

School News

Erskine kicked off the new school year with the tradition of the “senior entrance” and 571 students entering its hallowed halls. Since then, the schedule has been packed with a multitude of school and community events.

Trunk or Treat!

Several sports teams and student groups decided to do something on Halloween night for the children in local communities, which are quite rural with houses set far apart on



Cute cats at the “Trunk or Treat”

roads not well lit. The students, with the help of Halda and Doran Stout, came up with the idea of “Trunk or Treat.” They asked students and faculty who wished to participate to decorate the trunks of their cars, dress in costume, and hand out treats to the children. The event was a huge success, so much so that an emergency run had to be made for more candy! The students hope to make it an annual event.

AFS Student Trip to Costa Rica

A group of 19 students traveled to Costa Rica in early November to build a home for a family in need under the supervision of faculty members Sonia Stevenson, Bill Childs, and Doran Stout and Darrin Wood P’10 ’12 in partnership with a Costa Rican organization. The Oak Grove School Foundation awarded the AFS program a grant to pay for the building of the home. The group built the house from the ground up from a simple cement slab. The recipient family is selected by their community’s pastor and



From above top: EA students bringing building supplies to the site; a student talking with a Costa Rican child; children enjoying the new home celebration; EA teacher and AFS faculty adviser Sonia Stevenson. Top right: A family is overwhelmed after receiving donated supplies.

elders. AFS advisor Sonia Stevenson said that the biggest challenge of the project is to meet the needs of the mission with so few resources. The AFS Club plans to raise fund for another such trip in two years.

The AFS Club wishes to thank everyone who helped make the



trip possible including Cives Steel Company, Coutts Brothers, and NRC Hardware Distribution, for their donations of tools and protective gear, and everyone who donated toys, gifts, and school supplies.

We received a special note from Costa Rica trip chaperone Darrin Wood P’10 ’12:

*“Just wanted to drop you all a quick note to let you know what a pleasure it was to build a house with your kids. They all worked hard and never complained. They had no problem doing whatever was asked of them whether it was carrying things, building, digging, painting, etc... They represented Erskine and Maine so well it makes me proud to be a part of this hard working group! Once again, thanks for letting me spend a week working with them as this was not a vacation!”
Thanks, Darrin Wood,
Production Manager, Cives Steel New England Division*