

A WESTGATE Retrospective



MEMORIAL
WESTgate
COLLEGIATE

2010-2011



Students (now alumni) Tatiana Janovcik ('10), Paige Derksen ('10) and Branden Toews ('10) enjoy an ice cream break on the cobblestone streets of Bacharach, Germany, on a Westgate Study Tour. Photo by Charlotte Kroeker

Retrospective

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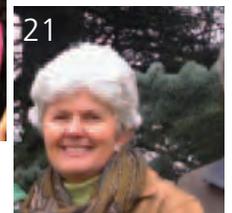
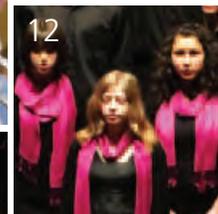


Retrospective

is published annually by
Westgate Mennonite Collegiate
www.westgatemennonite.ca

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“... *deep roots,
a solid base* ...”

Like all schools, we graduate students whom we will miss, but we know it is time for them to move on to another place in their lives. The graduates' departure makes room for new Grade 7 students who, with God's blessing, are eager to put down new roots, to be nurtured and to grow.

I do not consider myself a “tree whisperer,” if such a thing exists. However, the arbor image fits with the school and fits with the intent of this journal. *Retrospective* hopes to engage

alumni, parents of alumni, and deeply rooted stakeholders whom this institution has always relied on to nurture our future as an independent Christian Anabaptist school. This support has come in the form of prayer, volunteer time and financial gifts, all integral to ensure that the values the school was founded on over 50 years ago will be passed to future generations of Westgate students. The Westgate building projects of two and three decades ago are evidence of the vision our extended school community committed themselves to. Those projects succeeded due in large measure to the support from stakeholders who did not have children attending Westgate. In a way, they modeled Elton Trueblood's observation, “A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.” We are in the first year of the Capital Campaign as recommended by our Strategic Plan Report, and I invite you to enjoy this inaugural edition of *Retrospective*. I hope you will hear the rustling of the leaves above as Westgate invites you to participate in cultivating our grove. I heartily invite your excitement as we work towards planting a new grove together in the years to come.

BOB HUMMELT

PRINCIPAL, WESTGATE MENNONITE COLLEGIATE

I found myself on one of the benches in front of Westgate on a warm and windy Sunday evening in August 2007. It was cruise night, and it had become habit to drop by the school yard when I had the Datsun 280Z out for a ride. I began teaching at Westgate in 1982, had just spent two years as principal at Lac du Bonnet Senior School, and was about to resume my Westgate adventure. Although it was a difficult decision to leave that rural setting, it felt good to be back.

It was a surreal evening as I sat back to soak in this new yet familiar direction in my life, and I found myself fixated on the swaying boughs of the regal trees above me. The limbs were moving to and fro, offering a rustling soundtrack to that pleasant evening.

The mature trees that grace the Westgate property in some ways characterize our school; deep roots, a solid base at the trunk, limbs pliable enough to accommodate shifting winds without breaking yet sturdy enough to offer shelter and shade. These trees in time will reach the end of their life cycle, and I have indeed witnessed a couple of them coming down in my nearly 30 years associated with the school. We usually plant young basswoods to replace them, and these indigenous trees do well here.

Why Westgate?

Ask a Westgate student a series of questions, and once they have determined that you do not want to include them as a Facebook friend, they are inclined to give you the straight goods. It is fitting for the inaugural issue of *Retrospective* to record the varied responses a sample of our students offered when asked about their school, and it is good to know that their reflections affirm Westgate's core *raison d'être*.



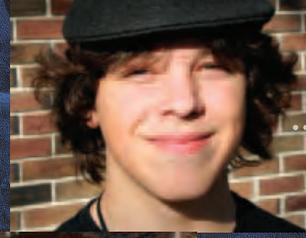
► **Nathalie Daudet** came to Westgate for reasons of convenience. The Grade 11 student lives one block from the school and has enjoyed daily commutes beneath the canopy of elms since her Grade 7 year. She was attracted to the school's "no cut" junior athletics program and the school's music making reputation. However, it is exposure to "what's outside the classroom" at Westgate that is equally as significant. Through her Westgate education, she has been opened to the world around her, where ideas and conversation include concerns for those who are "pushed to the edges of society" along with concerns for the human costs of "profit over people." While not considering herself Mennonite, Nathalie feels that what Jesus "means" indeed resonates with her.



► **Emma Ens-Maclver**, also a Grade 11 student, lives a few doors from Nathalie, and has shared many Westgate experiences with her—a cozy quinzee, the same tough portages, the *Glee* infused music tour bus ride to Chicago and Montreal. However, Emma's choice to attend Westgate was directly influenced by her parents. They hoped that Emma would excel in the music and the sound educational programs, but they were also interested in Emma connecting her faith not only with her Mennonite church, but with her school as well. Emma points to her Christian Studies classes and chapels as influential in her faith walk, but she finds that she is most impacted by staff-led devotions. "When a teacher shares something that they are personally thinking about, then I find myself thinking about it, too."



► **Alec Taylor's** mom, an alumnus, wanted a school committed to Anabaptist values for her children. Alec, a pivotal member of the Senior Jazz Band, agrees that he has become more interested in issues via Christian Studies classes. With a wry grin, he shares that courses are "a little tougher" now, though he feels this will make him better prepared upon graduation.



