



Bridges

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

3 Local and Global connections

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WINTER 2014

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JONATHAN CHARLES



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

Lancaster Mennonite School has four campuses:

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

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

Locust Grove, PreK–6
2257 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 394-7107

New Danville, grades PreK–5
393 Long Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 872-2506

Address alumni and school news to
bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org
or call (717) 509-4459, ext. 701.

Editor: Stephanie Weaver
weavers@lancastermennonite.org

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Check out our Facebook page, Lancaster Mennonite School, for videos and more photos from campus events.

Cover: Friends of LMS gather to watch a special light show on the decorated Iron Bridge to celebrate the launch of the Bridges to the Future campaign during Fall Festival.

PHOTO: TIM WHITE

from the superintendent

This will be remembered as a year of many school cancellations and delays because of weather.

This year will also have many other memories, including launching Bridges to the Future: A campaign for LMS students, greater educational excellence as measured by our strategic plan for educational growth, and curricular and co-curricular activities providing an opportunity for students to develop leadership and character, discover gifts and abilities, and to grow in self-understanding and Christian values.

Examples of excellence in co-curricular activities include:

- A boys cross country runner advanced to the state tournament.
- Boys soccer won a second consecutive LL League Championship and advanced to district playoffs.
- Boys basketball won its section, advanced to the semifinal game in league playoffs and advanced to district and state playoffs.
- Girls field hockey advanced to state playoffs.
- Girls soccer advanced to district playoffs.
- A golf team member advanced to the regional state tournament.
- Students won numerous art, music and writing awards.
- Student leaders coming before the start of the school day biweekly for Christian discipleship training by staff from Eastern Mennonite Missions.

This does not speak of the values learned when giving one's best and not winning or being recognized. In athletics, we want students to play to win, to win without being arrogant, and to lose without a loss of self-esteem. And even though teams enter each competition with the goal of winning, important life lessons are also taught through losing.

This issue of *Bridges* will give you additional snapshots into our life together at LMS. Shalom! ❖



J. Richard Thomas



A place where

LOCAL

and

GLOBAL

meet

With more than 18 countries represented, the student population at Lancaster Mennonite has a rich diversity that increases the global awareness of all students.

Innovative programs and community partnerships help students gain an appreciation for all people and celebrate the vast array of cultures in our world.

Stories on pages 4-5



CREATING Connections

Habecker Mennonite Church partnership gives refugee children the chance to learn and grow

With their hands raised, the students in Tyler Jones' kindergarten class at the New Danville Campus could barely contain their excitement.

They all wanted to decide what would happen next to the white gorilla and principal Eloy Rodriguez in their chapter of the school's traveling story.

Three young Karen boys giggled with their classmates as they debated about whether to have Rodriguez take the gorilla to prison or the desert.

The boys' families spent most of their lives in refugee camps in Thailand, but thanks to the open arms of Habecker Mennonite Church and LMS, they can simply be children.

Karen Sensenig, 1972, pastors the intercultural community at Habecker Mennonite Church. About six years ago, Sensenig said God brought Christian and Buddhist people from Burma to their church. The Karen people now comprise about two-thirds of the congregation, forming a new life here in Lancaster County.

"I am passionate about interconnections between churches and cultures, newcomers and old-timers, and seekers and wholeness in Christ," Sensenig said.

Sensenig aims to create those connections for others, working specifically with LMS and the School District of Lancaster to provide schooling for the Karen children.

The partnership with LMS began in the 2008-09 school

year with one student in the PreK program at the New Danville Campus. Since then, more students have joined, with five students currently enrolled.

The high school welcomed its first Karen students this past fall. The students had aged out of the public education system, but deeply desired to attend high school.

With several levels of English language training and teachers and guidance counselors who go the extra mile, the students are thriving.

"There were many hurdles to education, but thanks to the commitment LMS has to serving diverse people, the dream of these hard-working students is coming true," Sensenig said.

Sensenig said both students were recently baptized and love the Biblical studies, chapel programs and spiritual growth they experience at LMS.

J. Richard Thomas, superintendent, said the partnership brings a richness to LMS.

"Habecker Mennonite is a wonderful picture of a missional congregation joining with God at work, bringing healing and hope in our community and world," he said. "It is a privilege for LMS to partner with the congregation in the education and Christian formation of these students." ❖

The New Danville Campus hosted a special "Taste of New Danville" celebration in February. The event featured food, song and dance by students that reflected their cultures.

