

# LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

[www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org)

WINTER 2009

# Bridges



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Centered in Christ  
Transforming Lives  
Changing our World

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*Bridges* is the quarterly magazine of Lancaster Mennonite School, sent to alumni, parents and friends. LMS exists to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service. The school welcomes students without regard to sex, race, nationality or ethnic origin.

**Lancaster Mennonite School** has four campuses:

**Kraybill, grades PreK–8**  
598 Kraybill Church Road  
Mount Joy, PA 17552  
(717) 653-5236

**Lancaster, grades 6–12**  
2176 Lincoln Highway East  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 299-0436

**Locust Grove, Grades PreK–8**  
2257 Old Philadelphia Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 394-7107

**New Danville, grades PreK–6**  
393 Long Lane  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 872-2506

Address alumni and school news to  
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*Cover photo: Students change classes December 2 after the opening of the school's Rutt Academic Center. The new center is in the background.*

**MUCH MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR**

# Grand opening celebrates Rutt Academic Center

It's like night and day. That's how Jean Forshey, family and consumer science teacher, describes the difference between teaching in the crowded rooms beneath Graybill Residence Hall and her new area in the Rutt Academic Center.

"You feel like you are actually teaching," she said. "You don't have to fight the environment, and the lighting—that's a big difference."

Other improvements, she said, include ample storage resulting in better organization; equipment that works; new items such as dish washers, garbage disposals, a large pantry and a commercial refrigerator; and U-shaped work areas that allow her to see all her students at the same time.

All the teachers seem to love the Smart Board—even those who were apprehensive at first.

"I was dreading the Smart Board because I'm not very technologically savvy," mathematics teacher Karen Diffenbach said, "but now I love that I can put all this information on there and then easily remove it or add it back on for later classes. It really makes teaching easier."

Matthew Spurrier, also a math teacher, says the boards fit well with students, a generation that loves technology.

"Student volunteerism is very high right now," he said, "because they want to come up and use the Smart Board." The technology also helps teachers share lesson plans, and international students have the advantage of receiving notes that mirror what was on the Smart Board.

For students it was exciting to finally move into a facility they had watched being constructed for over a year.

"I was hoping it would be finished before I graduate," said senior Kaela Landis. "I love the new lab rooms, the huge windows, and the overall spacious feeling to the rooms."

Senior Darian Harnish also emphasized "the outside light and big open classrooms."

"I definitely find it easier to pay attention to the teachers in the new building," he said. "With the natural light and the better air quality, I don't

think I have even felt tired or yawned once while in the new building.

"The better technology makes it easier to pay attention, too, instead of being distracted by technical malfunctions. The dorm basement used to be really loud and distracting; its nice not to have that anymore."

## Formal dedication

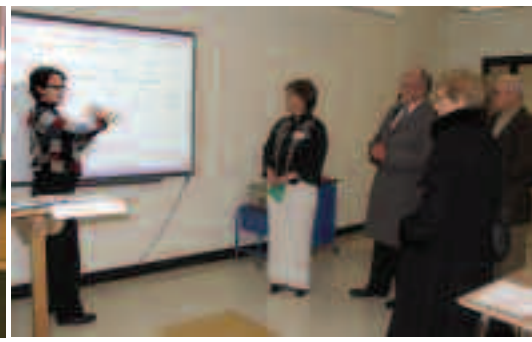
While the students moved into Rutt Academic Center on December 2, the grand opening and formal dedication was saved for Sunday, December 21, to coincide with the annual high school Christmas concert. Hundreds, including many concert goers, attended an open house in the center that included student PowerPoint projects, green element presentations, Smart Board demonstrations, tours of the system offices, and refreshments provided by students and staff.

During a 5:30 dedication, Superintendent Richard Thomas thanked the many friends who made the building possible, including Janet and Calvin High whose gift led to ground breaking, and the seven children of Clarence and Elva Rutt whose significant giving resulted in naming the center the Rutt Academic Center.

Dr. John Rutt, who represented the Rutt family during the dedication service, expressed appreciation for all the families who gave, as well as his parents who sacrificed so he and his six siblings could attend and graduate from Lancaster Mennonite School.

Other participants in the dedication included New Century Jubilee chair Gerald Horst and Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus who explained the journey to completion, and High Construction representative Nevin Cooley who described the construction as "more than a project"—rather, it was providing an academic center for students, he said. LMS board chair Diane Umble concluded the program with a prayer of blessing.

The three-story facility houses the math, science, business education, and family and consumer science departments as well as administrative offices for all four campuses. ■



Counterclockwise, starting with oval photo at top: ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 2, nighttime photo by Cornerstone Design • Architects, December 21 open house guests examine interactive resonance device in physics classroom, math teacher Karen Diffenbach demonstrates the Smart Board, guests and family & consumer science staff chat over refreshments, Superintendent Richard Thomas thanks donors during the formal dedication, Dr. John Rutt shares at dedication, students enjoy new chemistry laboratory, and open house guests and staff visit in center's atrium.



ABOVE THREE PHOTOS AND ATRIUM PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES

# Stewardship taught through Outdoor classroom

*In some senses water is more important than energy. We're talking about basic human need here—clean drinking water.*

- Wayne Lehman, life science teacher

*Bottom photo: Life science class fastens Leaf Pack to a rock so it remains secure during the four-week testing period when the pack will attract organisms living in the stream. Counterclockwise, beginning at top: Samuel Ortega, Emily Breneman, Lesly Fernandez, teacher Wayne Lehman and David Forte.*

*Photo at bottom right: Class measures the clarity of the stream, another indicator of stream health. Left to right: Carlos Colon, Lesly Fernandez, Wayne Lehman and Emily Breneman.*

**W**ayne Lehman, middle school science teacher at the Lancaster Campus, was thrilled when he received a grant to attend a summer institute on teaching middle schoolers about stream health. Clean water is one of our most valuable commodities worldwide. Without it we perish.

