

# Inspire. Imagine. Innovate.

ECA SPOTLIGHT Volume 3

November 2025



**aces ECA**  
Educational Center for the Arts

🍁 November at ECA: “Cultivating Connection and Creativity”  
Dear ECA Community,

Stefanie Savo, Principal  
Amy Christman, Assistant Principal  
Julie Massaro, School Counselor  
Marsha Guglielmino, School Nurse  
Seth Harris, Technical Director  
Ashley Hernandez, Secretary  
Nazorine Paglia, Dance Interim  
Ingrid Schaeffer, Theatre  
Saul Fussiner, Creative Writing  
Johanna Bresnick, Visual Arts  
Amy Christman, Music

## November Highlights

Tuesday November 11, No School-  
Veterans Day

PACE Meeting - Tuesday, November 11,  
6PM (Zoom)

November 18<sup>th</sup> Tuesday - Open House  
for Prospective Students 6:30pm

November 20<sup>th</sup> Thursday - Fall for Music  
Recital Arts Hall 6:30pm.

October flew by in a flash and was such an inspiring month! Across all five departments (Dance, Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, and Creative Writing) our students have been creating, performing, and collaborating in ways that truly capture the spirit of our school.

From our student-run Coffee House to college visits, auditions, portfolio reviews, and gallery exhibits, October was filled with artistry, growth, and community. Each department brought its own unique energy to the month, reminding us how powerful creativity becomes when shared. As we move into November, we continue to cultivate connection and creativity together, with even more performances, projects, and moments of inspiration ahead.

With gratitude and cozy autumn vibes,  
Stefanie

## **ATTENDANCE & DISMISSAL REMINDERS**

A few quick housekeeping notes as we move into November!

If your student will be absent, arriving late, or leaving early, please call or email the ECA Main Office as early as possible that day. This helps us track attendance accurately and communicate with teachers quickly.

We kindly ask that any dismissal changes or early pick-up requests be made no later than 3:15 PM. our staff, classes, and students are often spread across multiple locations at that time, and therefore we need adequate notice to locate students and minimize classroom interruptions.

When home districts have days off and transportation is not provided, students are still welcome and encouraged to attend ECA. If transportation challenges prevent attendance, the absence will be excused for that day.

Thank you for helping us keep our afternoons safe, and organized for our staff and students!

Your ECA Office Team

# THEATRE NEWS

## Theatre Department Update: A Season of Growth, Discovery, and Collaboration

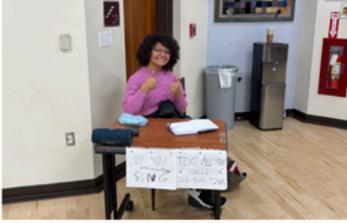
There's nothing quite like the energy in our theatre spaces right now—it's such a joy to see our students fully engaged in deep, meaningful work. What truly sets our program apart is our commitment to process over product. Rather than rushing toward performance, we emphasize exploration, experimentation, and reflection. In fact, three of our four core acting classes are dedicated to developing technique and inquiry, empowering students to understand how and why they perform, not just what they perform.

That foundational work comes full circle for our seniors this year, as they prepare to apply three years of rigorous training in their upcoming production of *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare. We can't wait to see how their accumulated experience and technique shape this timeless comedy. This fall has also brought the exciting buzz of auditions for our spring musical. Under the fresh leadership of Stefanie Savo, we're thrilled to open auditions to the entire school community. This inclusive approach is already bringing new energy and perspectives into the room. Once casting is complete, the department will shift its focus toward planning several upcoming projects, including:

- **First Year Projects** – A foundational opportunity for our new students to explore and apply the acting techniques they learned from first quarter to a play.
- **Stage Reading Class** – Where students will write their own short plays and present these in a stage reading to an audience.
- **Arts Collaborative** – A brand-new interdisciplinary course that invites students and faculty across ECA to explore the intersection of artistic practices. This dynamic experience will engage students in observation, research, critical reflection, and hands-on collaboration—helping them discover how different art forms influence and inspire one another.

And of course, all eyes are also on our upcoming December sharings and performances. Students are hard at work preparing for these showcases, and we encourage you to check your child's after-school commitments to stay informed about important dates and rehearsals. This season is already shaping up to be one of growth, discovery, and vibrant creative energy—we can't wait to share it with you.

