

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

VOL. 24 NO. 1 / FALL 2015

LET INSPIRATION **SHINE**

The Westgate Inspiring Spaces Campaign

The Inspiring Spaces Capital Campaign is Underway!

The community campaign to raise funds for the Westgate redevelopment project was launched at the Opening Program on Oct. 2, followed by information packages and pledge sheets sent to members of the Westgate community. Early response has been good; however, we need the support from every member of our small, but generous, community. If you have not yet responded, we ask you to consider returning your pledges by the end of December. This will greatly assist our planning and will let you take advantage of tax deductions for 2015. For more information please visit westgateinspires.com, call the school, or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday February 3 2016

Parents and students of all ages welcome!
Drop in anytime from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Specific Info Hour for current Grade 5 students and parents 7:30-8:30 p.m.

GRADE 6 DAY

Tuesday January 19 2016

1:00-3:45 p.m.
Current Grade 6-ers welcome!
Please contact the school to register.
lhp@westgatemennonite.ca
204.775.7111

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Cross-Country

If we added up the total distances that the individual members of our cross-country teams ran during practices and races this season, how far would that get us? Pretty far, you'd think—we haven't done the math. More importantly, it got them all the way to three SCAC Zone Championships and two Provincial Championships!

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a lot of runners, we once again had a

fantastic season. The Junior Varsity Girls, Junior Varsity Boys, and Varsity Boys all captured SCAC Zone banners. The Junior Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys also were Provincial Champions. Along the way, sprints were sprinted, freezies were eaten, hills were climbed, sore muscles were stretched, long runs were resented, runners collapsed at the ends of races and thought it a "Good Thing" that they had done. And indeed it was. ●



The Junior Varsity Girls have an exceedingly fine day at the park. Left to right: Johanna Klassen, Linnea Nelson, Sarah Epp, Carrie Schulz, Alex Grisli, Natalie "Natty Nats" Friesen.



The Varsity Boys are pleased with themselves. Left to right: Bryn Friesen Epp, Liam "Good Liam" Guenther, Kevin Kornelson, Spencer Kristjanson, Kieran Penner, Lukas Neustaedter, Nathan Dueck, Will Koltek, Thomas McCallum, Aljosha Saribaf, Jack Maier. (Not pictured is Jake Fast, who was home in bed when the picture was taken, but is also happy about the way things turned out.)

Midsummer Delivers Heat As Winter Descends

After an intensive eight-week rehearsal process, students took to the stage at the Gas Station Arts Centre November 12th to 14th, presenting *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Visually stunning, the costumes, sets and lighting made for a magical journey through Shakespeare's most popular play.

The hard work the cast put into understanding and memorizing the play did not go unnoticed and allowed director Mrs. Martin and stage manager Sam Henrickson to craft the stage moments that the audience saw in each beautiful performance. Thank you to all the staff and students who worked to make this production so successful! ●



Helping to remember

The Westgate extended community gathered at Canadian Mennonite University's Marpeck Commons on Remembrance Day. Our goal for this event was to work for peace by hosting a fund raiser to support MCC's response to the crisis in Syria and Iraq. The event was initiated by Nathan Dueck who quickly gathered a group of willing helpers from grades 9-12. Students felt inspired by



chapel guest speakers, Nour Ali and Maysoun Darweesh, to "do something." The Ali and Darweesh family are Syrian refugees themselves who left the country in 2008 but only made it to Canada two years

ago. They are passionate about helping their fellow refugees and working to promote peace in Syria.

When more than 250 people arrived, the hosts were overwhelmed and quickly found chairs and made room for everyone. Guests were gifted with musical performances by Olivia Lunny ('17) and Paul Currie ('14) while MCC Canada's Executive Director Don Peters shared about the work that is being done to help those people living in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria. Almost \$15,000 was raised and will help MCC apply for equivalent matching grant money from the government of Canada.

STUDENT COMMITTEE:

Nathan Dueck, Josh Fast, Sean Birkett, Olivia Lunny, Nic Loewen, Bryn Friesen Epp, Anika Nelson, Natasha Neustaedter Barg, Avery Foster Lavoie, Alex Slivinski, Simon Neufeld, Nora Kroeger ●



German Exchange in the 4th generation

In 1979 Karl Fast, working as a language consultant for the Department of Education, helped found an exchange program between Manitoba high school students of German and students from Hamburg and Lower Saxony. Who would have predicted that 36 years later, two of his great-grandchildren would be taking part? Jaymi Fast and Lukas Neustaedter



(pictured above and with their Exchange partners at right) have already hosted their German counterparts and are preparing to leave for Hamburg in March. A number of things have changed in the program in 36 years, but the essence of learning to see the world from another perspective, learning German and making friends continues. Thank you, Karl Fast! ●



Volleyball!