Stroud Water Research Center, who conducted the institute, chose our Lancaster Campus as the site for the training since Mill Creek runs right through the campus. Four days of the institute were held on campus, and the fifth was held at the research center's base at Avondale, Pennsylvania. The course was funded through a grant from the William Penn Foundation and a contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

During the fall semester that followed the institute, Lehman took what he learned to his seventh grade life science class, using Mill Creek as the perfect hands-on classroom. Because streams affect the health of other waterways, stream study is a good place to begin when looking at the world water scene.

"What happens upstream has a huge impact on what happens downstream," Lehman said. "We want them to learn how to take care of water wherever they live." Mill Creek, he explained, eventually runs into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Leaf Pack Experiment that Lehman introduced to his students involves creating leaf packs (dry leaves in mesh bags), placing them in the stream for three to four weeks, then examining them to discover the number and types of aquatic organisms that have set up housekeeping among



*Middle school life science teacher Wayne Lehman helps students prepare Leaf Pack for stream study. Students are, left to right: Lesly Fernandez, David Forte and Samuel Ortega.*

the leaves. These findings serve as indicators of the stream's health. The data is then shared online through The Leaf Pack Network (a network of teachers and students investigating their local stream ecosystem), shedding light on the important connection between streamside forests and the ecology of rivers and streams.

During the stream unit, the students also conduct measurements to provide a physical description of the stream—how deep and wide it is, rate of flow, condition of banks, and the types of trees growing on the banks. This year Lehman has 56 seventh graders who are participating in the Leaf project.

The clean water issue is "just huge," says Lehman who is concerned with many others about the availability of water in 10–15 years.

"In some senses water is more important than energy," he said. "We're talking about basic human need here—clean drinking water."

Lehman also uses the campus's outdoor classroom for other middle school science lessons, such as a bird study and his yearlong "Adopt a Spot" activity where students choose an outdoor spot on campus and then return

for a half hour once a month to study the ecological changes.

"We are so blessed to have a pond, stream and woodland," Lehman said. "These natural settings give kids the types of learning experiences they remember long after the classroom lectures are forgotten." ■





The art above shows the proposed track and field facility for the Lancaster Campus. The artist rendering at right shows the proposed front entrance planned for the Kraybill Campus.



## Investments with good returns

Over the years alumni and friends have been faithful in helping to provide facilities that allow the school to connect with the gifts and abilities within each student, helping to shape the leaders, doctors, salespersons, pastors and many others who are our friends and neighbors. For this we are most grateful. For the school’s mission to continue, we need ongoing participation in two new projects.

### Kraybill Campus improvements

Expanding the PreK/kindergarten program at Kraybill is a priority that is shared at the state and national levels. It has been found that strong early childhood programs lead to a higher percentage of students graduating from high school and advancing to higher education. In addition, we believe that at this formative age the school’s message of love, care and value for each student will find receptive hearts. There is a waiting list at Kraybill of families who want to enroll in PreK.

The changes at Kraybill will improve campus security, provide visitor-friendly entrances and lobbies with handicap accessibility, enhance aesthetics, and create better traffic flow that will eliminate congestion and a more student friendly environment. Preliminary projections estimate the cost to be \$1.5 million, including endowment that will maintain the facility. The school’s goal is to break ground as soon as possible to complete the following:

- renovate the school’s main entrance
- enlarge the lobby
- add a classroom for PreK and kindergarten
- relocate the offices for greater student security
- connect the rear of the elementary building to the gymnasium—reducing student traffic in the main lobby area and decreasing walking time for students going to the gym
- increase access to the middle school student locker area and enlarge middle school hallway space—alleviating student congestion between classes

### Lancaster Campus track and field facility

Track and field at Lancaster Mennonite High School became part of the Lancaster-Lebanon League in the spring of 2005. Because we did not have a track and field facility, our gracious neighbors, Lampeter-Strasburg High School shared their facilities for practices and home meets. Four years later, LMS athletes are still without a track and field facility.

According to Athletic Director Mike Yoder, the \$1.27 million facility goes far beyond interscholastic sports. Yes, it would add significant credibility to our track program, but that’s only half the story.

“It’s not just an athletic facility,” Yoder said, “It will be used just as much by our student body in gym classes.”

Here are some of the things teachers will be able to do:

- Accurately measure distances when doing fitness training
- Teach various types of runs and interval training in weight training class
- Train for basketball pre-season
- Plan for an all-school track and field day for elementary and middle school students

Events like Student Council fundraisers and the Iron Bridge Run/Walk, along with the gifts of 1,000 donors, have already raised \$500,000 toward the project. ■

### How can I help?

Eighty percent of the cost is needed before ground breaking can occur. Join us in moving these projects forward by sending your gift today to Lancaster Mennonite School, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602, or by making a gift online at [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org).

**Or, you may contact** Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 299-0436, ext. 308, or [stoltzfushe@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:stoltzfushe@lancastermennonite.org) to discuss giving opportunities.

# School increases pre-kindergarten options

Lancaster Mennonite School is offering a five-day full-day pre-kindergarten program at its New Danville Campus this year, and the Locust Grove Campus also will offer one next year. The Kraybill Campus has plans for a new facility (see page 5) that will allow it to expand to five days as well. The five-day program is offered in addition to two, three and four-day options.

Because parents want programs that will best prepare children for school, LMS has been a leader in providing full-day in-school kindergarten and pre-kindergarten experiences. LMS believes that the best preparation for elementary school is to attend pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in an elementary school setting.

