

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 17, No. 2 Spring 2009

SPORTS WRAP UP



AN OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR OUR VARSITY BOYS!

First, 2nd and 2nd in the province in three different sports – what a year! After capturing the cross-country silver medal in fall, the Varsity Boys volleyball team earned a silver medal at the AAA Provincial Championships in Dauphin, Man. Led by Grad All Stars Paul Klassen and Michael Pankratz, the team

overcame adversity and the cold arena temperatures to play some of their best volleyball of the season.

With those two medals in hand, the Varsity Boys set their sights on gold in basketball. It's been over 25 years since a Westgate basketball team won a provincial championship and this year's

team was ready for the task. With coach Karl Wiebe on a deferred salary leave, he had the time necessary to craft a championship calibre team. With the help of co-coach Don Miller, the boys had an impressive season, with 2nd place finishes at the St. James, Sanford and Beausejour tournaments. As the 2nd ranked team at Provincials, they were destined to meet the No. 1 ranked University of Winnipeg Collegiate in the finals. After a hard fought game on an unusually warm March afternoon, the Westgate Wings emerged victorious, earning their place in Westgate Mennonite Collegiate history.

All Star Jacob Miller and Tournament MVP Michael Pankratz led the team with their hard work and effort, but it was a complete team victory that helped Coach Wiebe achieve a much deserved 1st at the provincial basketball championships. He and Don Miller were named AAA Provincial Coaches of the Year, and Michael and Jacob were selected to the All Manitoba Team. Congratulations on a fantastic season and a wonderful finish to an impressive year of athletics! ■

VOLLEYBALL TEAMS RESULTS

JV Boys – SCAC League Champions
JV Girls – SCAC League Champions
Varsity Girls – SCAC League Finalists
Varsity Boys – SCAC Champions, AAA Provincial Silver Medalists

BASKETBALL TEAMS RESULTS

JV Girls – SCAC Finalists
Varsity Boys – SCAC and AAA Provincial Champions
(photo above)

BADMINTON

Zach Regehr – 5th place, JV Boys Singles
Signe Penner-Goeke and Jacquelyn Klassen – 5th place, JV Girls Doubles
Cole Friesen – 2nd place, Grade 7 Boys Singles
Caleb Snider and Ben Miller – 3rd place, Grade 7 Boys Doubles
Ian Wiens – 4th place, Grade 7 Boys Singles
Rachel Blaine and Anya Snider – 4th place, Grade 7 Girls Doubles
Mariette Koop and Emma Ens MacIver – 1st place, Grade 9 Girls Doubles



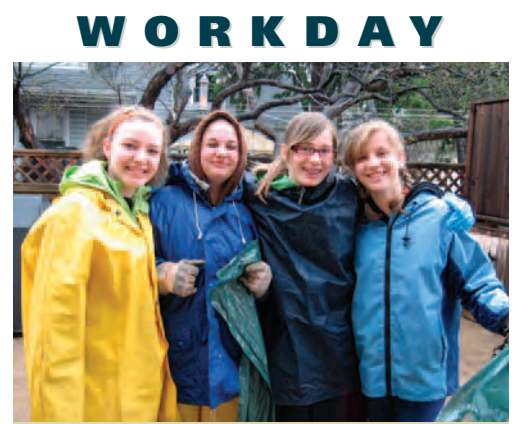


The Praetorius Project

The girls of the Westgate Concert Choir earned critical acclaim for their performance in the Praetorius Project, a joint production of Camerata Nova and Canzona choirs. Michael Praetorius was a composer from the Renaissance who wrote highly complex music for instruments and voices in both secular and sacred styles. This project, a celebration of an elaborate Lutheran Christmas Mass, conceived by Ross Brownlee, featured the above-mentioned choirs, plus period instrument performances by strings from the WSO,

winds from Brandon University Faculty of Music, cornetto and sackbut players from Montreal, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, with lute and organ continuo.

The Westgate girls took the role that Praetorius originally intended to be sung by boy sopranos in his time. Singing high up in the balcony of Crescent Fort Rouge Church, the girls' voices were truly representative of the angels from above. They sang descants, choruses and were featured in five major solos that emanated from all four corners of the church! Well done to all singers, and congratulations on your excellent performances. ■



BEFORE ... AFTER



ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRIP

To close out a year of celebrating 50 years of Westgate, a camping trip to the Kananaskis region of Alberta has been planned.

WHO: Alumni, family and friends of Westgate.

WHEN: July 6-12, come for the week or stay for a day.

WHERE: Stoney Creek Group Campsite, (close to Barrier Lake).

Check out the website (www.bowvalleycampgrounds.com).

WHAT: Hiking, biking or just relaxing in the outdoors. People of all ages are welcome and activities can be arranged daily (depending on who is there and the weather).

