

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

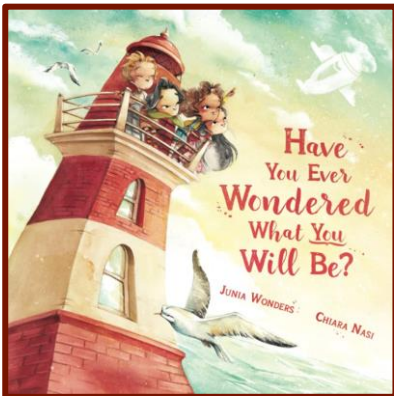


March 25, 2024

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **April 6:** Core Sound Run @ 9 AM
- **April 9:** Community Night ... *Hometown Teams* @ 6-7 PM
- [Click Here to SIGN UP for Summer Camps & for More Upcoming Events!](#)

Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



Have You Ever Wondered What You Will Be? By Junia Wonders

Through gorgeous illustrations the story's child characters look into mirrors to see what future befalls them. A poignant text introduces the many potential vocations, professions, and callings that are within our grasp, if they are pursued with courage and determination.

Although life isn't always perfect and the path to success and happiness will have peaks and valleys, what matters is that you don't give up working toward your dream with patience and positivity.

Pages: 40
Grades: K-6

Dr. Eddie Piner

I am very excited to share with you a piece that has been in the works for a while now. It is one that allowed me to reconnect with someone I've always admired and had the pleasure of knowing while growing up Down East. I hope you enjoy the following as much as I have. With no further ado, I am happy to introduce Dr. Eddie Piner!

The son of Tony and Beth Piner, Eddie was born in Sea Level hospital in 1970. He attended Harkers Island Elementary School for kindergarten, then Smyrna Elementary, and on to East Carteret High School. His family moved off Harkers Island to the 'mainland' of Smyrna in 1977.

Eddie recalls his early years fondly for he spent much time with David Gaskill (also a distant cousin), Edward Gillikin, Don Carol Willis, David Rose, Timmy Nixon, and Philip Guthrie. While at Smyrna he especially remembers Allen Willis and Mark Davis, as well as all the 8th grade Class of '84. East Carteret added many memories especially with Ricky LeBlanc and Russ Lewis.

When asked what it was like growing up Down East, Eddie said his Saturdays were typically spent playing baseball at Eastern Park or motorcycling around Smyrna Farms, crisscrossing from Otway to Smyrna to Williston, out to the wide-and-deep canal boundary with Open Grounds Farm. His Sunday mornings found him in church while afterwards he would go down to David Gaskill's landing or on the back road--often on motorcycles again.



Some Sundays after church, he and his family visited his grandmother (Nana) and extended family on his "momma's side" of the Piners in Williston, Davis, and Sea Level. Many weekends were spent at the Cape or overnight at the camps on Shackleford. In the winter, Eddie often checked his grandpa's flounder nets that were set along Wade Shore. Christmas Eve's always included visiting his grandparents' house, Lee and

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Dr. Eddie Piner (continued)

Doris 'Dot' Piner or Ma and Pa to him, with lots of cousins, aunts and uncles.

From middle school through high school Eddie's summers involved clamming to make a little money, swimming at the Island bridge, water skiing and hydro sliding on the opposite side of the Island from wherever the wind was blowing!

Science and math always fascinated Eddie. He was good at making sense of trigonometry and calculus. Early on he discovered that he could visualize the results of all those symbols and numbers, which was key for him to comprehend and rationalize the intent of the mathematical structure in explaining the natural sciences. Eddie credits observing the academic successes of Stephanie Gaskill and Mathew Guthrie as his encouragement to excel academically. Eddie was a first-generation college student, so seeing them and others such as his cousin Chris Yeomans 'making it' in college was a tremendous benefit and inspiration. He also expressed gratitude to the many teachers at Smyrna and ECHS who pushed him to excel.

Finally, Eddie believes being constantly immersed in the ebbs and flows of the natural wonders that Down East offered laid his foundation of understanding and making sense of nature. The seasons, the water and sand, the wildlife, the fishing – all the things embodied by the concept of 'salt water in the veins' – were essential. Add to that the opportunities Eddie had to work with his hands, whether on water or land, and a sense of accomplishment that comes from a good, hard day of work resulted.

Eddie graduated from North Carolina State University in 1993 with his Bachelor of Science degree and in 1998 with his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Material Science and Engineering specializing in Electronic Materials.

Dr. Piner began his career with the semiconductor industry in Phoenix, Arizona, then he moved back to Raleigh in 2000 to join a venture capital backed start-up company created by several friends from graduate school at NCSU. He joined academia in 2010 as an Assistant Professor of Physics and the Materials Science and Engineering PhD program at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Dr. Piner tenured and promoted to Professor in 2013 and since 2023 has served as Chair of the Physic Department at Texas State.

Throughout Dr. Piner's career, he has been directly involved in research and development of state-of-the-art semiconductor materials and devices, in particular, high-power electronics. He has done so with great success, as exemplified by 33 US patents issued, hundreds of technical publications, and dozens of invited talks given around the world. Dr. Piner deeply enjoys the sense of discovery conducting research and development provides which he feels is rooted in the natural wonder that was fostered within him while growing up Down East.

Between completing his BS and starting his PhD, Dr. Piner married Christi Thompson, a native of Atlantic Beach. They celebrated their 30th anniversary last year. The Piners have two sons--Logan, 24, currently working in Tampa, FL, and Jacob, 22, who lives in Houston, TX. Jacob is getting married in a few weeks on April 5th.

Dr. Piner looks forward to working with and assisting the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center to inspire the future generations of Core Sounders. On behalf of the museum, we anticipate this partnership greatly and are proud to call Dr. Eddie Piner one of us.