

LANCASTER MENNONITE

www.lancastermennonite.org

Bridges



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Growing in the light of God

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Lancaster Mennonite Bridges is published by Lancaster Mennonite School for 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 Mennonite School, grades PreK–8
598 Kraybill Church Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552
(717) 653-5236

LMS-New Danville, grades PreK–8
393 Long Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 872-2506

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

Lancaster Mennonite Middle & High School, grades 6–12
2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 299-0436

Address alumni and school news to sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org.

Editor: Fern Clemmer
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Cover photo: LMS students, clockwise, beginning with far left: Andrea Mast, Dominick Berthold, Kiersten Stoltzfus, Dylan Good, Elizabeth Sadaphal, Timothy Taylor, David King, Tonia Putt, Sarah Hollinger. Center: Ashlee Weaver. PHOTO CREDIT:

PARENTS TALK ABOUT LMS

In their own words

We recently asked several parents if they would be willing to talk about their experience with Lancaster Mennonite School. Here is just a fraction of what they said.

Lynette Waller, Lancaster

“My husband and I chose Locust Grove because we wanted our daughter to be at a school where she would gain strong academic skills while at the same time learn about God. After visiting other schools, we knew that Locust Grove was a good match for our daughter. We knew that the small class sizes, the strong academic program, and the warm and inviting classrooms and faculty would only enhance her first school experience.

“I am so happy that we chose Locust Grove. My daughter loves going to school. Her teacher, Mrs. High, does a great job making every child in her classroom feel loved. She gives them lots of valuable experiences that enrich the curriculum.”

Lynette and her husband, Fred, have a daughter, Cheyanne, who is a kindergarten student at Locust Grove Mennonite School. Lynette, an elementary/early childhood teacher, is dean of students at a local elementary school. She and Fred attend Bright Side Baptist Church.

Conrad Kanagy, Elizabethtown

“Our son, Jacob, attended Kraybill Mennonite School from kindergarten through eighth grade, then came to Lancaster Mennonite High School for ninth to the present. KMS was wonderful . . . the setting was intimate and the teachers were very committed to the spiritual development and academic growth of every student.

“Like Kraybill Mennonite, Lancaster Mennonite High School has provided a setting for Jacob to hear voices that echo our own in terms of faith commitments and lifestyle. Students are regularly challenged by chapel speakers from across the Christian community and are nurtured academically by caring teachers who are absolutely committed to their callings. We have been particularly blessed by the teachers who have

consistently done more than transmit knowledge to their students. They affirm their students’ gifts, are open to and invite conversations with parents, and clearly know and care for their students.”

Heidi Kanagy

“We wanted Jacob to be challenged to follow Jesus in all areas of his life . . . and to be nurtured spiritually in a place and by people whose values were consistent with ours. We are grateful that Jacob has been able to attend a school that is Anabaptist in its teaching positions and commitments, and we are also glad that the school is made up of students from many Christian traditions.

“LMS also has been a great place for Jacob to nurture meaningful friendships. We are glad he has been able to have good friends who came from families with values similar to ours.”

Conrad is an associate professor of sociology at Elizabethtown College, and Heidi is a clinical social worker. Their son, Jacob, is in 11th grade at LMH. They attend Elizabethtown Mennonite Church.

Michael Weaver, Lancaster

“Christian education has been a blessing to our children because they are able to see their teachers striving to be a Godly example day in and day out. Children look up to their teachers, so it just made sense to want them to be around teachers who had the same values and basic beliefs that we were trying to instill. Our children both said that they would not want to go to a school where you can’t talk about God or tell a friend you will pray for them.

“Another benefit of Christian education is that they have great friends. We feel like we are not only partners with the teachers but partners with other parents who have the same goal in mind. Also, choosing a Christian school for Ethan and Melissa means we have been able to meet many wonderful families from all around the county.

“Christian school has made an everlasting impression on the hearts of Ethan and Melissa, to the Glory of God.”



Upper left: Lynette Waller. Upper right: Bonnie and Michael Weaver. Lower left: Heidi and Conrad Kanagy. Above: John and Melissa Mattilio.

Bonnie Weaver

“I am so thankful we decided to provide a Christian education for Ethan and Melissa. At first we thought we might just be able to get them through elementary school. Then I was able to get a part time job while they were in school. Okay, maybe we’ll be able to get them through middle school . . . even better. Ethan is now a senior and we cannot believe we, with God’s help, of course, were able to do it all these years!”

Michael works at Case New Holland as an analyst, and Bonnie works at Tama Graphics & Marketing as the office manager. Melissa is an eighth grader and Ethan a senior, both at the Lancaster campus on Lincoln Highway East. They attend Wheatland Presbyterian Church.

John Mattilio, Willow Street

“Our oldest child, Chloe was ready to start kindergarten and we were moving. We thought it was a good time to see what our educational options were. I had customers who had recommended New Danville. After learning about the philosophy of the school, the teachers, and the class size, I was very interested. Even though we did not move for another two months, we made our decision to enroll Chloe at New Danville.

“We continue to be very pleased with the school. The classroom is like a family setting, and I sense the administrators and faculty are there because they really care about our children.

“It’s also nice knowing we can be a part of our children’s education—the teachers welcome parent interaction and comments.

“We both feel that our children are getting a good education while learning

to live a productive Christian life. And the teachers serve as good role models.”

Melissa Mattilio

“The multicultural diversity of the student body, the sense of community, and the moral basis of the education at New Danville are preparing our children to be caring, conscious contributors to their world. This is the educational experience we want for them.”

John is a real estate broker and owns Farm and Land Realty, Inc. Melissa is consumer marketing manager at Turkey Hill Dairy. They have three children at LMS-New Danville: Dominic, kindergarten; Clare, third grade; and Chloe, fifth grade. They attend Manor Brethren in Christ Church. ■

Shift in discipline process brings new life to LMS

By Janice Martin Baldauf



Janice Martin Baldauf works at Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, as communications coordinator. She and her husband, Richard, live in Gap with their two daughters, Sarah and Hannah.