The ECA Theatre Faculty  
Ingrid Schaeffer  
Chair, ECA Theatre Department



When people talk, listen completely. Don't be thinking what you're going to say. Most people never listen. Nor do they observe. You should be able to go into a room and when you come out, know everything that you saw there and not only that. If that room gave you any feeling you should know exactly what it was that gave you that feeling. Try that for practice.  
-Ernest Hemingway



# MUSIC NEWS

All music students take a Studio Class which allows them access to intensive study on their primary instrument or voice. In these classes students explore shared problems of practice, study solo repertoire, develop technique, and engage in feedback and dialogue as a means to deepening perception and musicianship skills. At the end of each quarter all students share a solo piece in their Quarterly Review. We are incredibly proud of all students, who completed this formal process last week.

Earlier in October our Tri-M Honor Society hosted their first Coffee House of the year, complete with decorations, snacks, and incredible performances from students across ECA. Please let us know if you would like to get involved! Our next Coffee House is in February.

Many congratulations to our fabulous music students who performed at the ACES Employer Recognition Dinner. Claudia Persinger (bass), Linus Tsang (Piano), Jake Monaco-Lizotte (drums), & Drew Fermo (drums) played at this formal event, led by ECA Faculty member & tenor saxophonist, Will Cleary.

This week our full department shared in our 2nd Wednesday Workshop of the year. Held at the NMS Recital Hall, this informal opportunity to share featured our String Studio class, Polina's Musicianship class, Brass Studio Class, Wind Studio Classes, Saxophone Studio class, and soloists including: Sam Duncan (voice), Reneejah Delgado (voice), Brooke Gachi (marimba), Ocean Luft (voice), and a guitar duet composed by Cody Voegeli, performed by Cody & Noah Terranova (guitar). The plethora of pieces and ensemble ready to share reflects the ongoing and enthusiastic work happening throughout the department. Congratulations to all!

We look forward to seeing families at our first formal recital of the year: Thursday, November 20, 6:30 pm at the Little Theatre.

Amy Christman  
Chair, ECA Music Department



Fall for  
Music

Recital

Thursday  
November 20, 2025

6:30 pm  
Little Theatre

ECA Music Department

# DANCE NEWS

This month, we were thrilled to welcome Alabama State University to our Dance Department for the very first time. Alabama State's program, led by ECA alum James Atkinson, held an on-campus audition facilitated by dancer Teriah Brookshire.

We also had the pleasure of hosting seven seniors from Cooperative High School. The day created a meaningful exchange between both schools, and we're excited about the many upcoming projects designed to continue strengthening the relationship between ECA and Co-op. During their visit, Co-op students toured our building, met with our faculty, and got a closer look at what our department has to offer.

Looking ahead, we plan to invite additional colleges to visit and audition our dancers — especially our seniors who are preparing to apply for dance programs.

Overall, the event was a great success. Our students showed professionalism, talent, and pride in their work, and we're excited for the opportunities still to come.

Nazorine Paglia

Interim Chair, ECA Dance Department



# CREATIVE WRITING NEWS

Congratulations, Henry Mead!

We're beyond proud to celebrate Henry Mead, ECA and Wilbur Cross High School Senior, who has been named the 2025 New Haven Youth Poet Laureate! Henry earned this incredible honor during Kulturally Lit's 6th Annual LIT Fest at ConnCAT, where he captivated the audience with his thoughtful, powerful spoken word performance.

Watch his powerful poem here: <https://www.newhavenindependent.org/.../new-poet.../>

We are so proud of you, Henry!



NEWHAVENINDEPENDENT.ORG

**New Poet Laureates Crowned - New Haven Independent**

## Guest Artist Visit: Filmmaker Andrew Lund Inspires ECA Writers

On Monday, October 27, filmmaker and CUNY professor Andrew Lund visited our Screenwriting class, offering students invaluable feedback on their original treatments and scripts. His thoughtful insights and industry expertise gave our young writers a glimpse into the creative process of professional filmmaking by inspiring them to refine their stories and elevate their craft.



Saul Fussiner

Chair, ECA Creative Writing Department

# VISUAL ARTS NEWS

We closed out the first quarter with our first art show of the year —big shout out to all of our students for their incredible work and dedication!