HOW: The campground accepts tents and RVs.

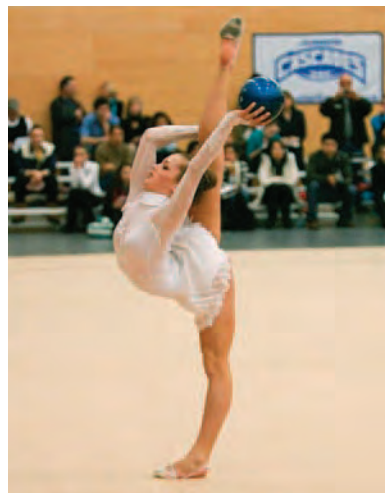
COST: \$25/night

*** If you are planning on attending or just want more information, please email Jonathan at dyckfast@yahoo.ca.*



Jack Gibbons-Kehler (grade 12)
– volunteering at Government House in a period costume of his own creation.

SPIRIT WEEK SKI TRIP



TAMSIN LOURENS (grade 9) recently placed 7th All Around at the Western Canadian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships held here in Winnipeg. She was then invited to train in Vernon, B.C. with Camille Martens, a former Canadian Olympian. Tamsin and four other girls will be preparing for the Canadian Individual Championships (Nationals) over the next four weeks. She left Winnipeg on April 30th and will probably remain in Vernon until travelling to Hamilton, Ontario on May 27th. The competition is being held at McMaster University. She will compete with about 30 Junior gymnasts in four events – Rope, Hoop, Ball and Clubs.

FLOOD and other water news

On the same day that Westgate sent sandbaggers out to St. Norbert, our school received a call saying that we would need to sandbag around our school as well. Students left here at school rolled up their sleeves and worked quickly to build a modest dike to protect our school. Thank you to staff and students for all their efforts!



And speaking of water ... Janice Pennington, business manager, shares some data on water consumption in the school: We have made no other changes in increased or decreased use, outside of replacing all the toilets in the girls' washrooms and the two changing room toilets. Water is billed every three months.

Last year October 3, 2007 – April 9, 2008 (189 days) total consumption was 1,105 kilolitres = \$3,196.53 cost. This year October 10, 2008 – April 8, 2009 (181 days) total consumption was 650 kilolitres = \$2,070.79 cost.

Westgate used 455 kilolitres LESS for virtually the same six month period and saved \$1,125.74. It seems that this would be a good decision for all our toilets in the school – wouldn't you agree? ■

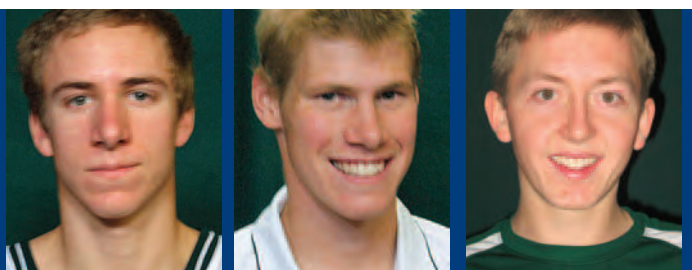


ROULSTON NAMED TO WHISTLER CUP TEAM!

BRYANT ROULSTON from the Winnipeg Alpine Racers will join two other Manitoba and Saskatchewan racers in representing the prairie region in the male K2 (13/14 year old) category at The Whistler Cup, North America's premier international alpine ski race. Over 390 athletes from 17 countries compete for international recognition as the next generation of World Cup and Olympic contenders. Bryant is currently leading in team Giant Slalom training. In his first Whistler Cup Bryant hopes to make a good start at his international racing career.

WESTGATE GRADS SHINE AT CMU

Not only did these athletes contribute to Provincial Championships during High School, but three of our Class of 2007 graduates have continued to excel in their athletic pursuits at Canadian Mennonite University. **NICK MILLER** was named the Most Valuable Player from the men's basketball team, **JEFF KLASSEN** as soccer MVP, and multi-sport athlete **JOSH EWERT** earned Athlete of the Year honours for his contributions to the volleyball and hockey teams. Well done!





THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS

Click It!



Cricket County Academy –What happens when some hillbillies invade a highbrow private school close to the city? Well, the city folk find they have a few things to learn from their rural neighbours.

Click It! – In this play, two girls spend an evening watching a simple story of love and betrayal on TV. Simple, that is, until their new remote control not only controls the show, but begins to take control of them!

Disaster – When the copy machine jams, a crisis team is called. Mick, our hero, must go inside the machine to recover the valuable original.