Imagine two high school guys who get into a fight at school. Imagine the hurt and anger, held not only by the guys but by their friends and family. Imagine the consequences they will face.

There were two guys who got into a fight at Lancaster Mennonite School. Several years ago, they would have faced suspension and possible expulsion. Now, however, these guys confessed wrong doing, shared their perspectives on what happened, acknowledged how their actions harmed themselves and others, and worked out an agreement by which they could repair the harm.

Through the biblical model of restorative justice, these guys were given a tremendous opportunity to learn, grow, and change. Indeed, their relationship changed dramatically. At a basketball game, when the score was tied and the fans were at the edge of their seats in anxious anticipation, one of these guys took a great shot and landed the basket. He and the guy he had fought immediately ran toward one another and embraced in a victory hug. They had become friends.

“This is a completely different way to deal with students who do something wrong,”

explained J. Richard Thomas, superintendent of the Lancaster Mennonite School system. “We used to invest a lot of energy into the old model of punishment without seeing a lot of change. Now, within our restorative circles, the offenders look their victims in the eye, understand the harm they did, and deal with it. It’s tough, but it works. Hearts are repaired and lives are transformed.”

In the restorative justice process, the offender, the victim, and a coordinator sit down with a set script to focus on the offender’s unacceptable behavior and how that behavior has harmed others. At LMS, the parents of both the offender and the victim participate, along with a support person, usually a friend. The coordinator is generally a teacher or administrator who serves as a neutral party to facilitate the process.

The conference begins with the offender’s acknowledgement of his or her part in the incident. After every participant has been given a chance to respond to set questions, the coordinator begins to negotiate restitution and reparation, beginning with a question to the victim: “What would you like to get from today’s conference?” Every person plays a role in working



LMS teacher Allan Shirk and his students role play restorative justice during the school’s Conflict Resolution class. During the role play the offender and supporters sit on one side of the circle and the victim and his/her supporters sit on the other side.

out an agreement. The conference is generally followed by a valuable time of interpersonal communion with food.

“The students almost always promise that they won’t do the same thing again,” said Thomas. “With the help of the Holy Spirit, their lives are transformed.”

Restorative justice was introduced at LMS in 1999. The number of suspensions dropped from 106 in 1998-99 to 14 in 2002-03. Student feedback has been very positive.

Editor’s note: This story was taken from a larger story that appeared in the June 2005 issue of *Atlantic Coast Currents*. It is reprinted here with permission.

In early October, *Lancaster Newspaper’s Intelligencer Journal* also carried a story on restorative justice, citing Lancaster Mennonite as being “the first educational system in the county to adopt restorative practices as its primary disciplinary code.” Other papers picked up the story, including the *Reading Eagle* and a paper in Hagerstown, Maryland. A related story said that numerous other local schools are considering implementing some form of restorative justice this year. ■

Check us out!

Call anytime to schedule visits at any of our four campuses. In addition, consider visiting during one of the following events:

Kindergarten Open House—February 1, 2 and 6

Lancaster Mennonite School will hold a kindergarten open house at its Locust Grove and New Danville campuses on February 1 and 2, from 9–11:30 a.m. and at its Kraybill campus on February 6, from 9–11:30 a.m. and 6–8:30 p.m. The schools will also hold “Kindergarten Samplers”—a time for children and parents to experience a taste of kindergarten. Those dates are:

Kraybill	March 7, April 6, April 12, May 10, 9–11 a.m.
Locust Grove	March 7, April 6, May 2, May 25, 9–11 a.m.
New Danville	March 8, April 12, May 10, 9–11 a.m.

All-school Open House—February 6

LMS will hold an open house event at each of the four campuses on Monday, February 6, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will include tours, conversations with teachers and a 7:00 welcome assembly. The Lancaster campus will also include course selection for grades 9–12 for the 2006-2007 year, and information about programs at all four campuses.

Prospective Student Day—January 26 and March 30

On January 26 and March 30, prospective students are invited to visit LMS-New Danville (PreK–8), Locust Grove Mennonite School (PreK–8), and the Lancaster campus (6–12). Times are mornings only at both the Locust Grove and New Danville campuses, 8:05–11:15 a.m. for middle school at the Lancaster campus, and 8:05 a.m.–3:05 p.m. for high school visitors. To register, call (717) 299-0436, ext. 312.

For more information or to schedule a visit

Kraybill, grades PreK–8: Principal John Weber, (717) 653-5236
LMS-New Danville, grades PreK–8: Principal Judi Mollenkof, (717) 872-2506
Locust Grove, PreK–8: Principal Jay Roth, (717) 394-7107
Lancaster campus, grades 6–12: Admissions Counselor Eliza Booth, (717) 299-0436, ext. 312



Business teacher Melodi Miller, left, talks with open house visitors during the 2005 event as LMS senior Felicia Moore demonstrates a keyboarding test.

Registration fee waived!

For families enrolling students by Friday, February 17, for the 2006-2007 school year, the \$100 registration fee will be waived.

Kraybill Mennonite and LMS merge



Lancaster Mennonite School Superintendent Richard Thomas, left, stands with Kraybill Mennonite School's head administrator John Weber in front of Kraybill Mennonite. PHOTO CREDIT: GARY HILLER

When the merger between Kraybill Mennonite School and Lancaster Mennonite School becomes official in July of 2006, it will be a sort of homecoming for Kraybill.

In 1949 when Kraybill Mennonite began, it served as the western location of Lancaster Mennonite School. Twenty-two years later the K-10 school became independent, eventually becoming a K-8 school.