► **Zach Dueck's** parents sent him to check out the school but he took the lead himself to attend Westgate. He was drawn to the comfortable size of his class, and he agreed that he needed to be where, in his own words, a "work ethic" is being cultivated. In his mind, faith discussion has no more weight than other topics; talking about faith is informal and not considered out of place beyond the classroom.



► **Ben Ryan** shows up for his Grade 11 classes a touch late every morning, his hair still wet from his early morning swim practice. As a member of the Manitoba Triathlon Team, Ben appreciates the flexibility the school offers him, and his teachers are committed to work with his schedule. He points to the two Provincial Cross Country silver medals and, most recently, the gold medal the Westgate Boys' team won, as school highlights. Ben is eager to pull in one last gold in his graduation year next fall. Ben concurs that faith is nurtured in the school, and this is fostered in the company of "tons of great kids."

With 325 other students in the school, there would likely be 325 somewhat varied responses to the same questions. Yet the small sample interviewed suggests that there is something in this school for each student, and it is clear that what they all express appreciation for is in line with the mission of the school: to provide a well-rounded education, which will inspire and empower students to live as people of God. ■



“... I get to do all the things I love to do.”

He'd be first to admit that no one at Westgate pegged him for a career in the church, but for Ted Enns-Dyck, there's no other place he'd rather be.

"I love to be a part of leading people, helping people trying to go someplace," explains Enns-Dyck, 42, of his 18 years in team ministry with his wife Darlene.

The native of St. Vital and 1986 Westgate grad took a slightly circuitous path toward the pulpit, attending the University of Manitoba for a year, and then following his friends to Canadian Mennonite Bible College, now Canadian Mennonite University, where he became intrigued by the study and practice of theology.

"Out of that came the recognition that you can't do theology if you're not engaged in the church," says the former high school basketball player, who made Westgate's varsity boys team in Grade 8.

After studying at Conrad Grebel College at the University of Waterloo and interning for eight months at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church, Ted married fellow Winnipegger Darlene Enns in 1991, and the couple moved to the

sunflower capital of Canada to take up a joint position at Altona Berghaler Mennonite Church. Both were ordained to the ministry there in 1998.

Two years later, the pair, by then parents to Anika and Micah, were part of a 13-person team that founded Seeds of Life church, a group which initially met in a school gym, and now runs out of a converted commercial building on Altona's main drag.

This congregation of about 250 worships in a contemporary style in a building equipped with a computer room for children and an espresso machine for the adults, and is organized around buzzwords like peace, openness, transparency, generosity and connectedness.



"We have a vision that this congregation can impact the community locally and globally," he says of Seeds of Life which cooperates with other Altona churches to sponsor refugees.

"The church isn't about us, and it isn't about what it does for us. It's what we can contribute to others."

That was a lesson Enns-Dyck learned first in Ed Epp's Grade 9 Christian Studies class, where he recalls being challenged to think beyond

his own life and consider the situations of people in places like Central America and the Middle East.

"I do remember at the time these discussions were very intriguing to me," says the father of two who feeds his interests by coaching his children's teams and reading a daily round of blogs about sports, politics and church leadership.

"If anyone in the class challenged me, it was Ted who challenged me the most," recalls Epp, now living in Waterloo where he works in international development. "He was bright enough to think of good arguments."

Enns-Dyck says his work as an ordained minister combines all his passions, and his advice to Westgate students as they consider future career paths is simple: do what interests you.

"One of the things that has served me well ... I get to do all the things I love to do." ■

BRENDA SUDERMAN
WESTGATE PARENT





Camps with Meaning staff with Westgate connections posing for a group shot

Camps also met Westgate

Did you know...

- 1/3 of Camps with Meaning staff are connected to Westgate
- 1/3 of our current students went to a summer camp
- 1/6 of our entire senior student body practiced their leadership skills and served Manitoba youth with their energy, time and spunk.

Westgate Meets Camp

Recently Westgate seems to be steadily infiltrating the ranks of Camps with Meaning. This summer, Westgate alumni Cory Funk, Dustin Loewen, Chris Epp-Thiessen, Megan Klassen-Wiebe and I (Kelsey Hutton) directed at Moose Lake, Koinonia and Assiniboia. Why is the Westgate representation so high? We agreed that while there wasn't a pat correlation, there were a few different ways Westgate prepared us for camp leadership.

While Cory, Megan and Dustin participated in more visible roles such as Peer Support, small opportunities like deputations or Urban Plunge gave all of us practical servanthood skills. The staff at Westgate also didn't let us fly under the radar. As Dustin put it, "People had expectations of me." Megan felt that these expectations let her see herself as a leader. Westgate also pushed us to think about how to live Christian values outside of traditional Church. Mr. Langelotz once asked Chris's volleyball team to step back and ask themselves, "What are we really doing here?" Chris remembers, "For someone like me, who's really competitive, and I know Mr. Langelotz is, too ... it was a profound thing to do."

For myself, it was important to see teachers choose Westgate over other schools just as we later chose Camps with Meaning over other jobs. Ultimately, Westgate and camp are diversely interconnected, and both are grateful for the ministry each provides the other. ■

KELSEY HUTTON ('06)
WESTGATE ALUMNUS

From the left: Amanda Abrahams ('08), Cory Funk ('08), Dustin Loewen ('06) and Gabrielle Wiebe ('08)





The Face of Westgate Athletics

If you've been involved with Westgate athletics in the past, chances are you've met Karl Wiebe. While he would blush to be called "the face of Westgate athletics," Karl has been a fixture in the gym for almost three decades. Whether sitting at his desk preparing and planning or in the gym coaching, the man and the moustache have been part of the Westgate landscape since his arrival in the early '80s.