Expanding the pre-kindergarten program to five days will further prepare students for a more challenging kindergarten program, as well as first grade.

Educational consultant Connie Stauffer believes the extra full days are beneficial.

“Society is now demanding an accelerated push for learning,” she said, “and the old-time kindergarten is being pushed to PreK.”

Stauffer helped to establish a pre-kindergarten philosophy and curriculum for Lancaster Mennonite that is based on a holistic view of the child and meets students at their level of development. At all three campuses, the pre-kindergarten program is integrated into the overall elementary school program so students are exposed to a wider variety of school experiences, teachers, and role models.

Being at school all day like elementary students also reduces the need for a day care center or other caregiver while parents are at work.

LMS parents have supported the school’s approach to pre-kindergarten. They say PreK students move more easily into kindergarten and beyond and actually do better in school than before pre-kindergarten was available.

Lancaster Mennonite Superintendent Richard Thomas, who oversees the entire system from pre-kindergarten through high school, believes that the



Anne Roth teaches pre-kindergarten full time at the New Danville Campus.

PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES

five-day full-day pre-kindergarten fits the school’s vision to provide educational excellence for children of all ages for area families.

“Everything we know points to the fact that early childhood education pays later dividends in helping students be successful in school,” he said.

Anne Roth, PreK teacher at New Danville, says that, in addition to offering a quality academic program at the PreK level, it is important to teach social skills.

“It’s learning how to play and how to get along with each other,” she said. “That’s important, too.”

Stephanie Kreider teaches PreK at Locust Grove, and Jessica Lloyd at Kraybill.

**Applications are being accepted** for the 2009-10 school year. Go to [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) for more information about the school’s comprehensive pre-kindergarten to grade 12 program. Scholarships are available. ■

*Everything we know points to the fact that early childhood education pays later dividends in helping students be successful in school.*

- J. Richard Thomas,  
Superintendent



The school's residence hall is a rich tradition that was established in 1942 to welcome young people living outside Lancaster County—students like Jerry Martin and Jeanette Hertzler Martin, for example (see page 15). Today the residence hall, now called Graybill Hall, continues making LMS a reality for alumni children and others who want to take advantage of the many opportunities at LMS but who live too far away to commute. PHOTOS: JONATHAN CHARLES

# An investment that will impact your child for life

## Enroll now for PreK-12 at four campuses

**N**ow is a good time to decide where your children will attend school in the fall. Call today and schedule a visit at one or more of our four campuses. In addition, visit us during our Open House event which is set for Tuesday, February 3, 6-8:30 p.m. Finally, don't forget to visit our web site at [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) where you'll find admissions applications as well as applications for scholarships and financial aid. We would love to meet you!

### High school residence hall

The school's Graybill Hall, with five-day and seven-day programs, makes it possible for high school students living outside Lancaster County to take full advantage of the excellent growth opportunities at LMS. This year 45 students live in the residence hall, representing five states, and six countries. For more information about this opportunity, visit the high school section at [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) and click on "residence hall."

### Who are we?

- There are 1,500 students enrolled at four campuses (PreK-12). Students may transfer to LMS at any level.
- The school's goal is to create a culture of kindness in which students respect each other's differences.
- Approximately 52 percent of LMS students are from Anabaptist denominations, and more than 20 other denominations and many non-denominational congregations are represented.
- At the Lancaster Campus, 21 percent of students are of under-represented racial/ethnic groups. At Locust Grove, 26 percent, and at New Danville, 29 percent.
- Students at the Lancaster Campus represent 46 school districts, four Pa. counties, six states, and six countries.
- Students at all levels are encouraged to develop their gifts and abilities in preparation for college and career planning. Starting in 2009-10, all seniors will give a senior presentation in which they will share their PreK-12 pilgrimage and post high school plans with family and friends.
- The high school enjoys SAT scores that are higher than any Lancaster County public school. ■

## Lancaster Mennonite School OPEN HOUSE

### Events for all campuses

#### February 3, 6-8:30 p.m.

- Tours and conversations with teachers
- Welcome assembly at the Kraybill (6:30) and Lancaster (7:00) campuses
- High school course selection
- Information about financial aid/scholarships.

#### March 26

#### Prospective Student Day

High School: 8:05 a.m.-3:05 p.m.  
Other grades: mornings only.  
Please call to register.

### For more information or to schedule a visit:

#### Kraybill, grades PreK-8

Principal John Weber  
(717) 653-5236

#### Lancaster, grades 6-12

(717) 299-0436, ext. 312

#### Locust Grove, grades PreK-8

Principal Judi Mollenkof  
(717) 394-7107

#### New Danville, grades PreK-6

Principal Judi Mollenkof  
(717) 872-2506



## Locust Grove students catch the vision

For five Locust Grove Challenge Program\* students, Dharavi, a slum in India, is no longer just a dot on a map.

It all began when teacher Barbara Josephian introduced her fifth grade class to the unit on cities in which students study how metropolitan areas work and then build a model city to illustrate what they have learned. During the introduction, Josephian gave examples of cities in third world countries that aren't working at all. When the class asked, "What are slums?" and "What is a third world country?" Josephian saw the teachable moment.

Bringing her May 2007 issue of *National Geographic* magazine to the next class period, Josephian shared pictures and stories about Dharavi where children play in sewers, and malnutrition and pollution abound. The students learned that nearly two billion world citizens live in slums, with one million of them in Dharavi's approximately one square mile area. It was then that one student piped up, "Why don't we rebuild Dharavi?" The four others quickly caught the vision, and before long they were crawling around on a made-to-scale map of Dharavi, making infrastructure decisions that will create better living conditions. For example, their model city will feature taller apartment buildings so a 200-square-foot living area will house 12 persons instead of 24.