Photos by Jonathan Charles

The kindergarten class at the New Danville Campus includes three Karen students.





STEPHANIE WEAVER



"LMS is a place where diversity and service are important. The variety of sports, clubs and practical aspects of the school make it stand out. The chapels are very enlightening and spiritually enriching. I have grown in my relationship with God. I have become a better person. The diversity is what has made me love it even more. I have made friends from all around the world. This has been especially catalyzed by the International Students Association. I have been part of ISA as a committee member and it has been the most meaningful experience of my life. I can truly see God working through my life at LMS."

— Yokabed Jekale,
senior from Ethiopia

WIDENING Horizons

The International Students Association creates opportunities for students to engage in and with the community

The International Students Association was created this year as a way to provide a platform for international and local students to connect outside of the classroom.

Under the guidance of Global Marketing Director Corinne Han, the organization quickly became established and began hosting campus events and participating in volunteer opportunities.

Already this year, the group has held coffee hours, visited a local corn maze, hosted a Christmas party and volunteered at the Special Olympics held at Villanova University (photo above).

Han said this first year has been a time of learning and optimizing opportunities to have

students develop friendships, travel beyond the school and impact their new community.

"The ISA committee is a highly creative team that has worked relentlessly to drive new initiatives for ISA to keep it very active and engaging with the school as a whole," she said.

Looking to next year, Han said she hopes to raise the bar for cultural competence. In addition to more creative activities and volunteer opportunities, she hopes to have ISA members attend the World Bank and United Nations seminars in Washington D.C. and New York, respectively.

"This will help widen their horizons to think beyond the local context," she said. ❖

Urgent Need: New Residence Hall



Lancaster Mennonite is still working to raise funds to begin construction of the new campus residence hall for use in the 2014-15 school year. At this point, about \$360,000 of the \$500,000 needed for the project has been raised. For more information about supporting this endeavor, visit www.lancastermennonite.org.

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE

The Bridges to the Future campaign kicked off with a bridge transformation to illustrate how lives are transformed at LMS. The focus of the campaign is to provide excellence in education, facilities and affordability for students.

The Iron Bridge on the Lancaster Campus is one of the most familiar landmarks of Lancaster Mennonite.

But last fall, the historic 18th-century bridge was nearly unrecognizable after being transformed into a piece of artwork.

Covered in fabric and vibrant lights, the iron bridge beamed in the dark sky, declaring a promise to students that LMS will help build bridges to their future dreams.

The dazzling transformation during the annual Fall Festival and Homecoming weekend served as the kickoff for the school's largest

campaign in history.

The \$35 million endeavor, "Bridges to the Future," is centered on serving students by achieving excellence in three key areas: Education, facilities and affordability.

"The transformation of the bridge represents this pivotal campaign in the life of the school and the power of an LMS education to nurture Christians who are world changers," said J. Richard Thomas, superintendent.

Nurturing dreams

The bridge transformation was created by artist **J. Emmett Murphy**,



1962, LMS technical director **Ryan Rohrer**, 1995, and current students.

The unveiling ceremony included a light show and a student shadow art drama. Students, families and friends of LMS lined the banks of the Mill Creek to watch the performance, amazed by the beauty.

The futuristic bridge was meant to illustrate the way LMS helps nurture students to achieve their dreams. The campaign was inspired by the LMS mission to be a leader in PreK-12 educational experiences of excellence and character.

LMS strives to give students the opportunity to make local and global connections in a Christ-centered community where lives are transformed and the world is changed.

To add a personal touch to the bridge installation, Murphy asked students to write their dreams and wishes for the future onto latex balloons, which were then set adrift inside the bridge.

"Be a doctor," one read.

"Get all good grades," was written on another.

The 7-year Bridges to the Future campaign is designed to help make



all of those dreams into realities. So far, more than \$7 million has been committed.

Excellence in all areas

The biggest portion of the campaign is \$13 million to increase the school's endowment, helping to make an LMS education excellent and affordable.

About \$12 million of the campaign is to help improve school facilities. In addition to the construction of a new residence facility, LMS plans to retrofit more than 30 percent of its facilities on the Lancaster Campus and finish projects on all four campuses. There are also plans for a second turf field and a recital hall.

