Let the children play, page 2
Open house and new advertising options, page 5
Calling students to radical love, page 6
In the good old days, recess was a highlight of the day for school children. Today, however, some schools are reducing or even eliminating recess time in order to prepare their children for the increased testing required by the federal “No Child Left Behind” Act.

At Lancaster Mennonite School, recess is still viewed as being an important part of the day for elementary children. Parents like New Danville parent Deb McCoy say they are glad.

“I am encountering more and more schools in my work that are eliminating recess, and I find it appalling,” said McCoy, who formerly worked at the Pennsylvania Department of Education and is now an education consultant.

“This is indeed an extremely shortsighted approach to learning and educating the whole child. No wonder our kids are so tied to the electronic world and many don’t want to go outdoors any more.”

According to research, providing free play and exercise can actually help increase academic performance. *ScienceDaily*, published at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2009, April 1), says: “Physical activity may increase students’ cognitive control—or ability to pay attention—and also result in better performance on academic achievement tests.” The essay describes testing that shows “the increase in reading comprehension following exercise equated to approximately a full grade level.”

Research from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (May 2006) also discusses the tie between inactivity/poor nutritional habits and the 16 percent of children who are overweight.

Elementary children at the Kraybill, Locust Grove and New Danville campuses enjoy at least two times out of the class-room each day—either two recesses, or one recess and one physical education class. Kraybill Principal John Weber says his faculty believe “free play time is essential” in the holistic growth of children.

“Free play enhances physical growth, provides opportunity for children to develop social skills through negotiating their play activity and rules,” he said, “and it also enhances creativity and imagination.”

Weber, who sometimes joins the children at recess, said he is “always impressed to see students negotiate the rules and referee their own play.”

“The cultivation of interpersonal skills and group cooperation has no better setting for growth than during recess,” he said.

For New Danville teacher Sarah Fichter, recess is a great time to observe students and how they interact with each other.

“How a student plays at recess is a good indicator of whether or not a student might have insecurities with others or if it’s more of an insecurity with (academic) material,” she said. “If I notice a student is withdrawn in class but is quick to join in with classmates at recess, I am not as concerned as if I see a student withdrawn during academics and recess.”

“Recess can be a time of conflict for students, and I have often used time after recess to talk through situations
Judi Mollenkof, principal of New Danville and Locust Grove, told the story of another teacher whose very shy student had set a goal to include others in her play. One day the teacher observed the shy student making a deliberate effort to reach out, so the teacher affirmed the student afterward. Later, the parent thanked the teacher for her caring observation and follow through.

“Recess does give (teachers) an opportunity to interact and observe students in a different setting than the classroom,” Mollenkof said. “It can be very helpful in giving insight about the students and also in building relationships with them.”

Free play is an important part of the growth process for students at Lancaster Mennonite’s three elementary campuses: Kraybill, shown on page 2 photo, Locust Grove, at right; and New Danville, below. All three campuses enjoy state-of-the-art playground equipment. KRAYBILL PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES. NEW DANVILLE PHOTO: EDIE HESS.
His past fall, LMS Bible teacher J. W. Sprunger watched an idea come to life right before his eyes.

Also serving as director of church relations at Lancaster Mennonite, Sprunger had the opportunity to attend five regional “plunges” or prayer walks. Introduced by Lancaster Mennonite Conference, each plunge was a day where church leaders went into local communities and prayed, talked, and visited with the people. The hope was that testimonies from the experience could be shared with congregations, to show how God has been working in people’s lives.

Each plunge Sprunger attended produced interesting stories and moving testimonies which he then began to share with his Kingdom Living classes.

After hearing multiple stories, several students expressed interest in joining the prayer walks. Realizing it would be a great way to involve Lancaster County youth in the ministry, Sprunger decided to pursue the idea.

“The pastors were very excited, also,” Sprunger said. “They said, ‘Just call me up if you plan to go!’”

Getting approval from Principal Miles Yoder and a school council, Sprunger took the idea to his students. After 57 students showed interest and 28 gave firm commitments, walks were scheduled for December 12 and January 8.

Both prayer walks started at 8:00 in the morning with an orientation by Clair Good, a bishop and representative of Eastern Mennonite Missions. Students were then split into groups of two, with each pair assigned to a pastor. The groups traveled to Lancaster City, officially starting the plunge around 9:00.

