SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 1

EPA MOMENTS

ELITE PREPARATORY ACADEMY



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- New Clubs & Competitions
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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

A Look Back at Our First Month

Dear Students and Faculty,

This October, our theme is **First Day to First Achievements**— and I could not be more proud of how quickly our new community has grown stronger together. From the very first day of school, you have turned energy and excitement into real accomplishments.

Already, **11 new clubs** have taken shape, and **3 new competition teams** are preparing to represent us. Our story was recently featured in the Southington News, and we've begun a meaningful friendship with The Smile of Hopatcong, a local nonprofit serving adults with disabilities. Most importantly, new students and new faculty have joined seamlessly, making Elite Prep Academy feel like one united family.

These earlier successes remind me that when we work toward the common goal, there is no limit to what we can achieve. I will be proud to see more milestones in the weeks to come. With pride and gratitude,

Yi Qian Head of School

THEME OF THE MONTH

From First Day to First Achievements

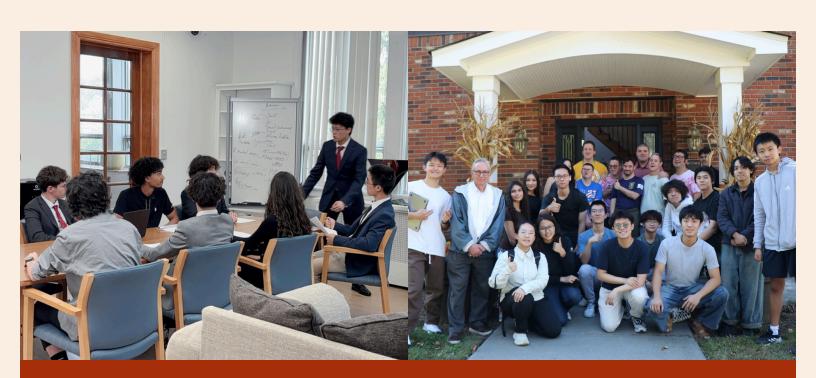
The first days of school marked an inspiring beginning for the EPA community. Students explored Yale University's historic campus and toured EPA's Connecticut Campus, where they met teachers and classmates. These experiences fostered curiosity, connection, and a strong sense of belonging across the school community.

This month celebrates the energy, curiosity, and determination that turned the first days of school into meaningful accomplishments.

EPA students have brought remarkable energy to the first month of school. Many took the initiative to launch or join clubs that reflect their diverse interests — from Science Bowl, Robotics, and Math Competition to Pop Music, Drama, Creative Writing, and Photography. Others found new ways to stay active through Basketball, Soccer, Fencing, and Hiking, while our Student Government, Model UN, and Community Ambassador Club continued to build leadership and service across campus.

Students also participated in the SMILE community visit, sharing kindness and teamwork beyond the classroom.

Their involvement in such a wide range of academic, artistic, athletic, and service activities has created a vibrant start to the year and strengthened the sense of unity that defines the EPA community.





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

EPA × THE SMILE OF HOPATCONG

EPA's Newspaper Club, in collaboration with The Smile of Hopatcong, hosted a Pumpkin Night event where students and residents painted pumpkins, shared stories, and celebrated inclusion through creativity.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

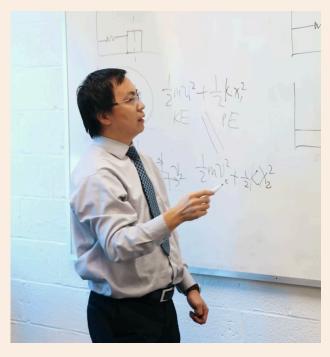
Dr. Wang

Voted by students, Dr. Wang has been recognized as September's Teacher of the Month! Known for his sense of humor and caring attitude, Dr. Wang makes every class engaging and enjoyable. Students describe his lessons as both informative and fun — a balance that creates a positive and supportive learning environment at EPA.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Boge Xiao (Grade 12)

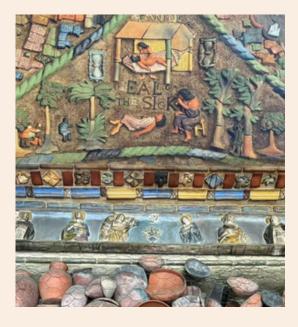
This month, we recognize Boge Xiao for her exceptional leadership, organization, and communication skills. As President and Editor-in-Chief of *The EPA Times*, Boge consistently demonstrates initiative and creativity in every project she leads. From the SMILE community event to other school activities, she has shown remarkable responsibility and teamwork, inspiring those around her.







To go beyond the world is also to go beyond oneself



FEATURED ARTICLE

Listening to Tile — An EPA Visit to Fonthill Castle

Written by Boge Xiao, Senior writer & Editor-in-Chief

"The autumn light poured through the ancient windows of Fonthill Castle across handmade tiles like quiet footnotes of time."

"The owner of this castle, Henry Chapman Mercer, lived by it too. An archaeologist and ceramist, he built this home not for luxury, but to let myth, labor, and art coexist. The walls were embedded with handmade tiles: tiny archives of history and imagination, fired in clay and preserved in silence."

"Above an archway to the second floor, a tile mural read October. It was created in the final year of Mercer's life. The harvesters, ladders, fruits, and sunlight formed a complete autumn. Maybe he wasn't painting a season but his understanding of time itself, a calm acceptance of ripeness and return. We happened to arrive here in October, as if we had made an appointment with this house, to learn its autumn of life."

"When we finished the tour and stepped into the antechamber, the guide paused and said softly, If you still remember this phrase PLVS VLTRA, it means you have already gone beyond where freedom once stood and have seen another world. Each of you fits that phrase just like the man who built this house. Thank you for coming. I felt the phrase light up again, not as a slogan of exploration but as an inward movement. To go beyond the world is also to go beyond oneself."

To read the full article, please click here.