Congratulations to our JV Girls volleyball team. Our girls entered the Provincial championships in Flin Flon ranked 5th. Thanks to strong leadership and a true team effort, the girls rallied to win the bronze medal. Zoë Dyck was named to the tournament All Star team.

The Varsity volleyball teams had reason to be proud of their strong performances in Swan River at the 2015 AAA Provincial Championships. The girls rebounded after a tough pool loss to the Morden Thunder and defeated them in their second meeting to earn a bronze medal. Kyla Quiring was named tournament All Star.

The boys had a tough road to the final, facing their zone rivals Louis Riel in a quarter final and battling a determined Calvin Christian team in the semis. Immediately following, they met an undefeated Linden Christian team that was not prepared to lose just yet. With their silver medals in hand, Noah Loewen and David Penner were recognized as All Stars as well.

Congratulations to all teams on a well-played season. ●



Back row (l-r): Nancy Loewen (staff), Carrie Schulz, Yasmin Banares, Bryce Paterson, Sarah Klassen, Grace Penner, Coach Alix Krahn. Middle row: Abi Wainikka, Miranda Zacharkiwi, Tori Wainikka, Zoë Dyck, Mollie Brown, Sophie Guenther, Kamryn Sigvaldason. Front: Mei Mei Miller, Barrett Runke



Back row (l-r): Christie Nairn (coach), Erin Madden, Natasha Neudorf Penner, Evelyn Hancock, Kyla Quiring, Natalya Reimer, Chloë Penner. Middle row: Katy Ens, Jaymi Fast, Olivia Lunny, Teigan Peters, Linnea Nelson. Front: Erika Gustafson-Fish



Back row (l-r): Greg Guenther (coach), Lukas Neustaedter, Kieran Penner, Bryn Friesen Epp, Sean Birkett, Quinn Snider, Jake Fast, David Penner, Karl Langelotz (coach). Front: Alex Schoenwetter, Noah Loewen, Zac Kornelsen, Josh Fast, Liam Guenther

Our Junior High students are once again preparing to present a fabulous evening of

ONE ACT PLAYS

JANUARY 21 AND 22
Westgate would love to see you out at this great community event. Please contact the office (204.775.7111) for your tickets. They make great stocking stuffers!

Student News



Congratulations to **NATHAN DUECK ('17)** on being selected as one of the *Canada's History* essay contest winners. *Canada's History* is funded by the Government of Canada and awards \$1,000 to 225 grade 10 and 11 students across the country. Students had to answer one of five questions. Nathan chose the question of Arctic Exploration, which reads as follows: "From the Franklin Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-1918 to the present day, how has interest in Arctic exploration changed and how has it affected the lives of those in northern communities?" Well done, Nathan!



CHLOË H. PENNER ('18) – As a member of the Manitoba Provincial cycling team, Chloë participated in the recent National Championships here in Winnipeg. In addition to winning numerous awards last year (2014 Manitoba Cycling Association recipient: Most Promising New Rider, Most Promising Female Mountain Biker, Sport Manitoba—Women to Watch Grant Award), she reached the podium twice this fall: bronze in the UNDER 17 category in the Canadian National Cyclocross Championships held in Winnipeg and second place in the UNDER 17 category in Shimano's International Cyclocross Grand Prix.

Chloë has begun to train for her next National event. She will compete in road and mountain bike events at the 2017 Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg. Long term future goal: competing as a member of Team Canada's cycling team.



HUNTER KRAHN ('20) made the 13 year old girls Provincial soccer team this summer as one of their goalies. Her Manitoba team travelled to Vancouver in July to play the other western provinces in the Pacific Challenge Series. She had an amazing experience!



CAROLYN CURRIE ('19), STEPHANIE MARTIN ('20) and NAOMI BALSILLIE ('18) represented Manitoba at the recent Canadian National Synchronized Swimming Championships.



SHAE MCFADDEN ('20) is a member of the Manitoba Provincial Fencing team. He finished 6th at last month's National tournament in Ottawa. He competes in the 15U Sabre category and is looking forward to the Western Canadian Championships in May.

Alumni News ...



