

A WESTGATE PERSPECTIVE

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CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Perhaps it was the grueling hike to the Mantario cabin in Grade 11 that inspired him to do more, but regardless, Westgate will take all the credit in inspiring Liam Guenther ('16) to take on a major expedition this past year.

After a year of university, Liam was feeling a bit bored. The idea of a mountain climb sounded intriguing, but which mountain? Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) didn't sound challenging enough and Mt. Everest (part of the Himalayas) was a little too extreme.

Then he read about Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina and that sealed it. He did his research, called a guiding company and in January 2018 flew to Mendoza, Argentina, to start his adventure. He spent 20 days there, most of the time acclimatizing to the elevation and slowly making his way to the summit. Of the 12 people in his group, Liam was one of only four to reach the summit. This reflects the statistics that only 33 per cent of climbers actually reach the summit of this climb.

In his research, Liam discovered that if successful, he would become the youngest Canadian to ever summit this mountain – not bad for a rookie! Liam almost didn't make it on the climb, having sprained his ankle "training" (skiing with his dad) in Banff in December. But, being so young and fit, he was able to recover quickly and get to Mendoza healthy and ready to climb.

Will this be his last climb? Definitely not, but Liam will need to earn some more money before setting out on his next trip. He is working hard fighting forest fires in northern Manitoba this summer with friend and classmate Zach Martens. ●





MUSIC TOUR TO SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA, APRIL 7-16

This year's Westgate Music Tour took students west, with the Rocky Mountain Music Festival in Banff as the final destination. Along the way, students had the opportunity to connect with our sister school, Rosthern Junior College, and make music together. Choir and band also served in two worship services, at Nutana Park Mennonite Church (Saskatoon) and at Foothills Mennonite in Calgary.

Elementary school concerts are always a highlight because of the honest and energetic response from the students. Meadowlark Elementary School in Edmonton afforded students a beautiful experience, hopefully motivating the young students to start/keep up their own music lessons. Westgate couldn't stop in Edmonton without visiting the water slides at the West Edmonton Mall.

Banff itself is a world class destination, so hiking Sulphur Mountain and visiting the hot springs were reason enough to travel. But the Rocky Mountain Music Festival offered workshops, performances and excellent adjudication for our students. A highlight for all was a concert by the world-renowned Count Basie Orchestra – truly a fantastic tour! ●



Definitely Not The Tour



Definitely Not the Tour offers non-music students some unique choices for extra educational opportunity. The *Schwienschlacht* option has been offered seven times and experienced by an estimated 60 students. It provides students a hands-on connection to traditions of our past and knowledge of food processing. The hog is skinned, gutted, divided into cuts or ground and stuffed into delicious sausage. The day is broken up with a traditional Russian Mennonite meal, usually featuring soup and *Rollkuchen*. Hard work and good times for all. ●

Photo at left: Emma Bergen, O'Danis Fast, and Brandon Toews skinning the hog.



Hunter Quiring, Alanna Thibideau, Barrette Runke, and Zoë Dyck making sausage.



Doug Durksen, Seth Dyck, Luca Sciarretta, Scott Niessen, Patrick James, Lucas Kornelson, Hunter Quiring, Barrette Runke, and Zoë Dyck.



On March 15, 2017, D5 Holdings opened up a Pita Pit at 2360 Main Street. The Douglas family – Randy and Sandy, Nathan ('10), Adrienne, husband Thomas ('08) and Carson ('13) are D5 Holdings. Nathan is extremely excited about healthy eating and had been eating at Pita Pit through his travels. He suggested the family research a Pita Pit franchise and before they could say "Pita Pit", D5 Holdings bought a franchise. Building the store, learning the fresh food industry through training at the head office was a challenge – and embrace the challenge they did. Adrienne and Carson co-manage the store, which celebrated a one year anniversary in March 2018. Pita Pit North Main caters events, birthdays, office luncheons, staff parties and much more.

