

PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 20, No. 1 Fall 11



Dr. Doug Brown shares a story with his grandchildren.



Every year, our Peer Support students plan a breakfast for our grade 7 students. These peer counsellors spend much of the year training to be better listeners and friends to other students here at school. Connecting with grade 7 students at the beginning of the school year is just one way Westgate is trying to be a more welcoming place for all.

\$25,000 GIFT BROADENS SCOPE OF WESTGATE'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

What retirement gift do you give to your father? A watch? A photo collage jigsaw puzzle? Maybe a set of golf clubs? For Westgate alumnus Dr. Aaron Brown ('95), the choice to honour his father was nothing less than to establish a \$25,000 scholarship.

Dr. Brown established the Dr. Peter Douglas Brown Graduate Studies Scholarship after discussing some unique ways to honour his father's retirement with Westgate's Director of Development, John Loewen. Says Loewen, "Through a very efficient exchange of emails, we agreed on the scope and terms of the scholarship and it was very humbling to receive and appreciate the size of the gift. We had no idea of an amount to expect. Twenty-five thousand dollars is a very generous gift and it's exciting to consider the difference this scholarship will make for qualified Westgate alumni now and into the future."

The power of Dr. Brown's gift is that it not only honours his father, it will also touch Westgate alumni in a unique and supportive way. Further, where traditional retirement gifts like watches or ties break down or go out of fashion, this scholarship is endowed and will endure as long as our school exists.

Most Westgate scholarships are awarded to returning students or Westgate graduates of the current year. This scholarship reaches the wider Westgate

community in recognizing and supporting Westgate alumni who are investing in their professional careers. This scholarship will support Westgate graduates who have completed at least three years at Westgate and are enrolled in a Graduate Studies Program.

We invite any Westgate Graduates accepted to, or enrolled in, a Graduate program to apply for the scholarship. Please contact the Development office for applications or for more information. ■

Westgate's Christmas Alumni & Friends Open House & Volleyball Tournament is back!

Join us and your other Westgate friends to reconnect, to play some invigorating volleyball, or simply to enjoy a cup of coffee.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 10:30 A.M.

Donations to support Westgate's Volleyball Development fund are graciously encouraged.

RSVP by December 2 to John Loewen – jloewen@westgatemennonite.ca



Co-coordinator Signe Penner-Goeke speaks to a full house.



East Africa Fundraiser

What began as a curious phone call during summer morphed into a community-wide showing of support for drought relief in East Africa. On September 14th, 2011, the wider Westgate community raised \$10,000 for MCC's ongoing relief projects in Kenya and Somali. This was then doubled by the Canadian government through CIDA.

Led by Allison Baergen and Signe Penner-Goeke, the Westgate community planned and hosted a sold out Somali fundraiser dinner at Bethel Mennonite Church. The event has co-hosted by Bethel's Witness Committee and students greatly appreciated the support and guidance they received from the committee, especially Reynold Friesen and Sunnie Friesen.

The evening was well attended and participants enjoyed food for their bodies: a student cooked Somali stew, naan bread and mixed dessert, as well as food for thought: music and words by members of the local Somali and Congolese community and an "invitation to give" from Peter Rempel, MCC's executive director.

Although the drought and struggle for food justice goes on, we feel we have, in a small way, been able to stand in solidarity and provide hope to our brothers and sisters around the world. May God multiply our giving of time, energy and funds. ■



Co-coordinator Allison Baergen (left) organizes the kitchen with volunteers Lindsay Unger and Sunnie Friesen.

Westgate welcomes our new staff for the 2011-12 school year



CRYSTAL WIKKERINK is a B.C. native (and Canucks fan) teaching Social Studies. She enjoys the pursuits of summer – biking, camping and travelling to visit family in B.C. – but is also very excited about teaching Social Studies, getting involved in the Westgate community and rejoining our coaching staff. She is looking forward to a wedding next year.

LISA MARTIN is replacing Shelley Dalman-Betts, who is on a one year maternity leave. Lisa is teaching Language Arts, Drama and French. In her spare time (what spare time?), Lisa enjoys reading historical fiction, going to the beach, and spending time with her young daughter, Brynn. Her husband, Jock, is also a teacher.