The decision to merge comes after four years of careful study and discernment, including discussions and approval from both school boards, Kraybill's current parents, and the two church conferences with which the schools associate—Atlantic Coast Conference and Lancaster Mennonite Conference, area conferences of the Mennonite Church USA.

Why the merger?

As part of its extensive study, Kraybill found that families are increasingly seeking a complete pre-K-12 Christian education within one school or school system. The Kraybill board of trustees concluded that a united school system will best move the school, and Mennonite PreK-12 education, to a new level of service and excellence. The merger will build on the vision for Mennonite education that was held by the founders of both schools.

John Weber, Kraybill's head administrator, is excited about becoming part of a school system that offers a complete PreK-12 package.

"It should increase the strengths that Kraybill already has and offer new opportunities," he said. "Some families always asked me during inter-

views whether Kraybill was planning a high school. Now with the merge I believe our elementary grades can lead to a more unified educational experience that takes the students all the way to high school graduation."

Other advantages, he says, are "greater ownership and identity with Mennonite churches while remaining open and accepting of persons from other denominations and church groups.

"Another main advantage to a merger will be an expanded operating base as well as increased curriculum and professional development. As Kraybill teachers network with teachers from the New Danville, Locust Grove and Lancaster campuses, they will be additionally resourced to fulfill our mission as a school."

Being part of a larger system will also allow Kraybill to eliminate registration fees for current students who re-enroll by February 17, and begin a pre-K program in 2006-07. In addition, there will be increased efficiencies in administration, business, admissions, development and communications. The merger will also lead to cooperation rather than competition for students, staff, and donors; eliminating duplicated positions; and increased ability to share teachers and staff.

According to LMS Superintendent Richard Thomas, the schools already in the LMS system will be strengthened with the addition of another strong school with the same vision.

"Teachers across the school working together will produce a stronger PreK-12 curriculum and gain a growing understanding of the LMS distinctives that transform students to be agents of change in the world," he said. "Having a critical mass of teachers to reflect together increases the educational capacity of the school.

"The merger also enlarges the base, allowing the school to provide specialized positions that will strengthen the school and benefit our students. The goal is to bring the schools together in a way that strengthens each site as well as the collective whole."

Will Kraybill keep its identity?

Weber, who will serve as principal of Kraybill Mennonite, believes it is very important that Kraybill maintain its character and local parent involvement.

"If there is one outstanding feature of Kraybill, it is the extent of parent volunteer involvement so evident in the annual auction and Race for Education," Weber said. "I believe Kraybill's identity will continue through caring teachers and through a strong athletic program." ■

Centered in Christ, Transforming Lives, Changing our World

By J. Richard Thomas, Superintendent

The school's new mission statement reads: "Lancaster Mennonite School offers a PreK-12 comprehensive education in a nurturing and diverse community that prepares students to be lifelong learners. Centered in Christ and committed to educational excellence, the school exists to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service."

The new statement grew out of a self study for re-accreditation, during which the school is taking a fresh look at its foundation documents

A shortened version of the statement reads: "Lancaster Mennonite School—Centered in Christ, Transforming Lives, Changing our World." This emerged after input from stakeholders of the school. The statement reaffirms our commitment to provide a Christ-centered education. Rather than being defined around issues, our identity is centered in Christ who unites us. We choose "transforming lives" because we recognize that as the Holy Spirit blows through our educational community, the lives of both students and adults are changed. Thus the phrase, "transforming lives."

Finally, "Changing Our World" ends the statement because education at LMS is not an end in itself; it is to transform students and adults to continue the ministry Jesus began which, in turn, changes our world through love, peacemaking and service.

The statement is short enough so that alumni and friends can remember it and use it to guide

their prayers for the LMS educational program.

The re-accreditation process and self study is for the purpose of re-accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) and by the Mennonite Education Agency (MEA). The self study will end with a visit by

a team representing the MSA and the MEA. Validating the Vision, the name given to the self study, is a wholistic approach that includes all aspects of the school, including the spiritual.

The self-study was led by a planning team of 22 stakeholders who represent the diversity of the school, with Jeff Shank, from the development office, and Jay Roth, principal at Locust Grove Mennonite School, serving as internal coordinators. Looking at the school's foundational documents is one of four main components, with the other three being:

- Standards—There are twelve standards in areas such as school staff and administration that are considered and must meet the MSA standards.
- Educational Strategic Growth Plan—This growth plan established goals for measurable student growth during the next seven years in academics and faith development.
- Curriculum Development—The main faculty focus was to be sure that the PreK-12 curriculum has been written and is being followed in daily classroom instruction. ■

Parents happy with their school

A Parent Survey that was part of the Validating the Vision self study process showed high parent satisfaction with the school. A consultant working with LMS said these results are especially noteworthy, considering the mergers of the past few years and the changes that followed.

Satisfaction percentages:

- 99% written communication
- 94% warm and caring teachers
- 93% Christian identity of the school
- 92% overall level of academic challenge
- 90% the level at which faculty and administration share a collective sense of responsibility for student outcomes
- 90% school-wide discipline standards
- 90% student activities that are opportunities for character formation
- 90% spiritual nature of the school, appropriately reflected throughout the curriculum
- 89% a curriculum that strengthens cultural sensitivity
- 86% number of Advanced Placement classes offered

Excellence at LMS is more than academics

■ Twelve Lancaster Mennonite High School seniors received their Keystone Degrees, the state's highest FFA award, on January 9 during the Pa. FFA Association's 77th Mid-Winter Convention (see photo and caption at right). In addition, Rachael Ranck received State Star recognition, a first for the school.

To qualify for the Keystone degree, an FFA member must have completed 240 hours of agricultural classes, earned or invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 600 hours, and have completed at least two record books detailing their Supervised Agricultural Project. Members must also have served as an officer or committee chair of their FFA chapter, participated in five activities above chapter level, participated in planning chapter activities and have a satisfactory scholastic record.

Teachers Lem Metzler and Ryan King serve as FFA advisers.

