

# A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

VOL. 22 NO. 2 / SPRING 14



Henry Thiessen congratulates Jake Fast ('16) on a fine banquet speech. Jake's father, Jonathan Fast ('88), is at right.

## BURSARY BANQUET 2014

**T**he Spring Bursary Banquet this past May was not just a trip down memory lane, with three generations of Westgaters sharing how their lives have been affected by their education and community at Westgate, but also a very generous looking forward. Over \$47,000 was raised in support of the Bursary Fund for our school community. This money will allow Westgate to continue to grow a diverse and caring community.

We are very grateful for all who came out and to all who donated before the event, at the event and even afterwards. The prizes also brought in a record

amount of money and for this we are very grateful to all our generous donors. Please consider supporting those who support our school.

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Anthony ('03) and Haley (Thiessen '04) Kasdorf with their son, Max.



Jake and Jean Rempel



Westgate Senior Jazz Band performing at the banquet.



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Greg Evans, Luke Enns, Jake Enns,  
Myron Thiessen-Martens of Say Uncle  
Lindsay Unger  
Judy Slivinski at the Winnipeg Art Gallery  
Val Pankratz  
Grant and Ingrid Forzley at Artistic Impressions  
Rey Pagé  
Carol Gaeke Franz  
Bob Hummelt and the Westgate Board ■

# MUSIC TOUR TO B.C. AND ALBERTA

## APRIL 23 – MAY 5

**T**welve nights on the road, one in a hostel, three as guests in people's homes in Vancouver, three in hotels, two at a camp on Pender Island, and three in a university residence. Experiencing green grass and lush vegetation on the coast while it snowed back home. Exploring Lynn Canyon, Stanley Park and Granville Island, sharing of meals, eating meals at truck stops, three ferry rides, a one-and-a-half hour cruise on school boats, hiking up to the top of a mountain on Pender Island, five school concerts, one worship service, two community concerts, a showcase concert and a mass choir and band concert as part of the CAMS weekend in Calgary. Experiencing a stampede lunch in snowy Calgary. What this all adds up to is a lot of community building. Thank you to the students and staff for a fabulous music tour. ■



## DEFINITELY NOT THE TOUR



While the music tour was busy performing in Western Canada, students back at home were enjoying a week of alternative classes. Students experienced a wide variety of activities, including scuba lessons, used book tours and an introduction to judo. Grade 10 student Jake Fast joined his grandfather, Calculus instructor Henry Fast, to share their knowledge of that sport.

One of the more unique activities might have been aspen girdling. A small group of grade 12 students, accompanied by Tracy LeClair, were led by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in a practice designed to save the Tall Grass Prairie Ecosystem in Manitoba. There is less than 0.5% of this highly endangered ecosystem left in North America, and part

of its conservation includes managing the growth of aspen trees, which – without natural predators – can take over and prohibit the survival of other endangered

species within the same ecosystem. The aspen trees are stripped of a section of bark, to both kill the tree and prevent it from reproducing. Educational and fun! ■



## BASKETBALL HIGHLIGHTS

**C**ongratulations to our basketball teams on another successful season.

Our JV teams competed well in league play, but came up short in the playoffs. Our Varsity Girls captured their first SCAC Championship ever, defeating Windsor Park in the finals. The girls had a good showing at Provincials, losing in a close Consolation Final to the U of W Collegiate.

And our Varsity Boys managed a repeat, capturing the AAA banner for the second



Medals and Moms: l-r: Ben Miller, mom Jan; Pam Poulter Friesen, son Cole; Justin Dyck, mom Edith.

year in a row. Led by Ben Miller (about whom you can read more in other *Perspective* news), the team's grade 12 participation was evident in the shooting of Justin Dyck, the hustle of Cole Friesen and the inside presence of Sam Craton, to name but a few. The tenacious defense, which smothered opposing players, has quickly become a trademark of Westgate teams over the years. At this year's championships in Swan River, Westgate once again overpowered their opposition, defeating St. John's Ravenscourt 89-72 in the finals. Justin was named to the Tournament All-Star team, with Ben earning the MVP award. Congratulations to coaches Karl Wiebe, Don and Nick Miller and the rest of the boys! ■

