

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 18, No. 2 Spring 10

DEFINITELY NOT THE TOUR (DNTT) WEEK

For years, many students have felt left out if they did not participate in our music tour. With the vast selection of activities, it seems that students will be begging to stay home from the tour in the future! OK, maybe not ... but students back home certainly couldn't say they had "nothing to do" here during this week.

HOG
BUTCHERING



THAI
COOKING



RE-STORE
VOLUNTEERING



SALSA
LESSONS



JUDO

ASPEN TREE
GIRDLING



INTRODUCING OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – JOHN LOEWEN

Born in Steinbach, John Loewen comes to Westgate with a strong background in fund-raising and social and economic development. With his past involvement with Menno Simons College, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Mennonite University, Mennonite Central Committee and other organizations, John's experience brings a vision, focus and energy to Westgate's development efforts. His belief in the power of Westgate's mission and constituency motivates his work. "The difference our stakeholders' gifts can make in the lives of our students is significant and often transformational. I look forward to being a part of Westgate achieving its potential through stronger relationships with our supporters." With his wife Joy, and children Samuel and Lia, John enjoys dinners, movies, camping and cycling. John and his family also attend and are involved in their Christian community at St. Luke's Anglican Church.



WESTGATE MUSIC TOUR



On Friday, April 16 at 5 a.m., the Westgate Concert Band, Concert Choir, Senior Jazz Band and Wired—72 students in total, four staff members and one spouse—loaded up two tour buses and headed off to Ontario and Quebec. Six cities, eight concerts and 10 days later, we arrived back at Westgate with a greater sense of community, a sense of accomplishment, and having grown as musicians.

Highlights of the music tour included visiting UMEI and Rockway, two of our sister schools in Ontario. We also had sightseeing days in Montreal and Chicago, took in Question Period and had a special lunch at Parliament Hill

catered by MP Pat Martin. We also had a chance to visit Point Pelee National Park, ride on the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls, and we visited some of our national museums in Ottawa. The two church services in Leamington and Montreal were also real highlights.

We want to recognize and acknowledge the generosity and kindness that people showed us as we travelled over the 10 days. All our hosts were amazing. Looking back, it was an action-packed 10 days of singing, playing, visiting and sightseeing; 10 days that will live long in our collective memories.

“These days were spent shopping, touring about the cities and making music for the people there. Not only did we perform in churches, but we played concerts at high schools and Vocal Jazz even put on a mini-show for some shoppers at a mall in Fargo. A highlight of the trip was getting to sing for some parliamentarians in the rotunda, which had incredible acoustics. This year’s tour was an amazing experience!” — Arista Ryback ■



MY LIFE IN CANADA



Living with a family I have never met before, going to a school I have never been to and experiencing a completely different culture, some people may wonder why you would ever want to get yourself into that?

All my life I’ve lived in a small Bavarian town called Straubing. I grew up in a Catholic community and I went to the Ursulinen Gymnasium, a private Catholic all-girls school. After a 20-hour flight, this life turned into: living in Winnipeg (quite a big city for me), in a Mennonite family and going to a Mennonite high school. Even though people tend to dislike changes, I was just amazed by this totally different life I now had and I was thankful that I was able to live with the best host family I could ever wish for!

For me, Westgate was not only a school. It was a community with wonderful people who helped me experience one of the best times of my life! I am very proud of myself that I survived the Canadian winter and I am thankful for the opportunity I had to be here. ■ Stefanie Altschäffel



Back row l-r: Josie Penner, Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe, Jacquelyn Klassen, Camryn Harder. Front row l-r: Amy Baergen, Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe, Mielen Remmert.

On February 20, 25 Westgate students accepted the challenge and competed in the Manitoba German Language Contest at CMU. Over 100 students from across Manitoba competed in a number of categories according to grade and language level. Mielen Remmert placed 3rd in the Junior A category. In the Junior C category, Amy Baergen placed 1st, Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe 2nd, Camryn Harder 3rd—we could say that Westgate “owned the podium.” Jacquelyn Klassen placed 1st in the Intermediate C category. In Senior C, Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe placed 2nd and Josie Penner 3rd. Hurra!!



KENYA

Imagine the vast savanna, dry from three years of drought, a few lone acacia trees offering the only shelter from the blazing sun. The ground is dry and any living plant is covered in thistles and thorns. Here under the tree, I pull up a stone and receive a drink of sweet tea and goat's milk from a beautiful stranger who honours me with this gift because of our common humanity. In my time at Westgate since '93, I have received sick leave and maternity leave, but this latest leave—I call it a “life learning leave”—has been a true blessing and time of renewal.