The students recently talked about how it feels to know others have so little when we in the U.S. have so much. "I hate it," Abbey King said. "I feel, like, glutinous." "We should try to do something about it," added Julian Brubaker. Though the students tried to comfort themselves



Left to right: Abbey King, Julian Brubaker, Seth Weaver, teacher Barbara Josephian, Rebecca Lauver and Emily Peifer.

with the knowledge that the slum dwellers have different expectations and experience happiness in ways unrelated to riches, they concluded that slum conditions are unjust.

Their enthusiasm spread to the whole Locust Grove Campus. As a result, the March 31 Family Science Night will focus on projects that can help citizens of the third world, and Locust Grove's annual Valentines Project will benefit orphan children in Zambia, Africa.

"It's wonderful when students grasp a concept like poverty and world need," Principal Judi Mollenkof said. "And when they transfer that into something they can do, that's the school's mission right there—'transforming students so they can change our world.' That's what we're all about." ■

*\*Lancaster Mennonite's Challenge Program is designed to help meet the needs of academically gifted students by enriching and extending their education beyond the regular curriculum.*

■ Mary Anne Garber, who worked in food services at the Lancaster Campus for over three years, died Saturday, November 22, 2008, after an automobile accident. Students and staff at the Lancaster Campus remembered and celebrated Garber's life during a memorial service held January 8 during chapel.



Mary Anne Garber

■ In December, the Kraybill Campus raised \$2,950 for plastic sheeting that will allow Mennonite Central Committee to provide shelter for over 1,000 Chinese families who lost their homes during the May earthquake. In addition, Locust Grove students donated non-perishable food items for local food banks, and New Danville students collected 115 shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, a program of Samaritan's Purse. Shoe boxes were filled with school supplies, small toys, and hygiene items.



New Danville students with some of the shoebox gifts they collected for Operation Christmas Child. Left to right: Emily Rosenfeld, Micaiah Barley, Josiah Sugden and Ermisha Wanore. PHOTO: EDIE HESS

# Celebrating achievements

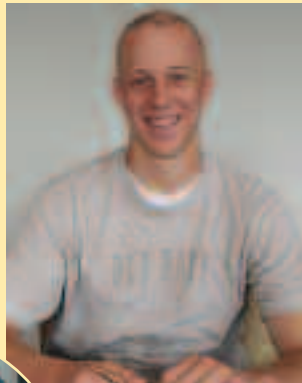
- Five **music students were honored** recently. LMS senior Eric Umble was selected to represent Pennsylvania in the 2009 Music Educators National Conference (MENC) All-Eastern conference which will be held March 12-15 in Providence, R.I. Eric will play his clarinet with a select group of musicians made up of the best members from all the State bands and orchestras on the East Coast. It is the highest honor a high schooler can receive in these competitions.

In addition, four LMS students have been selected to participate in the Pa. Music Educator Association (PMEA) District 7 music festivals this winter. Senior Tyler Landis, tenor 1, was selected for the District 7 Chorus Festival. Qualifying for the District 7 Orchestra Festival are sophomore Dawon Suh, junior Andrea Mast, and junior Doyeon Kim—all violinists. In photo at right the musicians are, seated, left to right: Andrea Mast and Dawon Suh. Standing, left to right: Doyeon Kim, Eric Umble and Tyler Landis.



- Senior Jordon Smucker, shown at right, has been awarded an **athletic scholarship** for baseball from Binghamton University, a Division 1 program.

As announced in the fall issue of *Bridges*, Katelyn Vanderhoff has been awarded a full basketball scholarship from University of Maine, also a Division 1 school. In December, Vanderhoff reached her **1,000th career point** during a game with Cocalico that was a 54–22 win for the Blazers. Vanderhoff is shown at far right with parents Carol, left, and Bob Vanderhoff, along with coach Sherri Gorman.



- Golf coach Deryl Denlinger, at right, was named **Coach of the Year** for leading his team to its fifth straight Section Three title and a runner-up finish in the Lancaster-Lebanon League team competition. Also under his leadership, senior Matt Burkhardt won the L-L League championship, and son David Denlinger, also a senior, captured the PIAA title—the first Lancaster Countian to do so since 1988.



- Other fall sports accomplishments include the **field hockey** team being named a co-section champion, **boys cross country** winning their division championship, and **boys soccer** winning their section championship.
- Students at the Kraybill, Locust Grove and New Danville campuses raised over \$112,300 during their annual **Race for Education** events, with Kraybill bringing in \$90,000. The fund raiser benefits the Annual Fund.



*New Danville students participate in their Race for Education event that was held in the fall.* PHOTO: EDIE HESS



■ When Jimm Derksen traveled to Asia in October, the sixth grade class at New Danville e-mailed him with a question each day since he was traveling through some of the countries they were studying in social studies. When the father of sixth grader Helena Derksen returned, he visited the class and described his experiences, discussing transportation, housing, education, crops, pets and foods, including the grilled frogs he was served for breakfast one day. Sixth grader Kerri Ressler said Derksen made the social studies lessons seem more real.

■ On December 19, a delegation of educators associated with the Beijing Municipal Education Commission visited the Lancaster Campus. Among the group were personnel directors, school  
*continued on page 11*

*Top photo: Jimm Derksen, center, who works in human resources at Eastern Mennonite Missions, visited the sixth grade class at New Danville to share of his experiences in Asia. With him are, left to right: Emily Spilker, Kerri Ressler, Jonathan Schultz, Emily Rosenfeld, Mike Wanore, Micaiah Barley and Helena Derksen.*

PHOTO: EDIE HESS

*Bottom: In December Chinese guests presented Superintendent Richard Thomas with gifts to the school.*

## Scholarship available for 20 incoming ninth graders

**T**wenty ninth grade merit-based scholarships of \$1,000 each are available to students applying to Lancaster Mennonite High School for the 2009-10 academic year. This Ninth-grade Merit Scholarship will be awarded to the top 20 applicants on the basis of academic excellence, exemplary character, and leadership in the school, church and community. Eighth graders transferring from other schools as well as those already enrolled at LMS are encouraged to apply.

