

# THE RAM NEWS



## Teacher of the Year: Virginia Christensen

Congratulations to Eastside Teacher of the Year Virginia Christensen. Ms. Christensen holds a Master of Education degree specializing in science from the University of Florida. She started teaching at Howard Bishop Middle School in 1986 and came to Eastside in 1993. She has been teaching AP/IB chemistry since 2001. She loves teaching chemistry because it is such a challenging course and would like her students to leave the course with a sense of accomplishment. She also works hard to help her students become more confident and competent in facing the more challenging endeavors after they graduate. She is honored to represent Eastside as Teacher of the Year. Congratulations Ms. Christensen.



## Congratulations Nancy Gunter EHS Employee of the Year



Nancy Gunter began her 20-year career with the School Board of Alachua County as a Headstart volunteer at Duval Elementary. After 1½ years as a volunteer, she was hired as a teacher aide. Most of her time has been spent as a teacher aide especially serving one-on-one with special students in the ESE Dept. She served at A. Quinn Jones and came to Eastside in 2005, where she worked as an ESE classroom aide with Ms. Manning and Mr. Butts. In 2010 she was hired as a Job Coach in the CBT program and works with Mrs. Vogelsang and the students who leave school each day to volunteer in the community. Congratulations Ms. Gunter.

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## Rams Show Interest, Compassion for Haiti

In three events this past semester, Eastside students have become personally involved in investigating and helping out with the clean water crisis in Haiti.

Even at the recent two year anniversary of the devastating earthquake, cholera and other problems continue to plague the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Cholera alone has wiped out over 6,000 people in a few months, equal to the size of the entire town of Newberry. The solution is clean water, which we take for granted here.

Mrs. Sedlacek was motivated through friendships with several Haitian UF graduate students to look for a reliable agency to build pure water wells, in contrast to so many of those reported to



*Eastside High School students Adwoa Agyei, Peter Skelley and Ria Somesitwar serve breakfast at Applebee's.*

pocket the money or to not see that food and water made it to the needy. That reliable agency turned out to be Healing Hands, International, which had a proven track record of building and guaranteeing pure water wells in the tiny island nation.

On Nov. 12, several EHS students participated in a "Walk 4 Water" at Westside Park, in which people carried a bucket 4 kilometers, the average distance Haitians have to travel to get clean water. Senior Zana Griffin made the main sign for the event, while sophomores Angela Acosta, Chelsea Camps and Angela Tang passed out water and assisted walkers for the event. It was publicized on TV and radio to the community.

A Nov. 29 presentation at EHS to junior and senior students in AP Biology, Government, History and Economics brought four of the Haitian graduate students to share power point slides and passionate personal comments as to the rights of every human being to have clean water. The Eastside students had the whole morning to synthesize the information given and evaluate the merits of the water treatment methods explained to them, handing in their results for a grade in their courses. The Haitian students received a rousing applause for their efforts and commitment to their country.



*Eastside High School students Ty Perdue and Cooper Morrone-Webster wash cars at Applebee's.*

Finally, on Dec. 3, sophomore Kelsey Dunn and a host of students in Mr. Reinhard's classes worked hard at an Applebee's breakfast and car wash that many in the community attended. Zana Griffin, Peter Skelley, Ria Somesitwar and Adwoa Agyei served breakfast to customers, and car wash participants included Kelsey Dunn, Patric Mann, Cooper Morrone-Webster, Ty Perdue, Shelby Stokes, Andres Vasquez, Micaela Curro and others.

Everyone was excited, especially the Haitians, to learn that not only was enough money raised for two pure water wells to be built in the next 6 months in Haiti, but also extra money was raised through these and other events to provide 30 small purifying systems to schools on the islands. Go, Rams! Haiti thanks you for caring.

# STUDENT INFORMATION

## Senior Financial Aid Requirements

Seniors need to start talking to their parents about financial aid for college. There are three parts that must be completed. A current tax filing is needed to be completed as well. This year the state of Florida has said that no one eligible for Bright Futures will be able to receive it unless they have an ERROR FREE FAFSA form filled out. In the month of January we are working with seniors through their English classes to complete the Bright Futures form, the new Florida Financial Aid form, and to apply for their FAFSA pin number. Once taxes are filed, the parents and the student must finish completing the FAFSA form. Most colleges make up their financial packages at the end of February. It is an advantage to all to have their FAFSA completed by then. Parents will need to go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to get their pin and also to complete the form. Any student who misses the opportunity in class can go to the following websites and complete their requirements.