For most of October and part of November, my family had the privilege of travelling to Kenya on a Mennonite Central Committee learning and working tour. The experience was wonderful and

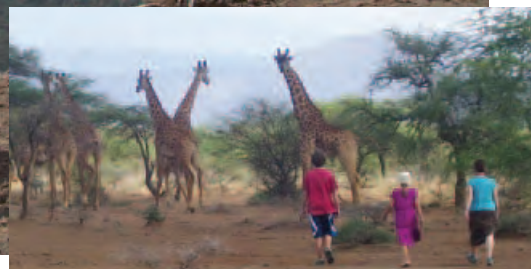
the village of Najile, Kenya, has been forever etched into our lives.

The primary goal of the trip was to record music with Maasai choirs for the recently released CD, “Take Your Place,” by Darryl Neustaedter Barg and Kim Thiessen. This CD is part of an ongoing project to raise funds and awareness for MCC's HIV/AIDS work around the world. We are grateful for the way the Westgate community helped make this possible.

A highlight for me was spending time with people who were living with HIV and AIDS. They are people just like me with loving families, daily struggles, hopes and dreams. The courage and joy they found through their faith and the help they were receiving through MCC's work was inspiring.

Another highlight was the opportunity to work with girls in the local school who had expressed interest in starting a Peace Club. I loved the enthusiasm they expressed as we worked through basic ideas of conflict resolution and peace.

Our family's highlight was the hospitality we experienced and friendships we formed. We were also quite pleased to have encountered amazing wildlife. Overall, the three-and-a-half weeks were short yet profound. I am not sure I will ever look at a cup of Chai tea in the same way. They had so little and gave so much. ■ *Krista Neustaedter Barg*



REUNIONS

Class of 2000 – a reunion dinner is planned for June 12, 2010 at The Academy on Osborne at 7 p.m. Please contact Jennifer Loewen for more details: (204) 667-7273.

Class of 1990 – an evening reception is planned for 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 11, 2010 at Nicolino's, 4-2077 Pembina Hwy. Please contact Lorriann (Sawatzky) Ludwig at: LLudwig4@aol.com if interested in attending.

Class of 1985 – an evening event is planned at the home of Darryl and Val Dyck on Friday, June 4, 2010 at 8 p.m., 108 Ethelbert St. Please rsvp to Darryl at: dyckda@mts.net or 204-774-1155.

Class of 1980 – plans are still forthcoming. Contact Ralph Regehr (rregehr@woodlandsupply.ca) and Rob Krahn (Rob.Krahn@ca.g4s.com) for details.

Gala Concert



There was something for everyone as Westgate kicked off its Capital Campaign with the Gala Concert held Friday, February 5th at Westminster United Church. Thanks to our generous sponsors, Phillip Ens was able to join the Westgate Concert Choir, the Mennonite Collegiate Institute Chamber Choir and other talented musicians for a wonderful night of beautiful music before a capacity crowd. Serious music lovers heard Phillip, accompanied by Edmund Dawe, perform Purcell's *Arise ye subterranean winds*, Beethoven's *In questa tomba oscura*,



and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Song of the Viking Grave*. Phillip regaled and at times moved the audience with his renditions of spiritual, hymnal and folk music, often accompanied by Victor Engbrecht and the choirs. Many were brought to tears when Phil, Victor, and the two choir conductors, Vic Pankratz and Rick Heppner Mueller, joined to sing *In the Rifted Rock I'm Resting*. It was wonderful to hear two of Manitoba's best high school choirs under one roof. When both combined to serve us with their rendition of the traditional African spiritual, *Hlobonolofatsa*, the virtue of supporting Mennonite education was clearly heard. We are humbled by the \$90,000 that was raised at this special event.

The March 22nd Bursary Banquet followed this very successful event. We are thankful for the generous support of our Westgate community. Despite following an outstanding gala fundraiser, Westgate supporters recognized this need and were quick to respond to the call. Thank you to all who helped raise over \$32,000 for our bursary fund. ■

MIKAELA HOEPPNER NATIONAL MUSIC AWARD



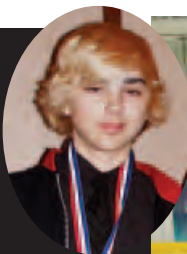
Last November, Mikaela was invited to London, Ontario, to attend the convocation ceremonies of the Royal Conservatory of Canada. At the convocation she received a medal of excellence for the highest mark in her level of theory in the province of Manitoba.

Mikaela's music teacher is Leanne Hiebert who teaches piano at Westgate.



