



## Because it's there

It may be a cliché answer mountain climbers give when asked, “why climb?” And it’s not really the reason Alex Martin had for travelling around Lake Winnipeg this past summer. But location certainly plays a part. Having grown up around the lake, learning to paddle and enjoy the recreational opportunities offered, Alex became concerned when he was made aware of the health of Manitoba’s freshwater treasure. Threatened by zebra mussels, algae blooms and more, Lake Winnipeg needed help.

So Alex decided he would combine his love of kayaking and his concern about the lake he loves in order to raise awareness about these issues. His plan was to take approximately two months to circumnavigate the lake. In the end, thanks to great weather and strong

paddling, it took less time than expected (just over a month). After the boat traffic of the south basin, Alex was happy to get to the Pine Dock area and enjoy the remoteness and serenity of Lake Winnipeg’s north basin. Unexpected hospitality and welcomes were common. A highlight was taking part in Treaty Days celebrations in Pine Dock.

His return to Grand Beach on the third of August was both exciting and anti-climactic. What now? Alex has continued to talk about his trip, sharing his concerns about the health of the lake. In the meantime, he has been working as an arborist and trying to earn enough money for an extended trip to Asia in the New Year. Upon reflection, a more accurate response to the “why paddle” question might be “Because I care.”



# Sports News

**CROSS COUNTRY** Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail...because we ran in all of that this season (well, not hail). Westgate's Cross-Country teams had one of the coldest training seasons in recent memory, and were rewarded with running the SCAC Zone Finals race in blizzard-like conditions. The JV Girls started running in sleet, and by the time the Varsity Boys ran, we had transitioned to large fluffy snowflakes and a couple of inches of snow on the ground. Because Cross-Country is 90% physical and 90% mental (we always give 180%), we persevered – and made it to Provincials, held at Roseisle. It was a tough

course, but a beautiful day – in terms of weather, and in terms of our results. The JV Boys took gold, the Varsity Boys won silver, and the JV Girls won bronze. One of each! It sounds nice, and it was nice. Thanks to all our runners, who may or may not have caught their breath by now.



**THANKS TO BEN MILLER ('14)** for leading a summer basketball camp for our grade 6-8 students this past summer. Ben is in his last year at Acadia University, leading his basketball team as point guard.

**JOE MCCALLUM ('19)** was recognized at the 2018 Canadian Ultimate Championships in Brampton, ON as an All Star in the Junior Open Division. Joe was awarded for his leadership and skills as handler for his team. When asked what the Spirit of the Game means to him, Joe replied: "It means playing hard and playing with intensity. But, it also means not allowing the score to dictate the kind of attitude that you play with or the respect you show to other players."







## VOLLEYBALL

TOP: JV Girls and Boys from Provincials:  
JV Boys – Gold Medal; JV Girls – 4<sup>th</sup> Place

MIDDLE LEFT: Grade 8 Girls MCSAA Tier 2  
Champions

MIDDLE RIGHT: Grade 8 Boys MCSAA Tier 1  
Champions Tier 1

BOTTOM: Grade 9 Boys Champions

**THANK YOU** to all our coaches for their hard  
work and dedication throughout the season.



## Awards



**BOB HUMMELT** was nominated and unanimously voted to receive the award for Outstanding Administrator from the Manitoba Band Association from a large panel of MBA Board members. He was honoured at the Annual General Meeting held on October 19 at SAGE. Bob and wife Cathy both attended the luncheon where his massive support of the arts, and all the school, were lauded in a speech. Given that Bob himself had a limited experience with music education as a student, his unending support of the programs are all the more impressive!



**SARA KLASSEN** ('21) received the Medal for Excellence from Conservatory Canada for the highest mark in Manitoba on her Grade 7 practical piano exam in 2018 as well as the Medal for Excellence for receiving the highest mark in Manitoba for her Level 4 Theory written exam. She had the honour of having respected Canadian composer Chris Norton (in the picture) present her medals. We, of course, are very proud of her achievements, and are thankful for her terrific teachers (Madeline Hildebrand, piano; Nicole Froese, theory) and for the fabulous music community and teachers at Westgate that help instill the love of music and opportunities to grow and perform!



**ANYA REPKO** ('20) competed at the recent Comic Con convention and, with two other competitors, won Best in Show. All winners received \$500, a plaque and a table to sell their wares at next year's event. Anya (on the right) designed and built her entire costume herself.