TERINA HENRY joins our staff in Student Services, with a strong background in resource assistance. Terina is married and has three children: a daughter 18, and sons 16 and 14. A strong family focus guides her decision to spend many hours at the rink and sharing free time with loved ones.



CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to Westgate's Cross-Country teams on a fantastic showing at the Provincial Championships, which were held on October 19th at Spruce Woods Provincial Park. It was a tough course, but our runners were up to the challenge. All four teams came home with medals: JV Girls won silver, Varsity Girls took home bronze, JV Boys won silver, and, once again, the Varsity Boys took home the Provincial Championship banner. In addition, we had two outstanding individual results: Janessa Klatt finished third overall in the A-AAA standings, and Ben Ryan finished first overall in the A-AAA

standings. In addition, in recognition of his commitment and leadership to our Cross-Country team over the last seasons, Ben was named the MHSAA Athlete of the Week for Nov. 1. See the quote from the website below. Well done, well run. ■



Varsity Girls (l-r): Coach Bob Hummelt, Allison Baergen, Luca Lindner, Katie Enns, Janessa Klatt, Signe Penner-Goeke, Mariette Koop



Varsity Boys (l-r): Eagan Peters, Robert Loch, Ben Onyshko, Ben Ryan, Jake Jowett-Stark, Tyler Kennedy, coach Doug Durksen, Mathieu Sawatzky, Julian Rudolph



Junior Varsity Boys (l-r): Mikah Friesen, William King, Adam Kelly, Jordan Young, Andrew Savignac, Liam Sawatzky, Ben Miller, Nick Niebuhr



Ben Ryan of the Westgate Wings cross-country team was named the Home Run Sports Urban High School athlete of the week. This 5'8" runner led the Westgate Varsity Boys to their 2nd straight Cross Country Championship, while also winning the individual gold for his category. Coach Doug Durksen states, "Ben is a team leader and has helped encourage all of our other athletes. He has helped run practices and helped to organize and run a weekend training camp. He is a role model for our junior high runners and he takes this seriously. Ben is willing to offer guidance based on his triathlon background which has

helped team members immensely." In his grade 12 year he maintains an academic average of 85 per cent, while also competing in track and field.



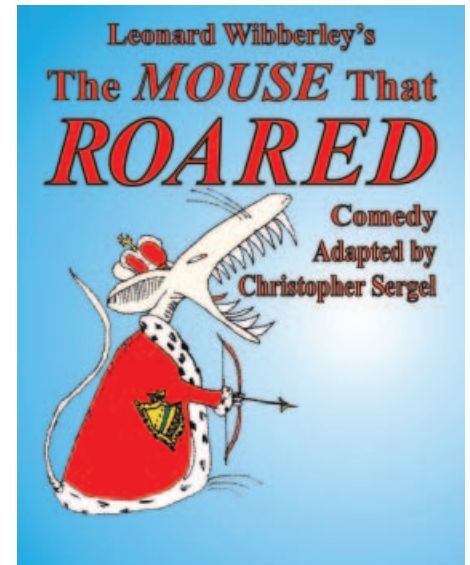
Junior Varsity Girls (l-r): Annie Rose Daudet, Nadya Langelotz, Hillary Rempel, Mielen Remmert, JJ Ens-MacIver, Adrianna Friesen, Amy Baergen, Emma Ryan

NET PROFIT



Thanks to the Parent Association and recent donations to the Volleyball Development fund, Westgate has been able to purchase a set of multi-use badminton/volleyball poles and nets. These systems will not only allow for regular badminton use, but can also be used for small court volleyball training. Where previously 12 players could play

on a half court, we can now have up to 24 players actively playing games. This will be of great benefit to our Phys Ed program, but especially to our Junior High teams with up to 20 players on a team!! Thank you for your generosity! The picture above features former National Team member Mike Munday instructing with these "mini-nets." ■



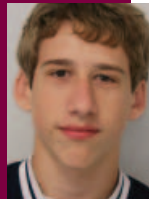
A talented Westgate cast is hard at work rehearsing "The Mouse That Roared," a cold-war satire of politics and warfare and general silliness, to be performed **December 1st through 3rd at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre** (Deaf Centre Manitoba).

