

Educate. Elevate. Illuminate.

ECA SPOTLIGHT: VOLUME 12

SEMESTER 2: WEEKS 5 & 6

aces

Educational Center for the Arts
203-777-5451

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[Amy Christman](#), Assistant Principal
[Julie Massaro](#), School Counselor
[Marsha Guglielmino](#), School Nurse
[Seth Harris](#), Technical Director
[Cinthia Cotto](#), Secretary
[Mariane Banar-Fountain](#), Dance
[Ingrid Schaeffer](#), Theater
[Saul Fussiner](#), Creative Writing
[Johanna Bresnick](#), Visual Arts

Dear ECA Community,

In our last newsletter, we shared our commitment to acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of Black artists who have significantly influenced and shaped creative thinking. Over the past few weeks, we have showcased the stories and works of these artists through various platforms, including social media and daily messages.

By highlighting the creativity, innovation, and resilience of these individuals, our aim is to deepen our collective understanding of the impact Black artists have had on shaping cultural landscapes and influencing creative thought. Moving forward, we are dedicated to continuing to share this important work with our students, families, and staff.

We want everyone in our community to see their identity reflected in the curriculum we present within the classroom and the performances/presentations we provide. We believe that by learning about the stories and accomplishments of these artists and the many artists of color not highlighted as of yet, we can create a more inclusive and enriched educational environment.

We invite you to visit this [link](#) to view the artists we have highlighted so far. As we move beyond the month of February, we will continue to add to these slides, engage in conversations, and plan for opportunities that allow us all to learn more about the impact these artists of color have had on our work today.

Our goal is to keep their stories alive and present within our school, our community, and our world. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Kevin & Amy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 6th
Music Recital at 2pm
Neighborhood Music School

Wednesday, March 6th
Dance Faculty Rep. at 6:30pm ECA
Arts Hall

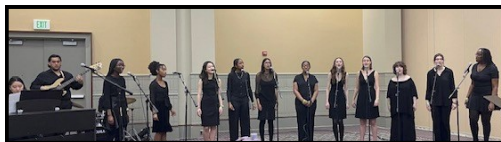
Thursday, March 7th
Dance Faculty Rep. at 2pm & 6pm
ECA Arts Hall

ECA COMMUNITY EVENTS

On Saturday, February 10th, students of the Theatre Department wrote, directed, and performed five ten-minute plays for the Staci Swedeen Quick Play Festival. The Quick Play Festival is in honor of past playwriting teacher, Staci Swedeen and was guided by Theatre Instructors, Brett Epstein and Peter Loffredo. BRAVI!



On Saturday, February 10th, our Jazz Ensemble and Studio Singers traveled to Philadelphia, PA for the National Jazz Festival where high schools and middle schools from



across the nation came together at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to showcase the talents of their jazz musicians, experience a full day of jazz, and attend educational clinics. **CONGRATULATIONS** to our ECA Studio Singers who placed 2nd in the Small Vocal Jazz Category, our ECA Jazz Collective who placed 1st in the Small Jazz Combo Category, and our ECA Jazz Ensemble who placed 1st in the Large Jazz Ensemble Category.



A special THANK YOU to our Music Instructors, **Yiran Zhao and Will Cleary** for their guidance, expert direction, and unwavering support that led to this ultimate success. Please see the Music Department News for additional details on this special event.

On Thursday, February 15th, two ECA students and one ECA parent provided testimony for legislators on the CT Education Committee in an effort to advocate for continued



funding of magnet schools. The testimonies came from hundreds of educators, students, and families from around the state as a response to Governor Lamont's recent plans on educational funding.

Thank you to students Cordelia Ellinger-Doviak '25 & Isling Morris '25 and parent, Peter Crumlish, for taking the time to present to our legislators on the ECA impact and overall value of magnet school education.

On Thursday, February 22nd, Alyssa Taglia (ECA Class of 2011 - **Dance**) and co-anchor for Connecticut's Morning Buzz (WTNH News Channel 8) visited her alma mater to film a segment, "Places We Frequent/ Places That Are Meaningful to Us."

Alyssa chose ECA as her "meaningful place" and participated in a Ballet Class with Dance Instructor, Laura Manzella, and our dance students.

Her visit will be featured on WTNH in the coming weeks.

Welcome home, Alyssa!



