

# PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 18, No. 1 Fall 2009

## 50 YEARS FROM NOW ...?

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate's 2008-2009 academic year was significant in the school's history, a watershed of sorts. We celebrated fifty years of educating and nurturing faith of two generations of students.

Homecoming week with a worship service, a collective expression of music-making at a packed Choral Concert, and a Westgate community display of visual arts at the Mennonite Heritage Gallery all

served to remind us how blessed we have been over the last half century.

Within the same year, the board recognized that the school will face challenges as it moves into the next fifty years.

Development of this campus to meet our needs is not possible, and with the help of a survey and consultations with our school community, a strategic plan report was written that identifies our core priorities and how they need to be

supported in the decades to come. When I think now of possibilities that a new, larger site might offer, I can't help but be excited. I invite you to review the Strategic Plan Report by clicking "The Future of Westgate" on our website. I also invite you to contact me to share any questions or observations you may have about our school as we enter the second half of the school's century. ■

[bhummelt@westgatemennonite.ca](mailto:bhummelt@westgatemennonite.ca)



## 600/600 CLUB

This year's Cyclathon, though cool, was filled with the warmth and energy of cyclists, friends and volunteers. This year's participants included the usual groups of super-keen grade 7s and relaxed Senior High students – except for some. Grade 12 students Molly Schaefer,

Meagan Rempel and Jason Bergen were determined to finish their high school experience by leaving a significant legacy. 2009 will mark their sixth Cyclathon where they cycled 100km and raised at least \$100. Our usual 100/100 club participants have raised the bar. Anyone else out there ready to be part of the 600/600 club??

## NEW STAFF

### JANET PETERS

Educational Assistant Janet Peters (Durksen '92), proud mother of two little girls Jaelyn and Raya, four and five years old, returns to Westgate with a BTh in Youth Ministry, a Bachelor of Church Music in Conducting and a wide variety of work experiences. Janet and her husband Eric and family are active members of North Kildonan Mennonite Church, where Janet serves as Music Coordinator.

### SARAH KROEKER

Sarah Kroeker is excited to be a part of Student Services this year. Sarah is an accomplished cellist, a member of the renaissance/baroque quartet Amindra, and is hoping eventually to pursue a degree in Music Therapy. Sarah recently married Jeremy Kroeker ('04); she and her husband attend Douglas Mennonite Church.

### HEIDI THIESSEN

Heidi Thiessen (Warkentin '97) comes back to Westgate with seven years of teaching experience at Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary and Middle Schools and is pleased to be sharing her love of Social Studies and Science with our grade 9 and 10 students. Heidi has also jumped right into the athletic program, coaching the grade 7 girls volleyball team. Heidi and husband Matthew are active in Charleswood Mennonite Church.

### LOTHAR MOEHLMANN

Lothar Moehlmann has literally travelled the world, from Europe to Australia to Antarctica, to arrive at Student Services at Westgate. He comes with an impressive background in academics and work experience. Lothar recently married Ingrid Riesen; he and his wife attend First Mennonite Church and enjoy singing in the choir. ■

*Check out the fuller version of all staff biographies on our website!*

## NEW GYM GUY



*Mr Wiebe and son Kyle at Thorung La Pass which, at 5,416 meters, was the highest point on the Annapurna Circuit Trek they took together last fall in Nepal.*

The “new gym guy” – that was one grade 8 student’s description of Mr. Wiebe at the start of the new school year this fall. The new gym guy has actually been teaching at Westgate for 26 years but took last year off on a deferred salary leave. The year was filled with many exciting travel adventures, a little household renovating, and a family wedding. However, not all of his time was spent away from his school friends. He also helped to coach the Varsity Boys Basketball team to a AAA Provincial Championship and joined the European Study Tour as a chaperone. He’s looking forward to the adventures the new school year holds. Welcome back, New Gym Guy!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**MR. HERB GUENTHER** – “Attending the math workshop at the University of Waterloo was a great opportunity because it allowed me to share and learn some of the strategies other teachers are using in their classrooms. There are as many strategies (which are often dictated by clientele) as there are outcomes, and what worked for me didn’t work for everyone. There is an increased reliance on technology in teaching, as I am seeing in my classes as well with the incorporation of the Smart Board. Living in dorms was a challenge, due to the noise and limited space, although it did afford the opportunity for reading and reflection.”

