

PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 19, No. 2 Spring 11



Despite some tough losses, Allison Baergen wears her black eye with a smile.



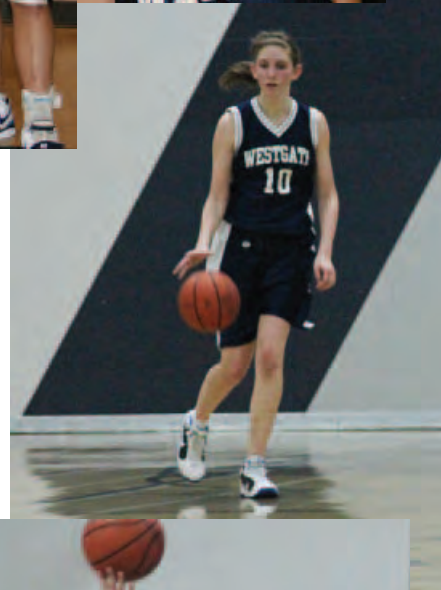
AAA PROVINCIALS

2011 AAA Consolation Champions

Thanks to the support and efforts of a vast community of volunteers, Westgate was once again able to host an exciting event. The 2011 AAA Basketball Provincial Championships took place March 17-19 here in Winnipeg. With games taking place at St. John's Ravenscourt and Westgate, 16 boys' and girls' teams from across Manitoba met to compete. Congratulations to the eventual champions, the St. James Jimmies boys' team and the University of Winnipeg Collegiate Wesmen Girls' team. Our own Varsity Boys were able to rebound from a hard-fought loss in the first round to capture the Consolation Championship. This event could not have taken place without the support of the following generous donors:

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and many Westgate parents and volunteers. ■



Congratulations to Heather Fast (no. 10) and Levi Bergen (no. 32), named to the 2010-11 Basketball Manitoba Graduating All Star teams.

Award of Excellence



The Goethe-Institut has selected Westgate for the Award of Excellence 2010-2011 in German! We were declared a winner after we participated in the "Generation Einheit" contest. As a result, we were allowed to select one student to take part in a German course in Germany with the Goethe-Institut. Kathryn Kroeker (at left) was the winner of a school contest that involved an essay and an interview with a panel of teachers, administration and a board member. Kathryn will be attending a language course in Grainau, a picturesque town in Bavaria with a lovely view of the Alps. Lern viel, Kathryn!



MANITOBA GERMAN LANGUAGE CONTEST

Of the 24 Westgate students who participated in the Manitoba German Language Contest, we had eight winners (from the left in photo):

Mielen Remmert – 3rd Prize Junior A
Amy Baergen – 3rd Prize Intermediate C
Wendy Kopeschny – 1st Prize Senior C
Kathryn Kroeker – 2nd Prize Senior C
Zachary Rempel – 1st Prize Junior A
Nadya Langelotz – 2nd Prize Junior A
Alan Rempel – 2nd Prize Intermediate C
Maya Janzen – 1st Prize Intermediate C

On a special note, in addition to winning an all expenses paid trip to Germany, **Zachary Rempel's** (pictured below) name joined his father's on the Senior A trophy – isn't that special?!



A THOUSAND HALLELUJAHS

On January 23, 2011, a celebration of the ministry of the Faith and Life Male Choir took place at Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall. The male members of the Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Concert Choir, along with singers from the MCI and MBCI choirs, joined the Faith and Life Male Choir to celebrate 25 years of sacred music-making.

PHOTOS BY TERRANCE KLASSEN,
 T. KLASSEN – PHOTOGRAPHY



Hola Guatemala!

WESTGATE GUATEMALA STUDY TOUR

Twelve students, staff and parent chaperones departed from Winnipeg in early February, keen to begin our work with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Guatemala. Our first stop was MCC's sponsored hostel, Semilla House, in Guatemala City. Adrianna Koehn, our MCC translator and guide, was eager to make our stay a memorable one, where we could connect with the people of Guatemala and help with the work of MCC in this economically poor but spiritually rich nation. Adrianna arranged for a professor friend to visit us on our first morning to teach us some basic Spanish.

Armed with our new 25-word vocabulary, we tackled the streets of Guatemala City with a history exploration tour of a local graveyard, an overlook of the garbage communities, and a scavenger hunt in Old Town, amid the teeming street markets, palaces and churches.