ACES/ECA DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing department is pleased to announce that we will be welcoming New Haven poet laureate Sharmont “Influence” Little as a guest speaker and reader on Thursday, March 21st.

Saul Fussiner, Department Chair

Dance



On Thursday, February 22, Alyssa Taglia, Channel 8 news anchor and ECA dance department alumna, will participate in an advanced ballet class taught by Laura Manzella. We are excited to have Alyssa back at ECA and to have her dancing with our students!

Faculty Repertory Performance will take place on Wednesday, March 6 & Thursday, March 7 @ 6:30pm. Please see our poster in the forthcoming

pages and please feel free to share.

PLEASE NOTE: The stairs on Orange Street are under construction. All audience members should enter the first-floor doors on the corner of Orange and Audubon Streets.

Senior Project

Senior Auditions will take place on Tuesday, February 27th. Senior students will lead a class as an audition for senior projects.

Senior Workshops

For 2 weeks following our faculty repertory performance, seniors will conduct a series of workshops for underclassmen dancers. This is in preparation for senior project rehearsals which will begin on March 25.

Mariane Banar-Fountain, Department Chair

Music



On Saturday, February 10th, our Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Collective, and Studio Singers traveled to Philadelphia, PA for the National Jazz Festival. There, each ensemble had the opportunity to perform in either a competitive or non-competitive class.

The ECA Studio Singers placed 2nd in the Small Vocal Jazz Category, the ECA Jazz Collective placed 1st in the Small Jazz Combo Category, and the ECA Jazz Ensemble placed 1st in the Large Jazz Ensemble Category. Our students were lucky to gather with/listen to outstanding schools from around the country, receive feedback from expert clinicians on their performances, and share their music with different audiences.

We're especially grateful to our Music Instructors, **Yiran Zhao** and **Will Cleary** for their guidance, expert direction, and unwavering support that led to this ultimate success. Additional acknowledgments go to the following students:

Dontae James for his selection to and performance with the National Jazz Festival Diplomats



Amelia Shaw for receiving the NJF Superior Musician Award & NJF Clinician's Special Recognition

Audrey Beausejour for receiving the NJF Superior Performance Award & NJF Clinician's Special Recognition

Israel Ortiz for receiving the NJF Superior Performance Award

Isaiah Cross for receiving NJF Clinician's Special Recognition for his outstanding arrangement

Natalie Houlton for receiving NJF Clinician's Special Recognition

Mila Volpe for receiving NJF Clinician's Special Recognition

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS!
GO ECA MUSIC!**

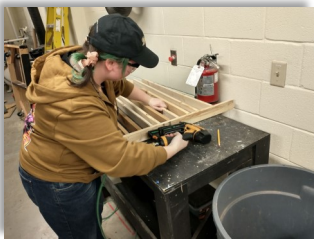
Coming Up in the Music Department

On Monday, February 26th, the Music Department looks forward to welcoming visiting artist, Olga Kirpicheva (piano), who will perform for the department!

On Wednesday, March 6th, the Music Department will present their Music Recital beginning at 2 pm Neighborhood Music School

Amy Christman & Kevin Buno, Co-Chairs

Theatre



The five theatre classes are hard at “play” getting ready for our spring productions. “The word theatre comes from the Greeks. It means the seeing place. It is the place people come to see the truth about life and the social situation.” - **Stella Adler**

Ingrid Schaeffer, Department Chair



Visual Arts

The third quarter is off to a great start! Our Visual Arts students are settled into their new classes and look forward to showcasing their new learning in the coming weeks.

Johanna (Hanni) Bresnick, Department Chair

ACES ECA SOCIAL MEDIA

ACES ECA continues to celebrate accomplishments, provide information on upcoming events, and promote educational opportunities through our Facebook Page. We want to remind all who follow our social media that this is a platform used for informational purposes only. If there are any concerns, social media related or otherwise, we encourage you to reach out to [Principal Kevin Buno](#) or phone 203-777-5451 at any time. Our door is always open!

