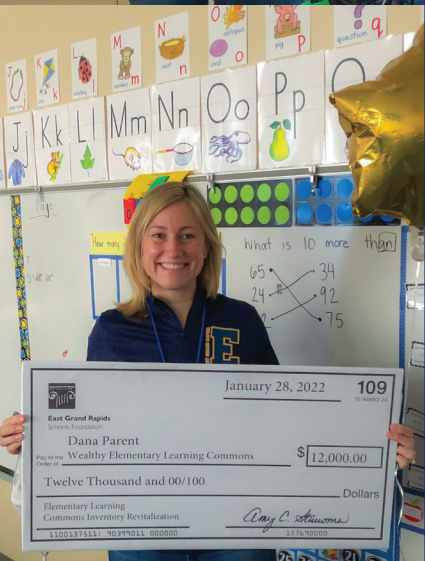
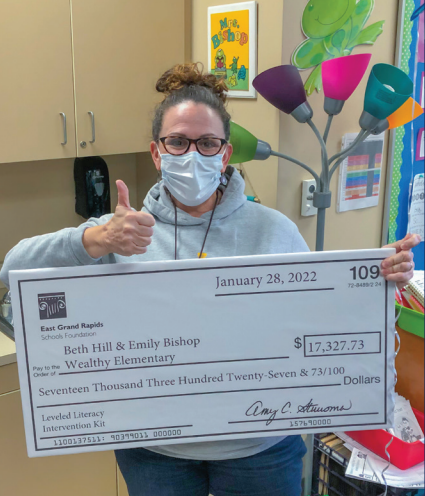
East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

UPCOMING EVENT | HURRAH! Together Again | Saturday, March 26

Want something to look forward to? Put the first Saturday of Spring on your calendar. Highlight it. Circle it. Put a big star on it. That's when the Foundation's big party, Hurrah: Together Again! is bringing back the fun!

You're invited to Hurrah: Together Again— a heated outdoor party in a tent on the top of the Gaslight Village parking structure. Food specialties from local restaurants, fabulous drinks, a DJ, and a mountaintop theme that will send winter out with a bang and celebrate spring.

You can register to be a sponsor of the event or purchase tickets on the Hurrah! Together Again page on our website, egrsf.org. You won't want to miss it!



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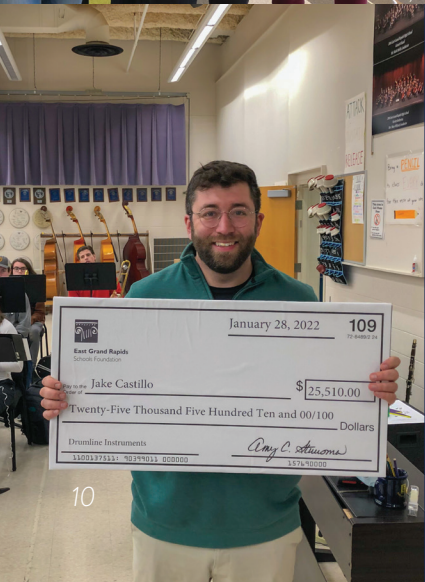
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2021 DONOR ROLL CALL | STAR Appreciation Awards

If you're looking for a way to make your donation to the Foundation extra meaningful, a STAR Award can be a great way to do it. When you give a STAR Award, not only do you help provide program support and classroom enhancements in our schools, but you also honor a teacher or staff member at the same time.

Jenny Moo, who has two high school juniors, a child in 8th grade, and works as a para-educator at Breton Downs, has given numerous STAR Awards to teachers. "I just know that the last couple of years have been really challenging for teachers," Moo says. "I wanted to thank my children's teachers for doing their best to engage with all their students during an incredibly difficult time."

STAR Awards honor outstanding teachers and staff members for everything they do for our students. For a donation of \$20 or more to the Foundation, we'll produce a STAR Award for your favorite teacher or staff member and either present it to them or give it to you to present it yourself. Best of all, your donation will go toward funding enhancement grants that offer our kids educational opportunities that are second to none. To honor a teacher quickly and easily, just visit the STAR Awards page on egrsf.org.

- | | |
|--|---|
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| Deanna Allchin The Plawinski Family | Katheryn Gipe Olivia Brundin & Family |
| Molly Anderson Maxwell Peterson | Lori Goins Alex Allen |
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| Trina Connelly Megan Goodrich | Mel Krieg Calla Moo |
| Rachael Cooley Calla Moo | Holly Lampen Sophie Conway |
| Rebecca Dietz Tobin Moo | Megan Goodrich |
| Kris DiVita Brady Calnan | Tobin Moo |
| Maggie Edison Calla Moo | Julie LaRocque Alex Allen |
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| Anne Mervenne | Becky Martin Tobin Moo |
| Elise Moo | Heather McKinney-Rewa Kerry Rowe & |
| Mary Elderkin Charlie Connor | Dan West |
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| Cooper Matthysse | Bree Mitchell Elise Moo |

- | | |
|--|--|
| Scott Mitton The DeLyria Family | Brad & Karen Hunter |
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| | Zach Wiener Alex Allen |
| | Calla Moo |
| | Janice Yates Leena Mammen |

