

**EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

From  
**ALAN  
HARRIS**



**EAST HIGH PRINCIPAL**

**Momentum**

At 5:47 pm on Sat., Nov. 10, as East High touched the wall to finish second in the 400 relay, six young women had swam their way to victory at the division one, state swimming and diving championships. It is the first state championship in any sport at East High since the hockey team won a title in 1987. Years of early morning and late night laps, forgoing summer camps and enumerate miles on their parents minivans aside, the triumph began at 8 am that morning when East students arrived to save the best seats in the house for East High fans. In the first race of the day, the East team won a relay event it was not expected to win. At the midway point, the Natatorium was buzzing with word that East was leading. I could feel and taste the momentum.

Momentum matters. The positive energy that comes with determining

big ideas, taking action, seeing results and talking passionately about it is contagious. Our swim team is a reminder of the momentum we have at East High. Whether it is teachers earning national board certification, executing a foundation fund raiser, creating a writing center, finding innovative ways to get students to class, hanging new pictures on the wall, or teaching students the school song to or enumerate others, there is a tide of momentum.

Momentum is not the end but the journey. It does not mean things are perfect but rather that we believe we are moving in the right direction. There is a great deal of work to be done. Each of us is responsible for the creation and continuation of that momentum. The conversation we have with a neighbor, encouragement we give a student and vision we have the future, do matter.

The swim coach said one of the team mottos at the beginning of the year was, "Let's give them something to talk about." The team certainly did that and more. The team reminded us that if we work hard, believe together and have a large vocal group of fans, we get momentum. And with momentum, anything is possible.



Photo by Jill Jokela

Jennifer Kellerhuis, Ruby Martin, Kirsten Lickel, Hannah Taschwer, Aja Van Hout, Becca Soderholm and Ivy Martin celebrate their victory.

**East girls swim to first ever state championship**

By Jill Jokela

East High United

"Eastside, Eastside!" was the chant heard loud and clear at the UW Natatorium on Nov. 9, as the Madison East girls wrapped up an historic season by capturing the Division I State Girls Swimming & Diving Championship title. Cheered on by a large and enthusiastic group of students, staff, family and friends, the East girls swam to gold in five of 11 events.

But it was their strong second place finish in the exciting final event of the day, the 400 free relay, which held off perennial powerhouse and cross town rival Madison Memorial and secured the state championship for East.

The final score of 233 – 229.5, a 3.5 point margin of victory, was the second closest ever in State history. It was the first state team swimming title ever for East, either girls or boys, and the first team title in any sport since the boys' hockey team won a state championship 20 years ago in 1987.

"Quality over quantity" was one of the team's mottos this year as the 16 girl strong squad finished the season with a 7 – 1 conference dual record, placed fourth at the Big 8 Conference meet, and followed that up with a third place showing at Sectionals, qualifying six individuals and three relays for State.

Kirsten Lickel, Ivy Martin, Ruby Martin, Becca Soderholm, Hannah Taschwer and Aja Van Hout swam for East at State, capturing event wins in the 200 medley relay (R. Martin, Taschwer, Soderholm, I. Martin), 200 IM (Van Hout), 50 Free (R. Martin), 500 Free (Van Hout), and 200 free relay (R. Martin, I. Martin, Lickel, Van Hout).

Congratulations to the East High girls swim team, head coach Matt Matteson and assistant coaches Todd Kasper and Emily Gnatzig, on an amazing season and well deserved State Championship! Go East!

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**East-Shabazz students raise funds for Pine Ridge trip**

By Cynthia Chin

**East-Shabazz Service-Learning Trip** A combined group of 45 staff and students from the two high schools will spend the week of Spring Break volunteering on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Students and staff will learn about the area's culture, history and people while completing volunteer projects such as housing or furniture repair and construction. Geometry students at East made Lakota Star quilts as part of their study of symmetry patterns. Pine Ridge artist Kelly Looking Horse visited East classes this fall to demonstrate and discuss other indigenous art forms.

**How you can help:** Students are fundraising to support their trips. Some are relying entirely on donated funds. A quilt raffle, Boston Store Community Day and Barnes & Noble Book Fair all were held in November. Many thanks to Northside residents who supported these events. Please contact Mary Paulson at [mpaulson@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mpaulson@madison.k12.wi.us) or 204-1531 if you have suggestions for future fundraising or can assist in other ways.

**Thank You** to East graduates Tom and Peter Daly for donating a used calculator to the school rental program. Another student is putting it to good use.

**Pre-Engineering Club** members attended a regional conference of the National Society of Black Engineers, held at Monona Terrace Convention Center, in mid-November. The Kern Family Foundation and East administration assisted with registration costs. Students of all backgrounds are invited to join this new group—this is an interdisciplinary, college prep and career-oriented affiliate of the UW-Madison's NSBE chapter. Contact Ms. Chin at [cchin@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:cchin@madison.k12.wi.us) or 204-1534 for more information.

**UW-Madison Math Nights** have entered their fourth "season". These monthly evening talks are given by graduate students and faculty on the UW campus. The UW Actuarial Department will host a career awareness program on March 4. Students should check with their math teachers for more information about these events.