To apply for the pin: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

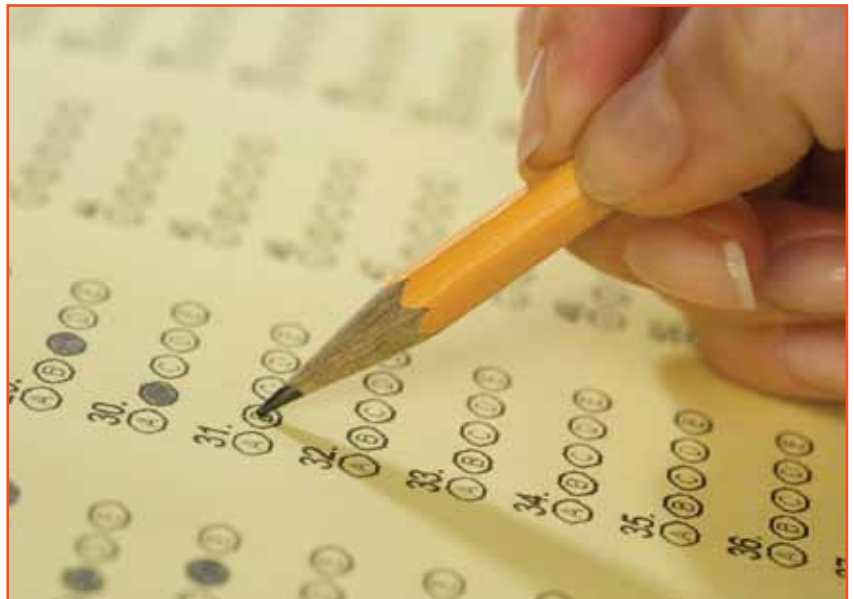
To apply for Florida financial aid: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org>

To apply for Bright Futures: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

In February there will be two different times we are offering help to any family that needs it in entering your FAFSA information. You **MUST** have your taxes already filed and bring a copy with you, along with your pin number. Parents will need a pin number as well and can either register ahead of time at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or do it the day of. The first time will be Sunday, Feb. 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at EHS in Computer Lab 2-006. The second opportunity will be Thursday, Feb. 16 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in computer lab 2-006. Don't forget to bring your information.

## Testing

If your student is on a 504 plan or on an IEP, students can apply for standardized testing accommodations. This is an involved process that requires that the parent start the process and the school will help furnish required information from the 504 and/or IEP. For AP, SAT or PSAT you must go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to apply. For the ACT, you must go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to apply. For each ACT test you must reapply. For College Board testing it usually only requires once to apply for all tests as long as you check each kind of test you are requesting information. You **MUST** have a current psychological evaluation to even apply. This is not an automatic process and must be requested by the parent. For IB testing, the parent must apply through IBO and the IB Coordinator. Please start the process early. They do not waiver on deadlines and can take anywhere from 5-10 weeks to get an approval or denial. Please contact your student's guidance counselor if you need assistance.



# STUDENT INFORMATION

## Need to Earn Back Credits?

CROP will start Jan. 23 and run until March 21. If you need to make up credits, stop by guidance and fill out a form to get a place in CROP.

You can also earn credit through Adult Ed. We offer science and math courses. See your guidance counselor for the forms needed. It is on-going all year.

And finally there is one more option and that is through Florida Virtual School. Go to [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net) to sign up for any classes you need. You can make up credit or get ahead.

## 9th Graders Needing a Virtual Class

Non-IB 9th grade students are required by Florida law to take at least a half credit in a virtual school before they graduate. We suggest that they do this during the summer if they can. Go to [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net) to sign up. You can take any class to fulfill this requirement as long as M/J is not in front of the name. You create an account and request a class. The school will then approve it. After, you wait until the teacher contacts you to start the class. Some students take Driver's Ed, Reading for College Success, Critical Thinking, or some other elective.



### Nurse Announcement

Reminder for Seniors applying for college: Check your immunization records. Many colleges require additional vaccinations. MCV4 (Meningococcal conjugate) is one that may be required of students planning on living in the dorms.  
Georgianna Beveridge, R.N. school nurse

For 36 hours on a weekend in late November, six groups of Eastside students researched, programmed and wrote up solutions to an open-ended, real-world math problem in the 14th annual HiMCM High School Mathematical Modeling Contest. Each group chose from two problems. They could come up with a plan for ferrying supplies and U.S. personnel to the International Space Station (ISS), or they could determine how best to search for and find a lost ring and a lost jogger in a park.

The team made up of sophomores Xingchen Li, Wenli Zhao, Alexandra Sourakov and Yuxin Zhang earned the highest possible honor of “National Outstanding” for their paper on ISS problems. Only eight teams from around the world earned this honor, out of the 435 which submitted solutions.

All of the other teams chose the “search and find” problem and did very well. Two teams earned the designation “Regional Outstanding Finalist,” two teams earned a “Meritorious” designation, and one team earned an “Honorable Mention.”