The play recounts the declaration of war on the United States in the early '60s by the tiny, poor, and technologically backward Duchy of Grand Fenwick, which hopes to lose the war and thus be eligible for the lucrative financial rehabilitation that must surely follow. When their declaration is ignored as being a joke, the Duchess Gloriana XII and her advisors choose a simple forest ranger – named Tully Bascom – to lead a hopeless invasion, armed only with "the power of the English longbow." No one, however, tells Tully he is supposed to lose...



When asked to create a chapel banner for us this year, grade 12 student **AYLA MANNING** was quick to agree. The theme from the book of Isaiah was called, "A Voice Crying Out in the Wilderness". In her own words: "I tried to capture the spirit of the prophet's messages by using the messages that surround us every day. Pop culture and media and advertising surround us with hundreds of ideas each day; they have become our wilderness. We must listen for a voice of truth crying out to be heard, and if we can't find one, we must be that voice."

Grade 10 student **BEN MILLER** was a member of the Manitoba Provincial Basketball team. Not only did he lead his team to a Bronze medal at this summer's National Championships, but Ben was also selected to the National All Star team for his age category. Congratulations Ben!



Grade 10 students **BEN ONYSHKO** and **JUSTIN DYCK** were members of the Manitoba Provincial Baseball Team for players 15 years old and under. This team represented Manitoba at the Western Canada Summer Games held in Kamloops, B.C. In Triathlon, Westgate's **JANESSA KLATT** (grade 12) represented our province as well. Her team finished in 3rd place.



Ben and Justin both play for the Winnipeg South Chiefs AAA Bantam team, which also includes **CHRISTIAN PETERS** (grade 9). This team had a very successful season, capturing the Bantam AAA Provincial Championship, and representing Manitoba in the Western Canada Championships (Winnipeg) and the Baseball Canada National Championships (Toronto).

Ben was recently named Baseball Manitoba's Bantam Player of the Year. This award was presented at Baseball Manitoba's annual awards banquet on Nov. 7.

IN SEARCH OF APRIL RAINTREE



The September sun was shining on the school parking lot when Ms. Karina Fast gathered her bike-mounted Grade 9A English Language Arts class around her. Using her best gym-teacher voice, she called, “Who has a birthday in November?” Four hands shot up. “Perfect! You four get to wear the vests!” Their hands slunk down, accepting that they would now be coursing 17.5 km through the city sporting fluorescent orange and yellow safety apparel.

The plan was simple. The class would cycle to significant locations the novel *In Search of April Raintree* cited: the Health Sciences Centre, Elgin Avenue, Henry Avenue, the Louise Bridge. The novel is gritty, blunt and tragic, and this tour gave students a sense of what this part of the city would have been like for the novel’s characters.

Cycling with a large group of juniors at rush hour is kind of like herding cats.

Ms. Fast took the lead, Mr. Ozzie Rempel positioned himself in the middle of the pack, and I stayed back to gather the lost and confused. In cycling, your group is only as strong as your “clunkiest” bike, and I was pleased that Westgate continues to prove they are a biking community. Nonetheless, providence was on our side, as we must have pedaled through about 2 kg of broken glass along the way with not one flat. Much to my relief, we were greeted with patient drivers, many often waiting through their green light and who acknowledged my non-verbal gestures of thanks with a bemused smile and a wave. There were also brief but good-natured chats with pedestrians and inner city locals, all wondering who we were and why we were not trundling along in a school bus. One aboriginal woman had read *April Raintree* and thought this exercise was brilliant. Since most of our students may have only passed through much of the cycle route by car, the impact of this field trip was profound. As they study the novel, the sounds and smells they experienced will offer a rich appreciation for the novel’s setting. What I shared with our students that morning affirmed my long held belief that experiential educational opportunities are seldom merely a lark. They more often prove to be time well spent by students and their teacher that leave lasting memories of relevant and deepened learning. ■ Bob Hummelt



KATHRYN KROEKER AWARD WINNER

This past summer I spent three weeks in Grainau, a small, picturesque, Bavarian town, which sits at the base of the Zugspitze, the highest mountain peak in Germany. This was through one of the many programs Goethe-Institut offers to help people from all over the world learn German.