Our next adventure began with a five hour bus ride looping back and forth on the mountain switchbacks which are the

only roads available in Guatemala (apparently). Mrs. Dirks found this a particularly challenging part of the tour. Nevertheless the crew arrived in one piece at Bezaleel School, a junior high/high school for indigenous people in the northern mountain region of Guatemala. Here our real project work began. Hosted for five nights at the school, our students and staff connected with Bazaleel teachers and students, teaching English classes, handing out Valentines, playing soccer and floor hockey, attending chapels, painting many walls, and just hanging out with our new Guatemalan friends.

Tours of the local sights near the school added to our enjoyment of Guatemala and walking on the hills of the coffee plantation among the banana trees, and zip-lining through the forests was exciting fun. Several days later at a natural ecological preserve, Semac Champey, we explored and swam in caves, and jumped into jungle streams on rope swings – all the Tarzan type stuff some of us had been hoping for.

Thank you very much, volunteers!!

We believe that the rich offering of out-of-class opportunities – from music and drama to sports and travel and beyond – plays an important role in defining the Westgate experience. We know that these programs could not be successful without the tremendous effort of a host of generous volunteers. We would like to express our gratitude to the people who shared their time and talents with students and staff this year with an

Appreciation Dinner in the Westgate Cafeteria on Tuesday, June 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Campers and chaperones, coaches, guest speakers, bakers and all manner of servers can expect an invitation to attend. We are looking forward to a great evening!

We also journeyed to the shores of Lake Atitlán. Here we lived with host families for three nights, enjoying real family life. Their compound-style homes housed extended families of 16 or more members – chickens and puppies not included, but roaming everywhere. Our outreach to the community here was an extension of the Santiago host families' own projects to better their home town. We assisted with after school programs for elementary school children, whose school we also painted.

Visiting Guatemala really changed my life. I've always realized there are places in the world where people lived simpler and had less than me. But seeing this beautiful country firsthand made it real. The opportunity to see the rainforest, explore caves and live with a family in a small village made me feel like a guest, not just a tourist. I would definitely go back. Kirstyn Eckhardt

On our return home, our thoughts were crowded with many wonderful memories. Many of our students, even today, speak of returning to Guatemala soon to continue to work and help their many new friends. This was a life experience everyone should have. ■ Terry Dirks



WEST SIDE STORY

2011 was Westgate's turn to present the musical *West Side Story*, the award winning adaptation of the classic romantic tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. Once

again, students and staff worked tirelessly to put on a show of the highest quality. Special thanks go to Vic Pankratz for his leadership and to Odette Heyn-Penner. Odette, a professional choreographer and former Westgate mom, has put in hours of volunteer time with Westgate musicals over the last 15 years. Thank you for your expertise and time!



THE DAILY COMMUTE

The annual Work Day landed on one of those spring days where it is good to be alive, good to be outside, and in the last few years, good to be on a bike.

I had a bit of a circuit worked out: cycle from my St. James home to Bethania to join volunteer Westgate students to do some yard work, crank over to watch the girls' soccer team play a 4:30 game at Assiniboine Park, and then get home to get supper started. The morning was

fresh and the wind was light as I pedalled north on Moray St. to pick up the new bike trail that runs between Ness and the airport. Fresh asphalt, the chorus of thousands of frogs, and the best sound a prairie boy can hear, the song of a meadowlark, made for a great start to the ride. In good time, I threaded my way through the west end, and I took advantage of the Sherbrook and McDermot Ave. bike lanes to King St. and then headed east along Higgins. On a bike, you can catch the street sounds and can notice

new details of sites that you likely would miss if you travelled the same route by car. The Louise Bridge gave me a good glimpse of the swollen Red River, and within minutes, I linked up with the North East Pioneer Greenway that had recently been laid on an abandoned rail bed. It seemed that more than half of my trip was on either dedicated or delineated bike path.

I have come to appreciate this city's emerging dedication to active transportation, and I am pleased that the Westgate community is taking advantage



U OF W WEEK



Back row, from the left:
Emma Bergen, Wendy
Kopeschny. Front Row:
Paul Currie, Joshua
Neustaedter-Barg,
Justin Budyk

The University of Winnipeg has been offering Enrichment courses to high school students for many years. During one week in April, five of our high schoolers were able to learn about diverse topics such as "Fairytale and Modern Society" and "Probability, Games and Gambling". The hope is that students will gain an appreciation of the rich variety of course options that universities have to offer.



of it. Of course, bike travel to our school is not new. In the early '70s, Vic Loewen purportedly was the first to own a 10-speed Sekine, and commuted regularly from Sturgeon Road with it. Mr. Brown was likely the school's first Winter Warrior, skittering from Riverview each morning until the responsibilities of fatherhood forced him to consider his mortality. However, in the last five years, bike use by students and staff has become considerable. Even on cool days, the bike racks sport 85 two-wheelers, accounting for about a quarter of our student body. On dry pavement days, one-third of the staff, with Ms. Janzen the most recent, arrives on bike.

