

THE PIONEER POST



EAST GRAND RAPIDS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Two East Alumni Buying

Yesterdog

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but don't worry: The new owners of Yesterdog, Pat Connor '91 and Lisa (Kagan) Rapoport '93, aren't planning to make any big changes to the iconic Eastown hot dog joint that's west Michigan's most famous restaurant (thanks to the "American Pie" movie, in which it was called "Dog Years.")

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Rapoport says. "I've been coming here since I was a kid. I grew up four blocks from here."

"Everybody has a Yesterdog story," Connor adds. "I know how important this place is to people. That's what I'd say to East alumni. We're excited about the future, but we're also respectful of the past."

Click on the video below to get the whole story from WZZM!



Reunions Scheduled for This Summer and Fall

There are seven reunions planned for this summer, and fall:

- **1965** September 12-13
- **1975** September 27
- **1985** October 11
- **1990** June 20-21
- **2009** August 9
- **2015** November 26
- **2020** Thanksgiving weekend/TBD

If you don't have a reunion this year--or even if you do--come to Homecoming on September 12. Visit for the parade in the afternoon, the football game versus Grand Rapids Christian Friday night, and stop by our alumni tent on Gerken Plaza during the game to say hi, meet up with your fellow Pioneers, and grab some East Alumni merch. You could even get a late-night Yesterdog at Pat and Lisa's new place!

Want help planning your next reunion? Contact Maria Allen, the Foundation's Alumni Relations Coordinator, at mallen@egrsf.org. It's time to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the memories that shaped you.



EGR CLIV: Boys Lacrosse Wins East's 154th State

Championship to Extend State Record

- **Baseball:** The team won 24 games, including 15 -3 in conference. Lost in the District finals, 5-4, to FH Eastern, who had a 34-1 record.
- **Boys Lacrosse:** Led by head coach Kyle Osipoff '07, the Pioneers reached the state championship game for the first time in four years, defeating Detroit County Day at the U-M lacrosse stadium to win East's 7th state championship in boys lacrosse and the 154th in school history, a Michigan record.
- **Boys Golf:** With a strong performance at regionals, the team qualified for the state finals. JP Levan finished seventh in the state individually.
- **Crew:** Two boats, the Womens Junior 8+ and the Men's 4X, reached the SRAA nationals in New Jersey, where they competed with the best rowers in the country.
- **Girls Lacrosse:** The team had an outstanding record of 12-1 within Michigan and went undefeated in their conference before falling in the regional finals game to defending state champions GR Catholic Central by one goal in the final minute.
- **Girls Soccer:** From coach Fabian Rodriguez: "After a season filled with injuries, it was great to finally see the full team back on the field during our 6-1 win against Lowell near the end of the season."
- **Girls Tennis:** The team won regionals to reach the state finals, where they finished tied for 5th.
- **Track and Field:** For the boys team, Will Kowalewski (discus) and Jonah Workman (3200 meters) made it to states. For the girls, Sadey Seyferth qualified in the 1600 meters and 3200 meters.

To see the full spring schedule of East Grand Rapids High School sports, visit egrpioneers.org.



High School Musical, "Freaky Friday," Caps Big Year

for Performing Arts Funded by the Foundation

Attendees at the Foundation's fundraiser of the year got a special treat this year as cast members from the high school musical, "Freaky Friday," performed songs from the show. A week later, the show was a wonderful end to an incredible year of shows in all our schools, including concerts from school bands, orchestras, and choirs. At the elementary level, both Breton Downs and Wealthy performed "Finding Nemo Jr." while Lakeside staged "Seussical Jr." The Middle School Musical, "Cinderella," was produced in November.

This was a transformational year for the performing arts in all our schools. In response to a request from the district, the Foundation is providing nearly \$100,000 per year for the next three years to support a new drama director, production support, and performances in all our schools.

Thank you, Foundation donors, for providing this opportunity for all our students to participate in these productions!



A Virtual Cup of

Coffee with Noah

Haidle '97

Noah Haidle is a playwright and screenwriter whose work has been produced on Broadway, Off-Broadway, regionally, and around the world. Haidle's plays have been performed in Mexico, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Finland, New Zealand, Argentina, Norway, Latvia, Israel,

Austria, Serbia, and Denmark. For the 2017-18 season, he was playwright-in-residence at the National Theater of Mannheim, Germany, a position first held by Friedrich Schiller in 1785. Noah is a graduate of Princeton University and The Juilliard School and lives with his lovely wife, Kelsey, and their perfect son, Butch.

You can only have one: Rose's caramel corn, an ice cream cone from Jersey Junction, or a Yesterdog. Which do you choose? Yesterdog, without question. If nothing else than to see a picture of my friends in front of the Acropolis during a Latin class trip to Greece. (It's on the wall in the back room right near the bathrooms if you want to go looking for it).

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

I went to Princeton, got a master's degree in playwrighting at Juilliard, and had a lot of good luck (and a lot of bad luck, too. Although I'm not sure I believe in luck, or freewill, for that matter, which would mean my path from East Grand Rapids to right now to the end of the universe is already written. But that's probably a little intense for an online coffee meet-up, no? Maybe if we go out to online dinner I'll elaborate).

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

Eschewing the attempt to be one of the cool kids leaves you energy to pursue authenticity.

What were you like in school?

Nerdy and Athletic: I was first chair of the tuba section and captain of the tennis team. After my first play opened off-Broadway the Grand Rapids Press printed an article with the headline, "Tennis Star Writes Play."

Did you have a favorite teacher or class?

Gregory Carnevale, my Latin teacher. (If you're reading this, Becky Knack, don't get mad and please see the answer to the following question). Mr. C took members of our Latin Class to Italy after my freshman year and to Greece after my junior year (remember, the photo in Yesterdog is across from a Latin class trip to Greece. (It's on the wall in the back room right near the bathrooms). Those trips abroad allowed space in my mind to imagine a world outside of home.

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?

Reading "Death of a Salesman" in Mrs. Knack's English class (It will never feel totally comfortable calling her Becky but she insists and it's been almost three decades since I graduated so I should just get over it) and saying to myself, "I'm going to write plays, too." I watched Mrs. Knack (see what I mean?) read my first twenty page play, dubiously titled "Epistrophe." After closing the last page she looked up and told me I should keep going. If Becky (I did it!) had said, "Sorry, kid, maybe stick with the tuba," this online coffee might be of quite a different nature.

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

The same thing I wish I knew now: relax, there's no rush, the future will arrive quickly enough, look at all the things in your life that would've felt like miracles to your younger self.

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

Some close friends. And Becky Knack. (I did it again!)

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

"Bend your knees. Nobody cares." My stoner neighbor uttered these prescient words as I prepared to hit an iron shot out of a bunker on a public golf course and I believe the advice applies to every aspect of life. Bend your knees: relax but focus. Nobody cares: the content of your dreams and their fruition aren't of concern to anyone but you. Which means you're free.

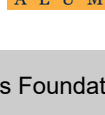
Who else would you like us to have a virtual cup of coffee with?

Sophocles, but that's going to be difficult.

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

"Do you have an unresolved crush on your lab partner from Mrs. Jones' sophomore year chemistry class?" (The answer would have been yes.)

To see more Virtual Cup of Coffee alumni interviews, visit the [Alumni Profiles page](#) on our website.



East Grand Rapids
Schools Foundation

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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