

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

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Westgate students and staff bid their 86 West Gate campus goodbye on the last day of classes with an emotional farewell service. Henry Dyck, member of the school's first graduating class and member of all three of the school's building committees over its history, left his sledgehammer mark on the exterior wall of the aged middle section that will be removed to make way for new educational space. The contents of the entire school have been placed in storage with much of the material going to

Westgate's relocation site for next year, Chapman School, 3707 Roblin Boulevard. We return to 86 West Gate in September 2017.

Just over \$5.5 million of the \$10.5 million redevelopment project has been raised or pledged. Consider donating to the *Let Inspiration Shine: The Westgate Inspiring Spaces Campaign* by visiting **WestgateInspires.com** or contacting the school directly or by e-mail: BeThe **Light@westgatemennonite.ca** ●

First Mennonite Church

Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

for the
Westgate
Building Fund



**Friday, October 21, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Qualico Family Centre
Assiniboine Park**



TICKETS \$25

Available from Ingrid Moehlmann
iriesen@mymts.net or 204.487.7781

LET INSPIRATION
SHINE
The Westgate Inspiring Spaces Campaign

WESTGATE
SCHOOL

Westgate Bands Excel at Festivals!

Big successes at the Festivals for all our Westgate band students! As I write, I reflect on all the preparation, practice and hard work each student has given leading up to our concerts and Festival performances this year! The Grade 7 and 8 Bands both performed in the Level One Band Festival held at North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church. The adjudicators told us they were all vying to have the chance to work with our students – a lovely compliment! The Grade 9 Band, Senior Concert Band, and both Junior and Senior Jazz Bands were part of the Optimist International Band Festival held in February and March. Each rose to the occasion, and Awards Of Superior Achievement were presented to the Grade 9 and Senior Concert Bands. Well done to all! ● Ross Brownlee



A L U M N I

JADE WEIMER ('99) (photo) just graduated with her PhD in religious studies from the University of Toronto and also has a BSc, a BA, and an MA from the University of Manitoba. She is currently a sessional instructor in the religion department at the University of Manitoba and teaches a variety of topical courses (including Religion and Media, Evil in Religion, and Introduction to World Religions) as well as some courses in her own area of study, which is early Christianity.



JANIS THIESSEN'S ('81) most recent book was released on May 18. Her publisher states the following about *Not Talking Union: An Oral History of North American Mennonites and Labour*: "Thiessen shows why Mennonite labour history matters, and reveals the role of power and inequality in that history."

PAUL KLASSEN ('09) just completed his Master's degree in Science (Paleoanthropology) at the University College London in London, UK, and is looking forward to a research position at the University of Kent in Canterbury.



The Music Tour

Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us. – *Martin Luther*

Vic Pankratz and Ross Brownlee steer the music department at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. They share their passion for music with their students. Music students learn to express themselves through the art of music during our Music Tours, offered every two years. The Music Tour has been part of the school's program since the 1970s. It offers students an opportunity to showcase their musical gifts; even more, it's a time of worship. The Music Tour is not only a gift to the students, but to all those they encounter



On a side note, the Music Tour afforded Vic Pankratz the opportunity to reunite with a former Westgate classmate, Ted Warkentin ('77).

along the way. The most recent tour had the students perform nine times in a span of 10 days. Their audiences consisted of our Mennonite sister schools: UMEI, Rockway and Eden Christian School as well as Leamington United Mennonite Church, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Vineland United Mennonite Church and Montreal Mennonite Fellowship .

The tour also brings the students into many homes. "Our society tells us not to talk to strangers, yet it is the stranger that opens their home to our students," reflects Pankratz. They are fed and cared for by people they have never met. What a concept! In addition, family gatherings magically happen on tour. Uncles and aunts, cousins and grandparents from across Ontario are able to connect with their Westgate relatives. Colleagues from prior CMU days and alumni all come together to reconnect with staff and students. The "Mennonite Game" is frequently played around several host family dinner tables at every stop.