### BASKETBALL AWARDS

#### Ben Miller

AAA Player of the Year 2013 and 2014  
Graduating All-Star  
Carl Ridd Award

#### Justin Dyck

All-Manitoba Team A-AAA  
Graduating All-Star

#### Sam Craton

Graduating All-Star

#### Cole Friesen

Ron Meyer Leadership Award

#### Amy Baergen

Graduating All-Star

## VARSPORT 4PEAT



For the first time in recent history (or at least as long as we can remember), our two major Varsity sports of basketball and volleyball accomplished something historic. Both our boys and girls volleyball and basketball teams captured our Zone Championships in the same school year. This, of course, sent all our Varsity teams to Provincial Championships, where our teams earned three medals – two gold and one bronze. Way to go Wings!

## GERMAN VIDEO CONTEST

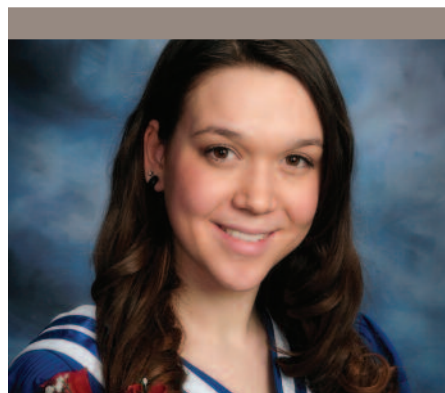
**S**imon Pankratz and Alan Rempel won third place in a Canada-wide German video contest put on by Paschnet (a German government sponsored global community of schools that teach German). As a reward for their efforts, they will each receive an Amazon gift certificate of \$100. Their short video depicted Alan as a waiter and Simon as a customer wanting to order a Currywurst and being denied his heart's desire.



Emma Berg, Judith Banman and Maddy Loewen received an honourable mention in the same German video contest and received \$200 for a class prize, which they used to take the class out to Gasthaus Gutenberg for delicious schnitzel. Thanks, girls!



Natasha Neustaedter Barg, Natasha Neudorf Penner and Isabell Heller also received an honourable mention in the same German video contest and received \$200 for a class prize. They chose to treat their class to a lunch at Winnipeg's German bakery, The Crusty Bun. Congratulations and thanks for the treat! ■



Grade 12 student Richelle Burchill's play won! A play she wrote for Mrs. Martin's English class was chosen as the winner from five finalists in the Scirocco Manitoba High School Playwriting Contest. Her play, "It's Definitely About the Keys," was performed at the Tom Hendry Theatre on May 29th and 30th, at which time the audience chose their favourite to win. And if that's not enough ... Richelle just published her first children's book, which she wrote and illustrated. "The End" has received the following review: "This beautifully illustrated anecdote is the perfect recipe for anyone who has suffered that awful first breakup. Ms. Richelle reminds us all that a broken heart is not the end of the world ... sometimes, it is just the beginning. Sure to become a classic for 'all' ages." Congratulations, Richelle!

## MANITOBA GERMAN LANGUAGE CONTEST WINNERS

### JUNIOR C CATEGORY

2nd Prize – Henry Ens

3rd Prize – Alexander Martin:

### INTERMEDIATE B CATEGORY

2nd Prize – Jaymi Fast

### INTERMEDIATE C CATEGORY

3rd Prize – R. Spencer Kristjanson

2nd Prize – Evan Stock

### SENIOR A CATEGORY

3rd Prize – Mielen Remmert

### SENIOR B CATEGORY

1st Prize – Alan Rempel

### SENIOR C CATEGORY

3rd Prize – Genevieve Giesbrecht

2nd Prize – Maya Janzen

1st Prize – Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe



Back row (l-r): Spencer, Evan, Maya, Alan, Genevieve, Mielen  
Front row: Henry, Jaymi, Alexander, Nicolien

## WINNIPEG MUSIC FESTIVAL WINNERS



In a school that has become known for musical excellence, attention must be paid to the outstanding achievements of two of our current grade 11 students at the recent Winnipeg Music Festival. Christina Thanisch-Smith ('15) and Nick Niebuhr ('15) were top award recipients.