The Westgate community was excited to learn that Karl was selected as the 2010 MHSAA Coach of the Year. Having coached his Varsity Boys Basketball teams to back to back AAA Provincial Championships in 2009 and 2010, he was fittingly recognized for his dedicated time and talent. For some teachers, high school coaching is seen as the "goal" and coaching younger teams might be seen as a demotion. Not so for Karl. He was always willing to step aside and work with a younger team if someone else was willing to coach the high school team. Therefore, Karl has coached boys' and girls' basketball of almost every age group at Westgate.



Karl Wiebe



Far left: the Wiebe that was, circa 1984

Left: receiving his Provincial Gold Medal

Below: pictured with assistant coach Don Miller and the first of two consecutive Provincial Champion teams



The 1998 Varsity Boys basketball team



And why? “I guess I had a positive experience as a player, thanks in part to coaches like Richard Gooch,” says Wiebe, “and I wanted to pass that same experience on to other young athletes.” To put that kind of time into an extra-curricular activity, you have to believe in what you’re doing.

When asked to comment on how things have changed in basketball over the years, Wiebe reflects: “Besides all the rule changes (three point lines, shot clock, etc.), more students are entering Grade 7 with some kind of basketball exposure. That higher ‘basketball IQ’ certainly makes coaching somewhat easier.” It also seems there is more competition for students’ free time now. The options for after school athletics have increased and so has the specialization. “You can specialize in almost every sport and play year round now,” he adds. So high school basketball has become only one option of many in which students may participate.

Yet, after all these years of coaching, the elusive Provincial Championship remained hard to capture. And then—two years in a row. What was the difference? “I think a lot of things fell into place,” Wiebe reflects. “We started to have a more consistent presence at the Provincial level over the last number of seasons. Many past teams were capable of winning, but the ’09 and ’10 teams benefitted from my own increased coaching experience, the addition of a veteran assistant coach (volunteer and parent Don Miller) and a whole bunch of ‘breaks’ that we earned through some hard work.” During the previous season, Karl was on a deferred salary leave, but committed to coaching the team anyway. That year off allowed him to introduce more detailed goal-setting strategies that may also have helped. “Maybe I was more relaxed, too,” he adds smiling.

As for the future of Westgate athletics, Wiebe sees new sports being added (as already has happened with Ultimate) and may see some other sports dropped from our program. “Recruiting volunteer coaches each September is always a challenge. Over the years we have had a nice balance between staff and parent/outside volunteerism. I hope that trend continues into the future. The strength of our athletic program at Westgate is a direct result of the outstanding coaches that have worked with our athletes over the years.” As for Karl? “I enjoy it so much I could see myself coaching after I retire. I guess I’ll have to wait and see.” Regardless of when this happens, Westgate Athletics has been forever shaped, thanks to the commitment and passion of Karl Wiebe. ■

KARL LANGELOTZ ('83)
WESTGATE STAFF

DONOR'S GIFT SUPPORTS VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

A \$7,500 gift from a generous Westgate alumnus early this year will work to reinforce Westgate’s volleyball program over the next few years. This gift will support coaches, clinics and the skill development of our Westgate students as they continue to grow in our current program.

“I remember Karl as very professional in his approach to coaching in both practice and game situations. His contribution to the basketball program at Westgate has been outstanding.”

Michael Janzen ('92)

“His solid coaching of the fundamentals served me well when I went on to play ball at the University of Manitoba.”

David Wiebe ('98)

“I was late for a provincial qualifier game against St. Norbert. Karl came into the change room and tore a strip off me and two other guys who were late. I then had the best game of my high school career. I guess he scared me into it.” **Jason Pankratz ('04)**

“He recognized that I was a leader, so he put me in that role. That’s what he was best at; he could look at any one of his players and know exactly how to get the most out of them. He was the best basketball coach I had at Westgate. Along with the theory of the game, he also taught me the importance of leadership and teamwork, and those are the skills that I take with me to this day.”

Andrew Froese ('04)



Quinzmas – a Westgate Christmas Tradition

What teenager doesn't want to be part of a rock band? It was no different for young David Pankratz ('00) and his cousin Sandy Taronno ('00) way back in the 1990s. As Westgate Junior High students, the two friends were excited to practise their craft. After a few years of playing other artists' music, they joined forces with another friend, Brian James, to form the band Quinzy in 2002. As music groups often do over time, the group members change. The duo said goodbye to Brian and hello to their younger brothers and fellow Westgate alumni, Jamie ('04) and Jason ('04) a few years later.

While the group evolved, so did their performances. They began playing small venues and soon were inspired to prepare special events, like Quinzmas. This seasonal festival was an opportunity for the band to team up with other musicians to create something special. Their good friends House of Doc, including Westgate grads and siblings Rebecca Harder ('96) and Daniel Wiebe ('01), were invited

to add their talents and musical style. And so the yearly concert also changed.

This past year the quartet looked back to their roots to invite some current Westgate musicians to join them. Jake Enns ('10) and Nathalie Daudet ('12), along with their band teacher Ross Brownlee, were part of a brass quartet that accompanied the rock musicians with their Christmas play list. With Jason and David's father Vic Pankratz ('77) still teaching at the school, this connection seemed more than logical. "We thought it would be a great way to stay connected to the school and give some other Westgaters a taste of what their post high musical experience could be," says percussionist David.