■ Seven Lancaster Mennonite School students have been selected to participate in the Pa. Music Educator Association (PMEA) District 7 music festivals which are held in January and February.

Those qualifying for the orchestra festival are: senior Lauren Fairfull, oboe; senior Tingting Fan, violin; and freshman Devin Troy, violin.

Qualifying for the band festival are: Fairfull; senior Karen Martin, flute; junior Wilson Roth, saxophone; and freshman Eric Umble, clarinet. (Fairfull finished number one in the District for both band and orchestra.)

Junior Patrick Ressler, bass, qualified for the chorus festival.

■ This past fall the high school's National Honor Society raised over \$6,000 for The Four Diamonds Fund which serves young cancer patients and their families. Students spent 12 hours on their feet participating in activities such as basketball, volleyball, card and board games, and square dancing.

■ The 2005 yearbook, the Laurel Wreath, has received a Gold Medalist rating from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association—the 12th consecutive year for the top award. The book also received All-Columbian Honors for scoring in the 95th percentile or higher



Keystone winners, above, front, L-R: Linford Hershey, Lance Nissley, Monica Keeney. Second row: Debra Groff, Apryl Becker, Marjion Bair, Jennifer Roop. Third row: Jeremy Nissley, David High, Scott Umble, Rachael Ranck. Kate Hershey is missing from the picture.



PMEA students at left, front, L-R: Devin Troy, Karen Fairfull and Tingting Fan. Back: Karen Martin, Eric Umble, Patrick Ressler, and Wilson Roth.



During Missions Inspiration and Education Week at Lancaster Mennonite Middle and High School, students were challenged on what it means to be a presence in the world. On the final morning, Hesston College Bible teacher Michele Hershberger used the Matthew 13:44 story of the pearl to explain that we need to experience God's love before we can serve others. At left, Hershberger invites students to take a pearl to remind them that God seeks and loves each of us.

in concept, coverage and writing.

■ In October, internationally known speaker Pam Stenzel spoke to students at the Lancaster campus about sexuality and the importance of abstinence. Drawing from her personal story and visits with teens around the world, Pam challenged the students to understand the values of personal responsibility.



At LMS students learn leadership and service skills through helping other students. In the photo above, high school students lead Lancaster Mennonite Middle School seventh graders in some drama activities during a language arts class taught by Doug Ehst.

2005 SAT Scores

	Verbal	Math	Total
USA	506	520	1026
Pennsylvania	501	503	1004
Lancaster Co.	510	519	1029
LMH	582	567	1149



New Danville students and staff published their first newspaper, "The Beacon," this past fall. Five of the 11 who worked on the paper are, left to right: Kelley Landers, seventh; teacher Becky Gochnauer, designer; Jasmine Graybill, seventh; Mindy Stipe, eighth; and Kayla Klase, eighth. PHOTO CREDIT: EDIE HESS

High school enjoys successful fall sports season

During the fall sports season, the girls cross country went 21-0 enroute to a Section championship, League championship, District 3 Championship and a second place finish in the state AA girls meet at Hershey. Cross country runner Lindsey Shertzer, named Lancaster-Lebanon League Runner of the Year, won the girls individual crown in the L-L League meet, placed second in the District 3 meet, and third at the AA state meet.

The boys cross country team won a section championship, placed second at the District 3 meet, and finished sixth at the State AA meet.

In addition, boys soccer won a section championship, field hockey was section co-champions and advanced through District play into State Play-offs, Alexandra Bybel and Tori Bybel won the Girls AA Doubles Tennis championship and advanced to state quarterfinals, and volleyball advanced to the District 3 AA semifinals.

As reported in the last issue of Bridges, the golf team won its first ever L-L League Championship. They also took the Section and District 3 crowns.



Girls cross country team celebrates with their PIAA runner up trophy. Front, left to right: Kati Ruth, Lindsey Shertzer, Lisa Wingard. Back, left to right: Coach Nelson Shertzer, Christine Kreider, Courtney Augsburger, Katelyn Rittenhouse, Elizabeth Hoffer, Kaitlyn Charles, Allison Brown, Alyssa Groff, Coach Andrea Good. PHOTO CREDIT: LINDA WINGARD

Mark your calendar!

For updates go to www.lancastermennonite.org.

Locust Grove play and spaghetti dinner at Lancaster

campus: Seventh and eighth graders will present Dr. Doolittle Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, at 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center, located at the Lancaster campus. Tickets at the door are \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students.

Locust Grove's annual spaghetti dinner will be held Saturday, February 25, from 4–7 p.m. at the Alumni Dining Hall. Purchase tickets in advance at Locust Grove—\$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 3–12, or at the door for \$.50 more. Persons may combine the show and dinner on Saturday evening; purchase your dinner theatre tickets at Locust Grove—\$16.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children ages 3–12 until February 21. There will also be a silent auction at the spaghetti dinner. For more information call (717) 394-7107.

Quilting bee at Lancaster campus February 27–March 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alumni Dining Hall lobby:

The noon meal will be provided. Quilts will be sold at the Fall Gathering & Auction in November. Quilters can also help by donating a top, finishing a top, donating a completed quilt, or by making a special quilt or wall hanging. Call Gail Lanas at (717) 394-7107.

New Danville Country Auction, Friday, April 21:

Food starts at 4:00 and the sale begins at 5:00. Sale items will include beautiful quilts and wall hangings, artwork, quality crafts, classroom baskets, gift certificates, new items from area businesses, and a separate plant and shrubbery auction. For more information, call Edie Hess at (717) 872-2506. To donate, please call John Mattilio at (717) 917-4682. All proceeds benefit LMS.