Successful applicants must have positive references from the principal or guidance counselor of their current school and from a church leader such as a pastor, youth pastor or Sunday School teacher.

Applicants must submit a transcript or report card, references, and an application by February 15 to Christy Horst in the admissions office of Lancaster Mennonite High School. Scholarship applications may be obtained online at [www.lancastermennonite.org/forms](http://www.lancastermennonite.org/forms) or through the office of any Lancaster Mennonite School campus.

The Ninth-grade Merit Scholarship will be awarded to the top 20 applicants, regardless of financial need. Need-based scholarships are also available. ■

## LMS summer day camps scheduled

### Basketball

Boys basketball, grades 5-10 .....July 20-24  
Girls basketball, grades 5-10 .....July 6-10

### Field Hockey

Jr. high field hockey, grades 6-8.....June 8-12  
Sr. high field hockey, grades 9-12.....August 10-14

### Soccer

Elem. coed soccer, grades 1-5 .....June 15-19  
Jr. high boys soccer, grades 6-8 .....July 6-10  
Sr. high boys soccer, grades 9-12 .....August 10-14

### Volleyball

Jr. high girls volleyball, grades 6-9 .....July 13-17

### Other camp opportunities

Spiritual fitness, grades 10-12.....June 12-14  
Intro. to digital photography, grades 6-10 .....June 15 & 16  
Digital video editing, grades 6-12.....June 17-19  
Coed culinary arts, grades 4-9.....July 20-24  
Youth Choir, grades 3-8.....July 20-24  
Middle school drama, grades 6-8.....July 27-31

*Other camps being planned are lacrosse, tennis, environmental science, and language. For a brochure and application, please call (717) 299-0436, ext. 310.*

continued from page 10

principals, curriculum coordinators and civil servants. Topics discussed included possible student or faculty exchanges, summer camps and short-term programs. The meetings provided good opportunities for sharing about our Christian faith and values, as well as our philosophy of education. The delegation was impressed by our school and expressed strong interest in exploring a continued relationship with LMS. In January, 29 Korean educators visited, and in February 30–35 Chinese students and adult leaders will visit. ■

### Mark your calendar!

#### LMS singers join MCCL for benefit concert

The LMS Campus Chorale, Junior Chorale, and the Mennonite Childrens Choir of Lancaster (MCCL) are partnering with the “Beyond Ourselves” Chamber Musicians for a benefit concert Sunday, March 15, at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. The concert will support Mennonite Central Committee and their work in Colombia. The concert is free, but an offering will be received.

#### LMS Golf Tournament, Wednesday, April 29:

This year’s event at the Lancaster Host Golf Resort will again include morning and afternoon tee times.

The fee of \$85 per golfer includes greens fee, cart, light food before the round, a meal afterward, and skill/door prizes. Brochures will be sent in March. For more information, contact committee chair Allan Shirk, (717) 299-0436, ext. 382.



#### Spring auctions:

Three spring auctions will provide a way for families, alumni and other friends to support LMS students. All proceeds will go to the Annual Fund which keeps tuition affordable. The events are as follows:

- **New Danville Country Auction—April 17**
- **Locust Grove Chicken Barbecue and Auction—April 24**
- **Kraybill Benefit Auction & Pig Roast—May 8 & 9**

February 22	High School Winter Concert, 3 p.m.
February 27–28	Locust Grove Drama, <i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i>
March 15	Beyond Ourselves Benefit Concert, 3 p.m., Fine Arts Center
March 26–27	LMMS Drama, 7 p.m.
April 2	All-School MS Fine Arts Festival, Lanc., 6:30 p.m.
April 30–May 2	HS musical, <i>Titanic</i> , 7:30 p.m. + 2:00 Sat. matinee
May 8	MSC MS Choir Festival Concert, Lanc., 7 p.m.
May 12	Kraybill Middle School Choral Program, 7 p.m.
May 17	High School Spring Concert, 3 p.m.

### Campus Chorale Church Schedule 2008-09

February 1, 9 a.m. ....	Akron Mennonite Church
March 1, 10:15 a.m. ....	Ridgeview Mennonite Church
March 4, 7 p.m. ....	Neffsville Mennonite Church
March 22, 7 p.m. ....	Conestoga Mennonite Church
March 29, 10 a.m. ....	Hershey Mennonite Church
April 5, 8:30 & 11 a.m. ....	Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster
April 26, 7 p.m. ....	Strasburg Mennonite Church

## Pastors strengthen relationships with their students

Eighty-six pastors and youth leaders visited the New Danville, Locust Grove and Lancaster campuses during September, representing Atlantic Coast Conference, Lancaster Mennonite Conference, and numerous other local congregations.

At New Danville and Locust Grove, the event was an opportunity for pastors to pray for the new school year with individual classes. At Lancaster, pastors attended the high school chapel, visited classes, and ate lunch with their students. The Kraybill Campus will hold a Pastors Lunch on February 18.