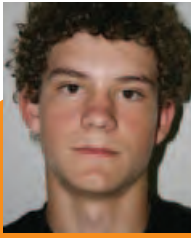
has arrived. Thanks to our Grad Parent fund, the new lectern can easily be transported to different locations in the school as needed. Special thanks to Dagmar Carrick for initiating this gift.

MIKE PENNER had a great season with his Assiniboine Park Rangers Minor Bantam Hockey team. He was captain of the team, chosen to play in the league all-star game, and participated on a team of 17 players from all the AA city teams to play in the Directors Cup. The season wrapped up for Mike at the Rangers banquet where he was honoured with the award as most sportsmanlike player. His fellow teammate and schoolmate Caleb Snider was chosen for the same award in his first season of AA hockey.





Luke Bergen



Jacob Miller

Congratulations to **LUKE BERGEN** and **JACOB MILLER** who were selected to the Manitoba Basketball Coaches Association Graduating All-Star team at their award banquet. Jacob was also selected to the MBCA All Manitoba team and received the AAA Player Of The Year award given by the MBCA to recognize the most outstanding AAA player in Manitoba.

BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONS



Last year, our Varsity Boys basketball team erased a 27-year drought by capturing the 2009 AAA Provincial Championships. If that wasn't enough, the returning players made it their goal to repeat the feat this season. Despite injuries and uneven performances, the team entered the championships as underdogs. But their 5th place ranking did not deter them from upsetting three higher ranked teams to capture the 2010 banner. Congratulations to the team and thanks to coaches Karl Wiebe and Don Miller for their leadership.



Chris Huebner

Earlier this school year, Arvid Loewen visited us in our chapel. He shared his passion for cycling, but more importantly his passion for philanthropy. In his words: "My reason for this multi-charity public platform approach is simple: Helping our fellow human being, and especially those less fortunate, is a joy and a privilege. There are many great causes, and I believe we should work together to maximize the impact we can have. You don't need to pull someone from a burning building to become a hero to a person in need; you just need to

Hot Pursuit

follow your heart and do what is right. Hot Pursuit 2010 is about eliminating excuses and instead saying: 'Yes I can, and yes I will make a difference today.' "

Hot Pursuit is a fund-raising cycling event. Arvid is a long-distance cyclist who will be racing solo. He will be chased by two relay teams, one from Canadian Mennonite University and the other representing the Winnipeg Police Service. Each group is raising funds for their respective charities.

Arvid's ride is in support of Mully Children's Family, a dynamic street-rescue orphanage in Kenya, Africa. The Winnipeg Police are raising funds for Children's Wish Foundation. The CMU team, including Westgate alumni Chris Huebner ('87) and Jon Guenther ('91), is raising funds to bring international



Jon Guenther

students to their school. In addition to the riders, fellow Westgate alumni will be part of the CMU support team: Darryl Neustaedter Barg ('86) will be shooting video, Aaron Epp ('02) is the official Team CMU journalist, and Thomas Epp ('04) and Zachary Peters ('05) are drivers.

For more details, please visit:
http://www.hotpursuit2010.com/Hot_Pursuit/Home.html

This is, of course, a fund-raiser so please consider donating to any of the three causes promoted here. Please contact the respective agencies for more information. ■



RECOLLECTIONS OF A WESTGATE MIDDLE EAST TRIP

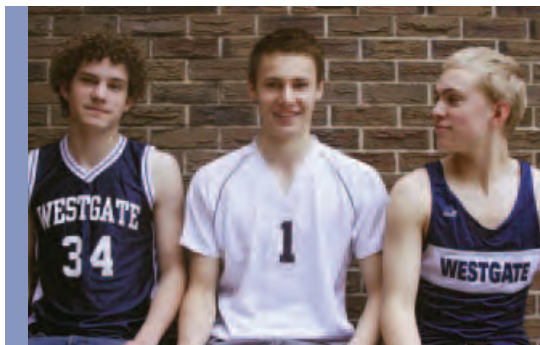
I write these thoughts only a few days after returning, but the Middle East already seems so far away. It was our largest group ever: twenty four students and four chaperones. We spent our last night on the roof of the Ecce Homo Convent in the Old City of Jerusalem, reflecting on our time together. Each of us shared our highlights—many could not stop at one—and each highlight brought on a lively discussion. We remembered Damascus—singing songs in the acoustic chambers of the Turkish baths, speaking to *niqab*-hidden women in the Umayyad Mosque; we recalled Lebanon—dancing the *dabke* with the friendly neighbours, playing basketball with students at the Schneller Schule, driving through the dizzying traffic as we descended into Beirut; we thought of Petra and the Wadi Rum—glimpsing the magnificent monastery at the end of the *siq*, sleeping under the stars in the

middle of the desert, proudly waving on the top of the rock bridge.

