

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

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VOLLEYBALLERS HOLD A QUARTER-CENTURY CELEBRATION

In the fall of 1978, Westgate made its own history by becoming the smallest school to win what are now the AAAA Volleyball Championships. Today, only the largest schools in the province compete at this level, but Westgate won it all 25 years ago despite a high school population of about 98 students.

Westgate edged out Murdock McKay in five sets to meet Miles Macdonell Collegiate in the finals. Chances were not good, for in five consecutive previous tournaments, Westgate had not won a single set, let alone a match, against the five-time defending provincial champions. In the championship game, Miles Mac won the first two sets fairly handily and were leading in the third set by a score of 11-5. What followed is deeply embedded in Westgate lore. Erich Enns, not a starter, but a great front-line player, was substituted into the game. As legend has it, he walked onto the floor, eyeballed each of the Miles Mac frontline players, and emphatically whispered to each in turn, "I've got you, I've got you, and I've got you!" In the ensuing play, Erich stuffed the Miles Mac right-side hitter, followed by a stuff block on a short set to their middle hitter, followed by a stuff block of their left side-hitter. The rest is history, as Westgate went on to win that set, and the next two, to win the provincial championship.

Harry Toews and Erich Enns planned the twenty-fifth Championship anniversary reunion that featured the 1978 Westgate Knights versus the 2003 Westgate Wings. It was a grand evening that was marked by the presentation of a plaque dedicated to the volunteer groups and individuals



Back, left to right: Frank Enns, Howard Epp, Harry Toews, Doug Pankratz, Greg Guenther, Howard Wiebe, Art Priess, Walter Murovec, Rick Hildebrand, Gerry Grunau. Front: John Fast, Bernie Krause, Hal Loewen, Erich Enns, Rob Krahn.

who made the building of the gymnasium possible. Frank Enns and Gerry Grunau returned to coach the alum team, and many fans who were at the Championship game in 1978 were sprinkled among the packed crowd. The audience marvelled at the agility and skill of the more seasoned

veterans, who were edged out by the younger squad of boys. As for a fiftieth reunion, Erich Enns' only word was, "No." ■ With files from Erich Enns ('79), Mr. Jake Pankratz, and Sonja Enns (Sr. 4)

A NEW CHAPTER

This year completes ten full years at Westgate for our family. Having gone to a Mennonite high school myself, I appreciated the opportunity to send my children to a school where some distinctive Mennonite courses were taught alongside the regular high school courses. Emphasis on some Biblical Studies, Ethics, Mennonite history and Religious Studies courses were among the things that, as a parent, I am glad they could experience in their high school education.

Our family life has been partially shaped by our years at Westgate. The participation of our three children in sports, music and drama meant that our whole family was involved. Many evenings were planned around school events and at times it seemed like we were running a taxi service. Nevertheless, this was an important part of our family life in those years. It allowed us to experience life in a more integrated way. This, along with things like the food committee or helping to carry out the fruit and cheese drive, afforded us the opportunity to get to know the wider church community which forms the school. It was a good thing.

As a pastor of one of the supporting churches, I expect to retain a connection with the school in a continuing way, as many of our congregation's youth are students at Westgate. I suspect that our involvement with Westgate will feel different now, but I think our relationship with the school will continue in a new way. ■ *John Braun*

*Standing: John Sr., John Jr.
Seated: Peter, Velma,
Suzanne.*

LEADERSHIP GROUP



*Back: David Harms, Vanessa Scarola, Melissa McPherson, Andrea Karr, Amy Major.
Front: Haley Thiessen, Gabrielle Plenert, Nain Park, Nikki Mercier.*

Westgate's Service Credit option offers Sr. 2-4 students a chance to learn practical leadership skills of goal setting, effective communication and co-ordination of group activities. This year, the class assumed some school promotion responsibilities. Service Credit students planned and facilitated the school's inaugural Grade Six Day. The Service Credit class hosted over 40 students from the constituent churches and community for an afternoon of school tours, devotions, games and snacks. The class also designed and constructed a promotional board that is

used for church visitations and deputations.

This program is also designed to attend to community needs. On one of the coldest days of winter, Service Credit students spent the morning volunteering at Winnipeg Harvest, and delivered the 715 lbs. of food donated by our junior students. We encourage students to become involved in the Service Credit option and develop leadership skills as the program continues to grow in its ability to offer service to the school and the greater community. ■

Ms. Jennifer How



OUR FUTURE CAMPUS PLANS

The Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Exploration Committee was formed by the Westgate Board of Directors to make recommendations regarding the future facilities for Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. This led to the questions, "What is the possibility of expanding or upgrading our facilities at 86 West Gate?" and "What enrolment can the school expect in the future?" To answer the first question, the committee initiated a survey of the Armstrong's Point residents. That survey was completed and presented to the Board in 2002. To answer the second question, it evaluated the potential for growth in enrolment with another survey of the twelve churches that own it and focussed on the population of eligible children in those churches.

