



VOICES OF EAST WOODS

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A Message From the Headmaster

Dear Friends,
The deepening gray skies of December remind me of the coming winter and frankly, it looks pretty gloomy. But, for all the sullen skies, there is great joy. December is a time for family and friends to gather together, a time to embrace, and a time to resolve. It also brings the winter solstice, the coming of longer days, and the coming of light. Emily Dickinson once wrote, "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings a tune without words and never stops at all..." In this season of holidays, I hope that you find time to listen to sounds of music and children's laughter. I know it will give you hope for a brighter day. Please remember that December is full of light, joy, and hope. My hope is that all of them visit you and your family and friends. Happy Holidays and have a joyous and healthy New Year!

With warm wishes,
Nathaniel W. Peirce, Ed.D.
Headmaster



Congratulations to East Woods Sixth Grader Carter Prince for winning a Coups de Coeur Award in *Rock the Statue Green: a Transatlantic Art Contest*. Over 4000 students from around the country participated in the contest, which celebrated the Statue of Liberty's 125th birthday.

Dartmouth Aires Return to East Woods



To view pictures of the Dartmouth Aires performing at East Woods, please [follow this link](#).

On Monday, December 12, the Dartmouth Aires, including East Woods Alumnus Danny Freeman, gave a return performance for the East Woods community. Past parents, alumni and parents joined current students and faculty in the audience to support the Aires and to enjoy the music. Since last year's performance at East Woods, the Aires appeared on the popular NBC program *The Sing-Off*, where they made it to the finals, competing against 16 of the finest a capella groups from around the country.

The Aires performed a variety of classic rock and traditional music, including a special tribute to History and English teacher, Marcia Craden. Television reporter Ken Grimball was on hand to tape a segment about the group for News 12. After wowing the crowd with their spirited performance, they surprised school secretary Amy Forman with an impromptu rendition of "Happy Birthday!"

The Aires promised to return to East Woods next December, marking Danny's last year with the group before he graduates.

Let George Do It!



To view pictures of the Fifth Grade Play, please [follow this link](#).

On Friday, December 9th, the Fifth Grade presented their production of *Let George Do It!*, a musical based on the life and times of George Washington. Parents, teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the spirited performances, solo and ensemble singing, and the colorful costumes and sets.

8th Grade Bazaar



To view pictures of the Eighth Grade Bazaar, please [follow this link](#).

On the morning of Friday, December 2nd, the East Woods Eighth Grade held their annual bazaar and pancake breakfast to the delight of the entire community. This event always involves the whole class. While the moms assist the 8th Graders with handmade gifts, such as duct tape wallets, hand-painted aprons, and holiday trees, in addition to decorating beautiful holiday wreaths and garlands, the dads are drafted to flip pancakes, make the hot cocoa and serve the breakfast, while 8th graders help sell tickets and bus the tables. During the bazaar, the 8th graders run the games, hand out prizes, sell the merchandise, deliver purchases to cars and generally make sure the morning runs smoothly. The highlight of every year is having your picture taken with Santa! New this year, as an added feature, you could also have your picture taken with the Grinch and his faithful dog, Max, wonderful additions to this extraordinary holiday tradition!

Grandparents Visiting Day



To view pictures of Grandparents Visiting Day, please [follow this link](#).

On Wednesday, November 23rd, Grandparents Visiting Day began with an assembly where the grandparents were treated to performances by the Lower School classes, the Blues Band, and the Chorus. East Woods grandparent Bea Hanson spoke eloquently about the value of an East Woods education in teaching students that “Each one of you matters...Each one of you is different and special, and that the world needs that special something that each one of you has.” Following the assembly, grandparents accompanied their grandchildren to their classrooms to share a part of the school day with them.

Family Holiday Party



To view pictures of the Family Holiday Party, please [follow this link](#).

East Woods families, faculty and staff enjoyed an evening of caroling on Friday, December 9th. With Dr. Peirce serving as Master of Ceremonies, the faculty kicked off the festivities with a spirited rendition of “Let It Snow.” This was followed with performances by Pre-K through 8th grade, East Woods Dads, and East Woods Moms. It concluded with Upper School students singing and pantomiming “The Twelve Days of Christmas” to the delight of the crowd. During the evening, everyone helped themselves to snacks provided by the kitchen staff, and students worked on art projects under the supervision of Mrs. Theresa Donnelly. A great time was had by all!