**MS. HEIDI THIESSEN** – Ms. Thiessen attended six days of government workshops. Two of these days were at Shoe Lake in Nopiming Provincial Park where she learned about the boreal forest and the woodland caribou. She also spent two days learning how to use GIS (geographical information systems) software, with the intent to integrate this with her grade 10 Geography class. The remaining time was spent with the grade 9 and 10 Social Studies curricula. This photo was taken at Black Lake and involves a life-size likeness of a caribou that is part of the display there. Black Lake’s islands are where most of the woodland caribou of Nopiming are born.



We bid farewell to a faithful Westgate servant. For twelve years, Ms. Dirks’ grey Toyota van, dubbed “Smokahontis,” hauled kids to countless excursions and cross country meets; Mountain events, and summarily answered Ms. Dirks’ new van is another

shlepped sundries to Cyclathon and Marsh and the staffroom “who has a car here?” call. yet-to-be-named Toyota.





*At the Louvre.*

## EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR

European Study Tour 09 was undoubtedly one of the best experiences ever. There were almost too many highlights during our stay in France, from sleeping

in what used to be a hospital to climbing the tallest mountain in Europe. We started out in Paris and saw the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Cœur, Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Versailles, the Louvre, and many more places.

We then jumped on a bus and drove down to the lovely li'l town of Cahors. We explored the extremely old Pech Merle Caves, the most jaw-droppingly gorgeous town called Saint-Cirq Lapopie, as well as walking through Cahors enjoying the sunset and eating gelati. We ventured into Nimes, where we spent an extremely hot day at the Mediterranean. We saw Roman arenas, amphitheatres, and the Pont du Gard. We switched to a cold weather adventure as we went into the French Alps. We stayed in Chamonix and went up Mont Blanc. We also saw a glacier and went to Fête de la Musique (a music festival), which was a highlight for many people.

A sudden urge for sausage and fat-filled pastry subconsciously found its way into our minds as we entered Deutschland. The bountiful cities of Bingen, Munich, and Berlin served as our hostel locations, and we were even able to stay with real German families when we were billeted in the small city of Landau.

We visited more than a couple of museums and travelled to castles such as the über-famous Neuschwanstein and Burg Eltz, where tour guides gave us glimpses of the olden days. To relax German style, we visited the Alpamare water park, where water rejuvenated our souls and prepared us for the rest of the journey. As for food: let's just say the picnic lunches were fine, but the joys our taste buds experienced in German restaurants and cafes were a real treat.

As we reminisce about the days of European study tour, we feel like every minute of every day was a worthy investment of time. A group of 34 students and six chaperones gained a large taste of culture outside of the classroom. Good times, boys and girls, good times. ■ *Paul Dyck and Ceilidb Moulden*



*German food!*

## Environmental Initiatives

☙ Water savings for the period of Oct. 10/08 – Sept. 29/09 over the previous year are \$2,342. This is the result of replacing all girls' washroom toilets and the two changing room toilets with dual low-flush toilets. More units were replaced in November, leaving only two of the old water-guzzling toilets.

☙ Just a few years ago there were only a handful of recycling bins in the school besides the ones for aluminum cans. Today, every classroom in the school has a blue bin. The Westgate staff and students have eagerly embraced recycling to the point that some waste containers have been replaced with smaller ones and even overshadowed by a larger blue bin. Drive by the school on Recycling Day and you'll see a sea of blue along the boulevard.

☙ As we update and replace computer systems in the school we are replacing the old CRT monitors with LCD monitors. All old CRT monitors with flicker or screen burn issues have been recycled responsibly with Syrotech Industries.

☙ Last fall the sink taps in the two changing rooms were replaced with sensor taps. In October 2009 all six taps in the Junior washrooms were replaced with sensor taps.

☙ In yet another cost-shared initiative with the Junior Council, composting of organic waste was implemented in October. Collection bins are in the cafeteria, kitchen and staff room.

*We are always looking for ways to improve the "environment" at Westgate, so don't hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions.*



*Left: Chris Lenshyn, our SEW guest speaker, shared about "Gratitude with Attitude."*

*Below: Students and staff act out the Parable of the Good Samaritan.*

## SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK







## SILVER SHINES AGAIN!

After last year's silver medal, this year's Varsity Boys' Cross Country team was determined to be back on the podium. After many hours of training and competing, the boys repeated this feat, earning a silver medal at the MHSAA Provincial Cross-Country Championships in Carberry on Oct. 21. Varsity Boys team members include: Jonah Langelotz, Jacob Miller, Thomas Aitken, Ryan Kennedy, Sam Dyck, Robert Loch, Tyler Kennedy and Ben Ryan.