Is it possible that God is along for the bus ride? These tours are opportunities for the students and staff to press "Pause" and, in some ways, take a break from the daily routine and reflect on what is good. The music of fellowship is definitely in tune on such a tour, creating melodies that only God could compose. ●



South America Study Tour

On March 21, six students, along with chaperones, set out on Westgate's first South America Study Tour. Our trip had two major components. Our first objective was to hike the Inca Trail to Macchu Picchu in

Peru. Starting out in Cusco, we spent a couple of days acclimatizing to the altitude. From there, we tackled a four day, 48 km hike on the Inca Trail. It was a fabulous hike, and we learned a lot about the Inca Empire, local culture, and ourselves as we

hiked through the Andes. Our most difficult challenge was an 18 km day that included a 2.5 km gain in elevation. Quite the physical test! Our next major component was more of a social test. We headed to Filadelfia, Paraguay, in the Mennonite colony of Fernheim, to be billeted by students from the Collegio Filadelfia, a private Mennonite school much the same size as Westgate. We had a great time and were hosted graciously. Being treated like family, we got to see what life is like for Mennonite "cousins" in this part of the world, and came back having made new friends, and having acquired a taste for yerba! ●



Trip to Magellan Aerospace

On Dec. 11, 2015, 65 Westgate grade 9 science students had the opportunity to see the 1 Radarsat satellite module scheduled to launch into space in 2018. This was a rare opportunity for the students learning about satellites, viewing hardware that fewer than a thousand people in the world would ever be allowed to see. The tour included classroom teaching from Magellan engineers relating to the tasks of such a satellite launch, and an actual visit into the "clean room" to see the inside working parts of the satellite module. "Really cool!" as some students exclaimed.



A New/Old Connection in Hamburg

Menno Simons started the Mennonite Church in Hamburg-Altona, but they just celebrated the 100 Year Anniversary of their "new" building constructed in 1915. Our exchange students and their partners were invited to participate in their Children and Youth Day on the Saturday before Easter on March 26, 2016. Most of the Westgate exchange students were able to attend and were rewarded with Kaffee and Kuchen, an informal worship service with skits and a simulated refugee experience or baking for a Passover meal. The church tour included the library with its collection of



Mamie Kroeker-Tom and Meghan Hiebert spent every Monday volunteering in an elementary school classroom as English mentors. Thanks to Ulla In-der-Stroth (former Manitoba German Support Teacher) for organizing this.

500-year-old books. We felt very welcomed into the congregation and the students were encouraged to return for a Sunday service and a youth and young adult conference in April. It is wonderful to have a new connection to this active congregation with such a long history. ●



GERMAN LANGUAGE CONTEST

A record number of 41 Westgate students were selected as finalists for the Manitoba German Language Contest 2016. Thirty-four attended the finals on March 2 at Chief Peguis Junior High school, where they were interviewed by the judges. Thirteen students placed in the top three in their categories, with Michaela Pankratz winning a month-long, all expenses paid Germany Study Tour. Congratulations to all our participants! Particular thanks to the MGL Committee, headed by our own Heidi Koop, for the hard work that made this contest possible.

Junior C

1st Rachel Siemens
2nd Hannah Marchant
3rd Talia Landgraff

Intermediate A

2nd Isaak Fast

Intermediate C

1st Johanna Klassen
2nd Paul Rempel
3rd Linnea Nelson

Senior A

1st Michaela Pankratz
2nd Natasha Neustaedter Barg
3rd Jaymi Fast

Senior C

1st Jack Maier
2nd Aliyah Baerg
3rd Natalie Pesun



Student News



Congratulations to four of our students whose teams medalled at the recent Western Canadian Volleyball Championships: **ZOE DYCK** (bronze), **ISAAK FAST** and **JUSTIN KELLY** (silver) and **SARAH KLASSEN** (gold).