On October 22 and 23, our Juniors and Seniors participated in the Visual Arts Department Portfolio Day, one of the largest public art school portfolio recruitment events in the country, where students had a chance to meet with admissions counselors and receive direct feedback on their portfolios.

We were excited to welcome representatives from the following schools:

- California College of the Arts (CCA)
- California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)
- College of Visual and Performing Arts, UMASS Dartmouth (CVPA)
- The Cooper Union
- Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)
- Hartford Art School, University of Hartford
- Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI)
- Lesley University
- Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt)
- Montserrat College of Art
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Ringling College of Art and Design
- Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)
- School of Art and Design, Alfred University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- School of the Arts, Purchase College SUNY
- School of Design, Carnegie Mellon University
- School of Fine Arts, UCONN
- School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Tufts University
- School of Art, Carnegie Mellon University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- Stamps School of Art & Design, University of Michigan
- University of New Haven
- Westphal College of Media Art & Design, Drexel University
- Western Connecticut State University

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

QUARTERLY ART SHOWS ARE HELD IN THE GALLERY AND ON THE 5TH FLOOR AT 55 AUDUBON STREET. FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE CREATIVITY AND HARD WORK OF OUR YOUNG ARTISTS.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THEIR QUARTERLY SHOW OPENING RECEPTIONS. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY FOR TRANSPORTATION.

VISUAL ARTS OPENING RECEPTIONS:

JANUARY 22, 2026 — 5:00–7:00 PM

MARCH 26, 2026 — 5:00–7:00 PM

JUNE 4, 2026 — 5:00–7:00 PM

LOOKING AHEAD:

3RD QUARTER CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

HANNI BRESNICK  
CHAIR, ECA VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT





# ECA TECH NEWS

PICS & INFO

The ECA production team is hard at work constructing set pieces for the upcoming Theatre Department production of "As You Like It."

ECA TECH DEPT

Tech Director: Seth Harris

Tech Assistant: Gretchen Damato





Be a part of PACE! – Parents for Arts-Centered Education

PACE is a parent-led organization that plays a vital role in enriching the student experience at ECA. Through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy, PACE helps support performances, provide scholarships, and fund essential supplies that keep creativity thriving at our school.

The best part is there's no membership application! All ECA parents are automatically part of this welcoming community. PACE meets once a month via Zoom, and all parents are encouraged to join in and get involved.

[!\[\]\(397cc4c04b5e7ea225dbaa029a5dee1f\_img.jpg\) PACE Website](#)

[!\[\]\(115eff7009a76771e6b7adb966005e4c\_img.jpg\) PACE on Facebook](#)

PACE is proudly led by Co-Presidents Ali Parmelee & Amy Gray, who work tirelessly to support our students and school community. Together, we can make a lasting impact at ECA!

♥ Upcoming Tuesday Meeting Dates and zoom link : [Join via Zoom](#)

- **November 11, 2025**
- **December 9, 2025**
- **January 13, 2026**
- **February 10, 2026**
- **March 10, 2026**
- **April 14, 2026**
- **May 12, 2026**
- **June 9, 2026**

Please join us online on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 PM for our next parent Zoom meeting.

We'll be brainstorming PACE's support initiatives for the 2025–26 school year. There's no commitment required – just an easy, convenient way to share your ideas. The more parents who participate, the stronger our collective impact will be.



Dear parents, School pictures are ready!

Visit [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com) to log in or create an account, find your student and order using your student's student ID number (if available at your school).

All families can also log on and order a FREE Digital SmileSafe card.

More about the Smilesafe program [here](#).

Thank you!