In general, both prayer walks followed a very relaxed, go-with-the-flow system. The groups were encouraged to find a business or building that they thought would benefit from the prayer—anything from a bakery to a sporting goods store to a bank. Then the group said a prayer for the business, whether going into the building or just staying outside. In other cases, the group encountered a person on the street and asked if they wanted to be prayed for.

Of course, when interacting with a large variety of people, different reactions resulted. Sometimes people simply didn’t want to be prayed for. Instead there was conversation or dialogue in which the students were able to get a glimpse into the person’s life—what their family is like, what their job is, maybe a hardship they’ve faced.

“Above all, it’s blessing the people,” Sprunger said about the walks.

The combination of prayer, blessing, and dialogue provided the participants with a moving experience. More than anything, the walk was a hands-on experience of meeting new people and grasping a sense of the humanity within them.

Senior Solomon Rudy attended the December prayer walk. He ended up in Lancaster’s Central Market, talking to a man about his views on religion.

“It was a great experience,” Rudy said. “It was just good to get out and talk to people. It was an effective way to share faith through dialogue.”

After the hour and a half walk, the groups returned to Lancaster Mennonite where they processed what they had experienced.

Who would think that God would use a group of high school students to bless Lancaster County?

- LMS Bible teacher J. W. Sprunger
Since this new program has been such a success, there is a real possibility it will continue. With over 30 students involved in these first walks and many more expressing interest, the program certainly has caught the attention of students and faculty.

This story was adapted from an article that first appeared in the January 2009 issue of the Millstream, the school’s student newspaper. Rebecca Kraybill is feature editor for the Millstream.

Prayer walks change lives

At Lancaster Mennonite School the two “plunges” or prayer walks held this past year helped students view the people around them through new lenses and gave them a new zest for service. For example:

• This spring two students attended an orientation at the Water Street Rescue Mission to learn how they could reach out to the homeless in Lancaster City. In May a third hopes to attend the orientation.

• Another student excitedly told Sprunger: “I can do this anytime; I don’t need special training!” His pastor asked him to share his prayer walk experience during a Sunday morning church service.

According to Sprunger, students are learning that they can bless the people they meet in their everyday experience by simply listening and caring.

“I’ve seen changed lives,” Sprunger said about his students. “This (way of doing evangelism and prayer) can feel so natural to them. Who would think that God would use a group of high school students to bless Lancaster County?”

Reaching out, spreading the word

Due to the recession, the cost of television and billboard advertising is greatly reduced as businesses cut back. This provides LMS with the opportunity to advertise in these media while staying within budget. It also helps get the word out during a time when readership of print materials such as newspapers is diminishing.

Taking advantage of good rates and the availability of good locations, the school has purchased a package of five billboards that will first appear in mid-May. Watch for LMS billboards on Route 230 near Mount Joy, Route 30 and Dillersville Road near Lancaster, Route 272 near Brownstown, and Route 23 in Leola.

In addition, the school has been running ads on FOX 43 News at 10 (the most-watched news in our area) with 60 additional daytime spots thrown in for free. The ads began in April and will run until the May 17 open house.

Although media advertising is highly visible, the school recognizes that word-of-mouth and personal contacts are the most effective way to tell others about the benefits of our school.

Thank you, our readers, for sharing the LMS difference with prospective students and families as you have the opportunity.
Although spiritual nurture occurs daily at the Kraybill Campus, middle school students look forward to a special treat each winter when a guest speaker joins them for five consecutive chapel services. Called Spiritual Growth Week, the event focuses on a theme that invites biblical study and discussion.

This year Jon Heinly, who serves as youth minister for middle and high school grades in the LMS system, invited the Kraybill middle school students to look at what the Bible says about abundant living in Jesus Christ. Based on John 10:10, Heinly’s theme was titled, “Get a Life: The Good News of Jesus.” Heinly incorporated skits, Bible stories, and small group discussions into his daily visits.

On Monday, Heinly explained the value of God’s commands providing order in the world. Even sports require rules if they’re going to be enjoyable, he said. Tuesday brought a discussion of sin and God’s unconditional love and grace. On Wednesday, Heinly used John 15’s story of the Vine and the Branches to discuss the importance of staying connected to God through the Holy Spirit. And he used Galatians 5 to teach them about the fruits of the Spirit.

