

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

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A MAN OF THE DECADES: Ozzie Rempel Retires

After 40 years in the teaching business, 37 at Westgate, my generous colleague, Ozzie Rempel, is hanging up his teacher hat and retiring. But not quite yet – not completely. Recently I met with Ozzie to discuss his retirement.

"They called me," he replied when I asked Ozzie how his career at Westgate had started. "After spending two years working at MCI in Gretna, Manitoba, I decided to challenge myself to work in a larger community." Ozzie moved to Winnipeg and during a year of substitute teaching he received the call from Westgate. "They needed a science teacher who could also teach German, a compulsory subject at Westgate back in 1978." He was also required to teach Grade 7 Phys Ed, "A considerable challenge," Ozzie added, "as my only official qualifications were that I was not obviously physically unfit." In his 37 year career at Westgate, Ozzie's role challenges have indeed been many.

Principal Bob Hummelt remembers: "It was wonderful to watch my colleague Ozzie, like all good teachers, continually improve and refine his teaching techniques and his assessment methods, to the point of master teacher. And Ozzie clearly enjoyed interacting with kids, although some of his remarks could instill fear in his students and his colleagues alike – you were never quite sure if he was joking – or not?"

Besides tackling a variety of diverse courses including phys ed and "Current Topics in Science," Ozzie coached volleyball and track and field. He became a key member of the Marsh and Mountain outdoor club, enriching its members with his knowledge of outdoor skills.

As a final career challenge Ozzie has spent the last 11 years as Westgate's vice principal, serving most of those years with Bob Hummelt. "I was always very confident that Ozzie would complete all the minutiae of



the job, but of course being Ozzie, he would take that further step to excellence. When checking student report cards and finding students with grades lower than their potential, Ozzie would invite students to his office. It was wonderful to see Ozzie and a student sitting side by side, looking at the report card, working together as a team. Ozzie would always ask about the student's plan to improve. The 'I will work harder' response was refined in detail as Ozzie developed a relationship with these students."

Indeed, when I asked about what Ozzie has learned from his career at Westgate, he said, "I have discovered the real importance of building relationships." In his years as a vice principal the insights from these many relationships has allowed Ozzie to support staff and students in a myriad of ways.

But Ozzie is not completely retiring – "not yet, not yet." He continues to use his talents to build relationships for Westgate, acting as Westgate's staff liaison to Bockstael, the builders for our Inspired Spaces Project.

After 37 years of dedicated commitment to our Westgate School and community, we the students and staff, the parents and churches, wish to thank you Ozzie for your enthusiasm, your talents, your hard work and your caring devotion. We heartily commend you on a job well done! ●

Terry Dirks



Westgate Heads West



Line up for the shuttle at the end of the day



Grade 9s in physical education class



Students from grades 7, 9 and 12 all working in Student Services / library with Mr. Friesen



Grade 11s lounging in the basement hallway with a French class down the hall



Excited about classes at Sturgeon Creek United Church



Senior Concert Band practice in the Anglican church



Grade 11 students solving Physics problems in Student Services



Grade 10 Christian Studies Class – looks like the old Westgate!



Preparing for a Math quiz at Sturgeon Creek United

St. Mary Anglican Church

Westgate feels fortunate that Chapman School at 3707 Roblin Boulevard became available when it did. This allowed the student and staff body to relocate there just as the redevelopment of the 86 West Gate campus was about to begin.

Although a former elementary school, the building has served us well, housing Westgate's junior and senior students. We did, however, need to lease extra classroom space at Sturgeon Creek United Church across the Assiniboine River. As well, the entire music, visual arts and drama programs run out of St. Mary Anglican Church just across the street from Chapman School.

Weekly chapels are held in the St. Mary sanctuary. It is a beautiful place to worship with students. The cedar ceiling is held up by laminated wooden arches and the walls are graced by wonderful stained glass windows that feature several saints and biblical scenes. A few windows, some created by Leo Mol, are dedicated to past parishioners such as Helen Vialoux. The Vialoux name is prominent in the area and the street between the school yard and the river is named after this longtime Charleswood family. The altar area at the front of the sanctuary is prominent, especially to students and staff who are part of congregations where sanctuaries are somewhat understated.

In September the Rector of St. Mary, Lenise Francis, addressed the juniors and seniors at the first chapel of the school year. She drew attention to the carvings on the front of the large marble pulpit that depict Jesus raising Peter out of the frothing waters when his faith flagged. Reverend Francis encouraged our students to remember this scene when the stresses of a busy school year whip up the waters and leave them floundering, but to know that Jesus is there to lift them up above the storm.

