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# ECHS Archiving Project Newsletter

Newsletter Issue XXXVII

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## Gauche News

### President's Message

#### New Museum Acquisitions

Keith Johnson, alumni, music teacher.

Jenn Rader, James Morehouse Project

Senior Benches

Reunion Updates

Article Headline

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - April 2014

Thank you to every one that attended the Ben Rust Concert on February 2, 2014. It was a big success and many people wanted to know when we are going to have another concert. Rebecca, the daughter of Ben Rust and her husband, Friedrich, the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, Corey Mason and all the class members of the radio class generously donated their time and talent to make this event happen. On behalf of the ECHS Archiving Project members, a big hug and thanks to each and every participant. One

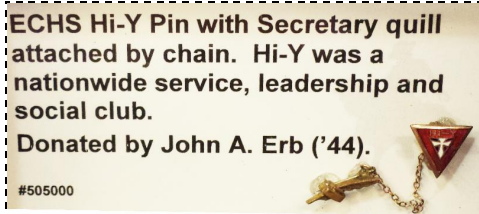
## New Museum Acquisitions

Trophy donated by Larry Plantz Class of 1964.

The trophy donated was the first Claude Samples Award for Most Inspirational Player. School Principal Claude Samples presented the award to football player and track athlete Larry Plantz in the annual football awards ceremony held December 3, 1963, in the boys' gym. Mr. Samples defined an inspirational player as "one who plays football one hundred percent of the time ... win, lose or draw." Larry graciously credited the team as having enabled him to win the award.



Hi-Y Pin donated by John A. Erb Class of 1944



ECHS Hi-Y Pin with Secretary quill attached by chain. Hi-Y was a nationwide service, leadership and social club. A page in the El Camino shows the Hi-Y Club and its officers. Not Nelson was president at that time, later Principal of ECHS.

Stuffed Phone Booth donated by Ray Motta Class of 1958

On March 25, 1959, 22 students from St Mary's College, including 1958 EC Ray Motta, crammed into a phone booth as a college prank. (Ray's face is the only one fully visible in the photo.) The feat stood as a world record for 25 years. The stuffed phone booth was photographed by Life Magazine photographer Joe Munroe, whose iconic photo appeared in the March 30, 1959, issue of Life Magazine.



Collection of El Caballeros Senior Editions donated by Joanne Lagerstrom, ECHS English faculty member from the 1975 to 2001.

Ms. Lagerstrom saved the Senior Edition Senior Editions of the El Caballero

more student will be receiving a \$1000 scholarship because of the success.

The school year is rapidly heading to a close. Our next event will be our Archiving booth at the big El Cerrito July 4th celebration. Hope to see you there. Don't forget to share our on-line newsletter with all your classmates and friends.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Fleming  
Fonken,  
Class of 1956

## Upcoming Events

- 4th of July Celebration
- Grand Opening for the Athletic Stadium -TBD

## Quick Links

[ECHS Website](#)

[Archiving Products](#)

[Alumni Information](#)

[Athletic Hall of Fame](#)

86 and 1988 as it was for her a good way to remember the students each year of her daughters-Alicia Burch Boyce '90 and Sierra Burch Tobler '95 and her husband Robert Bradley '61 are ECHS alum.

Keith Johnson

ECHS Class of 2002,  
Music Teacher, ECHS 2008 to present

Interviewed: by Janet Abelson

Keith Johnson was born in San Pablo and grew up in El Cerrito, graduating from ECHS in 2002. He is the only child of Dinorah Vido and Ricky Johnson.

As a child he lived first near Liberty and Potrero in El Cerrito for 12 years and then by BART near Moeser. When Keith was 14, his parents bought a home in El Sobrante, but Keith remained at El Cerrito High School. Keith started out at Castro Elementary School where his interest in music first began. Later he attended Portola Middle School.



According to Keith, "ECHS is a great school. Anyone that has ever gone to school here knows it's a special place really is. All of my teachers helped shape me into the person I am today and there are two teachers that I feel had the biggest influence on me academically and as a person. My English teacher Joan Cone had the biggest academic influence. She taught him what it meant to be a diligent student because of her high expectations of both Keith and also her classes in general. What he really learned in her classes was how to write and that is what has carried him through college and into his professional career.

It was band director Jesse Leyva who helped Keith develop his passion for music. He also helped Keith become a better human being. Keith really admired him, in part because of his age (he was 23 when Keith met him as an ECHS freshman) but also because it was clear to everyone that he was doing his job. The two are still friends. Jesse Leyva now teaches at Kent State University.

After high school, Keith attended San Jose State University to study music, commuting for a long time. During his second year he dropped out to concentrate on the work he was doing for a program at Portola. He returned to college more than a year later, determined to become a music teacher at El Cerrito High School.

Today he has achieved that goal. In addition to his regular teaching assignments, he is currently working on the Band Reunion Weekend. This is a two year campaign with a goal of purchasing \$75,000 worth of new instruments for El Cerrito High School. The campaign will culminate in a weekend of concerts by current ECHS Bands as well as the Alumni Symphonic Band and Ensemble led by former ECHS Band Directors as well as special events including a performance by the world-renowned Dallas Brass. The event is scheduled for March 21-23, 2014 at ECHS. go to <http://echsbands.com/alumni-questionnaire/>. He is looking for pictures, recordings, program flyers, and anything else about the ECHS Band. You can contact Keith directly at <keith@echsbands.com> or at [www.echsbands.com](http://www.echsbands.com).

Future plans include preserving the history of the ECHS music program.