The survey of the supporting churches concluded that the population of children attending the supporting churches will decline for the next ten years, though this decline is not shared equally by all of the churches. In response, the school has included a special afternoon for Grade Six students to visit and take part in activities during a regular school day.

Westgate continues to work with neighbours. In the past, issues of parking, storage, traffic, and general level of activity have been perceived by the

residents of Armstrong's Point to be threats to the stately and gracious atmosphere of the neighbourhood. The school has continued to try to live as good neighbours, and to be sensitive to the issues raised. Our facilities are open to the community, and have recently been used for a wedding and a fall supper. Residents have been invited to school events, and Westgate maintains a membership in the APA.

The Committee recommends that the school continue to develop credibility with the APA by being open and candid with the school's development plans. As well, the school will continue to develop

relationships with the neighbours by informing them directly of activities that will affect them.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that Westgate Mennonite Collegiate stay at 86 West Gate and continues to work on plans that most effectively use our building to support our school programs, and to maintain positive relationships with our churches and neighbourhood. ■ *Richard Klassen, Board Chair, June 2003*

This article has been condensed from the Exploration Committee's report printed in the Mennonite Educational Society of Manitoba Annual Meeting report. If interested, please contact Westgate for a copy of the report in its entirety.



CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Ever wonder what happened to your friend from Mennonite History class or your buddy from the volleyball team? We are in the process of updating our alumni database and we'd love to hear from you! Just drop us a note at: westgate@westgate.mb.ca if you would be interested in helping locate your former classmates, please let us know.



IN WESTGATE'S EVENING OF THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS, JILL GROENING CAN'T STAY AWAKE FOR HER KING, WILL RING, WHILE JOHN KLASSEN PONDER'S A FAIRY TALE REWRITE IN "HAPPILY NEVER AFTER." THE JUNIORS ALSO PERFORMED "FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL" AND "ROMEO AND JULIE."



Julia Kasdorf and Sonja Enns performed at the Talent Show in February.

WESTGATE SHOWCASES ITS TALENT

Talent Show has been a Spirit Week tradition, where countless acts have annually regaled appreciative student and staff audiences on an early February afternoon. The Westgate Parents Association think it is time to dip into this talent pool and stage an evening of performances by alumni, staff, current students and members of the Westgate family. Join us in the gym **APRIL 22 at 7:00 p.m.** to view some visual artwork and listen to some wonderful music making. If you are a singer, (solo or in a group), photographer, painter, sculptor or play an instrument, please consider sharing your talent on this evening. Contact Bob Hummelt at the school. (775-7111, bob.hummelt@westgate.mb.ca)



Phil Bshouty nails one in the Big Air competition.



Archie Andrews, The Spice Girls, and Sponge Bob Squarepants showed up at the Spirit Week Festivities.





OFF-SEASON TRAINING

Jim Daly, coach of Canada's 1964 Olympic Track and Field Team, coordinator of Winnipeg's 1967 Pan American Games, and retired from the University of Manitoba, continues to be involved in the development of Manitoba's young athletes. Mr. Daly offered interested senior high students an opportunity to learn an off season strength training regime that will prepare them for the spring track and field season. Mr. Daly introduced Dr. Fred Gutoski, a top decathlete in his time, who put the students through a rigorous series of ten exercises of dips, lunges and medicine ball tossing designed to improve performance in sprinting, jumping and throwing events. Mr. Daly will also assist Westgate track coaches by sending many of his former athletes to Westgate to lead technique clinics in specific events. ■

GERMAN LANGUAGE CONTEST WINNERS

INTERMEDIATE C: Kaitlin Rempel, 2nd

SENIOR C: Jocelyn Gordon, 3rd
Monika Pauls-Laucht, 2nd,
Rebecca Peters, 1st

SENIOR A: Heidi Koop, 1st

Rebecca Peters and Heidi Koop both won 4 weeks at the Goethe Institute in Germany.

BUILDING BETTER BRIDGES

Thinking of going into engineering? Ever wonder how bridges are constructed? Desperate to know what designs are best for a bridge that has a span of 24 cm? Just ask the Physics 30S class! Students were busy designing, constructing and testing bridges made out of toothpicks and glue during the month of December. The project walked them through the study of various truss designs as well as the concepts of compression and tension.

This year, the 2-year-old record for most weight supported by a bridge was shattered: Andrew Froese, Sydney Woodman, and Tom McKibbin combined their efforts to create this award-winning design. The "true" test of a bridge's design was to see how many textbooks could be stacked on top of its roadbed. The trio's bridge held almost 39 kilograms of texts, and had a capacity for more, as one member stood on the bridge and it withstood over 70 kg of mass!