We were 60 people from 26 different countries staying at the Grainau Conference Center, and since I was the only Canadian present I had many opportunities to learn about a variety of cultures and hear many different languages. Besides our daily German lessons, we had free time to spend at the campus or to go into the nearby town of Garmisch. There were also planned activities, including day trips to Schloss Neuschwanstein, Munich, Salzburg and an amusement park. One of my free time highlights was when we would play soccer: it always made me laugh to hear them argue in about nine different languages. The variety of cultures was also a highlight. For example, my roommate’s dad was German, her mom was Indian, spoke Japanese, but was currently living in Hong Kong.

Grainau was small, but the beauty was breathtaking. Every morning I would wake up to the sound of church bells and see the mist in the mountains. This was an unforgettable experience and I hope one day to travel and visit the friends that I made from around the world.





To all the parents, volunteers and supporters of our students and cyclathon:

THANK YOU very much for supporting our students' personal commitment to accomplish their fund-raising and cyclathon goals. Your pledge means a lot to both them and our school.

Through your support, the 38th Annual Cyclathon raised a record-setting \$64,500 in pledges to enhance the educational experience of Westgate students. This amount exceeds last year's \$49,300 and many thanks go to you, the students, teachers and the broader community who helped drive this success.

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,

*John Loewen, Director of Development, on behalf of the Cyclathon Committee:
Terry Dirks, Krista Neustaedter Barg, Peter Froese, John Loewen, David Wiebe,
Kristie Kornelsen, Flori Ens, Val Jowett*



After battling the rain, wind, sun and sand in a pool of close to 100 Manitoba Girls Jr. Varsity Teams, Westgate's LEXI JANOVCIK and CONNIE WALL emerged as the Division 'A' consolation winners at the 2010 MHSAA High School Beach Volleyball Championships... way to go Westgate!

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.



CAMP WORKERS

We celebrate the gift that Westgate students have given to younger students through many of the summer camp programs in Manitoba.



Westgate workers at Pioneer Camp include sibling alumni Blake ('09) and Josie ('10) Penner, far right.



Westgate students are a dominant presence at our Mennonite camps, including perennial volunteer Krista Neustaedter Barg ('87), front left.

One hot, record-breaking day!



At 36.4 Celsius, it was the hottest day of the year – quite appropriate for the “hottest ever” Westgate Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament. With the strong support of our generous sponsors and individual golfers, we were able to raise a record-breaking \$56,000 for our students. Hot golfers pictured above are (l-r) John Wiebe, Peter Siemens, Henry Thiessen, Henry Dyck.

MANY THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



Lunch, Refreshment, Eagle

Tournament Sponsors

AWARDS

University of Winnipeg Medallists

Allison Groening – U of Winnipeg Gold Medal in Conflict Resolution and Sociology
Michael Long – U of Winnipeg Silver Medal in Business and Economics

University of Winnipeg Entrance Scholarships

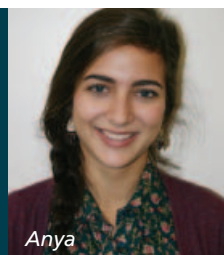
Sarah Cullihall
 Sam Dyck
 Adam Fuhr
 Jocelyn Hummelt
 Sarah Janzen
 Sara Litz
 Kate Niebuhr
 Maxine Wagner
 Ceilidh Moulden (also received C.A. DeFehr Memorial Entrance Scholarship in Mennonite Studies)

Canadian Mennonite University Scholarships

Melanie Kampen – Academic Excellence
 Nicholas Miller – Athletic
 Erin Blaine – Academic Entrance
 Christina Janzen – Merit Award
 Rachel Enns – Merit Award
 Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe – Academic Excellence
 Gabrielle Wiebe – Academic Excellence, Program Merit
 Nicole Froese – Academic Excellence, Program Merit
 Merridy Peters – Academic Excellence
 Jacob Miller – Highest GPA: Year One
 Mikaela Hoepfner – Academic Entrance
 Heather Fast – Academic Entrance
 Adam Sperry – Academic Entrance