The goal of having pastors visit our campuses is to strengthen the partnership between church and school as together we invite students to personal faith, Christlike witness, peacemaking and service. ■

*Top photo: Cheryl Hollinger, education director at Forest Hills Mennonite Church, enjoys connecting with kindergarten students during the Locust Grove Pastors Day.*

PHOTO: REBECCA ASHLEY

*Bottom photo: Pastor Jose Jimenez from Church of God, Lancaster, attends class with eighth grader Genesis Cubilete during the Pastors Day event at the Lancaster Campus.*



## CLASS NOTES



Noah Martin. PHOTO: CHUCK MAMULA

**Noah S. Martin, 1958**, Johnstown, recently completed his sixth book, *What to Do While You Wait For the World to End*. The book explores the great expectations of many failed end-time prophecies of Christ's return and the end of the world. He says: "My book is not a dramatic portrayal of cataclysmic events that are to come. Rather, my take is that we are always living in our end times. ... My emphasis is to live now in the presence of the Christ who has already come and allow Him to live His life through us." Martin has

served as a pastor, teacher, and counselor for 40 years and is the founder and director of New Day, Inc., a Christian-based faith ministry to at-risk children and youth in four locations in Western Pennsylvania. He holds degrees from Eastern Mennonite University, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary (where he received his doctorate). For more information go to [www.noahsbooks.org](http://www.noahsbooks.org) or to the alumni section of [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org). Noah's book will eventually be available at the Berean Bookstores in the Lancaster area.

**Jennifer Wenger, 1990, King**, Brownstown, earned her designation as a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), a designation which less than four percent of all licensed realtors have earned. In addition, Jennifer earned her associate broker's license in 2008, and is affiliated with RE/MAX Associates of Lancaster.

**Wendell Zeiset, 1991**, East Earl, has finished a two-year term as chief at the Bald Eagle Boys Camp in Clinton County. The camp is an alternative educational facility for teenage boys 9–16

whose behavior is out of control. The boys live outdoors year-round, guided by young men.

**Jen Kooker, 1992, Peifer**, Myersville, Md., and **Krista Ebersole, 1994, Sensenig**, East Petersburg, were inducted into the Eastern Mennonite athletics Hall of Honor on October 11. They were members of the 1995 field hockey team which reached the national Collegiate Athletics Association Final Four. Both graduated from EMU with outstanding career scores.

**Lydia Troncale, 2002**, Moscow, Russia, works for Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy as the development director. The organization runs 12 social service programs including two soup kitchens and several initiatives to help the large African and Afghani refugee communities. Troncale graduated from Eastern University with a master's in international development.

**Julie Denlinger, 2005**, Lancaster, was recently named to the Virginia Sports Information Directors All-State Team. An All-ODAC Second Team recipient, she was named to the team after tallying 11 goals and eight assists for 30 points. She ends her Eastern Mennonite

## CLASS REUNIONS

## 1973

The Class of 1973 held their 35th class reunion in the LMS Alumni Dining Hall on October 11. Fifty classmates plus 37 spouses met for an evening of informal fellowship and a buffet dinner.

During sharing, classmate Bob Petersheim reflected on the frequently heard comment, "You haven't changed at bit," and said change might not be a bad thing after checking out the year-book pictures. On a more serious note, Petersheim referred to the myriad of experiences that classmates have experienced since graduation and challenged the class to hold onto the school motto, "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord."

The evening also included a test where classmates and spouses tried to identify early school pictures of classmates and faculty members; 1970s music that included clips from The Choraleers, Daybreak (a local band that involved three of the class's members), and secular songs of the day; and a con-



Class of 1973 classmates (left to right) Bob Hess, Joan Yoder Mills and Doris Witmer Fahnestock visit at their class reunion that was held in Alumni Dining Hall in October.

tinuous PowerPoint slide presentation that showed recent pictures of classmates and their involvements today. ■

For the complete report, submitted by Wayne and Debbie Bechtold, and Arnold and Esther Petersheim, go to [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) and click on "Alumni."

University career with 23 goals scored, 20 assists and 66 points, placing her 22nd on the all-time points list.

From January to July, **Jonathan Spicher, 2006**, Mountville, and friend Lars Akerson, are participating in an 8,500-mile bike trip from Harrisonburg, Virginia, to the Global Youth Summit and Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay. Working with AMIGOS (the world conference youth committee), BikeMovement Americas hopes to raise \$30,000 through the bike trip to help emerging young leaders from around the world attend the summit in Paraguay. To follow the trip, go to [americas.bikemovement.org](http://americas.bikemovement.org). Spicher is a junior at Eastern Mennonite University.

## MARRIAGES

**Julie Gish, 1994**, and Andrew Gingrich, May 10, 2008. They live in Lancaster.

**Neal R. Martin, 1994**, and Stacey Martin, March 15, 2008. They live in New Holland.

**Eric M. Grosh, 2004**, and Lindsay Zesiger, September 20, 2008. They live in Red Lion.

**Ramona Hurst, 2004**, and Brent Martin, August 23, 2008. They live in Reamstown.

**Jennifer Garber, 2005**, and **Linford Hershey, 2006**, July 5, 2008. They live in Christiana.

**Clinton Simmons, 2003**, and Christina Yoder, April 19, 2008. They live in New York City.

## BIRTHS

Kris and **Patrick Leaman, 1988**, Sinking Springs, a daughter, Ryan Elizabeth, November 27, 2008. She joins brothers Cole and Jake.

**Jonathan Bollinger, 1990**, and **Jan Bollinger-Good, 1990**, Lexena, Kan., a son, Markus Alan, December 1, 2008. He joins siblings Madeline Marie, 5, and Joel Howard, 3.

Adam and **Dawn Gochner, 1993**, **Harnish**, Millersville, first child, Marissa Dawn, August 7, 2008.

Tom and **Rebecca Interrante, 1995**, **Carroll**, Spring City, twin daughters, Alanah Hope and Chiara Faith, April 5, 2006. Rebecca owns an entertainment

and photography company specializing in weddings.