Keep scrolling to review community resources shared by the office of **ACES Family and Community Engagement**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
50th Anniversary Celebration - June 1st at 6:00 pm
Please contact Amy Graver & Ali Parmelee at amy@elementsdesign.com & aliparmelee@gmail.com
ECA Prom - May 17th at 7:00 pm
Please contact Kevin Buno at KBuno@aces.org

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., 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

ACES Educational Center for the Arts - Dance Department
Presents

ECA Dance Repertory

Wednesday, March 6th 6:30 pm The Arts Hall at ECA
Thursday, March 7th 55 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT






Photo by Paul Duda, Visual Arts Dept. Instructor

Faculty Choreographers: Angharad Davies • Seny Camara • Mariane Banar Fountain
Laura Manzella • Nazorine Paglia

Suggested Donations Individual: \$10 Family \$40
Reservations 203-777-5451 mbanarfountain@aces.org





Celebrating the 21st year of the ACES Education Foundation

Please join us at our 20th Annual Gala
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Anthony's Ocean View
280 Lighthouse Road, New Haven

Thank you in advance for your support of ACES students and clients. To learn more about the Foundation or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Janice Saunders at jsaunders@aces.org.

ACES Education Foundation, P.O. Box 577, Wallingford, CT 06492
<https://www.aces.org/our-agency/education-foundation>

EAT 
WINGS
RAISE
FUNDS

Join Dr. Lashondra da Cruz to
raise money for Holistic
Behavioral Health & Wellness
Center

FRIDAY
MARCH 1ST
3-9 PM

350 Universal Dr North
North Haven // 203-234-9453

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GRUPO DE APOYO PARA SOBREVIVIENTES DE ASALTO SEXUAL

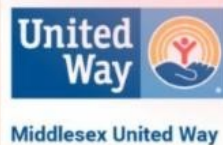
4:30 PM | LUNES 4 DE MARZO

CONTACTE A KAYLA O ANALAURA PARA MÁS
INFORMACIÓN

KCRUZ@WOMENFAMILIES.ORG O (860)740-8101
AGONZALEZ@WOMENFAMILIES.ORG O (860)740-8102



142 TEMPLE ST, NEW HAVEN, CT
CADA LUNES A LAS 4:30 PM





**Bake
Goods**

Shirts

Coats and Jackets



Pants

Little Girl Dresses

**Ladies T-Shirts
And more....**

My Portion Inc. Food Pantry Plus

Pop Up Pantry

Feb. 17, 2024 & March 16, 2024

10:30am - 4:30pm

FREE new and gently used clothing for those
in our New Britain and surrounding Communities.
Food pantry items also available.

FOLLOW US



MyPortion INC

Scan the QR
code

**New Britain Library
Community Room
20 High Street
New Britain, CT
06051**

How you can help....CASH APP
\$URPortion

A 501C3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

More information
Contact Tarsha
4myportion@gmail.com
Ph. 959-529-7667
135 Chestnut
Street Suite 2661
New Britain CT
06050

THE HAMDEN MOBILE *Food Pantry*

FREE FOR EVERYONE

2024 DATES



**Jan 3, 17, 31 | Feb 14, 28 | Mar 13, 27
Apr 10, 24 | May 8, 22 | Jun 5 | Jul 3, 17, 31**

**Every other Wednesday
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM / 306 Circular Ave.
St. Paul's Parish Parking Lot**

For the full schedule visit www.ctfoodshare.org

Park/Walk-up - In parking lot across from Saporì



**Don't forget
to bring bags!**

ST LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[Home](#) [Welcome](#) [Outreach](#) [Guilds/Ministries](#) [St. Luke's Partners](#) [Preserve our Parish](#) [Follow Us!](#)



St. Luke's Services, Inc. (SLSI) has as its mission: a) the provision of wholesome and appealing meals, in a cheerful, no-questions-asked setting where men, women and children in need are welcomed; and b) the offering of varied additional support services to guests who choose to utilize them. In a land of great plenty for some and demeaning poverty for others, we believe that providing food for the hungry is a compelling necessity, but that meals alone constitute a "band aid" measure. We therefore feel responsible for addressing some of the causes of dysfunctional living as well, by making available a range of life enhancing opportunities.

The sustaining philosophy of our work is the time-honored belief that there is God in every man, woman and child. Translated into soup kitchen terms, this challenges us to share respect consistently among lunch guests, paid and volunteer staff, and professionals. Not always an easy task where intensely difficult life issues often make for a precarious balance of tempers. However, respect works! Women express their appreciation for the special St. Luke's atmosphere, and - very importantly- give us their trust, thus enabling us to assist them with services which range from pastoral counseling to children's programs.

