

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

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WILDERNESS WIEBE TURNS OFF THE LIGHTS IN THE GYM

The golden glow of the campfire lit up the puzzled faces of our canoeists. Standing in the centre, my longtime colleague and ground floor member of Westgate's Marsh and Mountain Outdoor Club, Karl Wiebe, was wielding a broom and reciting, "Horses, horses, I love horses, black and dapple grey." By this time each of the students had tried to repeat Karl's actions and words, but none had solved the imitation game. I sat back and enjoyed the gentle teasing fun between Karl and the students. It was hilarious and fun and beautiful to see the kinship of camping grow.

In many ways, this scene from June of 2016 reveals the heart of Karl Wiebe's long teaching career. In a recent interview Karl spoke to me about some of the highlights of his 34.5 years at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. "I liked the everyday contact with kids, building rapport with students. I especially enjoyed that with my Grade 10 Phys. Ed. classes. I also enjoyed teaching the Grade 7s at the school entry level, showing them what it meant to be an athlete and to be part of Westgate sports teams.

Karl's connections with students in these smaller groups proved to be part of his greatest contributions to Westgate life. Indeed, Principal Bob Hummelt states, "Karl was always a keen student of the new and healthy trends in the Phys. Ed. program. Karl and his fellow Phys. Ed. staff ran a successful and very accessible program and he was particularly instrumental in creating competitive interschool teams." Karl's teams were so successful that he received



three "Male Coach of the Year" awards from the Manitoba Basketball Association. Karl was also awarded the "2010 Grey Cup Legacy Coach of the Year" award and in 2015 he was honored with "The Mike Spack Award" which recognizes "an individual who has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of basketball in Manitoba over a sustained period of time."

A fellow coach at Manitoba basketball provincials observed: "After the game, I see Karl's boys interacting with each other – as if they are all great friends ... My teams go home in quite a different way."

When I asked Karl about the key to his successful teams, he replied, "I really believe that building relationships contributes to teamwork, and successful teamwork creates a better and richer life. Karl chuckled, "Even driving the school bus, not a big skill really, but sharing it with my colleagues, always felt good."

Jen How chuckled too, when I asked her how Karl was as an office team partner. "We got along for 18 years. We often kidded each other as fellow work "spouses." But kidding aside, Karl was really good at his job, running the athletic department. He was meticulous at organizing all the details of scheduling.

Most seasons, we had eight different teams operating out of here, and he had all the details, coaches, times, venues and transportation. He drove most of the junior teams to all their events – to every game.

"Karl also made a special effort to expand the Phys. Ed. program beyond the Westgate building, giving our students even more opportunities to understand physical activity as a lifelong adventure.

"Karl was tireless. He worked late at night and often Sundays too. His biggest contribution to our school was his 365 days of the year tiredlessness."

Even though Karl may now have plenty of time for napping, "Wilderness Wiebe," a veteran world hiker and camper, has just returned from a trip to Africa with his wife Arlene. More road trips and overseas adventures seem probable.

"We also plan on traveling outside of school holiday times, and spending more time with grandchildren and enjoying more family time in the Whiteshell. And we hope to volunteer, although we're not sure how that will be. Arlene just retired this last spring too. We are both working out this retirement thing together. It's early days yet."

"Teamwork!" I chuckled.

Karl nodded and smiled his slow smile in complete agreement. ● Terry Dirks

WESTGATE WINGS CAPTURE THE CANADIAN CYBER DEFENCE CHALLENGE TITLE

On May 16, 2017, Westgate AP Computer Science students David Dyck, Jonah Penner, and Ben Zacharias (Class of '17) competed in the Canadian Cyber Defence Challenge (CCDC) at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Awaiting them were teams from throughout Manitoba, as well as a few from Alberta and British Columbia. Nine hours of intense concentration and problem solving culminated in victory for the Westgate Wings with 950 points. In second place, with 890 points, were defending champions Dakota Beta Gamma. JH Bruns BTY rounded out the top three with 640 points.