The three One Act Plays presented by over 100 of our Junior High students in January were definitely not a “disaster” this year. Each play had an introduction involving talented writers (thanks, grade 10s) and Junior High actors. The

plays themselves showcased gifted actors, who played everything from hillbillies to cowboys to southern belles and brave photocopy repairmen. All of this showcasing could not have happened without the tremendous behind-the-scenes work of the various support crews. The audience response was very positive and two enjoyable evenings were had by all! ■

Disaster



PHYSICS CLASS

What flexes, fires, flies, falls, and is fabulously fun? Physics of course ... or the physics course at Westgate. Students this year have had to demonstrate that they have the brains and the brawn to pass this course.

Ever wonder if those workout machines at the gym are really doing what they claim to be doing; if you're really lifting 10 pounds on that bench press? If these problems have plagued you like they have me, you could always ask a grade 12 physics student – experts at working out. Surprised? You shouldn't be; after all, these students were recently seen at the downtown Y measuring the work and energy of various fitness machines. Oh sure, you could say it was an opportunity to flex our calculators' numerical functioning and crunch some big numbers but it wasn't all about showing off. There was definitely work being done ... well, not really in the physics sense of what work is, but that's another story.

Grade 11 students also stretched their imaginations and went beyond the walls



of the classroom. The goal: create an apparatus that will save an egg from a bowling ball dropped from three meters AND survive being thrown off the roof of the building onto cement. Succeed and you get the sweet taste of victory (an omelette); fail and you get scrambled. But that isn't the only high flying



shenanigans our students have been getting themselves into. The grade 12 students had to design and build their very own medieval launching device. The projectile: a simple grapefruit, the goal: furthest most accurate launch wins. And we were certainly not disappointed as Evan Kroeker and Jared Enns successfully launched their grapefruit over 75 meters using their home built trebuchet – a distance future students will have as a challenge to surpass.

It was a busy year for our students and they have worked very hard. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such eager and enthusiastic learners and I know they will continue to impress and inspire those around them. ■

Carmina Burana

After months of preparation, and concentrated effort, the Westgate Concert Choir participated in an incredibly exciting performance of Carmina Burana at the Centennial Concert Hall on February 19th, 2009.

There were two aspects of this concert that made it so special. Besides having a chance to sing incredible music, it gave our singers the opportunity to perform with the combined forces of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Youth Orchestra, and singers from Garden City Collegiate, Glenlawn Collegiate, St. James-Assiniboia Division Choir, Steinbach Regional Secondary School, West Kildonan Collegiate, Winnipeg School Division Honour Choir, and the Winnipeg Boys Choir. In total the concert featured over 450 performers. We were told that



this was the largest number of performers that had ever been on the WSO stage.

The concert was also an opportunity for our singers to work with the artistic director of the WSO, Alexander

Mickelthwaite, and University of Manitoba professor Elroy Friesen. Congratulations go to the dedicated, hard working high school singers and instrumentalists who made this an experience that will long be remembered. ■ Vic Pankratz

50th Anniversary Valentine's Dance



Karina (Klassen) Fast ('92) leading the line dance.

Although it's taken a while to admit it, many members of the Westgate community also love to dance. An opportunity to move was organized at the Gateway Community Club and those in attendance had plenty of time to dance, socialize and just meet old friends. Special thanks to Krista Neustaedter-Barg, Jarret and Amy Rempel for their work in organizing this event.



Aron and Anne Loewen.



In honour of our 50th Anniversary, we invited members of the original Westgate Ladies Auxiliary to share some of their memories of Westgate at the Board Banquet. This group was instrumental in keeping the school afloat with their tireless fund-raising efforts during some rough financial times. Pictured (l-r) are Anne Peters, Susan Froese and Irene Peters.

Westgate's Annual basketball tournament has traditionally been a low key, all male event. For our 50th year, we decided to welcome anyone from our Westgate community to get involved and we had a bigger group of energetic "ballers" show up to play. In the end, a combination of youth and experience prevailed with a mixed team of current high school players and wily veterans winning our final game.



HOW'S ABOUT A GAME OF SHINNY?

With such a beautiful resource as the Assiniboine River right out our back door, it always seemed a shame not to be using it. This past winter, with the assistance of The Forks, Westgate cleared and maintained an ice rink that became part of the winter River Trail. It was used by Westgate staff and students for many winter physical activities, and also by the local community and city skaters. For the next winter season, Westgate has agreed to assist in preparing the River Trail that now holds the Guinness record for the world's longest naturally frozen skating trail.

A FIDDLER ON THE ROOF — AGAIN?