On Thursday, Heinly used the parable of The Good Samaritan and the story of 16th century martyr Dirk Willems to illustrate what happens when one lives out the fruits of the Spirit. In the early days of Anabaptist persecution, Willems died when the persecutor he rescued from drowning had Willems executed.

“That is a really radical love,” Heinly said, “but that’s what it means to love our neighbor.”

In brainstorming on how they might love their neighbor, the students came up with responses such as “Don’t talk about others behind their backs,” “Be respectful,” “Invite someone to sit with you at lunch,” and “Don’t laugh when someone gives the wrong answer.”

On Friday the discussions turned more global. Outside the school building, the students formed a human graph that illustrated poverty in the world. Middle School Principal Daniel Martin said that “Twelve, 13 and 14-year-olds became somber” when they realized that one percent of the world’s population controls 40 percent of the earth’s resources and that we in North America are that one percent.

Heinly finished that final day with stories from Genesis, Micah, James and Matthew that describe the kind of action that comes from loving Jesus. “We will want to turn around and share with others the blessing we’ve received,” Heinly said, encouraging students to “listen to the call for service” and look for opportunities to alleviate suffering in the world, even if it doesn’t involve lifetime mission work.

Chapels and homeroom devotions are just a small part of the spiritual nurture that happens at the school’s four campuses. Throughout the PreK to grade 12 system, Christlike values are taught by Christian teachers in all classes and extracurricular activities.

All campuses also have a strong Bible curriculum, parents and teachers who meet regularly to pray for their students, and service projects that encourage students to express Christlike love to others. At the high school and middle school levels, peer leadership programs allow older students to serve as spiritual mentors to younger students. At the high school and Kraybill campuses, there also are student-led Bible studies. ■

LMS Youth Minister Jon Heinly enjoys connecting with Kraybill students during Kraybill’s Spiritual Growth Week. Heinly graduated from Lancaster Mennonite in 2003.

PHOTO: J. DANIEL MARTIN

We are blessed by God and we should share our blessings with people in need.

- Kraybill eighth grader
Students respond to Spiritual Growth Week

During Kraybill’s Spiritual Growth Week, speaker Jon Heinly encouraged the students to express their feelings in writing. The following is a sampling of their responses.

An important idea I will remember:
• When we hate someone, we have already murdered them in our heart.
• God’s love is unconditional and never-ending.
• I can’t obey God on my own, but the Holy Spirit will give me power and strength to follow God’s plan for my life.
• We are blessed by God, and we should share our blessings with people in need.

Questions I wrestle with:
• Why do I get so many blessings when others get so little?
• Is this choice going to pull me away from God or is it going to pull me near to God?
• What am I on this earth to do?
• What does it feel like to have no money, food, or fresh water? How can I help the homeless who I can’t physically or financially reach?
• How can God forgive us so easily when it is so hard for us to forgive others?

To be more connected to God, I may need to:
• Read scripture more.
• Pray more.
• Be more compassionate to people who are going through tough times.
• Spend less time on the computer so that I spend more time with God.
• Change how I talk to and treat my family, especially my parents.
• I want to be baptized.
• Give more of what I have to those who are not as fortunate.
• Love my neighbors as myself, no matter what they look like, how they act, or what they say.
Celebrating achievements

• Lauren Stoltzfus has been selected as a finalist in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.

• Senior Abigail Hertzler was awarded a Silver Medal and an American Voices Medal in the National Level Scholastic competition for her dramatic script, “Hoofprints on the Heart.” She was the only one from our region to win an award at this level. Earlier the piece received a Gold Key award during the 2009 Scholastic Writing Contest; Kraybill eighth grader Olivia Esbenshade received a Gold Key for her personal essay.

• Five LMS students received Gold Awards in the Lancaster County Young Artists Program this winter. They are senior Molly Kraybill, junior Emma Lindsey, senior Nicole Simpson, Locust Grove eighth grader Sarah Schlosser, Kraybill eighth grader Gordon Dimmig, and Kraybill seventh grader Lauren Sweigart. In addition, 24 Silver Awards, 46 Exhibition Awards, and one Merit Award were presented to LMS students.

• Girls soccer coach Dale Stoltzfus has been named the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Adidas State Girls Coach of the Year for Private/Parochial Schools for 2008.

• LMMS eighth grader Chloe Mattilio took first prize ($500) in a Holocaust essay contest. Chloe studied about the Holocaust in her language arts class with teacher Alice Lauver.