Leading up to the competition, the students were given some class time to prepare and access resources provided by the CCDC; however, the vast majority of preparation was done independently.



According to team member David Dyck, the day was full of fun and surprises. It was an opportunity to learn and practice computer networking skills in a low-pressure, encouraging environment. Professionals from industry provided mentorship throughout the day. It was also an opportunity for the students to exhibit their skills in front of the tech company executives who were in attendance.

Congratulations to these three students for their outstanding accomplishment! ●



CHAPGATE – K-12

There is no doubt that last year was very different – new location, expanded campus, limited cafeteria. And low sinks, play structures, and some much younger students.

So how did this work, this combination of daycare and Junior/Senior high school?

Staff members at the daycare said they were very nervous. The Chapman school population was kindergarten to grade 6. There were concerns about what “big kids” would be like, how they would interact with the daycare students, what it would be like to share bathrooms, hallways, the playground ...

The reality? While initially nervous, their students came to look up to (in more ways than one) and be comfortable around the older students. Things went so well the daycare staff suggested Westgate set aside a space for them in the new building. They can’t imagine life without us! They found Westgate’s students and staff to be helpful, respectful and fun to have around.

Westgate staff members were equally pleased with the way things turned out. Some were more nervous for the daycare students than for our own. We know Westgate has great students, but how much connection would these teenagers feel to the younger children? Would they be seen as a bother or in the way? How would our school program work with other tenants in the building?

The reality? We enjoyed having these younger people in our midst. From the Hallowe’en parade and trick-or-treating, to the baking they contributed to our Day of Pink bake sale, we realized the daycare crowd was happy to share this space with Westgate. The ovation they received as they arrived outside during our first fire drill of the year left no doubt we liked having them around.

The Westgate students I talked to said they really hadn’t had many interactions with the younger kids. They saw them in the bathrooms, running in with their light-up shoes and singing little songs, and were greeted in the playground as they passed by on their way to St. Mary Anglican. But the little kids were a reminder of their own younger days – days of water tables and Dunkeroos (a big snack 12 years ago!) and field trips to the zoo. With dreams of becoming veterinarians, owners of museums, or teachers back then, most of our grade 12s have changed their plans or are still figuring them out.

Today’s kindergartners still enjoy cookies, although they aren’t familiar with Dunkeroos. They’re still thinking about what to do when they grow up – they have some time to work that out – and are looking forward to what’s coming next year in a new location and with different kinds of classes. Seems like these two groups have some common ground and not just at 3707 Roblin. ●

Westgate Middle East Trip

"Hiking in the footsteps of Jesus opened my eyes to the reality of the Biblical world. The lilies of the field that Jesus talks about were right there for us to frolic through and gather for flower crowns. As we scrambled up hills and down rock faces we pondered how people 2,000 years ago hiked these trails in sandals without GORP bars. Over the four days, we all bonded as a group, sharing laughter, prayer, and song."

— Kristjanna Pensato



Vic Pankratz looking down into Galilee



Felafels and shawarma in Bethlehem

"On a spiritual level, our visit to Jerusalem reminded me that Jesus was a real man. I think that some of us, myself included, often view God, and by extension Jesus, as more of a concept than a person. But by walking the Via Dolorosa, for example, it's hard to avoid the thought that Jesus existed in flesh and blood, and walked among those who lived in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago."

— Nathan Dueck



Above the treasury at Petra



Sitting by the separation barrier in Bethlehem



Climbing in caves on the cliffs of Arbel



A STITCH IN TIME...

This spring, as part of the safe grad fundraising committee, grad mom Kim Zacharias spent countless hours conceiving, designing, and creating a beautiful quilt to be raffled off at the Grad-Parent Breakfast in June. This handsome commemorative artwork includes Westgate's mission statement as well as squares decorated by each graduate. In addition to son Benjamin, a member of the class of 2017, Kim has a family full of Westgaters: husband James Zacharias ('85), son Adrian ('14), and twins Alyssa and Christian ('19). Her crafty creation was won by Dieter and Sandra Schönwetter, who pledged to gift it back to the school to adorn the halls of the newly renovated building at 86 West Gate.