About \$7 million from the campaign will go into the school's Annual Fund for growth of current programs and the development of a "Gifts and Abilities Program." Finally, about \$3 million of the campaign will be utilized to provide need-based scholarships.

A community effort

Thomas said he believes the heart of the campaign is continuing to grow

the LMS tradition of Christ-centered excellence and leadership.

"At the deepest level, this is God's school," he said. "We know that God continues to make all things new, and we remain open to join with God at work in ways that we may not currently understand."

Heidi Stoltzfus, director of advancement, said she is encouraged by the strategic plan and the school's vision to serve our community.

"This will be a huge challenge, however, I believe that if each of us gives as we have been blessed, this dream will become a reality," she said.

Diane Umble, chair of the board of trustees, said the board fully supports the campaign, with each of its 24 members having already given toward the effort.

"Our community's culture of generosity and Biblical stewardship has enabled LMS to be a leader," she said. "We are committed to this campaign, which has ambitious goals because it is for the most important thing in our lives — our children and the children of this community." ❖

The mind behind the masterpiece: *J. Emmett Murphy, 1962*

When asked to make a banner for the Bridges to the Future kickoff, artist J. Emmett Murphy immediately had something much bigger in mind.

"My vision was for the bridge to become a giant chrysalis that would gradually change colors with unfolding LED-balloon-lit wings protruding from the sides and small candle-lit luminary 'eggs' lighting the path to the entrance," he said. "A cocoon for each student and friend to emerge from."

Murphy also came up with the idea to include students' dreams on the balloons that filled the bridge.

"I was overjoyed upon reading the positive, honest and creative responses that the students wrote and drew on the balloons," he said.

Murphy received numerous comments about the transformation and is already coming up with other ideas for future art installations.

"As an artist, I'm continuing to refine and develop the kinetic sculpture I installed on the bridge," he said. "As an alumnus, I'm interested in finding ways to help other alumni stay involved so they can share their experience with the students and community."



JONATHAN CHARLES



JONATHAN CHARLES



JONATHAN CHARLES



JONATHAN CHARLES



TIM WHITE



STEPHANIE WEAVER

Madeline Garber and Alan Rockwell

Celebrating Achievements

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP HONORS

Three seniors earned honors in the National Merit Scholarship program last fall, demonstrating Lancaster Mennonite's dedication to academic excellence. Madeline Garber, Alan Rockwell and Thomas Wanner were all named Commended Students, based on their performances on the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



Thomas Wanner

STUDENTS EARN SPOTS IN DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVALS

The dedication and hard work of the LMS music department shone brightly during the 2014 PMEA District 7 music festivals this winter.

For the first time, Lancaster Mennonite hosted the District 7



Jordan Klase



Zane Harnish



Aitana Fernandez

Band festival through a partnership with Lancaster Catholic.

Senior Jordan Klase (flute), junior Zane Harnish (alto sax) and sophomore Aitana Fernandez (clarinet) participated in the festival.

Three LMS students, junior Josiah Nisly (Tenor 2), junior Andrew Milligan (Bass 2) and senior Sophia Mast (Alto 2), earned spots in the District 7 Chorus festival.

Two LMS students, junior Zack Yoder (cello) and sophomore Grace Li (cello), made it to the District 7 Orchestra festival.

QUIZ BOWL TAKES SECOND IN LL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Displaying a wide range of knowledge, the LMS Quiz Bowl team earned second-place honors in the LL League Tournament this winter, losing to Manheim Township in the finals.

The team of junior Austin Sauder, junior Emily Rosenfeld, freshman Brandon Roe and junior Charlotte Schreyer is coached by teachers Lisa Krieg and Galen Sauder.

The team is still competing in WGAL's Brain Busters game show tournament. They have already advanced through two rounds and will appear again on March 29.



JAN MAST

Above: Josiah Nisly, Andrew Milligan and Sophia Mast earned spots in the District 7 Chorus festival. Below: Cellists Grace Li and Zack Yoder participated in the District 7 Orchestra festival.



STEPHANIE WEAVER

Quiz Bowl team members (left to right) with their LL League second-place trophy: coach Lisa Krieg, junior Austin Sauder, junior Emily Rosenfeld, freshman Brandon Roe and junior Charlotte Schreyer.