**Holistic Behavioral Health LLC.**  
"Change Lives Within"

Family-centered | Integrative | Responsive | Culturally Sensitive

- |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Trauma Treatment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healing from trauma</li> <li>• CBT</li> <li>• DBT</li> <li>• TF-CBT</li> <li>• Mindfulness</li> </ul> | <p><b>Play &amp; Art Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healing through creativity</li> <li>• Art Therapy</li> <li>• Play Therapy</li> <li>• Expressive Art</li> </ul> | <p><b>Individual Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personalized healing</li> <li>• CBT</li> <li>• DBT</li> <li>• Mindfulness</li> </ul> | <p><b>Family/Couples Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healing together</li> <li>• Systemic Therapy</li> <li>• Conflict resolution</li> </ul> | <p><b>Yoga</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coming soon</li> <li>• Mindful movement</li> <li>• Strong bodies calm minds</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|--|--|

**Who We Are:** **Accepted Insurance:**

HBH is a trauma-focused behavioral health practice committed to providing holistic and compassionate care for children, teens, and adults. We provide trauma treatment, art & play, individual, and family therapies, children's yoga, and a variety of ongoing free support groups. At HBH, we strive to create a safe, supportive, and confidential environment where healing and growth are possible.

- Medicaid
- Magellan
- UHC (GEHA & Providers Express)
- Anthem BCBS
- Cigna
- Aetna

**Getting Started:**

- Provider referral via email or FAX
- Family contacts HBH via phone, email or FAX

Holistic Behavioral Health LLC.  
2558 Whitney Ave, Suite 201  
Hamden, CT 06518

203-604-9009 ext. 402  
egonzalez@holisticbhwc.org  
kcordero@holisticbhwc.org



Join us for our **FREE** upcoming **COLLEGE ESSAY WORKSHOPS**

**CRAFTING A STANDOUT COLLEGE ESSAY**

**NOV 5**  
6:00-7:30 PM

A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP TAUGHT BY A HIGH-SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER.

- UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGE ESSAY.
- BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITIES TO UNCOVER YOUR BEST IDEAS.
- LEARNING HOW TO TURN EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES INTO COMPELLING, UNIQUE ESSAY TOPICS.
- CRAFTING A MEMORABLE PERSONAL STATEMENT.

**EDIT TO IMPRESS & APPLICATION TIPS**

**NOV 12**  
6:00-8:00 PM

PART TWO OF THIS WORKSHOP PROVIDES A SUPPORTIVE SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO SHARE, REVISE, AND EDIT THEIR COLLEGE ESSAYS.

- RECEIVE GUIDED PEER-REVIEW AND EXPERT FEEDBACK AS WELL AS PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR REVISION.
- LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF THE COMMON APPLICATION.
- OBTAIN FAFSA GUIDANCE & RESOURCES.

STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN COMPUTER LAB ACCESS AND EXPERT GUIDANCE TO WORK ON YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.

**ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS AND RECEIVE A FREE REFURBISHED CHROMEBOOK FOR COLLEGE!**

SCAN TO REGISTER  
<https://bit.ly/cow2025>

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**Discovery Bowling**  
Fall 2025  
Johnson's Duckpin Lanes  
at 2100 Dixwell Avenue

To Register scan the Qr Code or  
Visit <https://hamdenct.myrec.com/info/activities/>  
Call 203-287-2579 with any questions

Limited Spots Available  
All Abilities Welcome  
Guardian Must Remain Present

Parks and Recreation Department

Ages 7+

4:30-5:30

October 16  
October 23  
October 30  
November 6  
November 13  
November 20

\$30 Per 6 week Session

# RAISING TEENS

NOV 19

Virtual Parenting Support Group

Join us biweekly on  
Wednesdays @ 7pm EST  
on Zoom

A free 8-week group designed to prioritize the parent/caregiver with **TENACIOUS** Teens



STARTING  
NOV 19TH,  
2025

Sign Up



"YOU, THE PARENT FIRST!"

raisingteenswithnatalie.com

## HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP



Clifford Beers  
Community Care Center  
A Clifford Beers Community Health Partner

### A SAFE SPACE FOR TEENS TO...

- Be yourself without judgment
- Connect with peers who get it

### POSSIBLE TOPICS:

- High school life & academics
- Friendships, dating & family dynamics
- Emotional health: stress, anxiety, depression, anger & more
- Fear of judgment & learning self-acceptance
- Sex & relationships: trust, intimacy, safety, consent, condoms/birth control
- Rewriting personal stories & healing from tough experiences

### DETAILS

- **Wednesdays** 5:30-6:30PM
- **Oct 8<sup>th</sup> - Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**
- **Ages:** 14-18 (grades 9-12)
- **In-Person:** 93 Edwards St

### CO-FACILITATORS

**Jasmine Martier, LMSW**  
jmartier@cliffordbeers.org

**Marina Pappas, MSW Intern**  
mpappas@cliffordbeers.org



We are accepting applications for the LiberatED Connecticut Educator Fellowship! The 6-month hybrid virtual and in-person experience is designed to provide Connecticut-based, like-minded educators with a community of practice. Together, we will engage in reflective, transformative, and practical classroom-based work and liberatory practices that facilitate healing, well-being, and social, emotional, and academic success among students.