• Senior Eric Umble was recently accepted to represent the United States in the International Youth Wind Orchestra. This is a group of musicians ages 18–25 from all over the world. The group will perform July 5-11 at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

• In February the LMS chess team won their 10th Lancaster Scholastic Chess League Championship. The team was led by Peter Weida, grade 10, who went undefeated for the season and for the fourth consecutive year has been the top player in the league. In state play, Jung Kwan Kim finished as the second place unrated player in his category with four wins and one loss, Kyle Siegfried finished in fourth place in his category with four wins and a draw, and Tommy Wanner won the trophy for the second highest unrated player in the K-8 State Chess tournament.
The high school girls basketball team won their section title, league championship, and were runners-up in districts before advancing to the state quarter finals. Senior basketball player Katelyn Vanderhoff was recently chosen to the Associated Press Pennsylvania girls all-state high school basketball team (Class AA Second Team). In late-March she was named the Lancaster Newspapers L-L League Player of the Year.

Field Hockey player Jaclyn Gyger and golfer David Denlinger were awarded athletic scholarships to attend Division I schools—Gyger for University of Richmond and Denlinger for Charleston Southern University.

The high school yearbook, Laurel Wreath, received a Gold Medalist rating from Columbia Scholastic Press Association for the 15th consecutive year. The book also received All-Columbian recognition for photography and design.

The following students received recognition at the annual FFA banquet in early April: Krista Breneman, Star Keystone for On Farm Placement; Alexandra Hauck, Star Keystone for Off Farm Placement; Brandon Dimmig, Outstanding Keystone Male Leader; Katelyn Leaman, Outstanding Keystone Female Leader; Bryan Miller, American Welding Society; Josiah Rohrer, Dekalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award; and Jay Hernley, Star Keystone of Off Farm Entrepreneurship. Red Rose Speaking Awards went to Josiah Rohrer, first in Extemporaneous Speaking; Megan Lehman, first in Creed Speaking; and Allen Stoltzfus, third in Creed Speaking.

Alumni talk about careers and faith

This winter Lancaster Mennonite High School students had a chance to consider how their faith can affect career choices and workplace behavior as they heard from LMS alumni during four chapel presentations.

Guest speakers included Duane Lapp, 2002 LMS graduate, a computer support specialist for Landis Homes Retirement Community; Andrew Hershey, 1972, a high school science teacher at Lancaster Mennonite; Lisa King, 2004, a registered nurse at Lancaster General Hospital; and Jim Smucker, 1979, president of Bird-in-Hand Corporation. All shared during the January Career and Faith Week except for Smucker who spoke in March.

Career and Faith Week grew out of the school’s educational strategic action plan that includes helping students identify gifts and abilities and learning about various career options.
Dr. Kim Phipps, president of Messiah College, will give the commencement address at the high school on Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m. The dedication service on Friday, planned by the Senior Class Committee, will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are required for Fine Arts Center seating Saturday morning, (limited to the graduates and their guests), but Friday evening’s event is open to the public.

Jeffrey Shank, LMS executive director of development and alumni relations, has been appointed superintendent at sister school Sarasota Christian School (SCS), Sarasota, Florida. He begins his new position on July 1.

Spiritual nurture is important at a school whose mission is to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service. At Lancaster Mennonite School’s four campuses, chapel services are part of that nurture. Since November nine students have become intimately involved in helping faculty plan chapels at the high school. The students also are encouraged to take part in the chapels.

Planning and participating in chapel services are excellent opportunities for students to learn leadership skills. Senior Hans Weaver says his involvement has allowed him to work on his public speaking skills, learn how to delegate assignments, work efficiently with other committee members, and prepare to choose a college major.

Committee member Brooke Phipps, a junior, is pretty sure she wants to someday be in a leadership position and believes, like Weaver, that the committee and chapel involvements will help prepare her for that.

“I think I am developing very good leadership skills,” she said. “I also think it’s very beneficial to work with a team. That will further prepare me for group work later on in life.”

Youth Minister Jon Heinly, who heads up chapel planning, says having more students on the committee has also “given us the chance to hear about gifts and abilities within the student body that we may have overlooked in the past.”