ELI PASSAGE



The boys soccer team celebrates with its trophy after defeating Conestoga Valley in the LL League championship.

FALL SPORTS ALL-STARS

The boys soccer team led another successful fall sports season by repeating as LL League champions. The Blazers earned the title by defeating Conestoga Valley, 2-1, on Oct. 17.

Two LMS students, junior David Alejos (soccer) and senior Carissa Gehman (field hockey) earned spots on the all-league all-star teams. Alejos was also named the Section 3 Player of the Year and was an All-State and an All-American nominee.



KEITH NISLY



MARK PALCZEWSKI

Kemp earns first LMS football honors

For the first time this fall, Lancaster Mennonite students had the option to play football in the LL League through a partnership with Lancaster Catholic.



Junior Christian Kemp made the most of the new opportunity, earning a spot on the Section One All-Star team as a defensive back in his first season with the Crusaders. Kemp's success is helping to pave the way for more LMS students to join and make an immediate impact on the team in the future.



Mia Kuniholm



Skylar Sims

STUDENTS STRIKE GOLD IN WRITING CONTESTS

A total of 28 students were recognized in writing contests this winter, showcasing the strength of the English curriculum at both the high school and middle school levels.

Six students received gold keys for their submissions in the Scholastic Writing Contest.

Seniors Mia Kuniholm and Skylar Sims earned gold keys in the high school contest while Emily Aukamp (LMMS, eighth grade), Ashlee Evans (Locust Grove, seventh grade), Nathan Yoder (Kraybill, seventh grade) and Mandi Lehman (Kraybill, seventh grade) won gold keys in the middle school contest.

Kraybill sixth grader Damian Allman (not pictured) earned first place honors in the 2014 Newspapers in Education contest.



Emily Aukamp



Ashlee Evans



Nathan Yoder



Mandi Lehman

FFA STUDENTS RECEIVE HIGHEST HONOR

Three seniors earned the state's highest FFA award in January, highlighting the continued success of the Hans Herr FFA Chapter.

Seniors Eric Weaver, Uriah Sauder and Logan Garber, shown at right, received their Keystone Degrees in January during the 2014 Pa. FFA Association's 84th Mid-winter Convention at the Farm Show in Harrisburg. ❖



ELI PASSAGE

Immersion program continues to grow

The successful Spanish Immersion program at the Locust Grove Campus will be expanding to kindergarten and fourth grade next year, in order to allow students to start their Spanish studies sooner.

Spanish Immersion teacher Jennifer Esbenshade loves hearing stories from her students' parents as they watch their children grow in both Spanish and English.

The young elementary students don't blink an eye as they comfortably engage native speakers in conversations.

Susanna Brown, second grade Spanish Immersion teacher at the Locusts Grove campus, reads a story in Spanish to her students.

"They are so proud of their children," Esbenshade said. "They love hearing comments, like, 'Your child has an amazing accent,' or, 'I can't believe this child's ability to speak Spanish.' It's very encouraging to them."

With its continued success, LMS is expanding the Spanish Immersion program to fourth grade and kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year. The program is currently available for grades 1-3. Esbenshade teaches first grade, while native speakers Susanna Brown and Albert Vega lead grades 2 and 3, respectively.

School officials felt it was important to start offering the program in kindergarten to allow students to have a base in Spanish before entering first grade.

"Instead of trying to learn letters, phonics and basic vocabulary at the beginning of first grade, students will now be able to spend an entire academic year on these skills in kindergarten," Esbenshade said. "This

will allow the students' language ability to keep up with their academic ability."

The program incorporates learning Spanish into all aspects of the classroom, with lessons taught completely in the language. In addition to learning the language, the students also develop an appreciation of Latin American and Spanish cultures.

Through the program, students are able to finish primary school knowing all of the necessary academic content while also becoming fully bilingual.

"There is no better way to learn another language," Esbenshade said.

The program began in 2011 with Esbenshade's first grade class. The teacher said it has been pure joy watching the program, and the students, continue to grow.

"We are reaching many students and their families and creating a new generation of bilingual, bicultural children," she said. ❖



CHARLES STUDIO

Brubaker photos featured in Landis Homes exhibit

LMS photography teacher Paul Brubaker began with a simple goal: Document all the Mennonite churches in one city.