Perhaps some would question performing a musical for the fourth time in the 50 year history of a school. But when one considers the musical, perhaps those questions are quickly answered. During a 50th Anniversary celebration, it is often time to ponder the significance of “Tradition” and the role it plays in the life of our school – and in our personal lives! The timeless story of Tevye the Dairyman, a Russian Jew who struggles with the competing forces of tradition and love for his children, is one that continues to touch our hearts today. Thanks to Vic Pankratz for his direction of this superb musical and to all those who helped make it a memorable experience. It truly took a village! ■



Genevieve Giesbrecht (second from the right) participated in the LA Lights Rhythmic Gymnastics competition. It is the world's largest gymnastics meet, with over 400 competitors from 31 countries entering. This past year's event included performances from two of the three past Olympic champions from Beijing. Needless to say, it was an exciting and highly motivating trip for Genevieve.



Wish my mom had packed a lunch ...

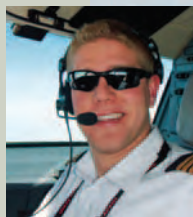
ALUMNI NEWS



JEREMY BERGEN ('93) has just completed his first year of teaching at Conrad Grebel University College where he is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Theology. He teaches both undergraduates at the University of Waterloo, and masters students in theology at Grebel. His Ph.D. is from the University of St. Michael's College (University of Toronto) where his dissertation examined the theology underlying the practice of churches repenting or apologizing for historical injustices. Jeremy is married to Rebecca Steinmann. They live in Kitchener and have one son, Seth, born October 2008.



DR. CORNIE WOELK ('80) recently received an Award of Excellence from the Manitoba College of Family Physicians. He has been a Family Physician in Winkler, Man., since 1988. Cornie is married to Viola Enns and they have three children: Katrina, Benjamin and Laura. He is currently the Medical Director of Palliative Care for Regional Health Authority – Central Manitoba, as well as working as a physician in the Boundary Trails Health Centre Community Cancer Program, and in Family Medicine at the Dr. C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler. He is a Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and holds a position of Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Family Medicine, University of Manitoba. Cornie and his family live in Winkler, and are active members at Emmanuel Mennonite Church.



DAVID KINLEY ('03) writes – “So to explain this job in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for the United Nations: we usually fly about five-and-a-half days a week, with one day off. We transport personnel and dignitaries for the MUNOC mission. We’ll take diplomats to Goma for peace talks or a general to Entebbe. I am flying a CRJ-200 aircraft which was designed and built in Canada by Bombardier in Montreal. Our company also operates aircraft in Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sudan and Afghanistan. I have to say, though, it is a depressing reality once you live here and see the living conditions of the 10 million people. Even in the smaller centres in Kisangani and Goma or Bukavu ... the signs of the war are everywhere. Just the

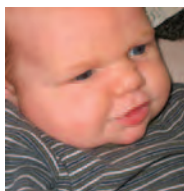
other day we were driving and off to the side of the road was a burning military transport truck that had been hit by the rebels the night before. Two weeks before I got here there was a semi-major push by the rebels on the city of Kinshasa. In the event of a UN evacuation of the Congo we are designated as a “Multi-Use” aircraft, where we will do multiple runs from the capital to most likely Entebbe in Uganda. There are days where we do not fly and are not allowed into the city because of rebel activities. I am very happy that I am over here. I know I’m not a major part in the peacekeeping mission but it does feel like I am doing a small part to assist the situation here ... I love my job!”



HALEY DERKSEN ('03) was the recipient of two academic awards this past year: the University of Manitoba Student Union Scholarship

for excellence in academic achievement and The Manitoba Blue Cross Medical Rehabilitation Scholarship for “highest GPA” (academic standing) in her previous academic year. She has worked hard for these awards and gives a lot of credit to her years at Westgate.

We rejoice with **ERIC NEUMANN ('04)** as he celebrated his baptism at the Riverview Community Church in Winnipeg on Sunday, May 4th.



Since marrying David Robinson on May 5, 2007, **CHRISTINE KAMPEN ROBINSON ('02)** has moved to

Ontario to pursue her Master's degree in German Studies at the University of Waterloo. On March 22, 2009, Christine and David welcomed their first child, a boy named Mateo Josef Kampen, into the world.

If winning National Championships and other individual awards was not enough, University of Winnipeg volleyball player **BEN SCHELLENBERG ('03)** was recently named to the prestigious CIS Top 8 Desjardins Academic All-Canadian team, recognizing male and female athletes from all university sports. This group of eight athletes was chosen from over 2000 who earned a GPA of over 80%, selected as the “best and brightest” that Canadian University athletics has to offer.

Ben will be attending the University of British Columbia next year to work towards an MA in Human Kinetics, specializing in Sports Psychology. This summer he'll be working as the assistant coach (head coach is Mark Kliever) of the 17U Manitoba Men's Volleyball Provincial team. He will also be the sport psychology consultant for the Men's Canada Games Team this year.

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