Locust Grove Country Auction and Chicken Barbecue, Friday and Saturday, May 19 & 20:

Friday will include a Chicken Barbecue from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday will include a Country Breakfast at 7 a.m. and a Country Auction at 8:30 a.m. featuring specialty items, art and handcrafted items, lawn and garden items, gift certificates, collectibles, and more. The food tent will be open all day. Childcare for ages 4–7 will be available.

Garden Tour, June 17 and 18, to benefit the Vi Bender Memorial Scholarship Fund:

Don't miss this fun event! If you would be willing to open your garden or can recommend others for the tour, please contact Marcy Root at the Locust Grove office at (717) 394-7107. Tour times are 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday and 1–5 p.m. Sunday. ■

New Century Jubilee update

The school-wide Annual Fund is the first priority. Other New Century Jubilee projects include a classroom addition at the Lancaster site that would provide 18 new classrooms for business, math, computer and science courses plus office space; a track/stadium at the Lancaster site; and New Danville improvements that include a new entranceway, new office space, and building changes that separate drop off and pick up areas for busing and carpooling.

LMS summer day camps scheduled

Basketball

Elementary girls basketball, grades 4–6.....July 10–14
 Girls basketball, grades 7–10.....July 10–14
 Boys basketball, grades 7–10.....July 17–21
 Elementary boys basketball, grades 4–6.....July 24–28

Field Hockey

Jr. high field hockey, grades 6–8.....June 12–16
 Sr. high field hockey, grades 9–12.....August 7–11

Soccer

Girls soccer, grades 7–12.....June 19–23
 Elementary coed soccer, grades 1–5.....June 26–30
 Jr. high boys soccer, grades 6–8.....July 31–August 4
 Sr. high boys soccer, grades 9–12.....August 7–11

Girls Softball, grades 6–12.....June 26–30

Tennis, grades 1–12 August 1–5

Beginner/Intermediate tennis, grades 4–8.....July 31–Aug. 4
 Intermediate/advanced tennis, grades 9/12.....Aug. 7–11

Volleyball

Jr. high girls volleyball, grades 6–9.....June 26–30
 Jr. high boys volleyball, grades 6–9.....June 26–30

Photography, spirituality, culinary and drama

Spiritual fitness, grades 10–12.....June 9–11
 Intro. to digital photography, grades 6–10.....June 12–14
 Coed junior culinary, grades 4–6.....July 17–21
 Coed advanced culinary, grades 4–9.....July 24–28
 Middle school drama, grades 6–8.....August 7–11

For a brochure and application, please call (717) 299-0436.



Jessie Hoover and Loretta Geib, students in Miss Winter's fifth grade class, check their "math vitamin" worksheet with Jessie's grandparents, Jim and Marg Kunz, during New Danville's annual Grandparents Day. PHOTO CREDIT: EDIE

About 150 grandparents visited the New Danville campus during the school's annual Grandparents Day in October. Students learned what school was like several generations ago and then shared what is happening at New Danville today. Besides visiting classrooms, the grandparents attended an all-school chapel and joined their grandchildren for lunch.

Golf tourney set



Sherri Gorman and Butch McCarty wait for the fun to begin, prior to last year's LMS golf tournament. This year's event will be held Wednesday, April 26, at the Lancaster Host Golf Resort, with morning and afternoon tee times. The fee of \$80 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 Al Shirk, (717) 299-0436, ext. 382, or Gail Lanas, (717) 394-7107.

February 24–25	Locust Grove Drama, <i>Dr. Doolittle</i> , 7 p.m. at Fine Arts Center, Lancaster campus Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday only, 4–7 p.m.
February 26	High School Winter Concert, 3 p.m.
March 7	Locust Grove 5th & 6th Fine Arts Festival, 3:15 p.m.
March 10	Locust Grove 7th & 8th Fine Arts Festival, 6:30 p.m.
March 16–17	New Danville Drama, <i>Charlie & Choc. Factory</i> , 7 p.m.
March 30–31	LMMS <i>The Mouse that Roared</i> , 7 p.m.
April 9	MEA HS Chorus Concerts, Fine Arts Center, 3 & 7 p.m.
April 27–29	High School musical, <i>Seussical</i> , 7:30 p.m. + 2:00 Sat.
May 5	MEA Middle School Choir Concert, 7 p.m.–Lanc.
May 16	Locust Grove Spring Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.
May 21	High School Spring Concert, 3 p.m.
May 23	LMMS Spring Concert, 7 p.m.



The Fall Gathering and Auction, held in November at the Lancaster campus, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the high school's student apple pie baking contest, begun by teacher Dottie Weber in 1980. Above, Family and Consumer Science teacher Jean Forshey congratulates LMS senior Kun Yhong Kim who took first place in this year's contest. The pie was sold at the Saturday auction for \$2,500. The weekend event, including the high school fall play, a meal, a basketball tournament, and several auctions, raised \$96,000 for the school. Also during Saturday's auction, Superintendent Richard Thomas, in photo at left, honored J. Lester Brubaker, right, and his wife, Lois, for their support of Mennonite Christian education. J. Lester was a staff member at the high school for over 20 years, including 13 years as chief



CLASS NOTES

Harry G. Lefever, 1949, Atlanta, Ga., has authored a book, *Undaunted By The Fight*, published by Mercer University Press, Macon, Ga., (available directly from the publisher.) The book is about African American female students and Spelman College faculty who, from 1957–1967, risked their lives, compromised their grades, and jeopardized their careers to make Atlanta and the South a more just and open society. Lefever graduated from Eastern Mennonite College, then received a masters degree from University of Chicago and a doctorate from Emory University. He has been a member of the Spelman College Sociology Department since 1966. He previously taught at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Va.

Clyde M. Hollinger, 1964, Lititz, was ordained as associate pastor at Millport Mennonite Church on December 11, 2005. Clyde was a faculty member at LMH from 1975–92.

Lamar Keener, 1971, San Diego, Calif., was recently named president-elect of the Evangelical Press Association, an international professional

membership organization for more than 300 Christian publications. He and his wife Theresa own Keener Communications Group and have been publishing the *Christian Examiner*, a network of regional Christian newspapers in Southern California, since 1988.