Biographer's Note. The new school was only the first step. The students of yesterday are now teachers at ECHS as teachers. Keith is joined by Kenny Kahn (2000), Elizabeth Sanders (2007), Jess Kronenberg (1998), and Kate Bloomer (1982). They are building on the foundations of the past.



## Coach Quirico's Corner

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Hall of Fame  
2014 Inductions  
Sunday,  
November 9, 2014  
Information to  
Follow

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NORTH COAST  
SECTION  
Football  
Division III  
Championships

ECHS 54, Marin  
Catholic  
(Kentfield) 38



## Congratulations!

**Jenn Rader**, the founder and Director of the James Morehouse Project (JMP) has received the California School-Based Health Alliance's School Health Champion Award for her work to improve the health of El Cerrito High School's students

The California School-Based Health Alliance is a nonprofit whose mission is to improve health and academic success of children and youth in California by advancing health schools.

To learn more about the James Morehouse Project, and the valuable services they provide for the health and wellbeing of our students, visit them on the web at <http://www.jamesmorehouseproject.org/>

<http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/about-us/board-of-directors/school-health-champion-award-recipient/>.

To make a donation to the JMP, contact them at 510-524-8252!

## Senior Benches

The classes of 1945, 1957, and 1977 generously donated outdoor benches to ECHS as their class gift. The Archiving Project had these benches uprooted and stored during demolition of the old school with the vision of having them re-installed on the new campus site.

We have recently learned that the benches will be placed prominently on the new athletic field near the concession structure. Construction of the new field is projected to start in January 2014 and should be completed by the fall of 2015. During construction, the benches will be temporarily relocated to the community garden area on campus.

Andrew Mixer, district project manager assigned to ECHS, expressed that the district is sensitive to the historical value of these and other pieces from the old school. They are working closely with the Department of State Architect for approval of placement of such outdoor pieces. For additional questions, contact Andrew Mixer at 415-435-1111.



**Andrew Mixer at 510-307-4548**

## [Reunion Information](#) [Reviews and updates](#)

### 1994 20th Reunion

Save the Date: Sept 27, 2014

Location: Lake Chalet, Oakland

Website: <http://www.echsclassof94.com>

Facebook group for Class of 94: ECHS Class of 94 Reunion

Please contact Nancy Quick for more information. 510-529-1670/[nequick@yahoo.com](mailto:nequick@yahoo.com)

### 1964 50th REUNION!

Save the date! Oct. 11, 2014

Mira Vista Country Club, El Cerrito

Please send your current email to: [elcerrito1964@gmail.com](mailto:elcerrito1964@gmail.com)

or call Jackie Arnold Olson 510-527-2872

Stay tuned for more info!

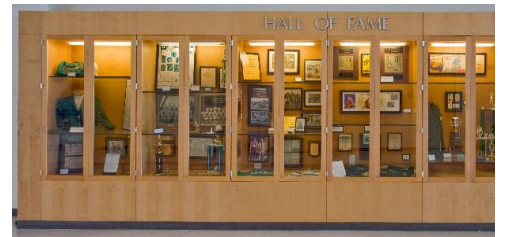
### 1969 Reunion

Event Date 8/20/2014

Contact Bill Morris...[wmorris@actransit.org](mailto:wmorris@actransit.org)

## Athletic Hall of Fame 2014

The following athletes were selected to the ECHSAHOF; Sal Tedesco-1946, Ken Bulter-1947, Eurael Bell-1957, Charles Booth-1962, Craig Luisani-1967, Rose Aguilar-1975, Marc Covert-1979, Ted Perkins-1979, Terry Brown-1983, Tom Purvis,-1982, Thomas Gary-1985, Quentin Youngblood-1989, Sam Bernstein-1989, Karryl Smith-1985, Marisa Gardella-1989, Coach Chris Huber, Special Categor Werren, 1955 Baseball Team, 1962 Track team, 1987 Girls Basketball Team.



Athletes from the 90' will soon be voted in. Anyone having addresses, phone number addresses of the athletes or team members who have been selected to the HOF, please contact Coach Larry Quirico at (510) 222-1835 or [bquirico@comcast.net](mailto:bquirico@comcast.net). The ECHS Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony will be held Sun. Nov 9, 2014 at ECHS. More information to follow.

## Executive Board

President-Jackie Fonken, '56,

Vice President, Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Scholarship-Kathie Weinstein,'58,  
 Recording/Corresponding Secretary -Diane Sericati,  
 Treasurer/Financial Secretary -Dianne Chambers,'69,  
 Museum and Display, Scholarship-Joann Steck-Bayat,  
 Oral Historian/Biographer-Janet Abelson,  
 Museum and Display, Scholarship-Lu Tipping,  
 Fundraising Event, SAF Representative, Scholarship, Merchandising Manager-Donna Houser,  
 Communication Coordinator, Scholarship-Roddy Lee, '67,  
 Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Fundraising, Merchandising Manager-David Bilyeu,'65,  
 Scholarship-Gregg Mayer,'76,  
 Museum and Displays, Archive Database Manager-Lynn Maack,'63,  
 Museum and Displays-Sandi Genser-Maack,'63,  
 School District Liaison -Lee Matteucci,  
 Hall of Fame Coordinator Larry Quirico,'58,  
 Past President,Community Outreach- Patricia Durham -Mitchell,'68,  
 Scholarship-Howard Mackey,'44,  
 Scholarship -Bobbi Griggs,  
 Media-Jessica Lee,'00,  
 Member-Leslie Solanen,'67,  
 Member-Rosenda Thomas.

El Cerrito High Archiving Project Mission Statement:

*Support the development of a strong El Cerrito High School alumni body - Collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School*

*Develop connections to current students and the El Cerrito community.*

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