In turn, Principal Bob Hummelt was invited to briefly address the St. Mary congregation at the beginning of the first Sunday back



Junior chapel in the Anglican church



Paul finds drama class hilarious at St. Mary



Concert Choir practice at St. Mary

after Labour Day. He noted that when Paul was shipwrecked off the coast of Malta, he and the rest of the crew and passengers were met with "unusual kindness." Since 300 students have now washed up on St. Mary's metaphorical shores, he thanked them for the kindness they have shown as they welcome Westgate for this academic year. ●



Redevelopment News



Heidi and Randy Grieser, the new co-chairs of the Westgate Inspiring Spaces Campaign, are also the parents of two Westgate students. They've committed the time to this project while running a training and consulting company here in Winnipeg. When asked why they agreed to be the new co-chairs, Heidi explained that it was an easy decision for them. They felt compelled to say yes because "we want to see Westgate succeed, and we want to do whatever we can to help out." After home schooling her children through the

elementary grades, Heidi expressed how being involved in the parent-association, coaching sports teams, and now being co-chair of the Capital Campaign are all ways that she stays connected with her children's education. Randy and Heidi believe in Westgate and want to do what they can to see the renovation to the finish line. As far as the building project goes, Randy shared that "For me, very loud and clear, the thing that is most important about this project is accessibility. It is vital for a school to be accessible for all who enter and spend time in the facility. As well, "We're trying to get people excited that this space is a gathering place, not just an atrium. Now how special is that; to build community with that kind of gathering place." With the atrium being just one portion of the building project, Randy and Heidi cannot stress enough that although building has begun "we are not done yet!" Now donations are needed more than ever to see the development to completion. ● Anya Snider



Recent photo of progress in the redevelopment at 86 West Gate

Brad Janzen appointed Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Board chair

Brad, a transplanted Torontonion, along with Wendy and their two children Jacob and Fiona are very settled into the Winnipeg, and Westgate, community. An appreciation of Westgate's intentional approach to community building led Brad to want to become more involved with the school. Starting as a representative from his congregation, Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, this is his third year on the Westgate board and first as chair. Brad sees his role as supporting the school in "doing what it does well." That support during these past few challenging years and going into the next phase of Westgate's growth is a blessing to all of us who call this place "home."

LET INSPIRATION
SHINE

The Westgate Inspiring Spaces Campaign

**CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN
UPDATE**

We have raised over \$6.2 million of the \$10.5 million project. This is something to be proud of! However, \$4.3 million is still needed. And while \$4.3 million is still needed, in early November we identified that we needed to raise at least \$1.9 million before September 2017. As of December 8, we have raised \$155,223 of this amount. To reach our goal of 1.9 million we need to receive around \$200,000 a month (roughly \$5000 a student) between now and September. While this is a needed and ambitious goal, we believe that it is also an achievable one – largely because of the support from you. As you and your family consider your giving decisions, we ask you to keep Westgate in mind. And please remember you will be issued a charitable receipt when you donate to Westgate. To learn more and to donate please go to www.westgateinspires.com



L to R: Julianna Roe, Jenna Martin, Hannah Anderson

Why I liked Take Your Kid to Work Day

Take Your Kid to Work Day is a really unique event because as a grade 9 student you get to experience what it's like to be in a work setting. Most kids say that their days at school are so much more difficult than it is for adults, but when I was at St. Boniface Hospital for my day, I realized that adults work a lot harder than we do. I got to sit in the OR lounge and I

could see all the tired faces and some people were asleep and I just couldn't believe it. As for my day at St. Boniface, the morning was interesting because first we sat in a room that looked like a theater with four televisions and a lot of chairs. We listened to a woman talk about the hospital and what it was like to work there. After we all got separated into groups we went to the auditorium where we saw presentations from different doctors in different specialties. My favourite was Respiratory because we got to touch a pig's heart and lungs. After a pizza and root beer lunch I got to see a Cardio Thoracic Aortic Valve Replacement (heart surgery). Overall I thought that my day at St. Boniface Hospital was amazing and I enjoyed the experience very much.

● Hanna Anderson

STAFF TRANSITIONS



LOTHAR MOEHLMANN has moved on to pursue other interests after seven years as an Educational Assistant in the Student Services Department. Lothar's even temper, quiet wit and an eagerness to lend a hand kept students and staff at ease and made him invaluable on Marsh and Mountain outdoor adventures.



We are happy to have **RAYA CORNELSEN** joining us in the second semester. She will be teaching three classes of grade 9 Science. Raya holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Winnipeg and a Bachelor of Arts (4-Year) from Canadian Mennonite University. A member of Hope Mennonite Church, Raya also has extensive Camps with Meaning experience which will complement Westgate's outdoor education program.

SEEN IN THE HALLWAYS OF CHAPMAN SCHOOL ...





Mar Elias students visit Westgate

It was a bizarre scene at the in-school soccer tournament: the Palestinians against the Germans. But if you know Westgate, you know any combination of guests is possible. It isn't important who won, although it did go to penalties. More importantly, the event capped off our ten-day encounter with Palestinian students from the Mar Elias School in northern Israel, a school that is dedicated to imagining a different reality in Israel/Palestine, a reality in which people of different faiths and

nationalities try to understand each other and see each other as neighbours.

At the beginning of their visit, our guests introduced themselves to the student body in chapel. After reading the biblical passage of Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee, the Palestinian students shared about their homeland, a land that is not merely a biblical place, but a living land of people and communities. As we got to know them, we learned about some of the struggles that these students continue to deal with, living

in a land of division and political confusion.