Lamar Keener

Dale E. Stoltzfus, 1979, Lititz, has been awarded the W. Gene Davis Memorial Award, which goes to the Pennsylvania coach of the year in Class AAA boys soccer. The National Soccer Coach Association of America has named him the regional coach of the year, a region which includes all of Pa. and N.J. He is one of eight being considered as national high school coach of the year by the same organization. Stoltzfus coached Warwick (20-5-2) to the state Class AAA title, the first ever won by a Lancaster County school. Dale played soccer at LMH and Goshen College.

Jeannie (Regina) Hershey, 1985, Hartsfield, Abington, has recorded a

worship CD, *For His Glory*, to benefit a team of eight adults and six children traveling to Cambodia under World Team mission organization, where they will train church leaders. You may contact **Ken, 1961, or JoAnne Hershey, 1962**, at jfchishis@aol.com or (717) 284-3841.

Barrett Freed, 1986, Lebanon, will spend two weeks in Pakistan, building Quonset-hut type shelters for victims of the earthquake. The money that makes this trip possible was miraculously provided by one of his Class of 1986 classmates.

Brian Scott Miller, 1988, Washington, D.C., has been named vice president, West coast Asset management for Combined Properties, Inc., a leading commercial real estate developer and owner in the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. markets.

Fadi Diab, 1994, Aberdeen, Scotland, completed his MBA from Tulane University, New Orleans, in January. He is currently working for a company called Tidewater Marine, in New Orleans and travels extensively on business.

Janelle Engle, 2002, Mount Joy, a sen-

Alumnus agrees to be major supporter of Challenge Fund

By Jeff Shank

Daryl Heller, 1988, has announced that he and Premier Companies, LLC, will provide a significant portion of the Challenge Fund money for this year's LMS Alumni Phonathon which will be held in February and March.

The Challenge Fund will match gifts from alumni who are participating for the first time, gifts from those who have not given since 1999, and gifts that increase by \$25 or more over last year's giving. The alumni phonathon has been a successful event, raising over \$100,000 per year for the Annual Fund which supports the ongoing pursuit of excellence, keeps tuition affordable and provides student scholarships.

Superintendent Richard Thomas says he is grateful for alumni like Heller

who advance the LMS mission in Christian education.

"This vision and gift is an exciting way to empower the alumni phonathon to meet its goal for students," Thomas said.

Heller, who is CEO and co-founder of Premier, hopes the Challenge Fund will encourage other alumni to participate in this year's event and increase their support of LMS students. He said he appreciates the academic and social experience he received at Lancaster Mennonite.

"It (the school) helped me to stay on



Heller spoke about his work in an LMH business class last year.

track and provided a forum to learn critical thinking, while also allowing me to develop a good spiritual foundation."

ior at Old Dominion University, has been named Dartfish/National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division I, First Team All-American. In addition to being an All-American honoree,



Janelle Engle

Engle is the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Player of the Year, a two-time First Team All-South Region, a two-time First Team All-CAA, and recently was named a Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID) Player of the Year and First Team All-State honoree. A team co-captain both her junior and senior years, Engle has also received numerous academic awards, and is a three-time member of the NFHCA Academic Honor Roll. She plans to graduate with a degree in music education and currently serves as concert master of the Old Dominion University Symphony and first violinist in the Diehn String Quartet. Recently, she has been nominated as one of two students to represent Old Dominion in the USA Today's All-USA College Academic Team competition.

Rachel Horning, 2005, Grantham, is a member of the Messiah College's Women's Soccer Team who recently won the national championship. Billie Jo Atkins scored on an assist from Horning in the 70th minute as Messiah College recorded a 1-0 win over The College of New Jersey to collect the 2005 NCAA Division III women's soccer Championship November 26.

MARRIAGES

Jeffrey Smoker, 2000, and Jaime Keller, July 9, 2005. They live in Kinzers.

Christina Dimitris, 2001, and Steven Schoffstall, September 25, 2005. They live in Frederick, Md.

Daren Good, 2001, and Michelle Nafziger, July 2, 2005. They live in Harrisonburg, Va.

Jenna R. Moyer, 2002, and Nathan L. Umbrell, August 6, 2005. They live in Elizabethtown.

Valerie Clemmer, 1990, and Gordon Anderson, October 1, 2005. They live in Baltimore, Md.

BIRTHS

Charles and **Patricia Hostetler, 1984, Kratz**, Bellefontaine, Ohio, fifth child, second daughter, Anna Kathryn, April 28, 2005.

Fred Oberholtzer, 1985, and **Audrey Hess, 1990**, Gettysburg, a son, Lucas Samuel, August 18, 2005.

Dwight, 1986, and Sheila **Leaman**, New Market, Md., second son, Wesley Eugene, April 30, 2003, and third child, first daughter, Greta Ruth, February 2, 2005.

Tim, 1989, and Darla **Shreiner**, Lancaster, fourth child, third son, Grant Thomas, September 8, 2005.