Ross Brownlee adds: "I've been teaching music for many years and have had many magical performances with my students, but I had always been the director, never a musical colleague and equal. The time had come to expand my role." And so another chapter of Quinzmas was born.



Jamie, Jason, David and Sandy with Westgate band students

Quinzmas
2009



Only a few years ago, choir conductor Vic Pankratz invited House of Doc to be a part of the Westgate spring concert. Daniel Wiebe, a talented composer/arranger and musician, even transcribed a song especially for the choir. “That collaboration went so well that we invited

Daniel to write a choral version of a popular song by Coldplay for Westgate’s 50th Anniversary concert. It was a fabulous event that highlighted our students and alumni in a unique way,” beams Vic.

Westgate certainly hopes that this kind of partnering can continue. There are so many benefits when students work together with professionals. Ross summarizes the Quinzmas experience quite nicely:

“Under the lights, using mics, hearing our sound blend into the lead players’, feeling the unique energy that happens in a live show ... all of this drew us together—singers, players, students and teachers alike.” ■

WESTGATE STAFF



*F*ollowing a two-concert event in February 2010, world-renowned operatic bass Phil Ens shared how important it is for our schools to sustain and support music education in an era of cutbacks in the arts. Stating that MCI was the place where his interest in music was sparked, Phil now sees how that continues with his nieces' joy in the music program at Westgate.

The almost sold-out crowd on a crisp winter's eve was warmed by a choral evening with Phil Ens, Vic Engbrecht, Westgate Concert Choir, MCI Chamber Choir, Edmund Dawe, Henry Engbrecht, Vic Pankratz ('77) and Rick Heppner Mueller ('91). In a sea of black, fuchsia and turquoise, the mass choir finale was one of the highlights of the evening.

Gala 2010 was a major fundraising initiative between Westgate and MCI with all funds designated to each school's capital funds. Event sponsorships, tickets sales, sale of Alexis prints and donations at the event bolstered Westgate's Capital Campaign by an amazing \$90,890. Supporters agreed with Phil Ens that our vision of a new choral and band room is essential to continue the Mennonite tradition of music education in our school.

All photos courtesy of Kevin Friesen

Capital Campaign



Phil Ens and Vic Engbrecht



Westgate Concert Choir conducted by Vic Pankratz

Choral concert



Vic Pankratz, Rick Heppner Mueller, Vic Engbrecht, Phil Ens



Phil Ens



Edmund Dawe

Investing in a School with a Difference

Before I started, I knew Westgate was different than other high schools, but it took a bit of time to learn how very special Westgate is. To watch the students from middle and senior schools blend with respect and grace through our too-narrow halls between classes is something I needed to see and walk through to appreciate. To see the integration of the life of Christ in the lives of our students through our chapels, small groups and stories told in the staff room also takes some time to appreciate. Outside Westgate's conventional classrooms, our students' time is often spent working together to develop gifts of leadership, worship and character through choir, sports and international study tours; through various camping experiences; and through deputations in our member churches. This also informs my learning. I've learned that Westgate students are indeed becoming empowered people of God and not simply students of a private school.

While I appreciate that Westgate is about the students first and last, I'm learning how deeply committed our staff and teachers really are to giving our students the best possible experience and opportunities for success. Through the weekly care and concern expressed for students at our staff meetings to ensure none fall through cracks; through the work and athletic and musical performance I see expressed by our students; and through the respect and dignity demonstrated among the staff, students and teachers alike, I experience a community dedicated to one another and to what we can achieve.

I'm learning that the potential for our students is remarkable, especially in these formative years as they move from optimistic, wide-eyed and sometimes nervous children when they enter Westgate in Grade 7 to the independent, confident, supportive peers and mentors they become by Grade 12. A two-degree difference during a moon shot makes a big difference in final results and a positive, nurturing, peer-supported environment that challenges and supports our young people as Westgate does also makes a huge difference in how our students approach their futures.

Ultimately, in my role as Westgate's Director of Development, I've learned that Westgate is worth investing in. We're already doing wonderful things in our program, as a school and in the lives of our students, but your collective support can help us make transformational impacts in the lives of our students and communities that I'm not sure we've yet come to see or appreciate. Thank you for helping us achieve our potential through your gifts and support. Whether it is your prayer, volunteer or financial support, your gifts mean a lot to us and will continue to build a great school and experience for our deserving students. ■

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT WESTGATE?

We can help. Giving opportunities include:

- Capital Campaign
- Area of greatest need (non-designated gifts)
- Scholarships
- Bursaries
- Designated gifts to a specific Educational Department

You can also support Westgate with your time and affiliation:

- Volunteering
- Participation in Westgate's 1958 Legacy Circle

Ways to give:

- Cash or Cheque
- Regular Direct Deposit (convenient and easy)
- AND NOW! Credit Card (through Canadahelps.org)
- PLUS: We now accept payment on our website with TelPay

Your support makes a difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for your gifts!

JOHN LOEWEN
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



WESTGATE NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARD DONATIONS ONLINE!!

We are pleased to announce that, for a one year trial period, Westgate will offer the convenience of credit card donations online through Canadahelps.org.

FAQs

Why are you accepting credit cards for donations?