Radium Girls Performed to Glowing Reviews

This year's major drama production explored the moral and ethical choices we make when facing challenges — in our personal and profession lives. Loyalty, sacrifice, and mortality were just a few of the topics the students explored in this gripping drama set during post World War I. The 28-person cast rose to the challenge, delivering an honest and polished performance three nights in a row to a very receptive audience. Thank you to all the staff, students, and families that helped with everything needed to make such a production possible. ●

Mrs. L. Martin, director



JAMES FRIESEN, a member of the Westgate teaching staff for 25 years, has been appointed Vice Principal with the retirement of Karl Wiebe. A graduate of Rosthern Junior College, and with a Masters degree in Religious Studies from The University of Manitoba, James taught Math, English Language Arts, and Christian Studies, with the latter, a comparative religion course from a Christian perspective, inspiring many students and staff to participate in his vibrant Middle East Study Tour. Like many teachers who transition to join an administration team, James shares that he will miss the classroom, though he will continue to teach a portion of the World Religions course. James brings genuine relational skills and an appreciation of the tenets of the Anabaptist faith to his new leadership role.

CLASSROOM CHANGES

Bob Hummelt once was heard to say that James Friesen must have been a little old lady who owned a pawn shop in his previous life. Indeed, James's classroom has been known to be chock full of trinkets and knick knacks, the walls adorned with posters and maps. It is a wonder that the room has passed numerous fire inspections; maybe the fire inspector was always too overwhelmed to make a clear report. At the end of the 2016 school year, however,

James had to retire at least a part of his collection because he realized that there will simply not be enough space to house them in his office in the new building. It was a teary and emotional ceremony as grade 12 students carefully chose items from the room to give them a new home. As our grade 12 students departed from Westgate to enter into their post-Westgate lives, it may be fitting that they took with them a piece of their school. It may be also fitting that one of our classrooms has now taken on a new form outside of our walls and into the wider world of education and learning. ●



Cross Country Team

To describe a cross-country season in detail – practices that include sprints, hills, long-distance runs, all those things but in the rain – would not necessarily be the best recruiting tool. (Sample team motto: “We’re not doing it because it’s fun!”) And yet... when you do something difficult, with people that are fun to be around, and you have success, it ends up being a really good time.

So here we are, 28 runners, four coaches, and the white bus. All valuable members of the cross-country teams, and all contributors to a successful season. We could see individual times improving with each race, and the results were Zone Championships for the Varsity Boys and Girls, and second place for the JV Boys. And when we went up against the rest of the province, the JV Boys came in fourth place, the Varsity Boys won silver medals, while the Varsity Girls came home with gold medals and the championship banner. Congratulations to all the teams on their success! ●



*It is an accomplishment for a student to win a gold medal and championship banner in Manitoba High School Athletic Association competition during their high school years, making **LINNEA NELSON'S** four gold medals in cross country team events particularly exceptional. Linnea ('18) was moved to the Varsity Girls team as a grade 9 student to help win a championship, and her commitment to training helped her next three squads win gold as well.*



CLASS OF 1997 REUNION

THREE ALUMNI HAVE PUBLISHED BOOKS RECENTLY

Former Westgate teacher and current U of Winnipeg professor **JANIS THIESSEN ('89)** wrote “Snacks: A Canadian Food History.” Snacks is a history of Canadian snack foods, the independent producers and workers who make them, and the consumers who can’t put them down.

AILEEN FRIESEN ('98) collaborated with Paul Toews to write “The Russian Mennonite Story.” With over 70 historic photographs, this coffee-table book offers a rare glimpse into the prosperity, sorrow, and rebirth of the Mennonite story in Russia and Ukraine.