The capstone project, "Churches of Lancaster," is part of Brubaker's Master of

Divinity at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

About 15 of the images he has captured so far are on display at Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz. The exhibit will remain open through April.



One of the many photos Paul Brubaker captured of a Mennonite church in Lancaster that is currently on display at Landis Homes.



Students offered mental health screenings

While many individuals talk freely about health issues without stigma, when someone suffers depression or anxiety, that reality often seems harder to share or accept.

This winter, LMS partnered with Samaritan Counseling Center in its new school-based teen mental health education and screening program, TeenHope, as a way to increase the safety and well-being of students.

“We’re concerned about the holistic growth of students, their mental health, spiritual health, physical health and academic health,” superintendent J. Richard Thomas said.

The screenings provide an opportunity to identify significant concerns that otherwise might not be known.

“Students often comment that they

find our school to be a caring place,” said Dorcas Lehman, campus pastor and counselor. “At the same time, not everyone is ready to tell someone when they are at risk.”

In the pilot year, students in grades 7 and 10 at the Lancaster Campus were screened, unless their parents opted out. They then met with therapists to debrief, and follow-up services were offered to any student identified as at-risk.

Gerald Ressler, executive director of Samaritan Counseling Center and former LMS parent, said he is thrilled the school is being so proactive.

“Samaritan’s goal is to be a partner in creating a culture in which students feel safe enough to go to a friend or trusted adult at any time and acknowledge their need for help in addressing a mental health need,” he said. ❖



STEPHANIE WEAVER

Showing commitment through service

Michelle Armster, an associate pastor at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church in Lancaster, led the high school Commitment Week chapels in October.

Armster ended the week by holding a food drive, allowing students to bless others in the community.

COURTESY OF HESSTON COLLEGE



Brown to perform at LMS in October

Through a partnership with Hesston College, Lancaster Mennonite School is planning to host a concert by internationally-acclaimed baritone Anthony Brown.

Brown’s concert, “I Go On Singing,” is an original tribute to Paul Robeson, an athlete, scholar, orator, recording artist, actor and early leader in the civil rights movement.

The concert will be held at the Lancaster Campus at 7 p.m. Oct. 18.

Mark your calendar

March 20	Middle School Fine Arts Festival at Lancaster Campus, 7 p.m.
April 4	Kraybill Campus grades 4-5 music program, 7 p.m.
April 6	MCCL at Mount Joy Mennonite Church, 6 p.m.
April 8	MCCL at Strasburg Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
April 24-26	High School Musical, <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> , 7:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sat.
April 26	MCCL at St. Edward’s Episcopal, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
April 27	MCCL at Westminster Presbyterian, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.
May 2	MSC Middle School Choir Festival, Lancaster Campus
May 4	MCCL at Weaverland Mennonite Church, East Earl, 6 p.m.
May 6	High School Spring Concert, 3 p.m.
May 10	MCCL at Stumptown Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
May 15	New Danville Campus Music Showcase, 7 p.m.
May 16	Locust Grove Campus grades 3-5 spring music program, 7 p.m.
May 22	Middle School Spring Concert, Lancaster Campus, 7 p.m.
May 30	Senior Class Dedication, 7 p.m.
May 31	Commencement, 10 a.m.

STEPHANIE WEAVER



GIVE-a-thon

For the first time this year, we have a new way for alumni to help give back and build bridges for future students.

Welcome to the Give-a-Thon, a new-and-improved version of our phonathon campaign. Alumni can now give online through the link or by scanning the QR code below. Those that give through this option, and designate it as "Give-A-Thon," will not receive a friendly call from our volunteer callers.

Every gift makes a difference and could be eligible for matching funds if made by April 1.



Become a bridge builder and give online at www.lancastermennonite.org/alumni/give-a-thon.

CLASS NOTES

Sharyn (Charles) Tieszen, 1975, Durham, N.C., serves as a registered nurse at Duke University Medical Center and earned a "Duke Nursing Commitment to Excellence" award for her practices to reduce pain while administering IVs.

Bill Beam, 1978, Elverson, was reappointed as a director of the United Soybean Board. Beam also serves as the chairman of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board.