**Rodney, 1998**, and Jodi **Gehman**, Kalona, Iowa, third child, Stella Milan, October 27, 2008, joining Jackson Eugene, 4, and Alana Grace, 2.

**Ranae Miller, 2001**, and Ryan Wintsch, Ronks, first child, Katelyn Elizabeth Miller, October 10, 2008.

Todd and **Mandie Holloway, 2004**, **Denlinger**, Lancaster, first child, Mason James, March 18, 2007; second child, Bayley Marie, October 14, 2008.

## DEATHS

**Eli Lewis Miller, Sr., 1945**, Harrisonburg, Va., July 7, 2008.

**Naaman L. Eberly, 1968**, Lancaster, January 12, 2009.

**Marianne Beth Stutzman Williams, 1981**, Oley, December 6, 2008, as the result of a traffic accident.

**Victoria LeAnne Heisey, 2008**, Manheim, November 12, 2008, due to complications of acute leukemia. ■

## Challenge fund to provide 2 for 1 match



Getting to talk with LMS alumni was a fun opportunity for students like Alanna Hiller, 2008, who helped make phonathon calls last year.

Alumni and other LMS friends are providing leadership gifts as a way to encourage increased giving during the Alumni Phonathon that will be held in February and March.

According to Executive Director of Development/Alumni Relations Jeff Shank, the 2009 Challenge Fund will add \$2 for every \$1 given, as long as the total gift is increased by at least \$10 over last year.

During 2008 the phonathon raised close to \$160,000 for the Annual Fund which helps keep tuition affordable and provides student scholarships. The event played an important role in helping the school balance its operating budget.

For more information about the Challenge Fund or alumni phonathon, please call Shank at (717) 299-0436, ext. 706. ■

## 2009 Class reunions

1959 June 27, 2009  
1974 July 18, 2009

For more reunion information go to [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org).

**If you are a contact person for a 2009 class reunion:** Consider planning your reunion around **Homecoming 2009** which will be held November 20 and 21. The weekend will include an alumni art exhibit, alumni reception, barbecue, specialty auction, basketball tournament and the Iron Bridge Run/Walk.

Share your reunion date with Executive Director of Development/ Alumni Relations Jeff Shank at (717) 299-0436, ext. 706, or [shankja@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:shankja@lancastermennonite.org) as soon as possible. **For great planning tips**, go to [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) and click on "alumni," "class reunions," and "information for reunion contact persons."

## Appalachian Trail a place for reflection

Alumni will remember him as Ted Houser, 1994, but the "thru hikers" on the Appalachian Trail this past summer knew him by Spider, the trail name given to him by another hiker.

From May 2 to September 2, the LMS alum hiked the entire 2,176 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. He went through 14 fourteen states, five pairs of shoes and two backpacks.

To make the trek, the Lancaster resident left his job as a manager of a technology integration firm. He used the trail as a place to prepare to transition back to a career with non-profit organizations.

"I want to focus on what I do in the world rather than on the wealth I amass," he said.

Houser says that the mental challenge was more difficult than the physical effort required to complete the journey.

"At the halfway point, I was tired of



Tasha Clemmer, 1993, left, and Ted Houser, 1994. Clemmer teaches high school math in New York City.

living away from friends, family and conveniences," he said. "It took a lot of discipline to buckle down and commit to another two months in the woods."

But having family and friends meet him along the trail occasionally did help, he says. Several even hiked with him for a few days. Tasha Clemmer, also an LMS graduate, joined him for one week of his four-month trek.

"Hiking with Tasha was a highlight of my trip," he said. "It's hard to beat the camaraderie of old friends." ■

Ted Houser can be reached at [ted.houser@gmail.com](mailto:ted.houser@gmail.com) or on Facebook.

## Called finest and most important new American musical

Lancaster Mennonite High School students will perform the musical version of *Titanic* during the school's 30th annual Arts Festival, Thursday through Saturday, April 30–May 2. Times are 7:30 nightly and 2 p.m. Saturday.

Called the finest and most important musical in over a decade, Yeston and Stone's *Titanic* examines the causes, conditions and characters involved in this ever-fascinating drama. This factual story—of her officers, crew and passengers—gives a porthole into the hopes and dreams of a few of the 2,200 souls who boarded the *Titanic* for her maiden voyage in 1912.

Tickets for reserved seating are \$8.00 for students and \$10.00 for adults for all performances except Saturday's matinee when they will be \$1.00 less. For tickets call (717) 299-0436, ext. 340, or send payment and a self-addressed envelope to LMS Musical, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, Pa., 17602. Reserved tickets need to be claimed at least 30 minutes before the performance.

### Dinner Theatre

The annual LMS Dinner Theatre, which benefits the Annual Fund, will be held

Saturday, May 2. The meal will be catered by LMS Food Services under the direction of Dottie Weber. Tickets, at \$40.00 each, include reserved seating

in the Fine Arts Center for the 7:30 performance of *Titanic*. For the best seating, send order and payment today. ■

### LMS Dinner Theatre • Saturday, May 2

5:00 appetizers  
5:45 dinner  
in Alumni  
Dining Hall



7:30 musical  
performance in  
Fine Arts Center

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed (\$40 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Consider hosting a table of six or more. To reserve seating for a group, send your entire order together and list names of all persons in your party.

Food choice (indicate # of persons per entree):

\_\_\_ Boneless Pork Cutlet \_\_\_ Stuffed Chicken Breast \_\_\_ Vegetarian (call 299-0436 ext. 701)

**Instructions:** Return this form with payment to LMS Dinner Theatre, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602. Tickets for reserved seats will be forwarded to you upon receipt of payment. Please register by Friday, April 24.