The benefit to personal health and the environment from this evolving school bike culture is considerable. I believe that staff and students who cycle to school are vigorously ready to tackle the day. I also believe that biking quickly becomes an enjoyable habit, and as a reader of *Perspective*, if you are not already doing so, I hope you consider coming along for the ride. ■

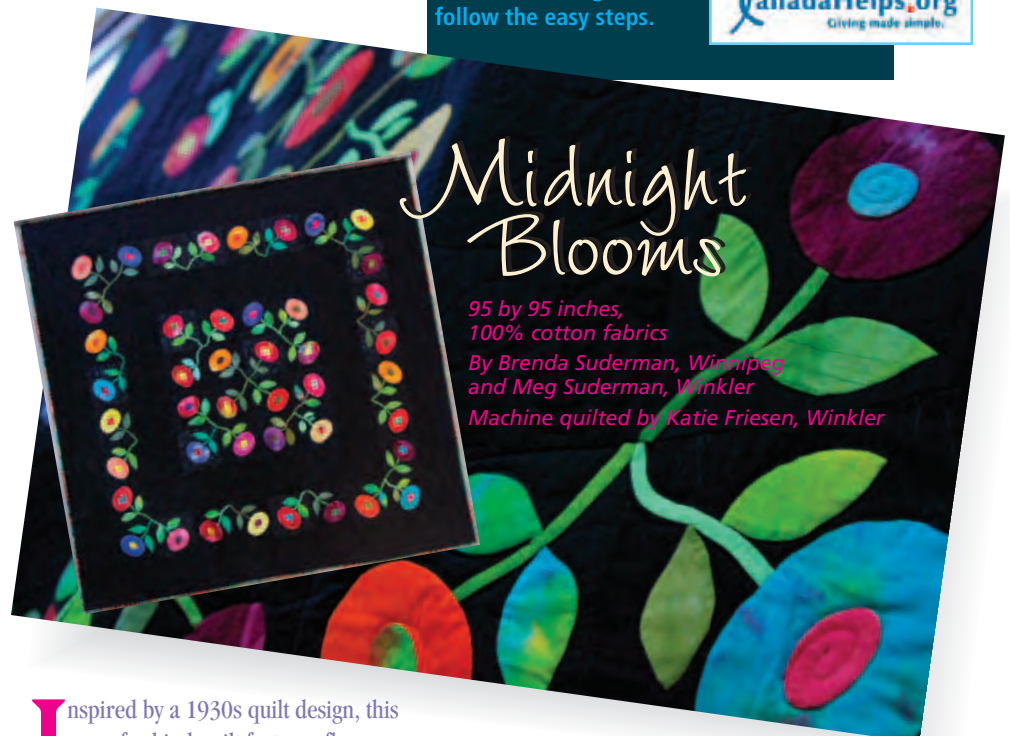
Bob Hummelt, Principal

Over \$35,000 raised to support Westgate Bursaries!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers, staff, donors and sponsors who supported Westgate's Bursary Fund at this year's Bursary Banquet. This year, over \$35,000 will support students who need financial assistance to attend Westgate. Rev. Jamie Howison's banquet address is available to read on our website under the "Community" section.

Want to use your credit card to support Westgate?

You can now do it, through Canada Helps. It's convenient, paperless, quick and secure. Simply go to canadahelps.org, search for Westgate and follow the easy steps.



Midnight Blooms

95 by 95 inches,
100% cotton fabrics

By Brenda Suderman, Winnipeg
and Meg Suderman, Winkler

Machine quilted by Katie Friesen, Winkler

Inspired by a 1930s quilt design, this one-of-a-kind quilt features flowers in various colours of hand-dyed fabric, hand-applied on black backgrounds. Each block is unique, adding to the organic nature of the quilt. A joint project between Brenda Suderman, mother of two Westgate students, and her mother Meg Suderman, an award-winning quilt maker and teacher, **this quilt has been donated to support Westgate's Capital Campaign.**

Meg Suderman herself dyed many of the fabrics used in this quilt, as well as lending her expertise to the layout and design.

For tickets, please phone our office at 775-7111.

To view more pictures of this beautiful work of art, or if you would like more information, please visit www.westgatemennonite.ca



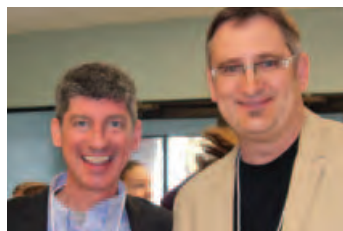
A VISIT FROM THE MAESTRO

On May 5, Alexander Mickelthwate, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conductor, visited Westgate to work with our Concert Choir. This visit was a reward for our students, having sold the most tickets to the WSO Rising Stars concert this year.