All participants are members of the Eastside Math Modeling Club whose goal is to encourage students to apply mathematics to real-world problems. Carl Henriksen, the club sponsor, is currently working with the group to get them ready for the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge in early March. We may submit only two teams of five students each to compete in the M3 Challenge. We are hoping to improve on our success of last year and have both teams invited to the finals in New York City.

#### National Outstanding team:

- Xingchen Li (10), Wenli Zhao (10), Alexandra Sourakov (10), Yuxin Zhang (10)

#### Regional Outstanding (Finalist) teams:

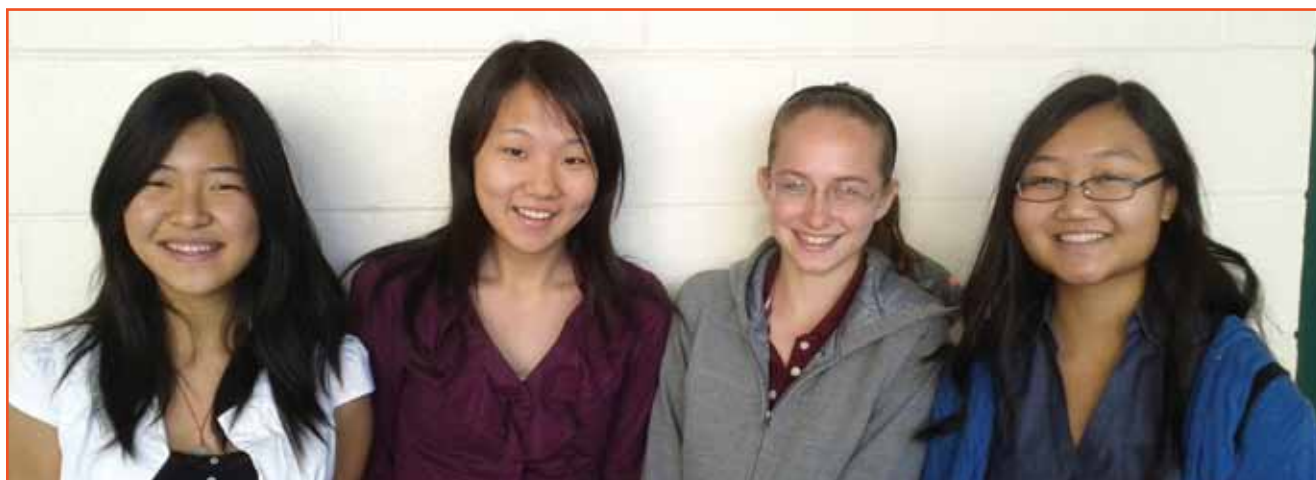
- Jon Claus (12), Tahsis Claus (12), Alec McCaffrey (12), David Liu (11)
- Safa Kaleem (12), Jason Kim (12), Narayan Kulkarni (12), James Zhang (11)

#### Meritorious teams:

- Bushra Guenoun (11), Van Huynh (11), Erin Isaza (11), Annie Lott (11)
- Alex Alty (12), Kevin Aris (12), Alvaro Valle (10)

#### Honorable Mention team:

- Maxwell Curtis (10), Ahmad Guenoun (10), Joseph Kann (11), Seth Rutman (11)



## Forensics

Eastside High School's Forensics (Speech and Debate) Team continued its season with seven trophies at the NFCFL Qualifier #3 here at Eastside High School on Nov. 12. Senior Jon Yoo placed first in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate, an event which focuses on societal values and morality. Junior Akshaya Nataraj placed first in in Original Oratory, an event which requires students to write and deliver an original speech. Sophomore Evon Scarlett was awarded Best Novice in the same category. Sophomore Mickey Tegegn placed first in Oratorical Declamation, a category which requires competitors to choose a famous and/or historical speech and deliver it appropriately. Sophomore Lulu Cao placed first in Novice Dramatic Performance, an event which requires the competitor to portray several characters within the same play or movie scene. Freshmen Andrew Rollins and Derek Li placed first in the Novice Public Forum Debate, an event in which the competitors debate about current issues.



The coaches are Alice Iwinski and Heather Christian.

## France Trip

Are you ready for the trip of your lifetime? You have to come along with us to France this summer. We still have a lot of available seats on the summer 2012 "Tour de France" with Madame Torres. Prices have not gone up and the Euro is going down. The trip is scheduled from June 13 to June 21. We fly to Paris and continue on to Normandy and Brittany. Do NOT miss this opportunity to visit France's greatest wonders.

We will be accompanied by a full-time tour guide and local "culture specialists" while in France. Flight, food and accommodations are all included. You cannot beat the price. I have extensively traveled throughout Europe on my own and there is no way I can ever match the price we offer you on this particular trip. So, check the website and enroll on line at [www.eftours.com/1116250](http://www.eftours.com/1116250) and/or stop by Madame Torres' classroom 9-21. I have lots of brochures and enrollment packets to give you!