## Peace Pole



In June, Westgate's junior and senior councils got together to plant a peace pole in front of our school. This was not done without quite a bit of thought. As a Mennonite school, we thought that this peace pole would stand as our flag pole, that our allegiance is to something higher than simply our nationality, but that we will stand with people all over the world who have pledged to live lives of peace and work nonviolently towards justice. The languages represented on our peace pole could not be all-encompassing but we chose eight languages that connect to our school community, the land that our school rests on, and our constituency churches: English, Cree, French, German, Spanish, Korean, Arabic, and Hebrew.

## Building Bridges 2018

This September, Westgate once again hosted students from the Mar Elias School in northern Israel. It is the fourth time Westgate has participated in this project and it was once again a rich experience for our community. Eleven Palestinian Muslim and Christian students joined our school and also connected with Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Ontario. These students enjoyed everything from a visit to Niagara Falls to a tranquil time at a cottage in the Whiteshell. In March of 2019, twenty eight Westgate students will be hosted by the Palestinian students and the exchange will come full circle. We have been blessed with this connection with Mar Elias school, a school which is working hard to stand against the divisions in our world by being one of the only schools in Israel with Muslim, Christian, and Jewish teachers.





# Reunions

1968



1978



2008



# New Staff

**PAUL DYCK** ('11) is launching his teaching career at Westgate by leading our Grade 6 class through the rigours of mathematics and through the verb conjugations of the French language. Paul's athletic, musical and wilderness experience will be an asset to the school's diverse co-curricular programs.



**ALEXIS DIRKS** ('00) joins the office staff as Community Relations Coordinator. She earned her Masters at Glasgow School of Fine Arts and has held successful shows of her work from Europe to the Exchange District. Alexis will bring a unique eye to our print and digital communication presence and will assist committees in many events our school hosts.





# Alumni News



**ANDREAS RUTKAUSKAS** ('98) is a professional artist, working primarily in photography. He has lived all across Canada, and exhibits his work in galleries and museums both in Canada and Internationally. He began his artistic education at the University of Manitoba's School of Art, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art. From there, Andreas moved to Montreal and received a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Concordia in 2007. He has worked

at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, the Alberta College of Art + Design, and is currently a lecturer at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna. When not attending to his teaching duties, Andreas focuses on his own art practice and also takes advantage of life in the mountains where he rock climbs, mountain bikes, and skis. Andreas has received a number of prestigious awards and grants for his projects over the years, and his work can be viewed online at: [www.andreasrutkauskas.com](http://www.andreasrutkauskas.com)

## CAMP WORKERS FROM WESTGATE

Many of our Westgate Alumni were involved in leadership positions at our Camps with Meaning this summer:

- Nadya Langelotz ('15) and Jonathan Froese ('15) – Summer Program Directors (SPD) at Camp Assiniboia
- Jon Pankratz ('15) – SPD at Camp Koinonia
- Lara Penner-Goeke ('15) – Servant Leader in Training Director
- Janet (Durksen '92) Peters – Associate Program Director
- Kate Berg ('15) – Day Camp Director



# In Memorium



**THOMAS EPP** ('04) died unexpectedly on June 22, 2018. Thomas was a loving, kind, passionate, generous and loyal man who was committed to his family, friends and faith. He was intelligent, charismatic, adventurous and quick-witted. He loved working with children, and looked forward to becoming an early years teacher. Thomas was an energetic force in many people's lives, and he was always the life of the party.

His years at Westgate were important to him, and he maintained strong friendships with many of his classmates and teachers in the 14 years between his graduation and death. We miss him dearly.

– Aaron Epp ('02)



**RICHELLE BURCHILL** ('14) arrived at Westgate in September 2010, age 14, with her long curly brown hair, not sure exactly what to expect and unknown to anyone. Averted eyes and shy smiles lasted only days before the question, do you want to walk home with us? The following four years were a blur of laughter, tears, yelling in the night to singing for the sunrise. She was a friend to everyone she met. She was always starting something, a project, a conversation, an adventure. Anyone in close proximity to her was sure to feel

included in a great scheme, and always she was laughing, a laugh that couldn't be held back. She created beautiful things and curated her life like a gallery. When moments play over my mind or I try to think of the words, I can only hear her laughing.

– Emma Berg ('14)

**ARISTA RYBACK** ('10) and her teaching partner Dave Day received the 2017-2018 PHE Manitoba Innovators Award recognizing their exemplary work in physical health and education in Manitoba, as presented by the Physical & Health Educators (PHE) of Manitoba on October 19, 2018.

The award is for the creation of a new 11/12 Phys Ed model that is choice based over a full year, with the kids picking the times they want to attend. The objective is to instill active living as a way of life, rather than a credit to complete and check off the list. They are also helping the kids to build time management skills and how to incorporate activity into their day based on their schedule. Arista is a teacher at Nelson McIntyre Collegiate in the Phys Ed department.