Students of the physics program are looking forward to Robot Sumo Wrestling,

which is a part of term three in Physics 40S. Knowledge of electricity circuits, forces, and construction skills are put to the test as groups compete to push others' robots out of the ring. For more pictures of the bridge project and details on the robot competition, log on to Ms. Thiessen's website <http://members.shaw.ca/kondwan> and click on the "physics" button ■



Ben Banman presents his poetry at Westgate's Evening with the Arts in November.

A MIND IN BONDAGE

By Ben Banman

I am held captive to a being I cannot appease
It locks me up and prevents me from
Returning home.
I am Odysseus, Poseidon holds a grudge against me
Because I destroyed an evil he created
Now he keeps me in the bonds of institutional
conformity
He keeps me ignorant with his lies, manipulation
and propaganda

Now I am content to sit at home and let my mind
turn grey
Staring at a screen
Now the television is my master, my captor

Some days I start to think
I search for truth
My mind catches a glimpse of what can be
Of what really is
And something tells me
Follow the white rabbit

ALUMNI NEWS



DAVID WHERE ('98) and **ANDREA LOEWEN** ('97) were married once again on Saturday, November 29, 2003 at Douglas Mennonite Church. (Previous betrothals came as Motel and Tzeitel courtesy of Westgate's production of "Fiddler on the Roof.")

David has completed a B.A. in Geography and Andrea finished a B.A. (Honours) in Neuroscience. Both perform with "House of Doc," and plan to resume their studies next year.



MELANIE (REIMER) ('94) and her husband Ken MacKinnon wish to introduce Tasha Skye, who was born October 3, 2003. Melanie hopes to in time continue her studies in Recreation at the University of Manitoba.

JANE EAGLETON ('02) has a six month contract teaching English to children ages 2-13 at seven different schools in the city of Chongqing, China. Jane is one of 200 foreigners in this city of 32 million.

"Macy," I call out. Eighteen eager little Chinese faces look up at me as she responds with a triumphant "Here!" I have the privilege of working with some really great kids. Beth is a budding artist who spends her break time up at the



blackboard drawing pictures of the stuff that she has just learned, waiting for my approval. Chris is five years old and only 3½ feet tall. Even though he is younger than every other kid in the class, I depend on him for the right answer when everyone else's face is blank. He is too short to sit and still see over his desk so every time he replies with the right answer, a smile comes to my face as I am reminded that he is actually standing. And then there is Amy. I cannot remember a class when she has not tried to sneak up on me to try and get me to chase her. Or there's Pamela, who comes up to me at the end of every class to ask how to pronounce all the new words again so that she can race home to teach her grandmother. And of course Jessica, who waits for me after class to hold my hand and walk me to the front gate. There is no better feeling than walking out of a classroom knowing that you have really connected with kids.

KATE GIESBRECHT ('02) writes: Wog'wan! Greetings to you all from Jamaica! I have been here for one month and will be staying for the next 2½ with a non-profit government organization called Canada World Youth, which caters to Canadian youth ages 17 to 24, who wish to experience another culture doing volunteer work abroad. My specific program is a partnership between the Canadian and Jamaican governments and lasts for seven months, with a focus on literacy. The 3½ month Canadian phase of the program took place in a small fishing town on Prince Edward Island. I spent August to November 2003 working at the local kindergarten. Eighteen of us (nine Canadians and nine Jamaicans) are in a small cluster of communities called Siloah in the parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

Living in a foreign country can be very difficult, but also very fulfilling. Some obstacles are the climate change, (35°C heat), language barriers, (the local Creole is

treasured by Jamaicans, but hard to catch on to), differences in cultural norms, and severe homesickness. However, the view from my front yard is a vast field of sugar cane, behind which is a lush and rising landscape of tropical trees. My yard itself is a virtual orchard with coconut, banana, mango, grapefruit, tangerine, cherry, and orange trees. The people are friendly (sometimes too friendly by my Canadian standards), and the music, which is inescapable, is intoxicating and full of energy.

I've gained an incredible amount of knowledge and experience during this short but intense chapter of my life. More important, however, is that I am now able to fully appreciate how fortunate I am. I challenge you all to do what I could not: look around at your life, your loved ones, and your home environment, and truly thank God for the abundance of blessings you have. I only hope that this experience will stay with me forever, so that I may never forget the sentiment behind these sincere words.

"Bless up!"

JESSICA JANZEN ('02) has been coaching the Westgate Cheerleading Squad since Sr. 3. Jessica has experience from her dance background, and a year of cheering with the Westwood Cheerleading Squad. She also coaches with Winnipeg Elite All-Star Cheerleading Squad.

Jessica intends to graduate from Red River College in Business Management this June. ■