## A WALK IN THE ... PARK?

*Westgate's Fall Marsh and Mountain trip traveled to Spruce Woods Provincial Park to bike and hike. Despite the forecast (and eventual reality) of snow and below freezing temperatures, the group persevered and even enjoyed their experience. This trip would seem to serve a good lesson for all of us living in this province: experience all Manitoba has to offer by dressing appropriately and getting outside!*



## Students helping students

The peer support group participates in an annual training session each fall. This is followed by a social evening and a sleep-over at the school in order to prepare for and host the annual Grade 7 Pancake Breakfast (the "official" Welcome-to-Westgate for the grade 7s). Each year the group has a topic of focus. This year the topic is Stress and Anxiety Disorders. So, the afternoon and evening training session involved viewing a video supplied by ADAM (Anxiety Disorders Association of Manitoba) and learning more about anxiety: i.e. what triggers anxiety, the difference between worry and more serious anxiety which calls for intervention, and how to intervene when someone needs support. The peer support group will continue to discuss and learn about issues pertaining to stress management and anxiety disorders as they meet throughout the year.





## WHAT DID MR. FRIESEN DO THIS SUMMER?

Participating in the Mennonite World Conference this summer in Paraguay was an eye-opening experience. I came away with a new outlook on the many faces, languages, and cultures which make up the Mennonite world.

One of the best parts of the conference was seeing our children interact with other children in their sessions. My daughter Kate had been introduced by email to a pen pal, Michelle, from Paraguay. When she arrived, Michelle, who spoke Spanish, English, both high and low German, and probably ten other languages, took Kate under her wing, translating everything and making her

feel at home. Likewise, my son Alex was warmly invited into a group of Paraguayan boys, who spent less time talking and more time playing soccer.

As for my wife LeAnn and me, we attended many sessions and worship services, the boring things that adults do. We also visited some Mennonite organizations in the area, most notably the Leprosy Hospital at km 81, an institution set up by Mennonites in Paraguay which was amazing not for its grandeur but for the forward-thinking ideas of its founders. Instead of just being a place of healing, it was a place of rehabilitation, education, and renewal.



Alex at Machu Picchu.



Kate in Cusco.

Our trip to South America took us to other countries as well. I could ramble on about the beauty of Iguazu Falls, or about the never-ending stream of meat at a Brazilian barbeque (easy there, Mr. Durksen), or about the graceful tango dancing in the streets of Buenos Aires. I could also spend quite some time recounting and reliving our time in Peru at the end of our trip. The Inca Trail has been on my life list for quite some time, and now I can finally cross it off. But all those things will have to wait for another article. ■

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and  
Mennonite Collegiate Institute

*Gala Concert*  
*2010*

Friday, February 5, 2010

8 p.m. at Westminster

United Church, Winnipeg

Sunday, February 7, 2010

3 p.m. at Buhler Hall, Grtna



Featuring

**Phillip Ens**

world-renowned operatic bass

With special guests

Victor Engbrecht

Mennonite Collegiate  
Institute Chamber Choir

Westgate Mennonite  
Collegiate Concert Choir



Drei weisse Birken by Alexus

For more information please contact:

MCI – 1-877-624-2583 / [www.mciblues.net](http://www.mciblues.net)

Westgate – 204-775-7111 / [www.westgatemennonite.ca](http://www.westgatemennonite.ca)

## PENNY POWER



Once again, Westgate is taking part in the popular Mennonite Central Committee Penny Power campaign. Spare change and bills are tossed into the ever-present jug in the cafeteria. Thank you to all for a solid effort last year in collecting \$670 for Penny Power. The money raised sponsored more than two students in a Ugandan school setting.





Every day of work starts with a healthy breakfast!

Greg and Jasmine stacking chairs.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE

When we think of schools, our first thoughts generally turn to teachers and students. Perhaps the principal and office secretary come to mind, but often the work of custodians goes by unnoticed. In our school, our custodians have a few extra duties.

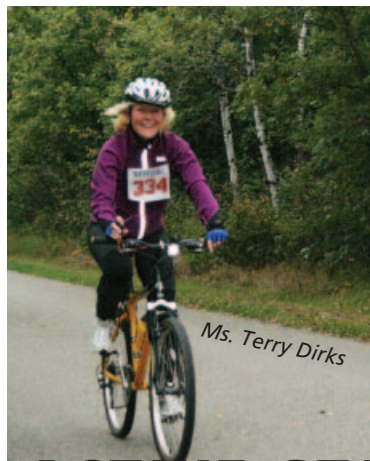
Greg Taylor and Jasmine Sanderson, our two full-time custodians, spend a lot of their time sweeping and moving chairs. Setting up for weekly chapels and then moving tables back for lunch in the cafeteria is a weekly chore that often goes unnoticed. A staff member started the routine of helping stack chairs after chapel. Students began to notice and join in. During our Spiritual Emphasis Week, our chapel guest Chris Lenshyn directed our thoughts toward actions that express our thankfulness. Some small groups chose to help with these tasks as their expression of gratitude for all the work our custodians do.