The Scirocco Manitoba High School Playwriting Contest finalists

Aurora Wiebe and Feruz Habteselassi have made the top five in the province for their one-act plays, written in ELA 30S first semester. The plays were performed at the Tom Hendry MTC Warehouse Theatre on June 7th and 8th, where Aurora Wiebe was declared the winner! She received the Cora Mackenzie Award, and both she and Feruz were awarded a cash prize. Past Westgate winners include Richelle Burchill and Katy Ens. ●



Private music students at Westgate had the pleasure of performing their year-end recital in our new atrium on May 17th.



ULTIMATE Congratulations to all six Westgate teams (three Middle School and three High School teams) who competed in the Provincials championships on May 26/27. Special recognition goes to our Westgate Middle School Blue team, with a 3rd place finish in Tier 1 and our Middle School White team winning the Spirit Award. Our High School A team battled hard and finished 4th out of 36 teams. Thanks to all our coaches for a great season!

Food Research

University of Winnipeg professor Janis Thiessen ('89) (and former Westgate teacher) is following up her book about Manitoba snack food with another adventurous undertaking. She will be spending the next four summers touring Manitoba to find out about Manitobans' favourite recipes. They won't necessarily be the tastiest ones, but the recipes that are the most memorable will be highlighted. People will be invited into the food truck, prepare their recipe and share the story behind it. Janis hopes to share the stories via a podcast and compile this rich Manitoba food history with a broader audience. ●



Janis Thiessen (left) and Sarah Story with their travelling food truck.

MANITOBA GERMAN LANGUAGE CONTEST 2018



L to R, front row: Aliya Penner (2nd Place Jr. C), Ella Rempel (3rd Place Jr. C), Sara Klassen (3rd Place Inter. C). Back row: Henry Ens (2nd Place Sr. C), Alex Martin (1st Place Sr. C), Rachel Siemens (1st Place Inter. C), Frau Kroeker. (photo credit: Stan Kroeker)

Congratulations to the 30 Westgate students who were selected as finalists to attend the Manitoba German Language Contest final round of interviews at Chief Peguis Junior High on Feb. 26th! Six students placed in the top three of their category. All winners of the final round

received a monetary award, with the exception of Henry Ens, who has been selected to travel to Germany on a study trip sponsored by the Government of Germany (PAD) in August 2018. Many thanks to organizers (Chair – Heidi Koop) and the many donors. ●



Jutta Essig has been appointed Honorary Consul of Germany in Winnipeg, where the office reopened at the end of January 2018. Jutta's son, Luca, is now in Grade 10 and has attended Westgate since Grade 7.



NEPAL COPYCATS

In 1989, two intrepid explorers set out to Nepal to hike the Annapurna circuit. On a budget of five dollars a day, James Friesen, (at right) current Westgate Vice Principal, and Dave Epp, former Westgate board chair, hiked up through mountainous villages, trudging all the way up and over the Thorong Pass at 5500 m above sea level. It was a journey that both continue to remember, a journey that cemented their friendship, and a journey that ranks as one of their strongest accomplishments.

Recently, their sons, Alex Friesen ('14) (at right in both photos below) and Nick Epp ('13), both Westgate grads, set out to walk in their fathers' footsteps. With a budget that was surely a little bit higher, the two young adventurers trekked the same mountain path, a mountain path that took them far beyond their comfortable world, even out of cell and wifi communication. Not unlike their fathers' experience, Alex and Nick found their journey to be a challenging time in their lives and one that they will continue to remember. ●



The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Association held its scholarship competition in January 2018. Out of 10 winners, four were current Westgate students and one a former student.



Pictured here are William Harder, EmilyAnn Dueck and Grace Lu.