University of Manitoba Entrance Scholarships

Sandhya Boyd
 Justin Braun-Janzen
 Meghan Entz
 Devin Friesen
 Kathryn Kroeker
 John Patterson
 Kerensa Peters
 Julia Wiens



Anya

ANYA SNIDER, CALEB SNIDER AND JACKSON GUSTAFSON FISH REPRESENTED MANITOBA AS MEMBERS OF OUR PROVINCIAL ULTIMATE TEAMS.



Jackson and Caleb

ALUMNI NEWS

Three Westgate alumni, and avid members of the Fort Garry Bike Club, were recently featured in the *Winnipeg Free Press*. **VIC PANKRATZ** ('77), **JON GUENTER** ('91) and **CHRIS HUEBNER** ('87) are pictured preparing for the first ever Dark Cross, a cyclocross night race held at the Red River Co-op Speedway. Along with numerous other Westgate alumni, these men train together on a regular basis and some compete in local and far-off bike races. (Photo by John Woods *WFP*.)

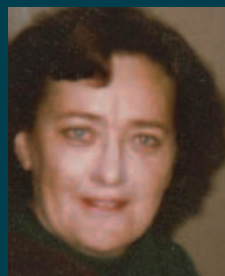


WELDON EPP ('88) was recently appointed Consul General in Guangzhou (People's Republic of China). He succeeds François Rivest. Weldon (BTh, Canadian Mennonite Bible College, 1991; BA Honours [History], University of Manitoba, 1995) joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1996 as a foreign service officer, following a year on scholarship at the



OBITUARY

ELISABETH PETERS

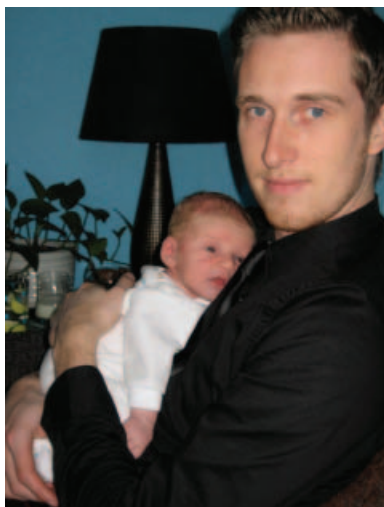


This year, we said goodbye to one of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate's strongest supporters. Elisabeth Peters died on May 16, 2011. Along with her husband, the late Dr. Victor Peters, she was instrumental in the founding of Westgate many years ago. As a teacher, her love of German and Drama were passed on to many classes of students. After her retirement from teaching, she continued to motivate young teachers in her role as professor at the University of Manitoba. Our condolences go out to the family.

Mandarin Training Centre, National Taiwan Normal University. In Ottawa, he served in the China and Mongolia Division, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, and Assignments Division. Abroad he served in Beijing as second secretary and vice-consul, in Taipei as director of general relations, in Jakarta as political counsellor, and on short assignments in Geneva, Islamabad and Phnom Penh. He was recently the director of the Policy Research Division at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, and is completing an executive MPA at Queen's University. Mr. Epp is married to Kristi Dyck, and has a daughter and two sons.



Congratulations to **STEPHEN ENS** ('99) and Leigh Enns who were married on October 16 at Bridges Country Club on a beautiful, if windy, fall afternoon. Leigh has her own Westgate connection. She is a sister to new staff member Lisa Martin – it's a small world!



Long time Westgate teacher **VIC PANKRATZ** is now officially a grandpa. Robinson James Pankratz was born at 6:15 on October 13, 2011 weighing in at 9 and a half pounds and 22 inches long. Mom (**DARCIE [MEIGHEN]** '02), Dad (**DAVID PANKRATZ** '00) and baby are all doing well.

In December 1992, the first **Westgate Perspective** rolled off the presses. Vol. 20 No. 1 marks another beginning. **Perspective** is now being printed on recycled paper.



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