We also reflected on our time in Israel/Palestine, trying to understand the reality of the occupation. We saw the occupation from three angles. First, we listened to Angela from the Israeli Commission Against House Demolitions. Angela explained her story. As an Israeli citizen, she could no longer accept the reasons her government was giving for the occupation; she could not support settlement building or the demolition of Palestinian homes. Second, we listened to Ayman from the Alternative Travel Group. As a Palestinian Christian, he explained how his home town of Bethlehem has been changed by settlement building and the security barrier. It was sobering to walk along the snake-like wall, reading the graffiti, seeing the many homes surrounded and separated. Third, we listened to Alwyn from the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron. It was a unique experience, sitting together on a Hebron rooftop, hearing about military and settler activity in the region, with IDF soldiers staring at us from a rooftop next door, and other IDF soldiers patrolling the streets down below. All three of these peace group representatives implored us to speak about the occupation to people in Canada, and I'm sure that the students will do so. I'm sure that I will do so as well.

So now we just have memories. Some of us are still waking up from dreams in which we are wandering in the *souqs* of Jerusalem or Damascus. Many of us still smile when we think of camel rides or desert walks. And all of us have a new outlook on the Middle East, its religions, its politics, its people.

As we were in the midst of sharing on the last night, the evening call to prayer began to sound through the walls of the convent. We stopped talking and listened quietly to the harmonious sound, each of us wondering when we would be privileged to hear such a sound again. Some of us bought mosque alarm clocks ... but I don't think they will live up to the real thing. ■ *James Friesen*



MULTI-SPORT MEDALISTS

Congratulations to (l-r) graduating athletes Jacob Miller, Thomas Aitken and Jonah Langelotz. During the last two years of high school, they were members of six Provincial Championship medals: two cross-country silvers, a silver and bronze in volleyball and back-to-back gold medals in basketball. That's a lot of hardware.

KIDS CANCER RIDE

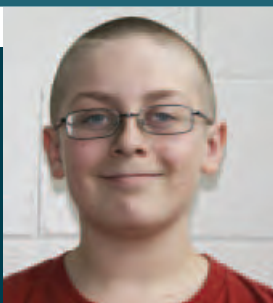
Matt Thiessen, husband of Westgate staff member Heidi Thiessen, will be participating in a national bicycle ride to raise funds for kids cancer research in September. He will be in one of three teams that will be riding one-third of the distance across Canada. He is Manitoba's only representative on this year's national ride, and one of three riders who are survivors of cancer. Matthew is dedicating his ride to the memory of Morgan Funk, daughter of Patricia (Durksen) Funk ('97), who died of cancer at the age of two this past year. Matthew has committed to raising \$25,000. For more information on Matthew, the ride, or how to contribute,



Matthew

please visit his blog at <http://matthewthiessen.snkr.com/> or visit www.nationalkidscancerride.com

There will be a fund-raising concert on June 12, featuring House of Doc, at the West End Cultural Centre. Doors open 7:15 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00, available at the West End Cultural Centre or McNally Robinson Booksellers. ■



MACKENZIE ARCHER-HEES - BEFORE AND AFTER

This is the second time Mackenzie has grown out his hair to donate to CancerCare Manitoba. Might this be something other students would be willing to try? It's such an easy and painless thing to do.

WESTGATE'S 5TH ANNUAL Golf Tournament AUGUST 24

We're back ... at Bridges Golf Club, the site of our inaugural tournament in 2005. The growing popularity of our tournament has driven us to move to this full-service, regulation course.

Your support of this year's tournament will benefit Westgate students' mobility as we work to purchase a 24-passenger coach-style bus.

Sponsorship has been very strong and registrations are filling up. To benefit from an early-bird discount, please register before June 30th, 2010. With multiple prize opportunities including Pebble Beach and British Open Hole-in-One contests and the chance to catch up with friends on the links, this is the one summer Westgate event you won't want to miss.