Christina, who has been studying vocal music with Phyllis Thompson since she was nine years old, won the Alma Wynne Memorial Trophy for most outstanding performance by a vocalist 18 years of age and under. She was victorious in four of her six competition categories and tied for first place in the other two. Her mature, rich voice has been noted in a variety of Westgate concerts and in last year's musical, *Annie*.

Nick achieved first runner-up status after studying voice with Dawn Bruch since just last year. Nick competed in three categories, winning for German Lieder and 20th Century English Music. Known

for his prowess on the sports courts, we saw Nick's gift for musical performance in his role as Bert Healy in *Annie* last year.

Both Christina and Nick speak of the atmosphere of positive competition they find at the festival sessions and have made good friends with those against whom they competed. As they progressed through the levels of competition, the nerves of the first few performances lessened and they became more comfortable in the setting, surrounded by many of the same people.

"I really do this for the education," says Christina, citing the individual criticism and helpful advice from the adjudicators as such an important part of the whole experience.

Nick says the experience was well worth it and, along with Christina, hopes to compete again next year. Congratulations to you both! ■

## Ultimate

Or as many people call it – Ultimate Frisbee – has quickly become a spring tradition here at Westgate. With over 80 students participating on five teams from grades 7-12, students have found this self-officiated, sportsmanship-emphasizing sport to be a real draw. And, we've gotten pretty good at it.

Our three Junior teams finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the B division Provincial Championships. In the Senior categories, our A team earned a 3rd place finish, with Caleb Snider ('14) being selected as a Graduating Tournament All-Star. Our B team also had a successful weekend, finishing 4th. Many thanks to our volunteer coaches for their many hours of time and energy.

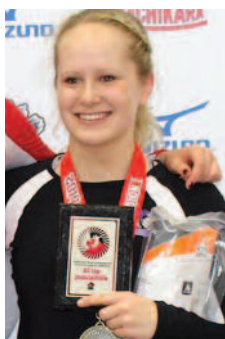
This success has also led our grads to continue playing beyond high school. In fact, Caleb Snider ('14), sister Anya ('13) and Krista Aitken ('13) earned spots on Canada's National U19 men's and women's teams. These teams will compete in the World Championships in Lecco, Italy, this July. Keep up the strong, and quickly growing, Westgate Ultimate traditions!



Caleb Snider



# Students



Westgate's **LEXI JANOVCIK ('14)** was part of the U18 Cobras Volleyball team that captured gold at the Volleyball Canada 2014 National Championships in Edmonton, May 9-11. Lexi, along with two teammates, Cassie

Bujan and Katie Friesen, were named 2014 Canadian All-Stars. It was also announced recently that Lexi will be joining the 2014 CIS National Champion U of Manitoba Bison Women's Volleyball team next academic year. Good luck, Lexi!

and Dayle Kroeker-Tom, earned Jackson a cash prize which will go toward the purchase of new video equipment.

**MAIA THOMLINSON ('16)**, already a veteran aerial gymnast, recently competed in the Western Canadian Gymnastics Championships in Saskatoon. She placed third overall and also earned a gold medal in the team competition. Maia is following in her mom's footsteps. Her mother Monica Goermann, a celebrated gymnast, is a member of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame.



The Friesen family was awarded the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Family IMPACT Award at the Volunteer Awards dinner for their commitment to the Winnipeg Folk Festival and other community initiatives. Pam and Kevin Friesen have co-ordinated the festival's site first aid crew for 20 years and have instilled the value of community and volunteerism in their sons Thomas, Aaron, Jonas and Cole, all of whom are actively involved as coaches, mentors and volunteers in the community. Jonas (apprentice crew) and Cole (guest for a day crew) will be volunteering at Folk Fest this summer. In addition to this, the Friesens have been valued volunteers here at Westgate as well, helping out on school trips, photography and coaching, to name only a few activities. Thank you for demonstrating the generous living to which Christ calls us.



**BEN MILLER ('14)** – Acadia University and men's basketball coach Stephen Baur have formally announced the commitment of Winnipeg native Ben Miller. While playing for

Team Manitoba, Miller won a silver medal at the National Championship in summer of 2012 and at the Canada Games in 2013 at Sherbrooke, Que. Miller was recently voted the province's top boys' player in the *Winnipeg Sun's* annual coaches poll.