Students and staff grieve loss of LMS senior

This spring LMS classmates and staff grieved the loss of senior Micah Berthold who died April 8 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident the day before. About 1,300 attended a memorial service at the school on April 13. Friends and family members—including brothers Dominik, an LMS sophomore, and Jeremy, an LMS sixth-grader—remembered Micah as one who had a great sense of humor, connected easily with others, and cared about the injustices in the world.

At LMS, Micah played varsity soccer and was a drummer for the jazz band, concert band and the worship band that played for student-led Bible studies and morning chapels.

“He was the kind of spiritual leader on campus we’re going to miss,” said Miles Yoder, principal at the Lancaster Campus.

Micah attended West End Mennonite Church where his father, Josef Berthold, is pastor. Micah had interest in becoming a physical therapist and was planning to attend Eastern Mennonite University this fall.

LMS wishes to thank all those who reached out to the school during this difficult time. Please continue to pray for the Berthold family, the West End Mennonite Church, and the Lancaster Campus.

Students plan chapels, learn leadership skills

The chapel planning committee at Lancaster Mennonite High School is comprised of, beginning at top of photo and moving clockwise: Youth Minister Jon Heinly, Dana Hiestand, Hans Weaver, Campus Pastor Dorcas Lehman, Sam Stiner, music teacher Marcy Hostetler, Brooke Phipps, Lisa Weaver, Lancaster Campus Principal Miles Yoder, Solomon Rudy, Ye Jin Kwon, Sharon Sheppard, and Ethel-Ruth Tawe.
PreK scholarships available!

There are a significant number of scholarships available for pre-kindergarten.

Call for details:
Kraybill Campus (717) 653-5236
Locust Grove Campus (717) 394-7107
New Danville Campus (717) 872-2506

May 12  Kraybill Middle School Choral Program, 7 p.m.
May 17  Spring Open House, Lancaster Campus, 1–3 p.m.
May 17  High School Spring Concert, 3 p.m.
May 29  High School Dedication Service, 6:30 p.m.
May 30  High School Commencement, 10 a.m.
August 21 Lancaster Campus New Student Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
August 25  First day of school

Child development students at the high school are participating in a Story Time program which involves working with about 20 preschoolers once a week February through May. During Story Time the students use a curriculum they planned to help the preschoolers learn about numbers, colors, letters, seasons, weather and the calendar. The time also includes crafts, snacks, large and small motor activities, theme stories, Bible stories and songs. The program helps LMS students learn about the developmental stages of young children and also gives them a realistic view of parenting.

In photo: sophomore Ji Eun (Ashley) Shin, left, and Alex Mylin.

Position open for advancement associate

Lancaster Mennonite School is seeking candidates for the full-time position of associate in advancement. Candidates should be committed to the mission/vision of Lancaster Mennonite School, have strong relational/listening and organizational skills, be a self starter, and be able to communicate effectively orally and in writing. Being familiar with Internet social networking is a plus. The position will focus on alumni and donor relations, and also relate to several advancement events committees. Persons from under-represented racial/ethnic groups are encouraged to apply. For more information contact Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 299-0436, ext. 308, and stoltzfushe@lancastermennonite.org, or Richard Thomas at (717) 299-0436, ext. 301, and thomasjr@lancastermennonite.org.

LMS summer day camps & enrichment
Apply by May 30 for special reduced price!

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org, or call Rachel Denlinger at (717) 299-0436, ext. 310.

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

Field hockey
Jr. high field hockey, grades 6–8 ............................June 22–26
Sr. high field hockey, grades 9–12 ....................August 10–14

Lacrosse
Elem. boys “Learn to Play” lacrosse, grades 3–6 .June 22–26
Boys “Learn to Play” lacrosse, grades 7–9 ..............June 22–26
Boys Begin./Intermediate lacrosse, grades 10–12June 22–26

Phila. Eagles Football, ages 6–14......................July 13–17

Soccer
Elem. coed soccer, grades 1–5............................June 15–19
Jr. high boys soccer, grades 6–8 .......................July 6–10
Girls soccer, grades 6–12 .................................July 27–31
Sr. high boys soccer, grades 9–12 ....................August 10–14

Tennis
Intermediate/Advanced tennis, grades 9–12 ...August 10–14
Beginners/Intermediate tennis, grades 5–8........August 3–7

Volleyball
Jr. high girls volleyball, grades 6–9 .................June 15–18
Jr. high boys volleyball, grades 6–9 ................June 15–19

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
Sewing/Crafts, grades 4–9 ..............................July 20–24
Youth Choir, grades 4–8 ...............................July 20–24
Middle School Drama, grades 6–8 .................July 27–31

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CLASS NOTES

David Siegrist, 1964. Lancaster, has published a book titled Under the Northern Lights. The book is a collection of inspiring stories of faith and adventure told by mission persons who served with Northern Light Gospel Missions/Impact North. For more information, contact Siegrist at dsiegrist@verizon.net or (717) 872-4085. He is currently teaching middle school social studies at Lititz Area Mennonite School.