Carolyn (Groff) Hapeman, 1989, Lancaster, is the new Chief Financial Officer at Linden Hall in Lititz. Hapeman previously worked as the finance director at a private Jewish high school in California.

Scott Regener, 1990, Mantorville, Minn., wrote and self-published the book, *SoulScope*, last fall. The fictional work is about a corrupt evangelist challenged in his faith by a young boy. It is available as an e-book or paperback on Amazon.

Jo Jo Wenger Fisher, 1992, Cranston, R.I., is now an editor/writer for the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University.

Sarah Kraybill Lind, 1995, is the new Admission Director at Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen, Ind. Kraybill previously served in a similar capacity at a Waldorf school in Connecticut.

Benjamin Bixler, 1998, Princeton, N.J., recently earned his Master of Arts in Religion degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He is currently working as a Multimedia Specialist at Princeton University. His wife, **Sarah (Gehman) Bixler, 1998**, completed a term as Virginia Mennonite Conference Coordinator and is now studying in the Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Kevin L. Shenk, 1999, Leola, and his family are currently serving a three-year term as part of the staff of YWAM Ireland. Updates about the family's journey can be found at www.heyshanks.com.

Anna Groff, 2002, Tucson, Ariz., was named the interim editor/CEO for *The Mennonite*, the denominational periodical of Mennonite Church USA, and its related web and social media channels. Groff served as the associate editor of *The Mennonite* since 2006.

Megan Leaman Heinly, 2004, Lancaster, is the Circles Program Coordinator for Circles of Lancaster County, an anti-poverty initiative that works to create greater stability by empowering individuals to build their own resources and connect with volunteer allies.

Olivia Edwards, 2012, Lancaster, spent a semester studying abroad at the University of Sussex, England and the summer serving homeless women in Honduras. She was recognized at Georgia Institute of Technology by Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, for leadership, service and campus citizenship.

MARRIAGES

Rebecca Landis, 1999, and Justus McLarty, June 1, 2013. They live in New York, N.Y.

Matt Bauman, 2002, and Charity Grimes, Aug. 3, 2013. They live in Pittsburgh.

Cynthia Gingrich, 2003, and Alexander Schwarz. They live in Philadelphia.

Kara J. Burkholder, 2007, and Doug Summerson, Nov. 19, 2011. They live in Bloomfield, Conn.

Ashley Dagen, 2008, and Randy Nolt, June 1, 2013. They live in Lancaster.



Ivan, 1950, and Mary Ellen 1954, Leaman join the crowd of LMS alumni cheering on the boys basketball team as they won the Section 4 title.

Basketball hosts alumni night

Proudly sporting their black and gold, LMS alumni packed into the gymnasium at the Lancaster Campus to cheer on the boys varsity basketball team Feb. 6.

The special alumni night was a huge success, with a total of 84 alumni attending. If alumni wore black or gold apparel to show their support, they got into the game for free.

The boys basketball team won the Section 4 title that night by defeating Lancaster Catholic, 45-38.

The Blazers were unbeaten at home throughout the season and advanced to the semifinals in the league playoffs and to district and state playoffs.

Amie Martin, 2009, and Logan Judiscak, Nov. 3, 2012. They live in Lititz.

Tanner G. Horst, 2011, and Tonya Martin, May 17, 2013. They live in New Holland.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Jeffrey, 1987, and Lynelle Sollenberger, 1988, Wenger, Elizabethtown, fourth child, a daughter, Cailyn Marie, Dec. 17, 2013.

Gordon and **Valerie Clemmer, 1990**, **Anderson**, Parkville, Md., second child, a daughter, Hannah Estelle, June 11, 2013.

Doug and **Tina Groff, 1991**, Friesen, Brownstown, fourth child, a daughter, Chloe Janel, Feb. 12, 2013.

Marvin, 1992, and **Dorcas Steckbeck, 1993**, Landis, Lancaster, second child, first daughter, Eve Serenity, Oct. 19, 2012.

Tasha Clemmer, 1993, and her husband, Travis Robie, New York, N.Y., first child, a daughter, Hallie Fern Robie, July 12, 2013.

Andrew and **Julie Gish, 1994**, **Gingrich**, Lancaster, second child, a daughter, Sophia Grace, Nov. 14, 2013.