INSTRUMENTAL

Junior – Mason Dueck

Intermediate – William Harder

Senior – EmilyAnn Dueck

PIANO

Senior – Grace Gabrielle Lu

VOCAL

Advanced –

Christina Thanisch-Smith ('15)

RECENT BAPTISMS

Westgate celebrates the recent baptisms of our students/alumni. If you know of others recently, please share with the school:

Hannah Enns ('15) – Meeting Place, 2017

Shevonne Ross ('15) – Sterling Mennonite, May 28, 2017

Natasha Neustaedter Barg ('16), **Jaymi Fast** ('17)

Michael Rempel Boschman ('16) – Douglas Mennonite, 2017

Hannah Guenther-Wexler ('17)

Anya Snider ('13) – Charleswood Mennonite, 2017

Lukas Neustaedter ('17)

Maddy Loewen ('14) – Douglas Mennonite, May 27, 2018

Student News

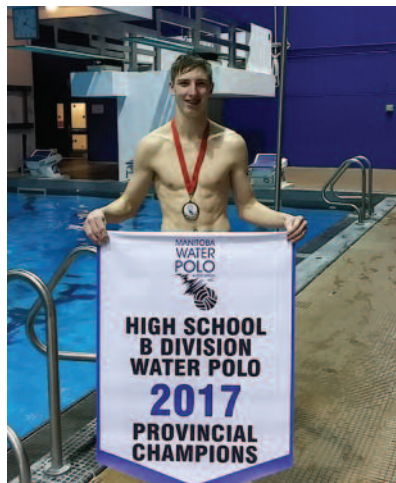


Westgate's own **SASHA MOROZ ('18)** captured the 100th Winnipeg Music Festival prestigious Aikins Memorial Trophy. The 18-year-old son of two prominent local musicians – Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Gwen Hoebig, and pianist and University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music professor David Moroz – took home the festival's top instrumental prize in a field of 16 competitors. His win comes one year after his 15-year-old sister Juliana won the same prize and it's the first time in the trophy's 88-year history that two siblings have won in back-to-back festivals. Sasha also received the Victor Feldbrill Trophy, named after the former WSO conductor, that goes to the most outstanding solo string performance, as well as an Emmanuel Horch Memorial Bursary. His sister Juliana took home a second Horch Bursary this weekend, for outstanding performance of a string concerto.



YASMIN BANARES ('18) was asked to play on Kelvin High School's Ultimate team in BC (May 6-7) where they won the High School National Championships. Yasmin was MVP of the tournament. Congratulations on this accomplishment and on her selection to Team Canada's U19 Ultimate team.

DYLAN PETERS ('18) won a Provincial Water Polo championship this fall. With no team of our own, Dylan competed with J. H. Bruns. Congratulations.



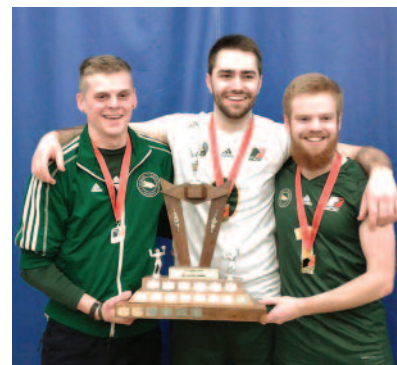
LOGAN SAWATZKY ('20) began volunteering at Rady JCC in 2016, after the opportunity was posted at Westgate as a way of gaining required volunteer hours in Grade 9. He dedicated himself to spending every Sunday afternoon from 2-5 p.m. playing, swimming and gaining trust of the children with special needs. This is valuable time to the parents of these children as this is often the only time they are given respite during the week. Logan continued volunteering past the required hours. On Tuesday, Dec. 12th, 2017, Logan was presented with the Ken H. Kronson Kehilla award, by the Executive Director of the Rady JCC. The award is in tribute to Ken Kronson who gave so much of his time, talent and enthusiasm to the Rady Center. The winners of these awards symbolize the values of the Rady JCC and the impact they aim to make together in the community.