John D. Stahl, 1969, Blacksburg, Va., received the 2008 William E. Wine for Excellence in Teaching award at Virginia Tech University. Stahl is a professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, teaching there since 1982.

Kay Moshier McDivitt, 1971, Lancaster, has been named Lancaster County’s first community homeless adviser for the United Way of Lancaster. McDivitt spent the last 12 years with Tabor Community Services, most recently as vice president of housing counseling programs.

Fred L. Kniss, 1974, Chicago, Ill., has been appointed provost at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), beginning July 1. Kniss goes to EMU from Loyola University, Chicago, where he served since 1991 as faculty member, interim dean of the graduate school, and chair of the sociology department. He graduated from EMU and completed his master’s and doctorate in South Africa, pursuing medical degrees. You can read about their journey at www.ProjectEarthInternational.org.

MARRIAGES


Adrian Groff, 2003, and Emily Parmer, January 17, 2009. They are living in Lancaster where Adrian is working in a general management position for Groff’s HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical, Inc., in Willow Street. Emily is planning to enter medical school in the fall.


BIRTHS


DEATHS

Anna Martha Groff Denlinger, 1943, East Petersburg, January 18, 2009. She was a member of the first graduating class of Lancaster Mennonite High School.


Linford Fisher, 1993, and Jo Wenger, 1992, Fisher, South Bend, Ind., a son, Harrison Samuel, January 15, 2009. He joins siblings Eden, 6; Elliot, 4; and Helena, 2. Lin is assistant professor of Colonial American History at Indiana University, South Bend.


Mark, 1994, and Andrea Stoner, 1994, Leaman, Bainbridge, a daughter, Margaret Stoner, October 12, 2008. She joins brother Henry Stoner, age 2.


Peter and Sue Hoffer, 1989, Ringer, Bethlehem, first child, Darin Peter, November 16, 2008.


Northern Lights

Linear M. Martin, 1993, Browns Summit, N.C., an earth science teacher at Greensboro Day School, lived a life-long dream during March and April when he joined an international team of scientists in El’gygytgyn, Russia. He participated in a drilling and research expedition to a polar lake in northeast Siberia. El’gygytgyn, translated “the lake that never thaws,” was formed by an asteroid impact 3.6 million years ago. The team extracted sediment cores from the lake, which yielded data that will provide the longest and most detailed record of arctic climate change to date. Martin’s role in the expedition was to share the science with students, teachers and the general public through the Polar TREC virtual base-camp web site. You can visit the site: http://www.polarrec.com/geo-logic-climate-research-in-siberia.

Nathan Charles, 1998, graduated from Messiah College in 2002 with an engineering degree. He has spent the last five years living in Durham, N.C., working as a software engineer for IBM. Last November, he began a three-year term serving with Mennonite Central Committee in Bogra, Bangladesh, as appropriate technology director.

Mbongeni Bhembe (Bo), 2008, and Fikeveni Diamini (Fika), 2008, Kenya, will remain in Africa to continue their studies after a summer of ministry in Swaziland. They both attend a university in South Africa, pursuing medical degrees. You can read about their journey at www.ProjectEarthInternational.org.

FRED KNISS, 1974
Bridges • Spring 2009 13

Class Reunions

1954 November 21, 2009
1959 June 27, 2009
1964 October 10, 2009
1974 July 18, 2009
1984 August 1, 2009
1989 July 25, 2009
1999 July 18, 2009

Please consider planning your reunion around the Homecoming set for November 20 and 21.

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 299-0436, ext. 701.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in the winter issue of Bridges that Wendell Zeiset, 1991, Lancaster, was involved with the Bald Eagle Boys Camp in Clinton County.

Please send alumni news to sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org or mail to Lancaster Mennonite School, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602.