SANDY TARONNO ('00) and **GILLIAN OSWALD ('02)** – triplets!! From left: Eleanor, Martha, Oswald and Sadie. What a gift! First, Sandy and Gillian were allowed to skip the lineup and vote immediately on Election Day (Oct. 19, 2015). Later that morning they were blessed with three new additions to the family. Congratulations to everyone and much strength as your family grows. *Photo: Heather Bays Photography*



Our very own staff member **CRYSTAL THIESSEN** is on maternity leave, thanks to the arrival of her daughter Brooklyn on July 18, 2015. Both momma Crys and father Denley are doing well!

DR. KATHLEEN WIENS ('98) is curating a major museum exhibition titled "Stradivarius: Origins and Legacy of the



Greatest Violin Maker" at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. Kathleen completed her doctoral work in Ethnomusicology at UCLA and now works as Curator at MIM.



Congratulations to first time parents Dustin and **ERYNN (WIEBE) UNRAU ('04)** on the arrival of their daughter Annika Elyse Unrau on Sept. 4, 2015. Happy first time grandfather is Westgate's very own long time PE teacher, Karl Wiebe!



We congratulate **BROOKLYN FAST ('10)** and Jason Ulrich on their engagement.

Brooklyn is the daughter of Tom and Linda Fast. Jason is the son of Cindy and Harvey Ulrich. They are planning a July 2016 wedding.



And, with more news from the Fast family, Brooklyn's brother, **ZAKK FAST ('08)**, married Kim (Koop) on Feb. 5, 2011. Baby Ila arrived safely on Feb. 3, 2015.



Congratulations to **DONOVAN TOEWS ('88)** and Somia Sadiq who were married on August 22, 2015. Donovan was blessed to be surrounded by good friends, many of whom were a significant part of his Westgate days.



NATHAN ('03) and Tara **TOEWS** are pleased to announce the arrival of a brother to two-year-old daughter Avielle. Vonn Edward Peter Toews was born on Sept. 26, 2015. The family is excited and doing well.

... and more Alumni News



Exchange student **JOEL REHER** (who attended Westgate back in 1995) shared recently about the arrival of his son Kiru. He is pictured with his wife Ann-Kathrin and Joel is still sporting his Westgate hoodie from many years ago. His nephew Leon just left Westgate after enjoying his Exchange experience here.



papa **SHANE HILASH ('05)** are excited to welcome their firstborn and the family is doing very well.

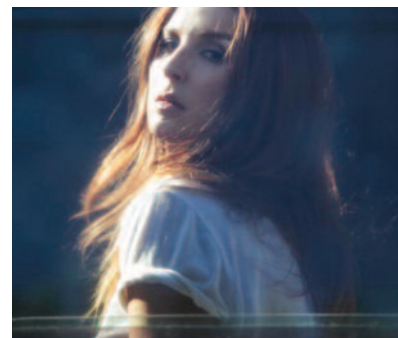


HAYLEY PENNER ('03) – W DARLING.

We recently had a chance to ask Westgate alumna Hayley Penner a few questions about her latest musical adventures.

So, you used to call yourself Hayley Gene. But now, you go by the name W Darling. What's going on?

I moved to Los Angeles almost three years ago. I was sort of recruited and offered a publishing deal with a production team called The Messengers. When I got here, I moved into a house with the entire band Magic! — two other writers (male), a producer and my manager. Shifting between sleeping on the couch and a child-size mattress in the laundry room, the house began to feel like a wilderness with this group of lost boys crashing wherever



their bodies gave out on them. I was nicknamed Wendy Darling, this sort of all-encompassing female figure. Thus, W Darling was born.

We've heard a lot of buzz about your new EP, "Lost Girls: Chapter One." How does that make you feel?

Buzz is a funny thing. It's very hard to feel from the inside. As far as I'm concerned, I am just getting started. I am probably not alone in my particular combination of massive dreams and low expectations so I am very excited to see how people like the rest of the album and I am grateful for the opportunity to do what I love. Songs have such an incredible power to dramatically change an artist's life. I am excited to see if I have a song on this album that might carry me away.

And what else are you looking forward to?

I am about to release the next chapter of my album and I am very excited to get feedback from people who don't know and love me Sometimes it can take a long time to release an album after making it. It feels like having a baby and not being able to introduce it to anyone for months and months. It's exhausting. I just want you all to meet my babies!



Sunday, October 25: Senior player **ALLISON BAERGEN ('12)** played her final match as a Wesmen soccer player. Congratulations on a splendid university sports career.

Emerson William Scott Hilash was born November 4, 2015 at 10:55 a.m. at St. Boniface Hospital. Mom Ashley and proud



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