According to the rankings, our Junior Varsity girls were expected to win. Playing with the #1 ranking is never easy, but our girls rose to the challenge. Facing the hometown Virden Golden Bears in the finals also wasn't easy, but thanks to a supreme team effort, our girls were victorious.



Westgate curlers rock! Our Westgate curling teams advanced to the SCAC playoffs, reaching the semi-finals (girls) and finals (boys). Way to go Westgate!

GIRLS' TEAM: CARRIE SCHULZ, ANIKA NELSON, JESSICA SIEMENS, JADEN WISNESKI

BOYS' TEAM: COACH BRUCE SCHULZ, DANIEL BERGEN, CAEL PENNER, JARED SCHULZ, SPENCER KRISTJANSON



Ranked 7th out of 8 teams entering Provincials, the Westgate JV boys had nothing to lose. So, they decided to have fun and play some basketball. And play they did! Upsetting teams all the way, the boys reached the finals where they met an unstoppable force, the host team Neelin Spartans. The team can be proud of achieving second place in this tournament.



For the third year in a row, a Westgate student has had her play chosen as a top five finalist for the Manitoba High School Playwriting Competition!

SAMANTHA WILSON'S *Lost In Between* was featured in an evening of theatre at the end of May at the Tom Hendry Warehouse Theatre.



Alumni News ...



Roslyn Jane Ewert arrived on New Year's Eve 2015. Proud parents are **NICHOLAS EWERT ('06)** and **NAOMI (LANGELOTZ) EWERT ('09)**.



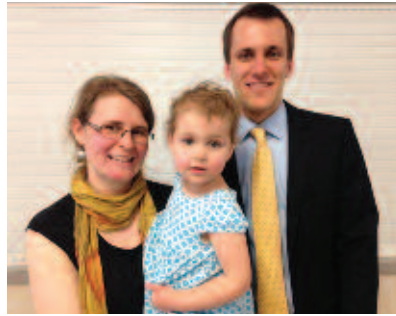
Congratulations to **JESSICA (GAMBLE '06)** and Dave **CONDO** on the safe arrival of their son, Nolan, born on Jan. 12, 2016.



REBECCA VANDERHOOF ('05) and Colin Barber welcomed Nora Violet into their family on May 29, 2016.



Classmates and friends **KELSEY CRAM ('05)** and **NICK WOELKE ('05)** were also blessed with the addition of George Fife Cram Woelcke to their family on Friday, June 3, 2016.



Ordinations: **REYNOLD FRIESEN ('89)** at Bethel Mennonite Church, Jan. 17; **VIRGINIA (GERBRANDT) RICHERT ('99)** at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Jan. 31; **MARK TIESSEN ('02) DYCK** (pictured above) at Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church, March 20.



PAUL HILDEBRAND ('11) and Karleen Tarry were married on May 28, 2016 at the Rustic Barn near Steinbach. The couple was surrounded by family and friends, many of whom are also Westgate alumni.



AILEEN FRIESEN ('98) was guest lecturer at the inaugural launch of the new Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies at The University of Winnipeg. Dr. Aileen Friesen, the Plett Foundation's 2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, spoke on the topic "Indigenous-Mennonite Relations in the Russian Empire: A History of Conflict and Accommodation." The event was held on May 5, 2016.



MICHAEL PANKRATZ ('09) and **AMANDA PETERS ('09)** were married on October 3, 2015 at Bridges golf course.



The Winnipeg Art Gallery is exhibiting the first retrospective of Westgate alumnus **KAREL FUNK ('89)** from June to Sept. 2016. Karel is well known outside of Winnipeg for his hyper-realistic portraits featuring men (mostly) in Gore-Tex outerwear. His stunning work looks like a photograph at first glance but is the time-consuming work of layers of acrylic paint. His work is held today by major institutional, corporate, and private collections, including the National Gallery of Canada, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.