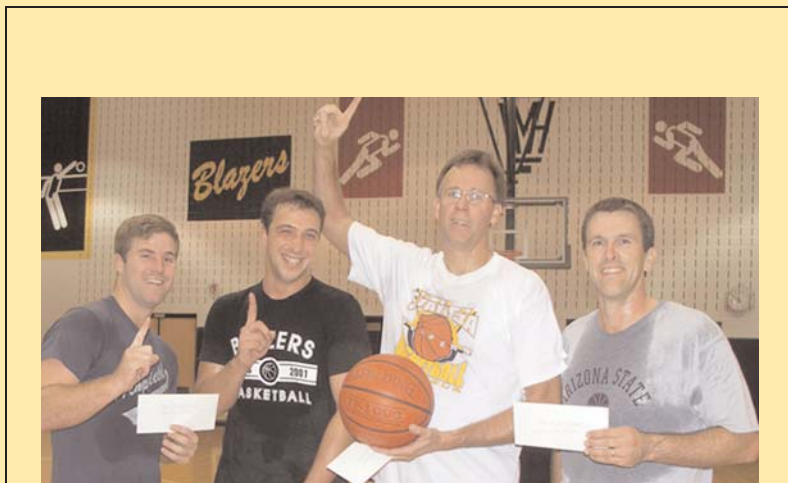
David and **Jennifer Wright, 1990, DeMedio**, West Chester, second daughter, Sydney Francesca, September 24, 2005. Jen is a stay-at-home Mom. They are members of St. Cornelius Roman Catholic church in Chadds Ford.

Peter and **Amy Herr, 1990, Lamberts**, Phoenixville, a daughter, Claudia Marleni, born November 27, 2004 in Guatemala, and received for adoption July 4, 2005.

Heller's personal and corporate passion for stewardship and community participation also led to his co-founding an international organization with business peers from Canada and the US. Horizon Initiative is a nonprofit that provides training services, compassion services and foundation services. One of the focuses has been building micro communities in Kenya which entail an orphanage, medical clinic, farm, academic and trade school for orphaned AIDS children.

As noted in the summer issue of Bridges, Heller received the Small Business Person of the Year award in May at the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry's annual dinner.

Daryl and his wife, Charlene, live in Lancaster with their children—a son, Ethan, and a daughter, Taite Makenzie.



Congratulations to the winning team! L-R, they are: Jeremy Basom, 2001; Steve Leaman, 1999; Mark Pedersen; and Geoff Groff, 1978.

The LMH Alumni and Friends 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament held Saturday, November 19, during the school's Fall Gathering and Auction, raised \$13,560 toward the Brent Nauman Endowment which was established to provide an athletic trainer for the school. Ten teams participated in the event.

Keynone and **Glenda Shultz, 1990, Taylor**, Whitehall, first child, Miranda Joy, December 10, 2004.

Keith and **Lisa Heller, 1990, Reinhart**, Lancaster, a daughter, Elisabeth Lauren, November 4, 2005.

Brent and **Christianne "CA" Murphy, 1991, Lehman**, Sylvania, Ohio, third son, Grey Daniel, October 1, 2005.

Nate and **Julie Hess, 1991, Whitfield**, Conestoga, second child, Caroline Riley, September 22, 2005.

Keith and **Rebecca Grove, 1992, Fester**, Honey Brook, second son, Ian Bryant March 5, 2004.

David, 1992, and Margaret Weaver, 1993, High, Lancaster, first child, Genevieve Grace, October 26, 2005.

Andy and **Amy Miller, 1995, Knutsen**, Lancaster, first child, Hannah Lynn, September 8, 2005.

Adam and **Kimberly Harnish, 1996, Forry**, Lancaster, second child, Trace Owen, August 22, 2005.

Matthew, 1996, and Grace **Long**, Paradise, a son, Carl Matthew, October 15,

2005. He is a brother to Adrienne Grace, August 16, 2004.

Aaron and **Lisa Smoker, 1996, Underwood**, Quarryville, first child, Owen Melville, October 9, 2005.

Seth, 1997, and Rosalyn Ebersole, 1997, Gehman, Mount Joy, first child, Hunter Issac, November 4, 2005.

Andrew and **Christine Cochrane, 1999, Halliday**, Landisville, first child, Alana Rose, January 18, 2005.

DEATHS

John Mark Bomberger, 1959, Watson-town, November 29, 2005.

Anna Mary Reed, 1955, Lititz, November 29, 2005.

CORRECTION

Barry Freed, 1986, Lebanon, completed a year extension to the 2 1/2-year original assignment last May, was home briefly for three weeks, and then returned to Lithuania for a continuation of service as a church development worker and English teacher. ■

Relive your senior class trip!

Mark your calendar now for the October 6-8, 2006, LMS Friends and Alumni trip to Washington, D.C. Possible agenda items include a Capitol building tour, driving tour of Tidal Basin, National Cathedral, Cruise on the Potomac River and/or C & O Canal Ride in Georgetown, Washington Community Fellowship, and a visit to the "Guns into Plowshares" sculpture by Esther and Michael Augsburg.

Class Reunions

1951	Sept 7-8, 2006
1956	Aug 18-19, 2006
1961	April 29, 2006
1966	June 17, 2006
1981	July 8, 2006
2001	Summer of 2006 (TBA)

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org

High school musical and dinner theatre

Lancaster Mennonite High School students will perform the musical, *Seussical*, during the school's 27th annual Arts Festival Thursday through Saturday, April 27-29. Times are 7:30 nightly and 2 p.m. Saturday.

With music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahres, *Seussical* is based on about 15 of Dr. Seuss's books and many of his best-loved characters. This fun, energetic musical is appropriate for the entire family.

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 \$7.00 and \$9.00. For tickets call (717) 299-0436, ext. 340, or send payment and a self-addressed envelope to LMH Musical, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, Pa., 17602. Reserved tickets need to be claimed at least 30 minutes before the performance. Group rates are available.

Dinner Theatre option!

The annual LMS Dinner Theatre will be held Saturday, April 29. The meal will be catered by LMS Food Services under the direction of Dottie Weber. Tickets, at \$35.00 each, include reserved seating in the Fine Arts Center for the 7:30 performance of

LMS Dinner Theatre Saturday, April 29, 2006

Seussical

5:00 appetizers—Alumni Dining Hall lobby • 5:45 dinner—Alumni Dining Hall
7:30 musical performance—Fine Arts Center

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____ Amount enclosed (\$35 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):

___ Chicken Cordon Bleu ___ Glazed Hamloaf ___ Stuffed Shells

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 Monday, April 17.