Alumni News



The Plett Foundation is very pleased to announce **DR. AILEEN FRIESEN'S ('98)** appointment as Mennonite historian at the University of Winnipeg and Executive Director of the D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation Inc. As such, she will also serve as co-director of the new Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies at the university, and work closely with the Mennonite Heritage Archives. Dr. Friesen will focus her teaching on Mennonite and European history at the University of Winnipeg, and work closely with the Chair in Mennonite Studies. At the Plett Foundation she will edit the Preservings magazine, promote the "Mennonite History for Young People" series, and oversee the Plett Fellowships and other research linked to the Plett Foundation mandate. Aileen, who currently lives in Kitchener with her husband Bruce and son Alex, is planning to relocate to Winnipeg. She will begin her position on July 1.



OWEN BAERG ('13), JASON FRIESEN ('13) and THOMAS FRIESEN ('12) celebrated their final year of CMU volleyball with a MCAC championship trophy. Congratulations to all on a fine athletic career at CMU.

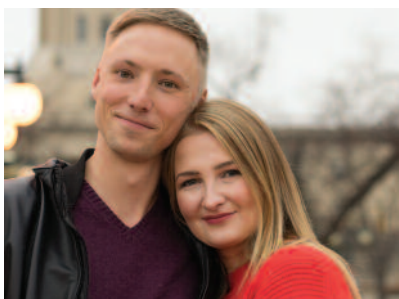
More Alumni News



JACOB MILLER ('10) and **REBEKAH KOOP ('10)** were married on June 2. Jacob and brother **NICK ('07)** are also both graduating from the U of Manitoba School of Medicine. Congratulations!



OLIVIA WIEBE ('13) and **OWEN BAERG ('13)** will be married on July 7, 2018.



The wedding date of **LUCAS BAIRD ('06)** and Olya Rakevich is August 10, 2018.



GABRIELLE WIEBE ('08) and Stephen Bishop are planning an August 11, 2018 wedding.



MADDY LOEWEN ('14) is pleased to announce her upcoming wedding to Dexter Rempel on September 8, 2018.

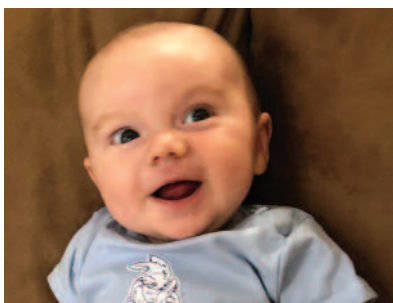
Congratulations to the following alumni on these additions to their families.



CLAIRE FAST ('04) and Kyle Martin – William, February 4, 2017.



Leigh and **STEPHEN ENS ('99)** – baby girl Sydney, January 22, 2018.



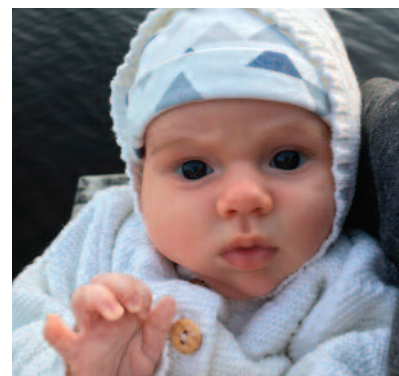
Adrienne and **THOMAS DOUGLAS ('08)** – Nolan, February 17, 2018.

JESSICA (GAMBLE '06) and Dave Condo – Benjamin, March 29, 2018.

CARA KASDORF ('99) and Dave Watson – Ashley Robert Brian, March 31, 2018.



NAOMI (LANGELOTZ '09) and **NICK ('06) EWERT** – Winifred Ruth, April 4, 2018.



NOELLE (KOOP '06) and **RANDY ENNS ('06)** – Anya, April 8, 2018.

LISA HARMS ('99) and Dylan Hewlett – Finley Kaethe Harms Hewlett, May 13, 2018 (Mother's Day!).



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