#### LIBERATED FELLOWS ARE:

- Connecticut educators who are passionate about practicing social and emotional learning at the intersection of racial justice, belonging, and healing.
- Currently employed by a Connecticut school district, charter management organization, educational organization, college/university, regional office of education, or equivalent.

#### ELEVATE YOUR PRACTICE:

- Participate in a Connecticut-based learning community focused on healing and identity-affirming, learner-centered experiences
- Nurture your personal and professional growth through self-inquiry, brave conversations, and infusing liberatory SEL practices within educational contexts
- Access classroom resources grounded in social and emotional learning, justice, healing, and belonging
- Receive mentorship from the LiberatED community (i.e., educators, scholars, researchers, artists, and activists)

#### PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Application Due Date: **October 31, 2025**
- Cost: **\$500 per participant**
- Learn more about the Fellowship by clicking [here](#).
- Contact us at [fellows@liberatedsel.com](mailto:fellows@liberatedsel.com)

CLICK HERE TO APPLY!



LIBERATEDSEL.COM  
@ X | m | f | @LIBERATED\_SEL

#### 2026 SESSION DATES

- Virtual Session 1: January 28
- Session 2: February 18
- Session 3: April 29
- Session 4: May 27
- In-Person Session: June 6
- Location: Middletown, CT

# Farnam Food Distribution



## Farnam

162 Fillmore Street, New Haven, CT 06513

Every other Thursday  
9:15am - 10am

**Free packaged food, produce, snacks and more for children and families in our community. Everyone is welcome!**

Farnam, a program of Clifford Beers, is a pre-school and recreational community center with martial arts, basketball, homework help, and more! To learn about our programs, please visit: <https://cliffordbeersccc.org/farnam-neighborhood-house/> or contact Shubhra Gupta at [sgupta@cliffordbeers.org](mailto:sgupta@cliffordbeers.org).

#### 2025 Schedule:

January | 2nd, 16th & 30th  
February | 13th & 27th  
March | 13th & 27th  
April | 10th & 24th  
May | 8th & 22nd  
June | 5th & 19th  
July | 3rd, 17th & 31st  
August | 14th & 28th  
September | 11th & 25th  
October | 9th & 23rd  
November | 6th & 20th  
December | 4th & 18th

\*\*\*Dates are subject to change\*\*\*





Area Cooperative Educational Services

October 30, 2025

Re: Radon Testing in Schools

Dear Families and Staff:

We would like to notify you that radon testing will be conducted between November 19th and November 21st, 2025. According to Connecticut General Statute Sec. 10-220(d)(2), all public schools must inspect and evaluate the indoor air quality in school buildings initially and every three years thereafter. This required inspection and re-evaluation of indoor air quality includes evaluation of radon gas.

The purpose of the re-evaluation of indoor air quality is to determine if indoor radon gas is present at levels that would warrant mitigation.

Eagle Environmental, Inc. will be conducting an initial evaluation of the school building. Small test devices containing charcoal will be placed in each of the occupied rooms that are in contact with the ground. Radon test devices are safe and do not cause any adverse health effects. These devices will be left in place for a minimum of 48 hours.

The school administration will keep radon test reports on file and inform you upon request of test results and interpretations when all testing has been completed. If elevated levels of radon are found, steps will be taken to reduce radon levels below the United States Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4.0 pCi/L.

If you have any concerns regarding radon testing, please feel free to contact your school's administrator or the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program at (860) 509-7300 or visit the website:

[https://portal.ct.gov/dph/environmental-health/radon/radon-program?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/dph/environmental-health/radon/radon-program?language=en_US)

Sincerely,

Todd A. Solli  
Director of Technology and Operations

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[www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org)

370 James Street, Suite 303 • New Haven, CT 06513 • Phone (203) 498-6800 • Fax (203) 498-6890

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The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.

*ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.*