MARCUS REMPEL ('91) celebrated the release of his book at MC Canada’s Common Word Bookstore on Dec. 7. In his book, “Life at the End of Us versus Them: Cross Culture Stories,” Rempel ponders the space between culture and religion with essays that will challenge our ideas of society and faith.

Brock Peters ('08), owner, Strong Badger Coffeehouse

When asked what inspired him to open his own small coffee shop, Brock's first response was "madness." After some unfulfilling post-secondary experiences, Brock found himself in a bit of a crisis – what to do with his life? More schooling didn't seem to be the answer. He was looking for a "personal project" – something he could throw himself into and really feel good about.

The building on Sargent Avenue, a bit of a project in itself, required four months of hard work to mould into a coffee shop. But, after catching himself complaining about his favourite coffee shop and everything wrong with it, Brock felt compelled to create a space he felt comfortable in.



Me: So why the West End?

Brock: I felt like I wanted to open up here, because I wanted to live in this area. It's an area of the city with a stereotypically poor reputation, but an area that one might describe as "developing" or on the rise.

Me: So, you've celebrated your one year anniversary. What's next?

Brock: I'm trying to create a sustainable plan for the future. The first year was all about working long hours and putting in the "heavy lifting" necessary to establish a business in the community. I've already

hired my first employee to help give me some time to re-energize and learn more about running my own small business.

Me: One last question – Strong Badger? Where did the name come from?

Brock: "Strong Badger" is what my parents always told me the name "Brock" meant. It's actually a combination of two different roots of "Brock" – one old Irish-Gaelic, where a Brock is a badger, and the other Celtic in origin. It's a deeply personal name, therefore, but not necessarily apparently so. Plus it comes with a pretty cool mascot ●

FARM ALT ED

This year, for Alternative Education Week, five high school students went to spend some time in Neuberghthal, Manitoba. In this traditional Mennonite street village, replete with house-barns, they got their hands dirty and learned about Mennonite history and farming.

We spent time working at Cedar Lane Farm, a small-scale organic farm, where Terry and Monique Mierau have pigs, chickens, cows, and pasture land. We were there to learn by doing, and so we did! We cleaned barn lofts, pitched straw, mucked out stalls, picked potato bugs, learned that backing up with a trailer is hard, dug post holes, tried milking a (very patient) cow, and soaked up the village atmosphere while being hosted by The

Morning Dove bed-and-breakfast (we recommend it!).

Besides hands-on physical learning, we were given many things to think about as well. Terry explained to us why he farmed the way he did; the principles, both ecological and ethical, behind his thinking and his methods. Shawn Friesen toured us around the village and the Mennonite Museum run by the Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation, and brought its history to life by telling stories about the village and the people who lived there. Kenton Lobe ('88) also came out to work with us, and to talk about how he came to be a part of the village, and how his understanding of farming, faith and community shaped how he wanted to use his land.

Through it all, the themes of community, responsibility, stewardship and faith came through, and we came to understand food production and the issues behind it in a different way than we understand it as consumers. We thank Terry and Monique, Shawn, and Kenton for being our guides through this experience. ●



Student News



Varsity Girls Volleyball – AAA Provincial Silver Medallists



GRAYSON SCHOOLS ('20) received the West St. Paul Youth Volunteer of the Year award. Apart from some general clean-up around the Sunova Centre, Grayson was a kid favourite at the Centre's Day Camp.