In a word, convenience. More people are choosing the convenience of credit card donations online and we want to offer this option.

Why are you using Canadahelps.org?

Canadahelps.org is the easiest, most affordable way for us to begin accepting donations with credit cards.

Do I have to register with Canadahelps.org to donate?

No. To make a gift, you just go to Canadahelps.org, choose "Westgate Mennonite Collegiate," enter your gift amount and fill in your relevant contact and credit card information.

Is my gift fully tax deductible?

Yes. If you donate \$100 to Westgate through Canadahelps.org, you will receive a tax receipt for \$100. This tax receipt will be issued by Canadahelps.org, and you will receive a thank you letter from us.

Will I be able to use my credit card to pay tuition?

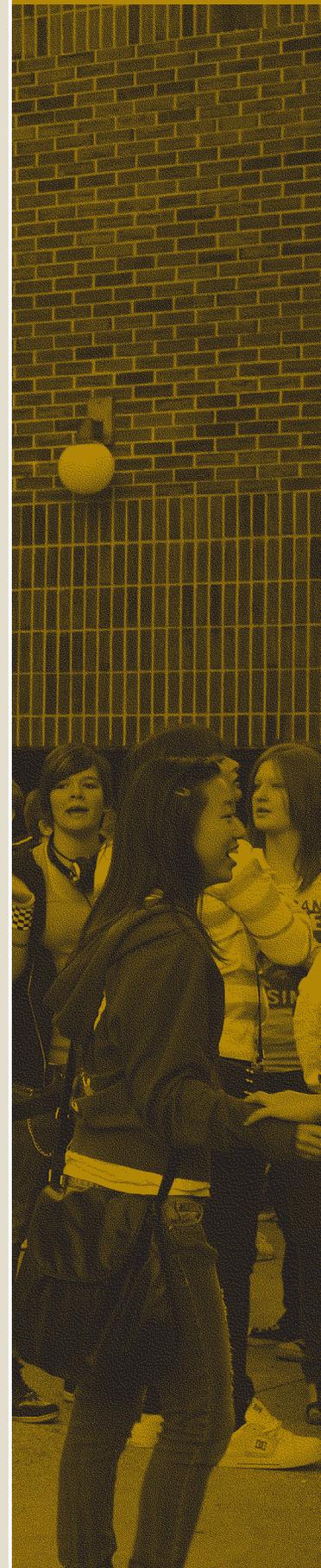
No. If we were to accept credit cards and their fees for tuition payments, tuition rates would rise.

What fees will Westgate pay for this service?

Westgate pays a 3.9% agency fee to cover the credit card merchant fees and transaction costs.

Are there other ways of making donations to Westgate?

While we are pleased to provide the option of credit card donations to our supporters, it is not the only option. We also accept gifts of cash, cheque and electronic funds transfer through TelPay on our website.



Westgate's Financial Health

Westgate's recent audited financial statements indicate that the school is in a financially healthy situation. The unrestricted net assets balance of around \$660,000 provides a solid buffer for any unforeseen events or fluctuations in enrollment as well as providing a basis for future projects. The school also has several restricted funds designated for scholarships, bursaries, student activities and our new priority—the capital campaign fund. Important to note is that Westgate has no debts, a balanced budget of modest surpluses and an optimistic financial forecast, based on our enrollment numbers.

The school receives a per student operating grant from the provincial government. However, the government does not provide capital grants. Westgate is very fortunate to have a close-knit community of parents, grandparents, teachers, students, alumni and friends who continue to provide critical support for the school to bridge the gap in the school's capital requirements, so that each generation of students can benefit from the vision and generosity of past and current supporters.

HILDY THIESSEN CA
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Westgate Fundraising

Westgate has a rich history of fundraising with various events designed to appeal to various groups of supporters. With our workathon and cyclathon, we give our students' friends and families an opportunity to support the students' education. Those interested in supporting Westgate families who wouldn't be able to afford to send their child participate in our Bursary Banquet. Our golf tournament brings alumni and friends together and our Parent Association offers excellent products of chicken, perogies, fruit and cheese to our parent community. In early 2010, a widely successful Gala Concert featuring Westgate's choir and MCI's choir along with Phil Ens and Victor Engbrecht, drew widely from our community to raise over \$90,000 to support our Capital Campaign.

Support for our students and school is strong, but we need your continued commitment to drive greater success in the longer term. While the opportunity to grow at 86 West Gate does not exist, our need for adequate space and facilities remains. *Please consider a gift or pledge to Westgate's Capital Campaign—your support makes a continued difference in the lives of our students.*

WESTGATE 2010 NET FUNDRAISING SNAPSHOT

Cyclathon	\$42,000
Workathon	\$33,000
Bursary Banquet	\$33,000
Golf Tournament	\$27,000
Parent Association	\$ 5,000
Capital Campaign (Gala Concert)	\$90,000

THANK YOU for your gifts and continued support.

A Legacy Acknowledged

A gift from the estate of Gerhard and Lena Dyck has ensured that, for over 12 years, selected Westgate students will be acknowledged for their strength of character, attitude, initiative, service, selflessness and community-mindedness.

Through the Gerhard and Lena Dyck Award, an enduring example of integrity, honour and humility will be promoted within the Westgate community.

Like many people of their generation, Gerhard and Lena did not have the opportunity to obtain formal high school education. Gerhard and his family lived in Ukraine. One night members of the communist party took away and shot Gerhard's father for having Bible study meetings in his home. Gerhard, who was 14 years old, had to quit school and find work to help support his mother, brothers and sisters.