KEITH PETERS ('88) is President and Captain of the U of Manitoba Underwater Football Club (UWF), and one of the top players in the world. In Feb. 2015 Keith's team won the Underwater Football World Championships, played in Winnipeg. The sport was invented in 1967 at the U of M

... and more Alumni News

and has spread across North America. This past October, Keith played Underwater Rugby, (a similar sport), in Brantford, Ontario, against teams from Toronto, Montreal, Brantford, Boston, New Jersey, and Newark. Keith is the chairperson for underwater sport with the Manitoba Underwater Council (MUC). If you want to try a 3D full-contact sport played underwater with snorkel, mask and fins, contact Keith at kpeters.com@gmail.com. There are two clubs that play out of Winnipeg. Keith has already recruited fellow Westgate alumnus **TOBIAN PENNER ('13)**.



Peters family updates: **VICTORIA ('08)** is living in Victoria, B.C., and studying at the U of Victoria. She is pursuing a Secondary B.Ed. with a focus on art. **RENEE ('11)** and **NICHOLAS ('14)** are living in Winnipeg. Renée graduated in May from Red River Community College with a diploma in graphic design. She married Mr. Evan Jones of Melbourne, Australia, on June 26 in Winnipeg. Nicholas was working to fund a trip to New Zealand and the Torchbearers' 10-week Adventure Bible School that he'll be taking part in there. He hopes to begin the Bachelor of Kinesiology – Athletic Therapy degree program in September 2016 at the University of Manitoba. **JACKSON ('14)** is living in Toronto and has been enjoying film studies at Ryerson University since Sept. 2015. Jackson and a friend did a month-long hitchhiking trip from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. They plan to make a documentary film about this experience.



This year's Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) athletic award recipients include six Westgate alumni: **JASON FRIESEN ('13)**, **OWEN BAERG ('13)**, **JOEL KIEWER ('13)**, **THOMAS FRIESEN ('12)**, **JOSHUA NEUSTAEDTER BARG ('13)**, and **NADYA LANGELOTZ ('15)**. In addition, Thomas Friesen (shown at right in photo) received the Defensive Player of the Year Award for volleyball and the CMU Trailblazer Award "for excellence in team leadership, academic merit, and community service". Jason Friesen took home Player of the Year honours for men's volleyball. Joel Kiewer was named to the 2015-2016 MCAC men's volleyball all-conference team.



WES PENNER ('93) and his wife Millie co-pastor Millersville Mennonite Church in Millersville, Pennsylvania. Wes continues to contract in computer services, using skills introduced to him by Mrs. Dyck.

LARA MCCABE ('96) is working as a researcher for an Aboriginal research group, currently studying gender and culture based analysis of the "TEDWG" documents, which are economic development action plans for the City of Thompson. Lara also works part time for the City of Winnipeg. She plays a lot of roller derby and is one of the founders of both Winnipeg leagues (Winnipeg Roller Derby League and Prairie Heart Roller Derby).



ALANA (FAST '02) and Joel Prejet are pleased to announce the birth of their baby boy, Hank Joel Gerald Prejet, on June 5, 2016. They are so thankful he is happy and healthy.

MONI (TESSMANN '01) and **MATT EDWARDS ('01)** are happy to announce the arrival of Lily Abigail, born Dec. 26, 2015. She joins siblings Elijah and Maylin to fill out their happy family.



MONI PRIES-KLASSEN ('86), **JACQUIE NEUFELD ('86)**, **URSULA (LOEWEN) BOLLENBACH ('86)** in Montreal. They biked from Montreal to Quebec City along the Route Verte.

"Our friendship began over 32 years ago in our grade 9 year at Westgate. Hiking Lake Superior with Marsh and Mountain Club, hoofing it around the legislature on the track team, hanging out in Germany with Westgate friends, and labouring through math lessons with Mrs. Riesen are some of the memories we share. We now live in different provinces, and sometimes weeks or months go by when we don't talk to – or see – each other. Yet we just pick up where we left off. Having friends who accept us without judgement, and who are always there when we call, is worth celebrating."



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