Sweeping the floors after breaks and lunch, mopping up spills and creating a safe, clean environment – for these things, we are truly thankful!



Jasmine mopping the stairwell.

Halloween duties.



Ms. Terry Dirks



Mr. Jarrett Rempel

## ACTIVE STAFF

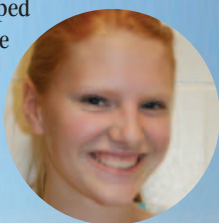
Besides participating in our annual cyclathon, we have a large number of staff members who have chosen to commute to work by bike or on foot. Not only are they staying healthy, but they're also providing a positive example to our students.

## Easter in Damascus?

This spring break I will be embarking on an 18-day trip to the Middle East along with parent chaperones, teachers and many of my classmates. Since the end of last year, the whole group has been regularly meeting and becoming more and more excited discussing items such as itinerary, dress and language. There are several reasons why I want to go to the Middle East. Most of all, I think I am excited to be thrown out of my comfort zone, living for 18 days in a culture so unlike my own. I have seen presentations from past students who took part in this trip, and I can't even imagine the type of experiences I will take part in. I doubt anyone taking this trip for the first time has ever been part of something similar. One exciting

item on our itinerary is billeting with Christian families in Bethlehem during Easter. I am looking forward to experiencing the cultural aspects of life and Christian practices in Israel/Palestine, and touring some of the oldest sites in human history. Another activity a lot of us are anticipating is visiting an orphanage in Lebanon. We have a very diverse itinerary that includes Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel/Palestine. I am sure everyone taking part in the trip would agree that we are absolutely ecstatic about the opportunity to take part in such a rare and special trip, and we thank everyone who helped us arrive where we are today.

*Meghan Entz*



## INITIATIVES FUNDED BY OUR STUDENT COUNCILS

### Junior Council

- \* Sensor taps in both the girls' and boys' gym change rooms
- \* Half of the low flush toilets installed in the Jr. and Sr. Girls' washrooms
- \* Encyclopedias for the library
- \* Jr. team jerseys
- \* Classroom supplies, books, games, etc.
- \* Additional music stands
- \* Video camera for the Video Club
- \* Hand held Senteo remotes for Smart Board in Room 106
- \* New lights in grade 8 and 9 student lounges
- \* Carpet in student lounges
- \* Basketball uniforms
- \* Fumehood Fund
- \* Elevator Fund
- \* Support for Global Family through MCC for many years
- \* Donations to the Westgate Capital Fund

### Commitments in process:

- \* Another projector funded
- \* Funding to assist with the total cost of new counters, cupboards, sinks and taps in both junior washrooms
- \* Funding to assist with installing low flush toilets in Jr. boys' washroom
- \* Plants for classrooms
- \* Support of the composting program
- \* Chin-up bars for gym

### Senior Council

- \* Tutor program in Student Services
- \* Projector
- \* The other half of the low flush toilets installed in the Jr. and Sr. Girls' washrooms
- \* CD player
- \* Track shoes for the gym dept.
- \* Materials to build benches in Sr. lounge and outdoors
- \* Cafeteria sound system
- \* Funding for bus to provincial championships
- \* Chairs for computer stations in library
- \* Chairs for band room
- \* Shelving in English class
- \* Soccer uniforms
- \* Cross-country uniforms
- \* Chemistry lab renovations
- \* Fumehood Fund
- \* Donations to the Westgate Capital Fund



## Westgate Golf Tournament

### What do 108 golfers, a rare 2009 sunny summer day and great food bring to mind?

Yes, it must be the 4th Annual Westgate Golf Tournament at Southside Golf Club. After a summer of rain, we were truly blessed with a warm, sunny day to enjoy some recreation and community building. With our numbers growing each year, we realized our facilities might need to change in the future.

For this reason, next year's tournament will take place at the beautiful surroundings of Bridges Golf Course on Aug. 24, 2010. Thanks go out to our golf committee and our many sponsors.