2021 DONOR ROLL CALL | Gerken Appreciation Awards

- **Coach Mike Dykstra** Alex Allen & Family
- **Coach Mickey Mikesell** Charlie Connor

2021 DONOR ROLL CALL | Honorary Gifts

- | | |
|--|--|
| Toby Avery '62
In honor of his birthday
Dirk '61 & June Hoffius | Dr. Heidi Kattula
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| Lucy Byam '21
Rick & Carol Godfrey | Eric T. Keller '71
Norm Keller |
| Jim Chamberlain '49
In honor of his 90th birthday
Dirk '61 & June Hoffius | Kurt D. Keller '86
Norm Keller |
| Michelle Day
Gary & Mary Sue Barnes | Dr. Bill Krissoff '64
Joel '61 & Madelon '61 Krissoff |
| Sara Edleman
Anne Mervenne | Megan Miller
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In honor of his 80th birthday
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Karen Baxter '79
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Phil & Cherry Jacobus
Cary & Ginny Justice
Richard & Heather '92 Lewis
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Mike '86 & Robyn Morse
Steve '95 & Rhiannon Morse
Dorothy Pisha
Mike & Trish '89 Reid
Patrick & Cheri '89 Reid
Janlee Richter
Kelly Roper-Morse
Peter '89 & Amy '89 Stuursma
Richard Vettese |
| Eileen Brader
In honor of her birthday
Melissa Janes '84 | Abby Ward '21
Rick & Carol Godfrey |
| Jenny Fee '87
Barbara Cone | |
| Bert Froyland
In honor of our brilliant English teacher
Fritz '62 & Karen Rasmussen '63
Schaefer | |
| Jane Hazle
In honor of her retirement
Barbara Cone | |
| Stephen Hoffius '68
In honor of his birthday
Dirk '61 & June Hoffius | |
| Tim & Lori '79 Johnston
In honor of their retirements
Barbara Cone
Peter '89, Amy '89, Hannah '18,
Robbie '20 & Mitchell Stuursma | |

2021 DONOR ROLL CALL | Special Events

- | | |
|---|---|
| COMMUNITY SERVICE & DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER | Community Sponsors |
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| Brent & Diane Slay | Lindel & John Hoff |
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former EGR teacher |
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2021 DONOR ROLL CALL | Special Events *(continued)*

GERKEN OPEN

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- Jon & Gretchen Siebers
- Todd Sippel & Angela Dahl
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- Daryl & Stacy Trierweiler



UPCOMING EVENT | 2022 Gerken Open

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

Hosted by EGR Team Boosters and the EGR Schools Foundation in support of Athletics/Co-curriculars, Kabookie Week, and The Jimmy Gerken Fund for our East Grand Rapids students.

- Scramble format | shotgun start
- Nine holes at 9am or 18 holes at 1pm
- Breakfast or lunch
- Happy hour on the patio with BBQ, beverages, live music

Questions? Contact Maria Allen at mallen@egrps.org or (616)235-3535.



Scan to Register!
(Space is limited.)

EVENT RECAP | 2021 Gerken Open

JUNE 9, 2021

Every year, the EGR Team Boosters and the Foundation join together for the Gerken Open at Thousand Oaks Golf Club. The Gerken Open supports the Boosters and the Jimmy Gerken Fund, which was established to remember Jimmy and ensure that athletics and co-curriculars—the activities Jimmy loved most—remain an integral part of our students' education. The Jimmy Gerken Fund also pays for student activities during Kabookie Week, keeping Jimmy's memory alive while encouraging students to continue to experience personal excellence, just as Jimmy would have wanted. More photos from the event are available at egrfsf.org.

ALUMNI NEWS | *Calling All Pioneers!*

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation and Alumni Association is your partner for your reunion planning needs. Maria Allen, Alumni Relations Coordinator, has supported numerous groups in the preparation of their class reunions over the years. If you need alumni contact information, a list of local venue options, activity ideas, invitations, technology help, decorations? Maria is available to help your group. Join the classes listed who are already planning their reunion celebration in 2022. And if 2023 is a reunion year for your class, now is a good time to start the planning process. Go to the EGRSF alumni page www.egrfsf.org/alumni for more info or contact Maria at mallen@egrps.org.

REUNION DATES

1952	9/8/2022
1967	9/17/2022
1971	8/12-13/2022
1972	9/22/2022
1977	9/3/2022
1982	6/25/2022
1992	10/1/2022
2012	12/23/2022
2017	11/2022

CLASS REUNION GIFTS

CLASS OF 1955 | \$850

Dave Berles[^]
Doris Cole Goyette
Dave Leavenworth
Jim McColl
Ann Richel Schuh

CLASS OF 1971 | \$500

CLASS OF 1980 | \$835

Anonymous
Mike Beaudoin
Sean Burns
Rob Cumming
Pamela Zeerip Darling
Kathy Birkbeck DeNitto
Dale Dewey
David Lundeen
David Neusner

CLASS OF 2021 | \$2,021

Class of '21 Graduation Gift



In Remembrance

We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni and EGRPS staff who passed since our last publication. They will be greatly missed. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please help us stay informed by calling us at (616) 235-3535 or emailing to egrfsf@egrps.org.