Drew Weber, ready to help where needed

Drew, a Goshen College senior, had taken the fall semester off to help a graduate student research bird migration along the Mississippi coastline. The job, which was to begin August 29, fit well with his degree program in environmental studies and an emphasis on conservation biology. But then Katrina smashed into the study site, destroying the house and boats where he was to work. The job was off.

Drew, waiting in Atlanta, had to decide: "Should I go home (Reading, Pa.) or head to Mississippi anyway and help out where I can?"

"I decided to head to Jackson, Mississippi, where I stayed with some relatives for a week," he said. "During that time I worked the 10 p.m.–6 a.m. shift at several of the shelters Red Cross had opened up in the area. Electricity was off in most areas of the Jackson area and gas was very limited. I had to try several times to get into my relative's neighborhood where I stayed because so many trees had been blown down."

After that first week, Drew learned that Jubilee Mennonite Church in Meridian, Mississippi, needed someone to work with them for several months.

"I called Daryl Byler of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. Washington Office and he told me to come over the next day, so I packed up my bags and met the pastors, Duane and Elaine Maust at the church.

"The church was hosting a Red Cross Service Center which was giving financial assistance to people who had lost their homes. The church provided the building, food, and drinks for both the volunteers and the people coming for assistance. My job was to coordinate the volunteers from some of the local churches as well as people coming from Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania. The center was open for about five weeks."

After the center closed, Drew delivered MCC canned turkey to several places along the Gulf Coast. He also worked closely with the Key Chapter of the American Red Cross to organize their warehouse and make comfort kits for shelters in preparation of the next hurricane. Near the end of his two and a half month stay, he participated in some long-term planning for the

Rebuilding Eastern Mississippi Committee in addition to helping Mennonite Disaster Service find work in Meridian.

Drew will graduate from Goshen College in April and next fall will be working at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in northern Berks County where weekends will find him guiding hikes and giving talks on raptor conservation and identification. During the week he'll be involved in research projects.

"I would like a career in wildlife conservation or management, and there is a good chance I will go back to school for my masters degree. I am also interested in environmental education with elementary and middle school-aged kids."

When Drew is home he attends South Seventh Street Mennonite Church.

School and work involvements since high school:

Besides Goshen, I have also taken classes in the Dominican Republic, Florida Keys, and Puget Sound, Washington. I have had a wide variety of jobs since graduating, including collecting tolls on the turnpike, working as a masons assistant, delivering packages for UPS, serving as a coffee barista, and banding and surveying birds for a research internship.

How LMH fed my interest in service:

I think that hearing chapel speakers talking about different types of service they were involved in and doing service for NHS made service seem like the right thing to do when I was in Mississippi. I was also influenced by my parents and my youth group because we regularly went to Camp Deerpark each year to volunteer.

How LMH influenced him the most:

I think the friendships I made at LMH were the most instrumental in making me who I am. I still get together with a bunch of friends over breaks to hang out or go camping.



Nelson Weber, 1974, left, and son Andrew (Drew) Weber,

Favorite teacher:

AP Chemistry with Mr. Evans was my favorite class because there were only about 10 of us and we always had some fun experiment to try. He was

Dad also an alum

Nelson Weber (1974), Drew's dad, attended LMH for his junior and senior years and lived in the residence hall.

"As a person who lived on the margins of Lancaster Conference, my two years at LMH were a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of the Mennonite world. In the dorm I enjoyed extended sessions where we discussed religion, politics, and other related and sundry subjects.

"In class, I recall Mennonite History with Myron Dietz as being a time of expanding my understanding of my historical and spiritual roots. Perhaps the biggest thing I remember about LMH was that the teachers had a much broader world view than did my teachers in public high school. Teachers such as Dan Wenger and John Weber helped expand my understanding of the world and how the U.S. affects what happens both locally and internationally."

Nelson and Grace are glad Andrew and James, 2004, attended LMH.

"While they would have received an excellent education at Reading High School, I believe the friends they made at LMH have been very influential in making them the persons they are today. Having teachers whose faith and values are similar to our own was also important."

Nelson is a teacher in the ESL program at the Northeast Middle School in Reading.

A place to belong

A tenth grader who was new at LMS a year ago told me recently how thankful he is to be a student here and what a difference this school has made in his life. He said he made fast friends and felt accepted from the first day. This feeling of belonging also translated to his experiencing greater academic success than at the school from which he transferred. This will help tremendously as he considers which college he will attend after high school.

This fall when several of us were discussing plans for a recruitment poster, the phrase, “a place to belong” surfaced as a possible theme. After excellent feedback from students, based on their own experiences at LMS, we decided to include it in the plans—in fact, use it as our theme for the year. But what does “a place to belong” mean?

When I think of “a place to belong,” I am reminded of that tenth grader who shared with me, plus the approximately 275 new students who enter Lancaster Mennonite School each year. I know how stressful it can be for students who

start pre-K or kindergarten or for those who transfer from another school. Besides a new school, there are new teachers and the need to find new friends. Therefore, helping students feel at home is a goal for all of us at LMS, at all grade levels.

I also feel confident in knowing that our student body is a friendly one. Our students are used to seeing new faces in the hallways, and many have experienced the newness themselves. They remember what it was like so are ready to extend kindness to those they don't know.

“A place to belong” also reminds me of reasons students give for why they love their school. Great friends, caring Christian teachers who pray with them, and the opportunity to discuss one's faith are at the top of the list. Also noted, of course, are the academic excellence and the wide variety of exciting extracurricular activities.

But it is the faith aspect, I believe, that is at the center of our school. That's why our students feel like they belong, and I believe that's why others want to belong. We are more than a



Eliza Booth

comprehensive school that provides excellent preparation for college or career. We are a nurturing, Christ-centered school—a school where students are encouraged to grow in all areas of their lives so they can go on to impact our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and



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