Contact us by phone or online to register or for more information:

John Loewen 775-7111 (ext 246) or jloewen@westgatemennonite.ca

BEN RYAN and JANESEA KLATT TUCSON TRIATHLON TRAINING



JANESEA KLATT and **BEN RYAN** are members of the Manitoba National Triathlon Centre. The MNTC is a national training program that develops athletes for national and international competition in the sport of triathlon. Ben and Janessa were invited to join the team with the goal of competing at the Western Canada Games in 2011 and the Canada Games in 2013. Training usually consists of swim practices before school in the mornings and running, cycling and strength training after school. Recently, the team travelled to Tucson, Arizona, for a 10-day training camp. The team worked very hard every day, spending hours biking up mountains. Many days included cycling around 100 km, as well as swimming for two hours and running. Even though it's lots of work, the athletes all love it and have lots of fun together. Race plans for the summer include competing in the National Sprint Series for junior elite triathletes in places like Quebec, Saskatchewan and B.C. These Westgate athletes are very busy, but manage to fit in school and training, and continue to compete for Westgate in cross-country and track and field.

ALUMNI NEWS



MELANIE KAMPEN ('07) is working on a major in Biblical and Theological Studies at CMU with a double minor in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies and Philosophy. She spent the winter semester teaching English to refugees in Cairo at St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS). StARS is St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo's response to the increasing number of refugees in Cairo. It serves refugees from over 32 different countries, primarily southern Sudan and Darfur, Somalia, Eritrea, and Iraq. Feel free to browse the StARS website:

<http://www.standrewsrefugeeservices.org/> and Melanie's blog:
<http://egyptianescapades.wordpress.com/>



ALEX HARE ('96) – B.Sc. Genetics (Hon), U of M, Faculty of Science; M.Sc. Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, U of M, Faculty of Medicine; Ph.D. Marine Chemistry, U of M, Faculty of Graduate Studies (Dept. of Environment and Geography)

Alex is currently studying contaminants and carbon in the Arctic Ocean. His work (in marine science) has taken him to Norway and China, but mostly he spends time up north on an icebreaker (The Amundsen) and sometimes in tent camps or in local communities. Earlier, Alex worked in West Africa for most of 2004 with GambiaHELP, a foreign aid NGO based in Seattle that focuses on health and education development. His current

position as research associate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada ends very soon. He'll be heading down to Central America to work with a science conservation group until summer, then will return to Winnipeg.

HALEY DERKSEN

('03) graduated with her Physiotherapy degree in 2009 and at convocation ceremonies this past October, received the following awards:

- University of Manitoba Gold Medal for most outstanding academic record of GPA of 4.0 or higher
- School of Medical Rehabilitation AND Faculty of Physiotherapy Gold Medal for highest cumulative GPA in the department.
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association Award for highest aggregate percentage in academic and clinical physiotherapy subjects during the entire program.
- Dr. J. D. Adamson Medal (Canadian Arthritis Society) for highest GPA in the final year of her program.

Haley and her fiancé Jordan Janovcik are looking forward to an August 14, 2010 wedding. Haley is the daughter of **KURT and RISA (UNRUH) DERKSEN** (both Class of '81).



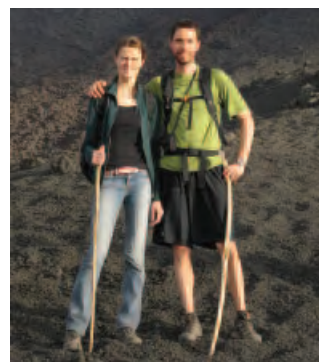
KIERA O'NEIL

('08) was named coach of the year for the Water Polo Middle School Division this past season. She coached a



team which included three Westgate students.

NATHAN GERBRANDT ('94) and his wife Angela have been volunteering since January with an NGO called Camino Seguro (Safe Passage). Safe Passage is an educational and social work organization which provides medical support, a nursery, English language instruction, adult literacy, art, music and sports classes for kids to the poorest families who live around the Guatemala City garbage dump. For more information



about Safe Passage please go to:
<http://www.facebook.com/lfb373> or
www.safepassage.org/.



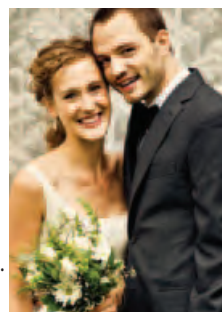
KAREN PETERS

('83) and husband Desmond: Our daughter Mera Daun Peters

Burke was born on March 31 at 2:50 a.m., six weeks early, by emergency C Section. She was 5 lbs. 10 oz. and had surgery immediately on a blocked small intestine. She and mom are recovering very well.

NIKAELA PETERS ('02)

and Thomas Reimer were married on August 7, 2009 at St. Margaret's Anglican Church.



FELIX ALBERT DURKSEN, little brother to Annika, born on April 16, 2010.



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COLLEGIATE

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