1942
Kenneth Hicks, Jr.

1943
Doris Knol

1944
Jack Scripsema

1945
Marilyn (Borough) Hooker
Robert Swain
Russell Weigle

1946
Burton Epstein

1948
Brian Pfeifler

1949
Mary "Terry" (Matheson) Staples

1950
Virginia (Bender) Guy
Sandra (Reynolds) Olds
Gerald Strauch
Martha (Hill) Woodson

1951
Joyce (Wagner) Brown
Ray Mort Olds

1952
John Colvin

1953
Jeanne (Supernau) Beattie
John Hancock
Phillip Rosewarne
Ellen (Stover) Westberg

1954
Janice (Tinkham) Kirchgessner
Susan (Willey) Wallace

1955
David Berles
Julie (Reeves) Johnson
Peter Sears

1956
Mary Ann (Clock) Bogue
William Waring
Marlene (Meyer) Wing

1957
Mary Kay (Page) Berles
Lee Burge
Susan (Mehney) Carlton

1958
Lance Caston
David Cook
Mari (Klinkner) DeGraaf
Joan (Fanjoy) Elenbaas
John Logie
Jean (Elder) Whitcher

1958
Roger Finch
Karen (Steffensen) Sturges
Jerry Weiner

1959
Mary (Berles) Lindsay
Sue (Dodge) Noneman

1960
Theodore Bouwkamp

1961
Daniel Craig MacIntyre

1962
Cynthia Hewitt Newton

1964
Marcia (Murray) Cassin
Patrick Fox

Christine (Chase) Halbert
Carole (Conger) Murray
Julie (Forshar) Peters

1965
Mary (Libby) Child

1969
Ann (Slootmaker) Beck Novak
J. Mikesell Thomas

1970
Craig Bell
Charles "Ven" Minor
Janet (Crothers) Smith
Jonathan Smith

1971
Edgar Johnson

1973
Susan (Sterling) Bennett
James Najjar

1975
Janette (Vandenberg) Aardema
Brian Wisner

1976
Linda (Fletcher) Daab
Karen (Matheson) Holloway

1977
Ronald Pinckney

1978
Albert A.J. Birkbeck
Steven Strassburger

1979
Frederick Boylen, Jr.
Robert Gillies
Brian Risch

1980
Robert Corbett
Anthony Steers

1981
Van Manuel Kassouni

1982
David Kransberger

1984
Peter Tuitel

1987
Stephen Wert

1988
Dana DeVries

1993
Angelique (Rollins) Gold

1995
J. Dylan Karczewski

2010
Murphy Ainsworth

2019
Parker Spindle

EGRPS Staff
Susan Pletcher

Former EGRPS Staff
Pauline Breen
Charlene DeLano
Jaunita Dygert
Dr. Sue Malin
Marilyn McCoin
Helaine Muehlmeier
Alverne (Liefers) Sidor
Roberta Wadel



LOUISE NEESLEY

Thank you to the members of the Louise Neesley Legacy Society:

MURPHY AINSWORTH ^ '10

BOB ^ & VAL BERNECKER

REN BRANDER ^ '55

DAVID ^ '57 & NANCY COOK

PETER CORONEOS ^ '96

LINDA KEHM ^

DAVE ^ '57 & LINDA ^ MEHNEY

LOUISE HITT NEESLEY ^

MARJORIE NEUBIG ^

THE PETER ^ & JOAN SECCHIA FAMILY

RICH ^ & ABBY SOROTA

JANET L. STAUSS ^

KAREN STEFFENSEN STURGES ^ '58

WILLIAM ^ & SHIRLEY ^ VANDENBERG

WILLIAM ^ '56 & PATRICIA WARING

Every donation to support education is an investment in the future.

The contributions Dr. Betsy Neubig makes to our schools are endless. She's volunteered, coached teams, set up dedicated funds at the Foundation; the list goes on and on.

In honor of Betsy's commitment to our schools, her mother included the Foundation in her estate planning. Now there really will be no end to the opportunities she provides to East students.

"Including the Foundation in her estate plan was her way of providing opportunities for future generations," says Neubig. "My focus has always been on science and making sure students are able to get hands-on experience. I have grandchildren that I hope will go to East schools someday. My mother wanted to make sure the programs we've helped create are there for them and for generations to come."

A planned gift to the Foundation shows unconditional support for our schools and our community. The Louise Neesley Legacy Society, named for an East resident who understood the impact the Foundation can have on our public schools, recognizes people who have pledged to include the Foundation in their estate plans.

Including the Foundation in your will is just one way to make a planned gift to the Foundation. There are many more, including charitable trusts and donor advised funds. Planned gifts can come in the form of money, property, an investment, or a percentage of an estate.

If you have any questions about the Louise Neesley Legacy Society, or any aspect of planned giving, please contact EGRSF Executive Director Amy Stuursma at (616)235-3535. She'd love to help you make a lasting mark on our schools and our community.

East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation



For more information visit us online at egrfsf.org