**JILLIAN (ENNS) RENAUD** ('07) Since graduating I attained my Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's of Physical Therapy degree. I married my husband in 2014 and began my career as a physiotherapist around that same time. I've been working at Health Sciences Centre in acute care and work on people after accidents, falls, general surgeries, etc and rehabilitate them as inpatients. We had a daughter, Scarlett, in April 2016 and just had a son, Wellington, at the end of October of this year. So I'm currently on maternity leave for the year. We live out in the country in La Salle and love it. We have two furry friends – Jake and Zeus. We love taking them for family walks, especially on the La Salle river in the winter! We often travel to the lake in the summer and Phoenix in the winters. Life is good!



**THANK YOU TO JULIE FAST** – A Westgate Perspective Vol. 1 No. 1 hit the school's front desk in December 1992, if memory serves me well. (That means I've been cranking out Perspectives for over a third of my life!!!) It came about through the vision and efforts of Helene Riesen, former Westgate teacher and vice principal. It was printed in one colour: Westgate blue. Ms. Riesen had the amount of copy and number of photos that would fit in eight pages down to a science. Those who know her will not be surprised. We began printing the Perspective in full colour in the early 2000s once digital colour printing became affordable. The design underwent a few renovations from time to time but it remains the basic eight pages of student and alumni news. The Perspective was the first

project I produced for Westgate. I had just started as a freelance graphic designer and was grateful for the foot in the door. One project led to another and I sort of became Westgate's go-to graphics person. It's been a whole lotta years since 1992 and I've worked with a whole lotta people at Westgate, all of whom were interesting in different ways but always good to work with. Now that I am "sliding toward retirement and irrelevance," I plan to do the predictable things like more travel, more dinner parties, spoiling the grandchild(ren), reading in bed with coffee all morning, and pursuing a childhood dream of being a starving artist. – Julie Fast



**HEINZ KAMPEN MEMORIAL TREE**

On Friday, June 8th family, friends and classmates of Heinz Kampen ('63) gathered to honour his memory by planting a tree in the yard at 86 West Gate. Heinz left this world too early after succumbing to a cancer diagnosis. He enjoyed his time at Westgate immensely and former classmates and teachers spoke of him fondly. Therefore, it was suggested to honour Heinz in this way. After a short tree planting ceremony and time for sharing, guests gathered inside to tour the school. The evening ended with a meal at a local restaurant. Thanks to Vic Kliewer and Mary Funk for their leadership and planning of this event.





# Alumni News

## BIRTHS



**ALEX SCAROLA** ('07) and Micheal Santos – Alice Nessa, January 17, 2018



**JULIE KASDORF** ('05) and Ryan Klassen – James Peter, September 17, 2018



**ERYNN (WIEBE) UNRAU** ('04) and Dustin Unrau – Eli Frederick, July 25, 2018



**LINDSEY PANKRATZ** ('13) and Charlie Perera on November 3, 2018. Lindsey is currently finishing an Arts degree at University of Winnipeg and Charlie is Operations/Key Account Manager at Future Transfer.



**JORDAN FAST** ('00) and Amanda Perry – Jack Jordan, June 20, 2018



**ALEXANDRA SCAROLA** ('07) and Michael Santos – Alice Nessa, January 17, 2018



**KEVIN KAMPEN** ('06) and Erika Kampen – Willow May, May 26 2018



**TOBIAN PENNER** ('13) and Breanna Barker at Bethel Mennonite August 11, 2018. They are currently attending Springfield Heights Mennonite Church. Breanna sings in Prairie Voices and they met through a mutual friend, Marcus Dyck.



**JILLIAN (ENNS) RENAUD** ('07) and Mike – Wellington, October 26, 2018



**MCKENZIE HILL** ('06) and Jeff Kearns – Beckett Smith, May 18, 2018

## WEDDINGS



**AARON EPP** ('02) and Mandy Elliott on August 31



**VANESSA SCAROLA** ('04) and Daniel Akerstream on September 29, 2018



**ALANA (FAST)** ('02) and Joel Prejet – Betty, January 12, 2018. Betty is the little sister to Charlie (4) and Hank (2)



**MELISSA (FAST) ATTAWAY** ('98) and Blake Attaway – Hudson, September. Pictured here with siblings Eliot (7), Grayson (5), and Lennon (2).



**JAMI KRAHN** ('08) and Shawn Boyd on August 31, 2018