And they had questions for us as well. As we walked through downtown streets, we were asked why people in Canada had to beg for food and had no place for shelter. Why, they asked, does our government not care for them? We were forced to confront our own shortcomings. In class, we could not avoid staring at the parallels between our history of settlements and residential schools with the



Israeli history of domination over the Palestinians.

And no, we did not change the world in this encounter; we did not put pressure on our government to any degree of action. But we became richer. Students from Canada and from Israel made connections with others who were both different yet the same. On our last evening together, as we watched the Jets lose, we lamented the fact that our time together was over, but we also celebrated the fact that we will be visiting these students in their homes in spring, learning about their lives and peering into their cultural reality. We're looking forward to seeing which teams show up on their soccer field. ● James Friesen



Student News



WESTGATE CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

If you put all the races we ran this year end-to-end, well ... that would be a pretty long race. I imagine everyone's glad we don't do that.

Thanks to all our runners' hard work, and their willingness to run really fast for 3, 4, or 5 km at a time, we had a very successful season. The Junior Varsity Boys, and Varsity Girls and Boys all captured SCAC Zone banners, and this year's grade 7 and 8 boys team has finally scored gold!

The grade 7/8 season began with a strong start, with grade 8 runners David Nelson (pictured above), Carson Greenall and Evan Mack as well as grade 7's Jaysheel Tonn, and Matthaeus Dyck leading the pack. Starting out by winning their first meet handily, our strong juniors went on to defeat all challengers.



The Varsity Girls with a beautiful banner. L to R: Johanna Klassen, Sarah Enns, Natalie Friesen, Linnea Nelson, Elizabeth Andrews, Chloë Penner

Although the senior high teams were prepared to go to Nelson House for the Provincial Championships, snow forced us to relocate to our "home course" at Kilcona Park. Despite the cold weather, many

parents were able to come out and cheer us on as the Junior Varsity Boys won bronze, and both the Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls were Provincial Champions.

Congratulations! ●



The Varsity Boys: Happiness in a bleak landscape. L to R: Phillippe Hoffenberg, Nathan Dueck, Brandon Goodman, Quinn Loewen, Lukas Neustaedter, Bryn Friesen Epp, James Williams, Zane Sawatzky, Levi Bock. Not pictured: the agony of training.

MORE FROM CHAPMAN SCHOOL ...



Alumni News



We are happy to announce that two Westgate families have joined together in marriage. **NANCY LOEWEN** (staff) married Steven Ens on July 1, 2016. Their five kids are Westgaters! Logan Loewen Runke and Katy Ens have both graduated from Westgate. Henry Ens, Barrett Loewen Runke and Harrison Ens are all students at Westgate. L to R: **HENRY ENS ('18)**, **BARRETT RUNKE ('19)**, Steve Ens, **NANCY LOEWEN ('88)**, **KATIE ENS ('16)**, **HARRISON ENS ('22)**, **LOGAN RUNKE ('16)**



The Westgate community was saddened to hear of the passing of **KURTIS DERKSEN ('04)** on July 31, 2016. His classmates and his teachers remember Kurtis as a subtle force in the halls, classrooms and choral rehearsals, where life was to be enjoyed and where it was "never about him." Kurtis was a strong business leader and, as part of the leadership team at Derksen Plumbing & Heating with his brother **ZACHARY ('07)**, this was evident to the Westgate redevelopment project team in his management and oversight of the

mechanical requirements for the school's "new" home. We will miss his steady hand in that regard, and more importantly, we will miss his larger than life heart and soul.



DANIEL KROEKER ('04) graduated from the University of Manitoba School of Medicine in 2015 and has begun a residency in Psychiatry. Daniel and Joanna married in 2010 and are enjoying their son Desmond, who reportedly is a "loud, energetic, social and infinitely sweet little guy."



Hello Westgate Family!

It feels strange writing to you during the school year. Normally, I would be gearing up for volleyball play-offs and finishing submitting my marks around this time of year, but here I am in Germany. For those of you who don't recall, my wife and I are volunteering with Mennonite Church Canada for a short term assignment in Ludwigshafen, Germany. We are working on a project called *Friedenshaus* (Peace House), offering German language classes and social opportunities for newcomers to Germany, mostly refugees and asylum seekers from Syria.

So far, this has been interesting work. Some people are in formal language classes while others simply want more chance to practice. Therefore, we have tried to offer opportunities for beginners and those with some German skills to practice and learn the language. If they hope to stay in Germany and find work, they need language skills.

The Ludwigshafen Mennonite Church is situated downtown, a good location for people to meet and gather. However, we're noticing that the building is hard to find. As you can see by the picture, it doesn't look like a church, nor do the signs stand out. Therefore, we've been trying to meet people

outside and guide them in. Once they've found us, it hasn't been a problem.

I have found that I still like teaching, especially when the students are really keen and motivated to learn (not that you are not!!). Marla and I are learning a lot about hospitality, grace and courage from these interactions. If you want to read more, please visit our blog or contact me directly! Shalom. ● *Karl Langelotz*

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