A bientôt!

Madame Torres



## Ms. Norris

The EHS faculty and staff would like to welcome Ms. Jerri Norris to the Eastside family. She is a certified and experienced English teacher who is teaching 9th grade English and reading, AP English Language and AP Literature. When Ms. Franklin returns from maternity leave, Ms. Norris will teach intensive reading in the 11th and 12th grades. Ms. Norris is out-of-field for reading but has extensive knowledge and training in teaching literacy skills to students.

## **Jennifer Kizza Awarded the Edna M. Hart Keeper of the Dream Award**

Jennifer Kizza received the Edna M. Hart Keeper of the Dream Award on Sunday, Jan. 15 at a banquet honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy in Gainesville. The award is presented to high school seniors who embrace the principles of non-violent social change through community service and academic excellence. Jennifer currently serves Eastside as student body president and captain of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team. She is a member of numerous clubs and organizations, and she volunteers regularly at Shands Hospital as well as her local church. She has been accepted to Stanford University and five other schools nationwide and she plans to become a pediatric oncologist.



Congratulations Jennifer.

## **Swim and Dive Team**

Congratulations to the EHS Boys Swimming and Diving Team, recently named Academic Team Champions for Florida. The Eastside boys have the best team GPA in the state.

The Girls Swimming and Diving Team and Girls Cross Country Team were ranked second in the state for academic team recognitions, and Eastside High School ranked second overall in the state for all fall sports. These students truly exemplify what it means to be student athletes.

Congratulations Rams.

## **Sonny's BBQ**

Looking for the best barbeque in town? The Eastside teachers and staff have found the place! At our recent teacher work night, Sonny's Barbeque Restaurant donated several mouthwatering items which were enjoyed immensely. Thanks to Sonny's for their support of education and for showing appreciation to our teachers for their service to our children and our community.

## **Thank You Breakfast**

Eastside teachers and staff are so glad to get up early each month to come to work for the monthly faculty meeting. Do you know why? The Eastside PTSA has added a new hospitality event to care for those who teach our children every day. This is paid for in part by your PTSA membership, and the rest is donated every month through these thoughtful donors: Rosemary Bakker, Amilda Clark, Beth Newsom, Tomiko Kutyna, Ann Eisenstadt, Shaun Merolle, Patti Drew, Karen Gillette, Claudia Vega, Geraldine Weinstein, Janis Acosta, Sandra Murphy Pak, Cheryl Gehrke, Susie Kuykendall, Allison Cunninham and Angela Perry. Our heartfelt thanks goes to each of them for making the commitment each month to care for others by sending in fruit, breakfast bars and other treats.

It is not too late to join this amazing team. Please feel free to contact us to sign up for this or another worthy cause, Teacher and Staff Appreciation, which is quickly approaching.

Cindy Naranjo: [cnaranjo@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:cnaranjo@coe.ufl.edu)

Sue Berg: [jsgkberg@windstream.net](mailto:jsgkberg@windstream.net)

## **Junior Class Parent Meeting**

On Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium there will be a junior class parent meeting to discuss senior year and beyond. This is an optional meeting. Topics to be addressed are senior year, costs of senior year, attendance, college process, and for IB students, an overview of CAS and other IB requirements.

## **Gainesville Area Rowing**

Gainesville Area Rowing (GAR) varsity rowers Lizzie Watson and Arnav Gupta have been awarded honorable mention on the scholastic honor roll for USRowing, the national governing body of rowing. Both awardees are seniors at Eastside. USRowing holds a national competition each year to recognize seniors who have excelled in academics and rowing. Applicants must demonstrate academic achievement through class rank, SAT scores, and GPA; they also must have rowed at least one year and competed at a regional or higher rowing competition.

## ORDER YOUR RAM COUNTRY YEARBOOK TODAY

Time is quickly running out to order your 2011-12 Eastside yearbook!  
There are three ways to do this:

1. The easiest and quickest way to order is to go to the Smart Pay website:  
[www.smart-pay.com](http://www.smart-pay.com)

(Make sure to type www "dot" smart "dash" pay "dot" com. The dash is very important!) Select 'Locate My School' and order your yearbook! It's THAT easy, and a confirmation receipt is sent directly to your email address.

2. To order by phone, you can call the Smart Pay Call Center at 1-800-853-1337 Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

3. To order on campus, you can give a check (made out to Eastside High School) or cash, along with an order form, to Mrs. Rubin in room 04-060.

Thank you for your support of the Ram Country yearbook department.

### All State

Congratulations to the Eastside High School

2012 All State Participants:

Alan Reyes: Concert Chorus

Chris Shaw: Men's Chorus

Gabriel Linn: 11-12 Symphonic Band