Gerhard met and married Lena during a time of war. After the war they fled Europe and settled in Paraguay. He and Lena had enormous faith in God and trust in their community which sustained them during these difficult years. Seeking a better future for their children, Gerhard and Lena moved to Canada with their seven children. They arrived in Winnipeg with nothing. Here they had another two children but no one thought about how crowded it was, how poor they were or how little they had. Rather, they felt blessed by God.

Gerhard worked hard as a day labourer. Even while working, he made time to go to school to learn English in the evening and subsequently a trade. Lena sewed and patched clothes for the children, and made noodles, bread and buns. After a few years of saving, they felt they were in a better position to help others. They even supported and paid for other immigrants to come to Canada.

Gerhard and Lena Dyck believed that education was the key to making a better world. They valued the skills that were attained with education but were also convinced that education without kindness was a terrible thing and encouraged a combination of education and compassion. This is reflected in the criteria for the Gerhard and Lena Dyck Award which is to recognize students attending Westgate Mennonite Collegiate who have shown the greatest improvement since they started at the school, whether it is in character, attitude, initiative or service, demonstrating that these students have learned to think beyond themselves in finding value and worth in caring for others. ■

Westgate Establishes Planned Giving Program

Considered one of the highest forms of giving, a bequest is a selfless investment in the lives of those perhaps not known to the giver. Toward the goal of a strong Westgate for generations, we've established a way for individuals and families to share that they are supporting Westgate's mission far into the future.

The "1958 Legacy Circle" name denotes Westgate's founding year, the enduring nature of our legacy gifts, and a membership that recognizes the unity we share with one another, our creator, and our circle of life. Please share with you family and consider a gift to Westgate that will support generations to come.

1958 LEGACY CIRCLE

Our thanks to the following supporters who've made a provision for Westgate in their Estate Plans.

Jake and Jean Rempel
Henry and Elsie Dyck
John and Joy Loewen

Strong Faith Vision Grounds Westgate Community's Building Program

The original founders of Westgate wanted to start a school that taught Mennonite values, traditions and Christian principles,” states Henry Dyck ('59), a member of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate's very first graduating class. Mr. Dyck, Westgate's first graduate board chair, has had reason to be grateful for those values in his life. “Menno Simons' vision of Christianity—helping the poor and brokenhearted, restoring the wounded, being people of compassion—has been integrated into my whole (sense of) well-being.

“Living as Christ wanted us to do, Christianity in practical form,” is the vision, Dyck believes, that drove the founders of Westgate to create this unique school. Of course, “the beginnings were very simple, primitive ... First Mennonite Church was used with two classrooms and two staff. Mrs. Dr. A. Penner taught Grades 7 and 8 and Frank Neufeld had Grades 9 to 11. No Grade 12 class existed, as after Grade 11 we went to University of Winnipeg and took First Year which was the equivalent of Grade 12. The classes were small—only 36 students for the five grades. We had no proper science labs, no gym. We played in a park a couple of blocks away, as the church had no playground. It was a challenging time. Everybody worked hard and we had deputations, services to make ourselves known to the constituency who became very excited about our unique new kind of school.” The funding for this school also demanded much sacrifice. Mr. Dyck especially remembers the efforts of the Ladies' Auxiliary which worked so hard to make the school viable.

The Ladies' Auxiliary continued to be a sustaining force in Westgate's future growth. Mr. Dyck remembers the special problems of the 1970s gym expansion. “The financial challenges were very difficult. No government assistance was available, interest rates were very high and at times teachers' salaries could not be paid. Without the help of the Ladies Auxiliary the school would not have survived.” As documented in the Thirtieth Anniversary Booklet, the Westgate Thrift Shop run by the Ladies' Auxiliary contributed over two million dollars over the years of its operation.

The 1980s building project, which added the modern science and computer labs and music space, brought its own unique challenges which Mr. Dyck remembers well, as the

“Westgate has been a big part of our lives.” Mr. Dyck and his wife Elsie have sent their two children, Kim and Darryl, to Westgate. Over the years, Mr. Dyck has served as board chair and continues to be involved with helping Westgate. He is currently a member of the Westgate Facilities Committee. He has looked forward to this fall as the first of his six grandsons begins his studies at Westgate.



Did you know?

- ▶ Over \$7,800 in scholarships were awarded to Westgate students last school year.
- ▶ Over \$32,000 in bursaries went to support students who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend Westgate.

board chair at that time. Approximately \$900,000 was raised. "It was especially difficult to coordinate the needs of the many interested parties—the alumni, the parents, the staff, the administration and the churches." Mr. Dyck recalls the personal campaign presentations for each of the supporting member churches and the four-option process for contributions. It was a delicate approach, as some of the churches could only offer their blessings and not their monetary aid initially. Nevertheless, Mr. Dyck recalls that this delicate approach was successful, as all the churches were highly interested in contributing in the end, thus assuring the continued development of Westgate as a modern viable educational institution.

Mr. Dyck believes in the continuation of Westgate as an important educational institution in our world. He stresses that the process of integrating secular learning and Christian values is critical today. "Westgate has an important role in developing future leaders who have been taught in this way. The Mennonite peace position must be made known to the world, (in view of) all the ongoing wars—Iraq, Afghanistan—in order to make the world a better place." Dyck believes that Westgate must be "a school of the church for the world."