It has been 22 years since St. Luke's Services fed its first six luncheon guests. The lunchroom doors were opened June 1989 and a full course meal was prepared by the late William Johnson. In 1994 St. Luke's Services, Inc., was incorporated as a non-profit organization, governed by its own board of directors and separate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The two maintain an active and valued relationship by parishioners who continue

to serve on the Board.

In 2010 St. Luke's Services distributed 2,531 meals in our friendly "no questions asked" environment. The mutual respect found in this lunchroom opens opportunity to lend a hand in a variety of ways. By that, St. Luke's Services operates a food pantry, diaper bank and clothes closet. Each year, students of the Hopkins School assist "Santa" by sharing their bounty with families from St. Luke's Services along with the parish of St. George Catholic Church in Guilford, Connecticut. Thanksgiving baskets are provided to needy families. The items included assure a full thanksgiving meal with the trimmings. We are grateful to St. George Catholic Church which continues to provide generous support in this area.

Submitted by Yvette Barnard, SLSI Secretary/Treasurer

St. Luke's Services Weekly Operations:

Diaper Bank: every First Tuesday of the month, 10a.m.-12 noon

Women & Children Lunch Program: 12 noon -1p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays

Wednesday Breakfast Program: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Clothes Closet: Thursdays 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Food Pantry: every First and Third Friday of the month, 10a.m.-12 noon

POWERED BY

EAST ROCK RANGER PROGRAMS 2024

CLIMATE EDUCATION

- Get outdoor lessons and programming that support new CT state mandates for climate education in K-12 public schools (HB 5282)
- Understand the ecological and social issues that cause climate change & how New Haven will be affected
- Including...
 - Social Justice
 - Indigenous History & Knowledge

RECREATION

- Promote physical health by having fun in the outdoors!
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change by engaging in active transportation
- Including...
 - Biking
 - Nature Hikes
 - Snow shoeing

HEALING ACTIVITIES

- It is proven that spending time outdoors improves mental health & wellbeing
- Build stronger relationships with the outdoors & your community by participating in...
 - Mindfulness Hikes
 - Recovery Yoga
 - Support Groups

*Programs can be tailored towards the needs and interests of the group participating.

VOLUNTEER/INTERN

- Need to complete community service hours or hands-on projects? Join us at the park as we take care of our ecosystems, remove invasive species, and maintain our trails!



**RANGER
SYDNEY**

**Please Contact to
Schedule: (475) 306-4804
scollins@newhavenct.gov**



HOLISTIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LLC

IN-HOME THERAPY

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Accepted Referrals

- Children 6 yrs and older
- Families
- Adults with Disabilities

Services Location

Hamden, New Haven,
& West Haven, CT



HEALTH INSURANCE

Husky, Aetna, Anthem, & Cigna

To Enroll Contact: Karina Cordaro
203-604-9009 ext: 402
Email: Kcordaro@holisticbhwc.org

Question's about the program
contact Dr. La'Shondra da Cruz at
Ldacruz@holisticbhwc.org

www.holisticbhllc.com



Announcing the Family Assistance & Social Determinant Fund Providers!

**Do you know a family that needs financial assistance to pay for
mental health and/or substance use intervention, treatment, or
medication for their child(ren) ages 0-18?**

For a limited time, funding assistance is available for those that qualify*.
Completed referrals can be sent to:

The Family Assistance & Social Determinant Fund
FAX: 833-370-8773 or E-mail to FASD@carelon.com

Funding may be accessed for services rendered for a child, ages 0 up to 18,
needing:

- ✓ Mental health and/or substance use treatment or prescribed medications
- ✓ Adolescent psychiatric services, intensive in-home or intensive outpatient or
other recommended community-based service

AND

The family has been unable to access that care because:

- ✓ The family has sought but been denied coverage or reimbursement by their
health carrier or have exhausted their benefits,
- ✓ The family is unable to bear the cost of the intervention due to financial
hardship.
- ✓ The family has encountered barriers based on social determinants of health
such as discrimination, poverty, housing or food insecurity,
unemployment/underemployment, adverse early life experiences, or other
social determinants related to mental health.

QUESTIONS? Contact Carelon Behavioral Health at: FASD@carelon.com

*Funds are made available for a limited time by the CT Department of Children and Families through the American Recovery
Plan Act. Funds may apply for services rendered up to 120 days prior to the date of the request.