To keep you in the know

• There were 26 more phonathon volunteers this year! Thank you for your support for this important fundraiser for the school. Watch for the results this summer.

• Mark your calendar for the November 20 and 21 Homecoming event that will include an alumni art exhibit, alumni reception, barbecue, specialty auction, basketball tournament, and the Iron Bridge Run/Walk.

• Alumni who lived in the residence hall in 1984, 1985, and 1986 (and their families) are invited to a reunion/picnic June 28 at Dwight Landis’ home in Annville, Lebanon County. For details write to barrettfreed@gmail.com or go to www.lancastermennonite.org and click on alumni and class reunions.

Classmates, friends for life: These 12 1952 alumni get together whenever they have the opportunity. Here they are in 2008 at the home of Paul and Carolyn Weaver Zeiset where they met for a chicken barbecue and corn roast. Left to right, they are Betty Book Kreider, Mable Jean Minnich Weaver (graduate of Eastern Mennonite High School), Ann Wenger Miller, Dorothy Jean Hooper Frey, Georgie Lehman Martin, Eunice Hurst Lehman, Evelyn Lehman Sweigart, Carolyn Weaver Zeiset, Irene Peifer Miller, Rhoda Zimmerman Landis, Martha Bair Hershey and Marjorie Ernst.

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• Mark your calendar for the November 20 and 21 Homecoming event that will include an alumni art exhibit, alumni reception, barbecue, specialty auction, basketball tournament, and the Iron Bridge Run/Walk.

• Alumni who lived in the residence hall in 1984, 1985, and 1986 (and their families) are invited to a reunion/picnic June 28 at Dwight Landis’ home in Annville, Lebanon County. For details write to barrettfreed@gmail.com or go to www.lancastermennonite.org and click on alumni and class reunions.

Classmates, friends for life: These 12 1952 alumni get together whenever they have the opportunity. Here they are in 2008 at the home of Paul and Carolyn Weaver Zeiset where they met for a chicken barbecue and corn roast. Left to right, they are Betty Book Kreider, Mable Jean Minnich Weaver (graduate of Eastern Mennonite High School), Ann Wenger Miller, Dorothy Jean Hooper Frey, Georgie Lehman Martin, Eunice Hurst Lehman, Evelyn Lehman Sweigart, Carolyn Weaver Zeiset, Irene Peifer Miller, Rhoda Zimmerman Landis, Martha Bair Hershey and Marjorie Ernst.

Match of $100,000 to boost fund for athletic trainer

Lancaster Mennonite School is fortunate that its athletic program has seen few injuries over the years. Knowing of the potential for injury, LMS staff, board and friends have made it a clear priority to support the Brent Nauman Endowment, a fund established so LMS could one day have its own athletic trainer.

This year a generous LMS friend posted a $100,000 match to the Brent Nauman fund with the hope that it will challenge and encourage others to contribute to the fund and make it possible to hire a three-fourth time trainer by the 2009-10 school year.

Brent Nauman, a 1991 LMS graduate, enjoyed participating in high school athletic events. After he died in 1993, his classmates and friends helped to establish this fund to honor the life Brent led and to support something he was passionate about.

The Brent Nauman Endowment fund balance is approximately $360,000. Events like our 3 v 3 basketball tournament have helped to raise over $78,000 toward the fund, and many friends have contributed at other times to see a trainer provided. Supporting the athletic program in this way helps tuition to remain at a reasonable rate. Thank you for your generosity!

Please consider what you can do to provide this much-needed service for LMS athletes and the school community.

Your commitment now is an investment in the school’s future!

Please consider sending a gift in the envelope provided with this issue of Bridges. Or, call Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 299-0436, ext. 308.

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The LMS spring sports season is well underway. Please come out and show your support, and keep the health and well-being of LMS athletes in your prayers. For the spring sports schedule, go to our website at www.lancastermennonite.org.
Karl Stoltzfus claims there are few gifts in life more beneficial than intellectual curiosity. That, explained the 1958 LMS graduate, is what transformed him from an unmotivated high school student into the owner of a worldwide aviation business whose clients include federal, state and local governments; private corporations; and non-profit research organizations that bring him in contact with some of the leading scientists in the world. Stoltzfus described that journey recently.