Westgate's future development continues to challenge its community of faith. A new location is essential for the healthy development of the school and its continuing growth needs. With God's guidance, through the vision of its faithful supporters, this too will become a reality. ■

TERRY DIRKS
WESTGATE STAFF

WANTED!

Class Reunion Volunteers

Let us help you plan your Alumni Reunion – we're here to help. If you need assistance in contacting your fellow Grads for your Alumni Reunion, let us know.

Please contact Karl Langelotz
klangelotz@westgatemennonite.ca

Hello Alumni!

You're important to us!

And we want to know how we can get in touch with you to share all the good things that are happening with your high school.

Our alumni are involved in so many wonderful things, we want to update and share your stories with your other alum. And now, you can even network with one another through our website.

Please send me an email to say hello or sign up on our new Alumni Directory on our website – www.westgatemennonite.ca



KARL LANGELOTZ
WESTGATE MENNONITE COLLEGIATE
ALUMNI COORDINATOR

klangelotz@westgatemennonite.ca

Let's stay connected!

Please remember to notify us of a change of address so we may keep you informed of activities, alumni reunions and school news.

SURNAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE) _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE NO. _____ CELL PHONE NO. _____

BUSINESS PHONE NO. _____

YEAR OF GRADUATION _____ NO. OF YEARS AT WESTGATE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

A Tradition Recognized

A five year history of Westgate Golf Champions was formally marked at our 2010 Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament at Bridges Golf Club this August when the team of Luke Snider, Tom Ewert, Ed Goertzen and Gary Steffan was presented with Westgate's first ever

Alumni & Friends Golf Champions Trophy. Through a donation from Westgate's own Karl Wiebe, we were able to recognize a distinct group of talented Westgate supporters with this award.

"The trophy itself might be new, but the tradition began with our first tournament in 2005. With five teams



Thanks to a hugely successful golf tournament at Bridges, Westgate Alumni & Friends enabled the purchase of this 23-passenger bus that is giving Westgate students greater flexibility to conveniently attend various tournaments and other school events.

and individuals confirmed and recorded, we have the perfect prize to honour some great golfers and provide some well-deserved bragging rights," says Karl Wiebe.

Congratulations to the rest of Westgate's noted Golf Champions over the last five years. To view the trophy and see which other Alumni & Friends can claim our tournament title, click onto our website at www.westgate-mennonite.ca, or check out our display cabinet by the gym the next time you're watching our students becoming champions themselves. ■

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1985 — enjoyed a casual evening hosted by Darryl Dyck to commemorate their 25 year reunion.



Class of 1990 — Attendance was great for the Class of '90 as they gathered to share memories of their Westgate years. Thanks to Loriann (Sawatzky) Ludwig for all her organizational efforts.



Class of 2000 — Thanks to Rosemarie (Hogue) Mauer and Jennifer (Schartner) Loewen for gathering their classmates at The Academy on Osborne St.

Passing the Torch

It was the fall of 2007. *The Big Bang Theory* premiered on TV, the first Apple iPhone hit the market, and the Roughriders beat our Blue Bombers at the Grey Cup. Oh, and new home prices in Winnipeg were up 23% from the previous year.

At Westgate, Colleen Braun-Janzen was gearing up for her first year as chair of Westgate's Board of Directors. There was no time to watch *The Big Bang Theory*, because not even the start of this year was routine. The board's mandate was to win approval to expand. The school simply wasn't big enough and there was an increasing need for space for chapels and music rehearsal. Colleen was ready for a challenge and was deeply committed to the task, but had no idea she'd work an average of 20 hours a week on this project.

This would be the third expansion at Number 86. The first project in 1978 gained the school a gymnasium (before then, the school went without—unheard of), multi-purpose room and office space. The second, in 1989, saw part of Westgate refurbished into new classrooms, computer and science labs, student lounges and a multi-purpose room that allowed the old one to become a kitchen and cafeteria.

As with previous expansion efforts, it wouldn't come without a fight. 2007 was also Bob Hummelt's first year as principal, and the two of them, the board and many volunteers researched, gathered feedback and studied options for the expansion. There was some community support, but there was more protest, debate and conflict than anyone had anticipated. After several meetings and information sessions with Armstrong Point residents, it became clear opinions would not change.

City Council made its final decision to decline Westgate's application in July of 2008. In the end, Colleen thought that even if council had approved the application, the board would have likely decided against the expansion due to the lack of support within the neighbouring community.

In the fall of 2008, while Tina Fey introduced her alarmingly accurate imitation of Sarah Palin, and Sam Katz announced Plan Winnipeg, Colleen's second year as board chair was again all about strategic planning.

The board's mandate had taken a 180-degree turn. Since expanding wasn't an option, they were to explore a move to a new location.

Many ideas were in play, but it was critical to gather feedback from Westgate's constituents. Opinions were gathered through a detailed survey. Colleen recalls a lot of emotion in the responses. Many things were apparent: the passion for the school, the continued sense of community, the emotional attachment to Number 86 and the need for Westgate to define its niche. These elements have included its music program, the German language education and exchange program, and the pursuit of its environmental vision.

In fall 2009, Fox launched the super hit *Glee*, *New Moon* was the top-selling book and the Winnipeg division of Habitat for Humanity had wrapped up its 16th consecutive Cycle of Hope.

At Westgate, amid 50th anniversary celebrations, the facility search was on.

