

Albert Einstein High School's 45th Birthday Crewcuts and Bobby Socks

Sporting crewcuts and colorful bobby socks, Albert Einstein High School students eagerly burst through the open doors of Albert Einstein in the early morning hours of Friday, September 7, 1962.

We began with the 9th, 10th and 11th grades in an unfinished building. We taught without books for one month while waiting for a wing to be completed.

Students transferred to AEHS from neighbors Wheaton, Blair, Walter Johnson, and Northwood. These students would face the challenge of forming new loyalties and new traditions which succeeding Einstein classes would build upon. Although the school system's Office of Information said we were a highly experienced staff, in truth, the majority of the teachers had no more than three years experience.

Mr. Thomas Conlon, our first principal, personally chose teachers for their teaching skills and team commitment. He sought to instill teacher and student pride. His frequent comment to the faculty was: "I'm only as good as you are'. That first year an undefeated football boosted school pride.

Mutual appreciation of teachers and principal continued through life. When Mr. Conlon died, the Church was packed with faculty members. In the early sixties, we followed the town of Kensington boundary lines with its single family homes, lower to middle class income, white, college bound students. In 1964, we published our first yearbook, "The Quantum," started the first Career Center, and held our first graduation in a packed gym.

Our early athletes were fun, talented and winners in baseball, volley, basketball, basketball and track. Coaches Jack Keller, Jim McCauley, Al Ferraro, Jim Brown, Bill Welsh, Liz Bouve were filling our trophy cases.

Back in the 60's the principal's secretary, Lovey Jo Wolfe, believed every senior girl who wanted should have a date for the senior prom. So she established a highly successful matchmaking bureau . Most seniors and teachers graced the senior prom back in those days. Many smiles and hugs greeted the prom goers as they passed through the faculty receiving line.

Throughout the years our merit scholar went from a high of nine students to an average of four to one. For twenty-five years our college bound students enjoyed the benefit of a full time college counselor.

Students entered all the major colleges, including Ivy League colleges. No admitted student stayed home for lack of funds.

AP scores by subject were published annually. Biology, Calculus, and English scores were consistently outstanding. AP French scores at Einstein surpassed both public and private schools under Chris Richardson.

Education at Einstein took a forward leap with the creation of the countywide Visual Art Center in the seventies. Professional artists/teachers, Oron Barnes, Jane Walsh and Mike Piechocinski have developed budding artists whose frequent awards, scholarships, portfolios and many perfect AP Art scores have brought Einstein national acclaim.

The population of diverse students from around the globe has steadily risen through the years. Our ESOL program has grown along with it. The miracle of seeing foreign speaking students learn the language and go on to meaningful careers is something we can praise our ESOL staff for.

In the early nineties, Dr. Richard Towers took over the helm. He brought about the revitalization of the school with the formation of the

International Institute for Science and Technology. Under the direction of superb AP Human Geography teacher, Crawford Clark, the IST prospered and benefited from annual trips abroad. Dr. Towers' lasting contribution is the Academy of Finance, unknown gem, that is making a major impact in preparing our students for business careers.

In 1995, architect and Einstein alumnus, Steve Parker (class of '66), was awarded the contract to redesign his alma mater. He worked very closely with the faculty to create the beautifully renovated building that is our present home.

Through the years many awards have been established to honor our students and faculty. All those awards along with the Ethel Bradford Memorial Courtyard are meant to preserve the tradition of those who have contributed so much to our school community. A plaque in the Media Center cites their names and hall of awards may be seen in the Counseling area.

Building upon Dr. Towers, IST Program, Ms. Jan Mills successfully introduced the International Baccalaureate. Melissa McCormick, the IB Director, choose the staff, worked on the details, filled out the myriad forms, recruited and retained the students. Sean English, the Director of Academies, encouraged all students to join academies.

Replacing Jan Mills, Mr. James Fernandez visited every classroom, learned the names and needs of many students and seeks to raise the quality of performance of both students and teachers.

At a reunion in 2005, the classes of '64, '65 and '66, voted to inaugurate an Athletic Hall of Fame. Bob Owens, Russ Bradshaw, Dennis Boyle, Bob Westwood and many others have succeeded. Two classes in 2006 and 2007 are in the Hall of Fame Lounge.

Into the 21st century, our rich history has provided us with many proud moments and illustrious alumni. AEHS has always been committed to be the best comprehensive public high school.

We consider ourselves fortunate to be living and working in such a diverse and dynamic community.

As we observe our 45th birthday, we are confident that our students will be well prepared for the challenges that await them.

HAPPY 45th BIRTHDAY, ALBERT

*Joseph A Monte
Founder/Counselor
December 17, 2007*