### Thank you to our 2009 Hole Sponsors:

Team Insurance Brokers Inc. – Garry Fast  
Crosstown Civic Credit Union  
Valour Decorating – Rolf Langelotz  
Gondola Pizza – Derek Loewen  
Winter's Collision Centre – Rob Winter  
Merlyn Self Storage – Tom Ewert  
Stefan Homes – Randy Douglas  
Winnipeg Building and Decorating – Henry Thiessen  
Edward Jones Investments – Darren Quiring  
Investor's Group Financial – Wesley Dueck  
Winter's Plumbing and Heating – Vic Winter  
Horizon Taronno Insurance – Tony Taronno  
JEM Construction – Martin Enns  
Remco Realty – Jake Rempel  
Snider Orthotics – Luke Snider  
D'arcy and Deacon LLP – Brad Regehr  
Orle Davidson Giesbrecht Borgen Barristers and Solicitors – David Giesbrecht  
Landmark Planning and Design – Donovan Toews

### Special thanks to our Prize Sponsors:

Kurt Neustaedter from Security Decorating  
Rudy Epp from Rudy's Auto Service

### Extra special thanks to our Title Sponsor:

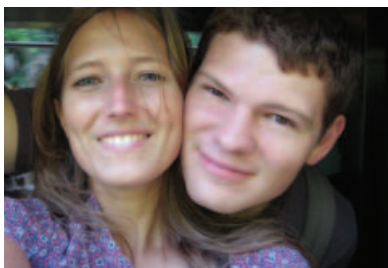
David Unruh of Rischuk Park Realty



Special thanks to Howard Wiebe at Big Sand clothing for his generous donation of golf hats for all our participants.



## ALUMNI NEWS



**PATRICK FRIESEN** and **CHERYL PARTRIDGE** (graduated '02, married '07) have just recently moved to Toronto and are both studying at the University of Toronto. Patrick is pursuing a PhD in plant physiology and Cheryl has entered an MA program in history.



**TOM PENNER** thought this was a poignant picture. His mom, **ANNA PENNER** is shown with her graduating grandson, **BLAKE**. Irene taught at Westgate in 1958.



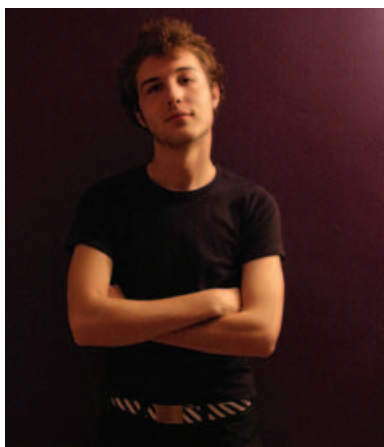
Since high school, **ANNA COOPER REED** ('07) has continued with her dance and vocal training and performing. This past summer at Rainbow Stage she moved up from the chorus to a part as a Silly Girl in *Beauty and the Beast*. She



### DR. JACOB DYCK

It is with sadness that the family of Jacob Dyck announces his peaceful passing on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at West Park Manor at the age of 87 years. Jacob was born June 11, 1922 in Rosenthal, USSR. Dr. Dyck was active in church life at Bethel Mennonite Church. He served nine years as a member of the board of directors of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, including six years as board chair.

has mainly been performing with KOB Family Entertainment over the last two years. This fall Anna is touring Canada from Nanaimo to the National Arts Centre in Ottawa to St. John's as the host and central character in a live production of the popular children's TV show, *The Backyardigans*. She has sung and danced as Tasha in previous *Backyardigans* tours and various other productions including as Bear in *Franklin* and Owl in *Little Bear*. Anna plans to continue her post-secondary education in the new year and hopes to combine performing arts with a teaching career.



**LUKE NICKEL** ('06) recently shared second prize in a SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) music composition competition. Luke worked on the score of his opera, titled *Jack and his Jillians*, while his father James wrote the text. Luke is in his fourth year of music studies at the University of Manitoba. He is working at a double major in Composition and Flute Performance, but plans on continuing his studies in Composition in the future.

## Curriculum Innovation

Westgate hosted the launch of the *Student's Guide to Health and Physics: A Grade 12 Manitoba Resource for Health and Radiation Physics*, written by former Westgate physics teacher, Tanis Thiessen. Grade 12 physics students will soon become acquainted with the story of fictional character Francine Yellowquill, a high school gymnast who discovers she has cancer. The resource package and teacher's guide follows Francine through her diagnosis, her questions about diagnostic techniques, treatment options, and her life after treatment. Ms. Thiessen is now the principal at Elm Creek School in Elm Creek, Manitoba.



Tanis with Mark McDonald, Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division (at left), and Peter Bjornson, Minister of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

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**WESTgate**  
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