After high school, Stoltzfus became involved in his father’s Coatesville aviation business that involved aerial spraying, aircraft parts, etc. But by age 25 he was desperate to learn more about the world, not just aviation. Two years later found Stoltzfus and his twin brother, Ken, enrolled at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) where Stoltzfus completed a degree in business administration. It took him five years, however, since he also packed in as many psychology courses as he could. “It was kind of a maturation process,” he said. “College was a wonderful experience for me.”

To make money during college he and Ken set up a company called K & K Aircraft in which they bought and sold airplane parts. After college, when Ken went into church ministry, Stoltzfus bought his brother’s part of the business and created Dynamic Aviation, an international company that operates over 70 multi-engine turbine aircraft in nine countries and provides the following services:

- aerial spraying
- sterile insect technique (releasing sterilized medicated fruit flies to save the citrus industry in the Los Angeles basin)
- fire management
- Airborne Data Acquisition (ADA) - photography services
- Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance for the U.S. Department of Defense

How LMS has impacted who I am today
The values of honesty and integrity learned at LMS have been a tremendous benefit to me in both my personal and business experience. Our company does business all over the world and those values are one of the major reasons for our success.

In addition, being taught a lot about the Bible and God’s plan for our lives gave me a great spiritual foundation. Most important was the encouragement to continually grow in my walk with Christ. LMS kept me on the straight and narrow at a time in life when it would have been easy for me to head in an unhealthy direction.

My favorite LMS teacher
I don’t recall having a favorite, but I am very thankful for English teacher Sadie Yost who was a stickler for accuracy. Today everything is about accuracy. That is huge in the business world.

Words of wisdom to current students
There are things more important than getting straight A’s. There is absolutely no substitute for intellectual curiosity and emotional intelligence. Ask questions! Learn how to be intuitive. And learn how to be empathetic with others.

Also, learn the value of integrity and honesty. Do what you say you will do, and treat others with respect. These values probably bring as much business to our company as anything.

Third, if you don’t know what you’ll do after high school, don’t worry about it. Take some time out before college if you need to. Be patient with yourself.
Every day at Lancaster Mennonite’s four campuses there are signs of why a PreK to grade 12 Mennonite education is worth the investment. The following quotes by Kraybill students when they were eighth graders are just one example. The quotes are part of the students’ spiritual autobiographies and were read to their family and friends at their Eighth Grade Recognition a year ago.

Meghan Hershey
The speakers that come to our school have changed my life spiritually. They have shared their stories and have given me different perspectives to consider on many different subjects. Together, they have strengthened my faith in amazing ways.

Jessica Rheinheimer
By showing good sportsmanship out on the basketball court or athletic field, I can share what I know about Jesus through my actions.

Mark Engle
I really started to think about God’s love for us this year during Spiritual Growth Week when Randall Shull spoke to us about how God will not abandon us. God doesn’t love us less than our pastors or any more than a homeless man in the streets of New York City.

Please join us today in transforming lives for Christ and growing our next generation of witnesses. In this issue of Bridges you will find an envelope to assist you in financially supporting this mission. Your help is needed to ensure that Mennonite education remains strong. Give now and help us close the school year with a positive balance. Gifts of all sizes impact lives!
Our regional Mennonite Schools Council High School Choral Festival was hosted by Shalom Christian Academy on April 19. It was a wonderful time of worship and celebration of music in our schools.

The mass choir ended with an upbeat song, “It Takes a Village,” which states: “Everyone shares the burden, everyone shares the joy (of raising a child).” This issue of *Bridges* provides a few snapshots of the LMS village.

You will find LMS parent and school consultant Deb McCoy (who also provides significant volunteer time as a consultant for LMS) talking about the importance of recess in the elementary grades, pastors volunteering time on a prayer walk with high school students, State Representative Scott Boyd encouraging businesses to provide scholarships for students through the Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit program, and students working together to plan chapels. Also included is a note on the death of senior Micah Berthold and the way the village rallied around the school during this difficult time. We are grateful!

As our culture becomes more secular, I believe an education that provides educational excellence in a way that puts faith into the future becomes an even more important investment for persons of faith. This can only happen as many in our community work together for the common vision of Christian education.

I am inspired by the commitment of the village that surrounds LMS and invests in our children in many different ways. This is an investment that will pay dividends in both good and bad times. As part of the LMS Village we can all celebrate the opportunity and joy of being involved in this sacred trust. Together we are educating to call forth and nurture the gifts of our children, empowering them to share God’s love, healing and hope with all of creation.—jrt