Benjamin, 1998, and **Sarah Gehman, 1998**, Bixler, Princeton, N.J., fourth child, a daughter, Juliet Irene, April 9, 2013.

Nathan and **Denise Hoover, 1998**, **Olmstead**, Croghan, N.Y., sixth child, fourth son, Jeremiah Christian, May 28, 2013.

Luke and **Janine Siegrist, 1999**, **Mason**, Mont Clare, first child, a daughter, Madeline Grace, Sept. 9, 2013.

Brad and **Heather Kessler, 2000**, **Hairhoger**, Mount Joy, second child, a daughter, Adalyn-Grace Kathleen, Feb. 17, 2013.

Darrel, 2002, and **Kelly Mummau, 2003**, **Martin**, Mount Joy, first child, a son, Asher Scott, Sept. 4, 2013.

DEATHS

Edna Metzler Brunk, 1946, Lititz, Aug. 12, 2013.

Vida Jean Grove, 1950, Mount Joy, Jan. 20, 2014.

J. Robert Miller, 1951, Landisville, Oct. 26, 2013.

Betty J. Kreider, 1952, Lancaster, Jan. 22, 2014.

Jay Robert Martin, 1952, Farmington, Conn., Nov. 20, 2013.

J. Clyde Weaver, 1952, Lititz, July 9, 2013.

Grace Landis Bailey, 1953, Ephrata, Jan. 23, 2014.

Jay W. Nissley, 1969, Manheim, Sept. 12, 2013.

Douglas J. Beam, 1979, Morgantown, Dec. 17, 2013. ❖

2014 CLASS REUNIONS

- 1954 ▶ May 17, 2014**
Lancaster Campus, Alumni Dining Hall
- 1959 ▶ June 28, 2014**
Lancaster Campus
- 1964 ▶ Oct. 18, 2014**
Lancaster Campus, Alumni Dining Hall
- 1969 ▶ Sept. 20, 2014, 4:30 p.m.**
Keefer's Barn
29 Tollgate Road, Marietta
Catered meal included
- 1974 ▶ Nov. 15, 2014, 6 p.m.**
The Gathering Place
6 Pine Street, Mount Joy
- 1979 ▶ Reunion planned for this fall**
More information coming soon

If you graduated in a year ending in "4" or "9," it's time to start thinking about planning your reunion. Contact Tina Campbell, Alumni Relations, if you are interested in planning your reunion or have already started, at campbelltk@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 509-4459, ext. 709.

Save the Dates

Three spring auctions will provide ways for families, alumni and others to support LMS students. Proceeds go to the Annual Fund, which keeps tuition affordable.

- New Danville Campus – March 28
- Locust Grove Campus – April 11
- Kraybill Campus Auction & Pig Roast – May 9-10

LMS Golf Tournament

Join us for the annual golf tournament, which also raises money for the Annual Fund at Conestoga Country Club April 30. A meal will be held at Manor Township Community Park following both rounds.



Business Networking Seminar

Connect with other alumni and tour the new Spooky Nook Sports complex with founder and LMS alum **Sam Beiler, 1983**, 5-7 p.m., May 20.



FALL FESTIVAL & HOMECOMING

Don't miss any of the festivities during the Fall Festival & Homecoming weekend, Nov. 14-15.

To register or for more information, visit www.lancastermennonite.org.

The LMS Dinner Theatre on Saturday, April 26, will introduce and honor our alums of the year and feature the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. For the best seating, send order and payment today. For "musical only" tickets, call (717) 509-4459, ext. 340. The musical runs April 24-26, 7:30 nightly plus 2 p.m. Saturday. Go to www.lancastermennonite.org for additional information.



Lapp tournament connects alumni through volleyball

With a strong showing from alumni, the Glen D. Lapp Memorial Volleyball Tournament packed a high level of competition in a friendly environment.

All but two of the 20 teams at the tournament on Jan. 11 had at least one LMS alum on the roster. **Brent Hurst, 2007**, **Ben Benner, 2007**, **Joe Lab, 2008**, and **Ashlin Hollinger** won the tournament.

The event raises money for need-based scholarships through the Glen D. Lapp Memorial Endowment for Student Aid. **Glen Lapp, 1987**, was a traveling nurse who was killed in Afghanistan in 2010 after spending three weeks in remote areas administering eye, dental and medical care.