CAMS in Winnipeg

The Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools gathered in Winnipeg for the 2011 CAMS Music Festival on April 8-11. Dr. Elroy Friesen, from the University of Manitoba, directed the Mass Choir and Bill Kristjanson, band director at Vincent Massey Collegiate (Wpg), led the Mass Band. The event is a gathering of students from across Canada, focusing on music and relationship-building between our schools. Everyone had the opportunity to make music together, but also to socialize. Students gathered at MBCI for an ice cream social and all students attended a Manitoba Moose hockey game. Special thanks to Tim Taves, MBCI Choral Director, for all his organizational leadership. ■



THANK YOU!

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SAVE THE DATE

6TH ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT BRIDGES GOLF CLUB

**STARBUCK TUESDAY
AUGUST 23
2011**

For more information,
please contact
John Loewen
@ 775-7111 x 246 or
jloewen@westgate
mennonite.ca

CANADA GAMES



The 2011 Canada Games took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from February 11-27. Three of our students participated in this amazing event. Pictured (from left): **Rebekah Enns** (archery), **Adrien Chamberland-Mike** (squash) and **Bryant Roulston** (alpine skiing). Congratulations on representing Manitoba and Westgate so well!

* **Perspective now online!** Curious about those former classmates that you once read about? Now you have the opportunity to search back issues of the *Westgate Perspective*. As far back as November 2000, issues are on our website, available for your perusal. Please visit the "News/Events" section of our website to view archived *Perspectives*.

Manitoba Provincial Honour Band

The Manitoba Band Association holds annual auditions for its spring Honour Band. Thanks to Mr. Brownlee's support and encouragement, the following students represented Westgate in this year's band: **Xander Guzzi, Mielen Remmert, Matthew Pagé, Thomas Dickson, Irene Kim, Christie Cho, Eagan Peters** and **Dayle Kroeker-Tom**.

This band was a great opportunity to meet other musicians and learn how to integrate our own abilities with them. It's a challenge to learn how to blend sound and stay in tune with musicians we've never met before, let alone perform five pieces three short days later. Needless to say, it all pays dividends in the end and we were left with a phenomenal experience to cherish. — *Eagan Peters*



ALUMNI NEWS



ANNEKE HILDEBRAND ('08) and **ARISTA RYBACK ('10)** were members of the University of Winnipeg College Wesmen basketball team that won the MCAC Championship on March 13. Anneke was also one of the team captains.



After graduating from McGill University on June 4, 2010 with law degrees for Quebec (BCL) and the rest of Canada (LLB), **PAUL KLIPPENSTEIN ('00)** began articling with the Department of Justice in Ottawa. He was called to the bar in Quebec on December 14. Since then, he has been working in tax litigation, blending his interest in business and tax law with his love of performance.



PETER KLIPPENSTEIN ('03) graduated from the University of Manitoba with an MD on May 13, 2010 and is now in the first year of a five-year residency in obstetrics and gynecology in Winnipeg. When not completely sleep deprived, he enjoys interacting with patients and assisting in childbirth and surgery. He has also been singing with Antiphony, an a capella group of 10 singers.

Between their two graduations, Paul and Peter traveled around Israel together.



The **PETERS** family spent a number of years hanging around Westgate. The sisters decided to pose with their graduation hoodies just to remind everyone how many years they have associated with the school. From left to right: **EMILY, STEPHANIE, REBECCA** and **KATJA**.

KAITLIN REMPEL ('06) completed her last season of basketball with the University of Winnipeg this spring. Kaitlin graduated as a CIS Academic All-Canadian (Gold) with a BA in Kinesiology and Applied Health. At her final home game, Kaitlin and the other graduating players were

honoured for their dedication and hard work. Kaitlin was singled out as the fittest athlete her coach has had in women's basketball.



In addition to these accomplishments, Kaitlin was the recipient of the \$5,000 Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship. As a member of the Winnipeg Rowing Club, Kaitlin won six races and finished second four times in her first summer of competitive rowing in 2010. Despite her retirement from basketball, expect to see Kaitlin making a splash in the rowing world in years to come.



Elliette Sophia Fast was born March 11, 2011. Elliette was 9 pounds 15 ounces when she was born. Proud parents are Anne Whitford and **REYNOLD FAST ('98)**. Congratulations!

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