Faced with kicking off a \$10 million capital campaign, after many conversations and much brainstorming, the team (although Colleen credits Flori Ens for this one) came up with the idea of holding a gala. This would be a spectacular event, similar to no other event ever held before.



Colleen Braun-Janzen (second from right) and her family

Tom Penner ('76) (left) and his family



In February of 2009, Colleen and Flori, together with Bob Hummelt, Jake Rempel and Phil Ens Sr. (Phil's father), met at the infamous Bread and Circuses to discuss with Phil Ens the feasibility of him coming from his home in Germany to perform at the Gala Fundraiser.

The event was a musical reunion—Phil Ens, singing beside his old high school friend Vic Engbrecht, with the Westgate and MCI choirs. It was marvelous. Colleen loved the spirit of the event and the outstanding voices of Phil and Vic, but what was equally amazing to her was the calibre of both choirs. The event raised a record \$90,000, and was the highlight of Colleen's third year as chair.

It was a great three years. Colleen established friendships that will be lifelong, learned a lot (who knew?), and laughed at almost every meeting. She credits the phenomenal teamwork, the outstanding building committee and the willingness of every member to pitch in.

Colleen's last meeting as chair was in June. She said it was a little surreal. She's looking forward to a little more free time; she's already fit in some traveling.

In fall of 2010, Obama was fighting off the Tea Party, Winnipeg was gearing up for its next mayoral election, Colleen experienced the phenomenon that is having nothing pressing to do, and Tom Penner chaired his first Westgate Board meeting.

Tom, a Westgate grad and now a Westgate parent, is looking forward to his new role. While a student at the school, Tom enjoyed everything that is Westgate—the great sports programs, the stellar choir, Mennonite cooking classes, the operettas, choir tours and the camaraderie.

Tasks of his new role aren't entirely new. Tom has served on the board for the last three years, so to his benefit, he's familiar with the nothinglessthantumultuous, but character-building, recent events.

2010 / 2011 WESTGATE BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Penner *Chair*
Sharon Hoepfner *Secretary*
Bob Hummelt *Principal*
Donna Janovcik *Member-at-Large*
Lorraine Rempel *Events*
Hildy Thiessen *Finance/Development*
David Epp *Personnel*
Brian Dyck *Appointed*
Valerie Jowett *Appointed*
Val Pankratz *Appointed*
Ralph Regehr *Appointed*
Nick Riediger *Appointed*
Henriette Schellenberg *Appointed*
Jennifer Toews-Grislis *Appointed*
David Wiebe *Appointed*
James Friesen *Staff Representative*
Kent Ulrich *Parent Association President*
Flori Ens *Armstrong's Point Representative*

I talked with Tom a few weeks ago. His passion for the school shines through, and like many other Westgate grads, he remembers how much his parents were involved with the school in its early years. It goes without saying that this commitment and relentless effort are a large part of the foundation on which Westgate is built. Like Colleen, Tom is extremely grateful to have the support of a strong board-member team and teaching staff.

Sadly, Tom is a huge fan of *The Big Bang Theory*. ■

CHRISTINE FROESE ('81)
WESTGATE PARENT



THE FINAL WORD

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

As I sit at my desk this morning I find, among the usual piles of books waiting to be processed, three small stacks of papers. These represent tasks a little outside my usual duties, but ones I have come to enjoy.

The first is a pile of pages—proofs for our 2009-2010 yearbook—needing one more check for names, spelling, accuracy. These particular pages will be found toward the end of the book and hold the pictures of the 2010 graduates and the tributes read to them during the banquet last June. I had the privilege of reading some of these there, and so feel the excitement of that moment as I re-read them today. I marvel at the activities they were involved in. Just in this, their final year, we have athletic award winners, accomplished musical performers, convincing actors, committed volunteers, intrepid travelers and worthy leaders of the student body.

The last page is the text of the valedictory address. I hadn't heard the whole address at the ceremony and so find it moving to read those words now. I can still hear the voices of the students who delivered it so skillfully. Now all these faces and voices are gone from our hallways; off to new adventures and the bigger world.

The second set of pages is a preview copy of the program to be printed for our upcoming opening program. I read the names of the participants, the hymns, the lists of students, staff and board members involved in setting up a new school year and I think of all the names I've read in these programs over the years. Memories of the start of other school years with all the promise and hope, and yes, frequent confusion, in that first mad rush of days, make me realize that while it all seems so familiar it will never be just the same; each year sees a new mix of faces and names and personalities.

The third pile of pages is a little different. It is the outline of this new publication, with this task for me. I put it aside and process some books, not quite knowing what is expected, required here. My mind keeps coming up with the same thing I thought of as I read those other pages: lines from of the book *Oh, the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss, a perennial favourite around graduation time. Somehow the sentiments in that tale resonate with all these jobs I've taken on.

We're all going some place, heading for new adventures. For the graduates it means moving out into the world, while for new students, staff and board members it is wondering how they will fit into the world that is Westgate and how they will be changed by their hours here. Returning students are taking on new roles as they mature and move ahead to different grades and greater challenges. The school experiences some of these growing pains as well—this year working through the changes that accompany switching to semesters, working with new teachers, board members and programming. And, like the character in Dr. Seuss's book, we may all be completely surprised by some of the things to come.

And will you succeed?

Yes! You will, indeed!

(98 and $3/4$ percent guaranteed.)

WILMA JOHNSON ('77)
LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