# Church work a priority for 1977 alumnus

Growing up in southern Florida where Mennonites are a minority may have a lot to do with why Jerry Martin, 1977, is attracted to church work in areas less familiar with Anabaptists. Jerry is moderator of Mountain States Mennonite Conference (MSMC) which includes 21 churches in northwestern Texas, New Mexico and Colorado.

“As individual churches and as a conference, we are forced to define who we are in the context of a world that knows very little about us,” Jerry said. “It is easy to be overly dependent on tradition or generations of families who grew up Mennonite to energize and grow the church.”

“People who don’t know the Mennonite experience require us to examine and verbalize our faith in new and different ways.”

As conference moderator, Martin chairs the conference Leadership Board and works closely with Conference Minister Herm Weaver. Jerry says he enjoys his role of organizing their leadership group, helping to envision the conference’s future, and supporting Herm in his demanding task of overseeing 21 churches.

Jerry and his wife, Jeanette, also a 1977 LMS graduate, are very active in

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***Living in the dorm ... was a wonderful experience. I learned ... that it is much more interesting to live with others than it is to live alone, which has become a model for my life.***

**- Jerry Martin, 1977**

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their home congregation, Beth-El Mennonite Church, near their Colorado Springs home.

“Participation in all aspects of church life is important to both of us,” he said. “We learned that from our parents and have chosen it as a value for ourselves. The church needs active lay leaders.”

Jerry’s involvement in his congregation has included teaching, worship

leading, choir, serving as congregational chair, and serving on the building committee.

Jeanette has worked as administrative assistant in the Beth-El office for 10 years. Jerry says she also “is one of Beth-El’s welcoming gurus” who has led the church’s Welcoming Ministry for many years.

For family income, Jerry works from his home as an independent sales representative for Sauder Manufacturing in Archbold, Ohio. He covers five states in his work—Northern New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana.

He received an associate degree in Bible from Hesston College and a B.A. in organizational communication from University of Colorado.

Although Jerry and Jeanette met at Lancaster Mennonite, it wasn’t until six years after graduation that they discovered the spark that led to their marriage in 1985. They have a daughter, Chloe (a student at Hesston College), and a son, Jacob.

#### **Service**

Jerry and Jeanette taught two years in Aswan, Egypt, as English as a Second Language teachers and served three years in Amman, Jordan, as country representatives—both assignments under Mennonite Central Committee.

#### **LMS influence on church work**

Going to LMH for my junior and senior years provided an integration of faith and education that I hadn’t experienced before. I think it provided a model that has helped me balance a working career and service as a church leader.



*Jerry Martin and Jeanette Hertzler Martin, both 1977*

#### **Best things about LMS**

I have lifelong friendships that began at LMH, including the most important one in my life (Jeanette). In addition, Campus Chorale and Choraleers were very important experiences for both of us.

#### **LMS residence hall**

Living in the dorm as a senior was a wonderful experience. Dick Thomas was a great dorm advisor. I learned in the dorm that it is much more interesting to live with others than it is to live alone, which has become a model for my life. The dorm was a highlight for Jeanette as well (she lived in Mechanicsburg).

#### **Jeanette and I love ...**

The wide open spaces and the outdoor life of the mountainous west. From the time we moved to Colorado more than 20 years ago, camping, hiking, bicycling and skiing have been an important part of our lives. While we live in an urban area, the recent rural history of this part of the country still permeates the pace of life and relationships. ■

# Center a reminder of Christian faithfulness

Christmas seemed to come early to the Lancaster Campus when, on December 2, students moved into Rutt Academic Center.

The center is named in honor of Clarence and Elva Rutt because of a naming gift that was given by their children, led by sons Clarence Jr. and John. Clarence Sr., along with some of his children, participated in the campus clean-up that prepared Lancaster Mennonite High School for its opening in September of 1942.

Clarence and Elva sent their seven children through LMS, and Clarence served on the school board and later in the maintenance department. Son John served on the LMS board, Clarence on the LMS alumni board, and the following as faculty members: daughter Joyce Rutt Eby, son-in-law Charles Longenecker, and grandchildren C.J. Rutt and Lynn Longenecker. Grandson Roger Rutt serves on the school board, and many grandchildren are LMS alumni.

We celebrate the involvement of this family in the life of the school and their commitment to the difference made by a Christian education. We celebrate the sacrifice Clarence and Elva made to pay tuition for their seven children and their vision that this was a way to secure

their children's futures.

In many ways Clarence and Elva are heroes of faith, a story that continues to inspire others to support Christ-centered education. Clarence and Elva did not set out to have a building named for them; they simply were faithful to what they believed God was calling them to do. They became witnesses to God's faithfulness as they took seriously the "first great commission" to pass on faith to our sons and daughters. The Rutt Academic Center will serve as a reminder of that Christian faithfulness.

It has been said that we shape our buildings and then they shape us. The technology included in the center will help faculty communicate concepts and empower students to discover knowledge through work in science labs.

We believe the green aspects of the building will call all of us to more fully follow the biblical command to be stewards of all creation and that the center's gathering areas will build community among students and between students and staff.

The Rutt Academic Center is a signature structure that communicates academic strength in a holistic setting where faith is both caught and taught. In these challenging times, Lancaster



J. Richard Thomas

Mennonite School exists as a missional center of the church, serving the greater Lancaster area. For the new facility, which enhances that service, we thank the Rutt family who provided a naming gift, Calvin and Janet High who provided a matching gift that took us to groundbreaking, and the many other friends who helped us complete funding for the center. Most of all, we praise God who sustains us in this vision and journey in Christian education. To God be the glory.—jrt



**LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL**

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