Westgate has had a chess club in the past. That was a long time ago. Later, it turned into a games club, then into a lunch club in which the games just sat there, aptly named the "Hunger Games" club. However, things may be changing as **MATHIS PENNER ('17)**, as a grade 12 student, proved himself to be a chess master in 2017. At chess tournaments, he

vanquished his competition. When we travelled with him, no one wanted to play with him. When we sat in school with him, other students were afraid to even talk about chess. Mathis's crowning achievement was to finish as the provincial chess champion in grade 12, carrying the Manitoba flag in the victors' parade. We may have to ask Mathis to return to school this year. Maybe we can reverse the order of our games club history and enter into a new era of chess dominance. Or maybe we can just commend Mathis on a job well done. *Submitted by James Friesen*

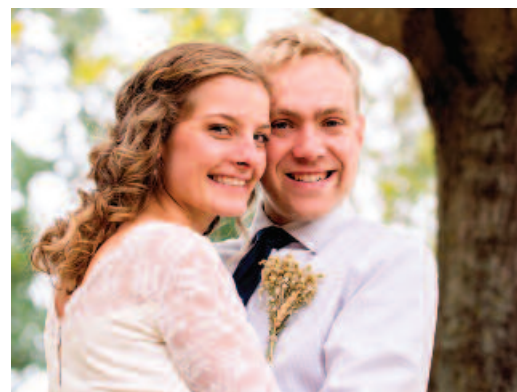


Alumni News

LUKE NICKEL ('06) just finished his PhD this spring at Bath Spa University (UK) in music composition. He was commissioned to compose a piece for Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in April, an event that drew a packed house at Westminster Church. He continues to be an artistic director of Cluster: New Music and Integrated Arts Festival each winter here in Winnipeg. When he attended Westgate one of his compositions was played by the senior band. For more details, visit his webpage: www.lukenickel.com.



Coralynn Eloise Muns was born June 18, 2017 to **HANNAH (HILDEBRAND '07)** and Paul Muns. Coralynn is a granddaughter to **RICK HILDEBRAND ('79)**.



Congratulations to **JONAH LANGEOLTZ ('10)** and Raven Nickel who were married in Altona, Manitoba, at Seeds church on September 30, 2017.

More Alumni News



"If your dream ain't bigger than you, there's a problem with your dream." *Deion Sanders.* **JULES MARTENS ('90)** may stand over 6'6" tall, but his dream was bigger! He was a superstar in all sports at a young age. From grade 7 to 12 at Westgate, Jules brought his talents to volleyball, track, cross country, basketball and soccer. After his graduation, Jules was recruited by the University of Manitoba, followed by participation with Team Canada and playing professionally overseas. In June 2017, Jules was inducted into the Manitoba Volleyball Hall of Fame. Congratulations! What should be added to that list of accomplishments is as of September 2017, Jules Martens is a Westgate dad. His son, Dylan, is a grade 7 student. We can't wait to see the next generation thriving in our hallways and continuing to dream BIG!

Congratulations to our 2017 Canada Games athletes: **CAROLYN CURRIE ('19)** – synchronized swimming, **CHLOE PENNER ('18)** – cycling, **KEARA ANDREW ('17)** – track and field.



THOMAS FRIESEN ('12) worked at the Canada Games as Sport and Venues Coordinator. He looked after indoor volleyball, basketball, golf, triathlon. Thomas also wrote the announcer scripts, put the music

together, and trained the announcers. Thomas lists this experience as one of the highlights of his sports life. He had the opportunity to work with (and under) another alum and Sport Manitoba organizer, **GREG GUENTHER ('81).**



HEIDI KOOP ('04) will be celebrating her wedding to Ross Brownlee on December 31, 2017.



MARTIN BSHOUTY ('11) and Annika Wiebe were married in Israel on May 16, 2017. Martin works in the tech industry and Annika is a massage therapist.



CHLOE BISHOP ('08) and husband Nathan Dueck are pleased to announce the arrival of Mabel Bishop Dueck, born August 31, 5 lbs. 9oz., 17 in. Yes, she came a bit early!



ZACHARY ('05) and **JULIE (DANIELS '05) PETERS** are proud to announce the arrival of Otto Herbert Henry Peters, born on November 24, 2017.



86 West Gate
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2E1
Phone (204) 775-7111
Fax (204) 786-1651
Email westgate@westgatemennonite.ca
www.westgatemennonite.ca