Most recently, however, Ben was selected to the Canadian Junior Men's National basketball team. They represented Canada at the FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Men in Colorado Springs, CO, June 20-24. Congratulations Ben!!

**ALEC DICKSON ('17)** earned gold and silver medals in the 200m and 100m (respectively) races at the recent MHSAA High School Track and Field Championships. Competing in the Junior Varsity category as a grade 9 athlete makes the accomplishment even more impressive. Congratulations, Alec.



*The Westgate String Orchestra, with Director Andrea Bell, was invited to perform at the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra's pre-concert event on April 9, 2014. The Westgate Strings attended the MCO concert that followed, which featured cello soloist Asier Polo.*

**JACKSON PETERS ('14)**

recently won a video award for his production, titled "Message Not Received."

The Teen Driver Safety Campaign organized a contest to produce a video warning about the dangers of distracted driving. His video, featuring classmates Declan Moulden



# Alumni News

**SANDRA BENDER ('97)** currently lives in Quebec City, teaching English, and is the choirmaster for the Anglican Cathedral in Quebec. She is, thus, making use of a theology degree and two music degrees, which got their start at Westgate.

**MELANIE KAMPEN ('07)** completed her Master of Theological Studies through Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo in April. She defended her thesis on Christian theology and colonialism in North America. She hopes to continue with PhD studies in the fall of 2015. Melanie is also a member of the Westgate Board, representing Springfield Heights Church.



**JILLIAN GROENING ('08)** received her BA (Hons) in dance from the Senior Professional Program at the School of Contemporary Dancers in affiliation with the University of Winnipeg in June 2013. Groening spent the summer performing the piece "Hybrid Human" (choreographed

by Jolene Bailie in collaboration with painter Wanda Koop) in Vancouver and Toronto as an apprentice with Gearshifting Performance Works, a contemporary dance company based in Winnipeg and founded by Artistic Director Jolene Bailie. Recently, Groening performed her own work, the solo "Whitewash" (photo by Kate Likhotin) and



hopes to create more of her own work in the future.

**GABRIELLE WIEBE ('08)** was the recipient of a University of Manitoba Undergraduate Research award recently. Her research is taking place within two school sites that host Sistema Winnipeg,

an after-school orchestra program for children from disadvantaged circumstances that aims to impact social change through the pursuit of musical excellence. Gabrielle completed her Bachelor of Music with a concentration in Senior Years Instrumental Education at Canadian Mennonite University. She plays the piano and minored in French and Theology. She is in the Senior Years Stream teaching band and French.



**JOCELYN HUMMELT ('11)** served as Coordinator for the 8th Annual Social Justice Fair hosted by Menno Simons College. The fair attracted a myriad of presenters and organizations dedicated to work for local and global peace and justice. **LORI FAST ('00)** was one of the exhibitors at the Fair. She owns Travel Roots, a travel agency dedicated to "Socially Responsible Travel."

Two Westgate alumni were recently recognized for post-secondary excellence.

**CURTIS PANKRATZ ('89)** received the Distinguished Dissertation



Award, one of 27 given in Canada, and one of four awarded in Manitoba in 2013. Dr. Pankratz currently is Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Winnipeg.

**JANIS THIESSEN ('89)**, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Winnipeg, was one of three recipients of the



2014 University of Winnipeg Faculty of Arts Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. Dr. Thiesen is currently writing a history of Westgate that encompasses the school's first 50 years.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUSANNE GUENTHER LOEWEN ('03)** and partner **KRIS** – baby Simon David (born June 17, 2013), Toronto United Mennonite.

**MICHAEL ('92)** and **DEIDRE JANZEN** – baby Jonah Frederick Alexander (born June 28, 2013), Bethel Mennonite.

**DAVID** and **CHRISTINE KAMPEN-ROBINSON ('02)** – baby Elena Suzanne Kampen was born on October 22, 2013, in Kitchener, Ontario. She is the little sister to Mateo (age 5). Mother Christine is working on her PhD in Applied Linguistics at the University of Waterloo. Thanks in part to the Dr.



Doug Brown graduate scholarship she received last year from Westgate, Christine has been able to continue her studies.



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