In addition to the volleyball, the tournament served as a great way for alumni to reconnect with old friends.

Cousin and former LMS parent Tim Lapp



STEPHANIE WEAVER

Top: The 20 teams were split into four pools that played in both Lancaster Campus gyms.

Above: Alum Josh Lapp, 2006, goes up against fellow alum Leandro Dueck, 2005.

said Glen introduced his sons, **Joel, 2003**, **Josh, 2006**, and **Justin, 2010**, to volleyball. Glen also previously coached the JV team at LMS and had tournament organizers and former LMS coaches Kevin Groff and Mark Leaman on his team.

"It's great for us as a family," he said. "Even the way Kevin and Mark run the tournament is the way Glen would want it. Nothing too formal, just everyone enjoying volleyball together." ❖

LMS Dinner Theatre ♦ Saturday, April 26

Fiddler on the Roof

5:00 appetizers ♦ 5:45 dinner by Hess's Barbecue Catering ♦ 7:30 performance

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____ No. attending _____ Amt. enclosed (\$40 each) \$ _____

Choose an entree: _____ Chicken Chesapeake _____ Vegetarian Option

☐ Gluten-free _____ Apple Cranberry Stuffed Pork Tenderloin

Please return form with payment to LMS Dinner Theatre, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602. Tickets will be waiting at the door. Please register by Friday, April 11. To reserve group seating, send entire order together and list all names. If questions, call (717) 509-4459, ext. 701.

Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster **Glorifying God through song**

The Mennonite Children's Choir has helped more than 550 children nurture their gifts of singing since its founding in 1998. The program will hold a celebratory concert on June 22 to recognize its 15th anniversary.

Whenever her daughter Helena comes home from a Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster rehearsal, Kaylene Derksen said the LMS junior is on an emotional high.

Not only does she feel privileged to be singing alongside such talented individuals, but her fellow choir members are also her closest friends.

As a parent, Derksen said MCCL teaches much more than singing.

"MCCL provides options for children and youth who are gifted musically to join a rigorous program that is geared toward teaching choral music and deeper values," she said.

MCCL has been providing opportunities like this for Helena and hundreds of other local children who love to sing for the past 15 years.

To commemorate the milestone, MCCL will hold a celebration on June 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Calvin and Janet High Fine Arts Center at the Lancaster Campus.

The concert will feature current choir members, alumni and founding director Patricia Strong Myers. There will also be a performance of a special song created specifically for the celebration.

Myers founded the program in 1998 as a choir for children in grades 4-8. She stepped down eight years ago to serve in missions in Bulgaria and has since started a similar program there.

"I believe that by having a quality children's choir, it trains children to be a part of the worship service, both at this young age and for service as adults in the church community," she said.

The choir currently has about 175 singers in its five programs: Prelude Music, Carol Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Men's Ensemble.

Throughout its 15-history, MCCL has served more than 550 singers.

Darlene M. Hein, who serves as an artistic director alongside **Rosemary Blessing, 1997**, said that even though the singers come from a variety of churches, they are all committed to the MCCL mission of glorifying Jesus Christ through excellent choral singing.

"The joy and energy that is present during Tuesday night rehearsals is impossible to measure, but it speaks highly for the future music leaders of our churches," Hein said. "It's a blessing to work with them." ❖



MCCL **15th Anniversary** **Celebration Concert**

Sunday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
LMS Lancaster Campus
Calvin and Janet High
Fine Arts Center

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICOLA HERRING





LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

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Lancaster, PA 17602

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Parents: Each LMH alum receives a personal copy of *Bridges*. If this is addressed to a son or daughter who has established a separate residence, please give us the new address. Contact Keri Bloom at bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org or (717) 509-4459, ext. 701. Thank you.

Centered in Christ ■ Transforming Lives ■ Changing our World

Visitation Opportunities

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT DAY

Lancaster Campus only

March 18

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Lancaster Campus only

May 4

1–3 p.m.

**For more information
or to schedule a visit**

Kraybill Campus, grades PreK–8
(717) 653-5236

Lancaster Campus, grades 6–12
(717) 299-0436, ext. 312

Locust Grove Campus, grades PreK–6
(717) 394-7107

New Danville Campus, grades PreK–5
(717) 872-2506

www.lancastermennonite.org