



The Link

MBCI Alumni Newsletter - Keeping You Connected



a huge positive impact on the students directly involved, the larger student body and the people of Winnipeg.

How has working with our student/school community impacted you?

You get to see a bit of everything, the struggle to pull together a team, the positive vibe a cool project can bring to people. It was great to connect and collaborate with the students and staff. I gained clarity on the kind of projects I want to contribute to and participate in.

What do you hope our students learn from this project?

That a successful project is messy. It takes effort and struggle to pick one singular design from a number of great ideas. It takes effort to execute the big idea. The process and final product is far from perfect, yet so inspiring. I hope they can look back and see how they all contributed to a big idea that people will engage with and enjoy for a long time.

What do you hope visitors to The Forks take away from experiencing the Hug Mug?

Just prior to the Press Conference at The Forks, I saw a family check it out. The kids hugged the marshmallows and the parents leaned back on the comfy benches, smiling and laughing. I spent a few minutes inside the Mug with the guy who is the big idea behind the RAW ALMOND food event on the rivers, and he marveled at how it was constructed. I hope people will experience it as play, as design, and how a student body comes together to achieve something world class that is more than just some wood screwed together.

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THE HUG MUG: WARMING ALL OF WINNIPEG

Grade 11 Art students were invited to design and build a warming hut for the 2018 Red River Mutual Trail at The Forks and met the challenge head on. Students quickly started to design, refine and receive feedback from experts in our alumni community. This resulted in the design of the Hug Mug, a larger than life coffee mug tipped on its side, spilling out hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Ted Geddert ('84) MBCI alumnus, current MBCI basketball coach and owner of Holz Custom-Prefab, was part of the community that provided feedback and advice to our students. Geddert quickly offered to supply the materials needed, as

well as offering his building experience to work alongside our students during construction. Hear from Geddert on his experience about giving back to our school community:

What inspired you to get involved with this student project?

Along with a few others, I was asked to review the initial ideas by the student group. I do work with many in the Winnipeg Design Community including the people behind The Forks Warming Huts, and this class's big ideas immediately grabbed me. I figured if this cluster of ideas had that kind of impact on me, then it had the potential to have

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 1

GRADE 6 & 7 INFO NIGHT AT 7:00PM

MARCH 6

AN EVENING OF JAZZ AT 7:30PM

APRIL 10

CHORAL CONCERT AT 7:30PM

MAY 4

CELEBRATING MBCI BENEFIT DINNER

MAY 29

GR. 10-12 SPRING CONCERT AT 7:30PM

JUNE 5

GR. 6-9 SPRING CONCERT AT 7:30PM

JUNE 28

GRADUATION CEREMONY AT NORTH
KILDONAN MENNONITE BROTHERS
CHURCH AT 7:00PM



Life Well Learned.

Do you have an alumni update or a feature story idea? Tell us by writing to:

Mennonite Brethren
Collegiate Institute
c/o Advancement Department
173 Talbot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R2L 0P6

Or email - info@mbsci.mb.ca

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LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



One of the gifts our alumni offer to our current students is a vision for what is possible. When alumni share their stories and their expertise with our students, it helps them imagine the many different paths that they, too, can pursue after leaving these halls.

We've witnessed several such examples in recent months.

Our Ventures Program (courses for High School students that teach the fundamentals of business and leadership while incorporating our faith and values) holds an annual symposium at which alumni share stories about their journey as entrepreneurs. Our students listen carefully as their learning comes to life and they develop a tangible connection to the hard work of integrating faith, character and business.

Our grade 11 Art students had the opportunity this winter to create a warming hut for the skating trail at The Forks. Several alumni helped our students turn their sketches into reality. This project became one that embodied the

value of community; deepening student learning to include new relationships, new skills, and the chance to learn first-hand what can be accomplished through the generosity of others.

This is the kind of teaching and learning that we are pursuing at MBCI. Wherever possible, students learn through projects that connect them with the real world: with their peers, with the surrounding culture and community, and with the development of their own character and identity. We believe strongly that this is a model for deep and rigorous learning in which students build resilience, develop greater understanding of content, and grow in creativity and confidence.

We hope the stories we've included here bring back fond memories of your own learning at MBCI and give you a glimpse of how our current students are contributing to the legacy that you have built.

Andrea Neufeld ('96), Principal

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT!

Are you looking for an international experience without the travel? Host an international student and offer a life changing opportunity to a student from another country, to your own family, and to the community! MBCI is seeking host families for international students for the 2018-2019 school year. Long and short term hosting opportunities available. An extra furnished bedroom, three meals a

day and a supportive environment are all that is required! We welcome applicants of all types – singles, families with young children, families with teenagers, empty nesters, and retirees. Financial compensation provided. **To apply or for more information, go to the MBCI website, www.mbsci.mb.ca or contact Heidi DeFehr, Homestay Facilitator at hdefehr@mbsci.mb.ca or 204.960.4011.**

THE HUG MUG: WARMING ALL OF WINNIPEG - CONTINUED

Has there been a moment where you've been pleasantly surprised while working on this project?

When we were building it on the sidewalk at the school on that nice January day, old-school tunes cranked, kids singing and drilling, and I was just able to sit back for a bit and enjoy the moment. I hoped and prayed for a moment like that.

How did your time at MBCI inspire your journey to where you are today?

The school has done so much for me and my family. I met my wife Carrie there. I still interact with the teachers and coaches who got me through my time at MBCI, even the ones who taught me poetry when I didn't like poetry, or pushed me to my limit on the court. I remain close friends with some who I graduated

with. Our four kids attend(ed) MBCI, and the school helped our family get through the tough time when Sammy died while in grade 8. When I reflect and begin to recognize how much of an impact the school had on my life, I just can't help but want the same for others, which is why I want to participate where I can, how I can, with all I got. You know, the parable about not hiding your light.

STEP INSIDE THE HUG MUG



Athena Koodoo, a grade 11 student who worked on the Hug Mug alongside Ted Geddert, said she was grateful for the experience and mentorship.

"Without MBCI Alumni, this project would not have happened. Ted Geddert was the cornerstone of the Mug. He was there from pretty much day one, and made the hut a reality. He not only provided the things we needed to build, but also taught us everything we needed to know about actually constructing the Mug. He taught us to properly set and screw the boards together and his music playlists kept us energized through the process.

When asked what she learned most during this project, Koodoo answered, "One of the most important things I

picked up from this project was realizing that small details really do matter. Whether it is finding the correct shade of red paint or sanding down the top of the Mug, these details will effect the final product. I've found this to be true in many of my other classes. From Chemistry to Canadian History, the small details do matter."

Koodoo hopes that the Hug Mug provides a place of community for all those who visit it, "When people visit the Hug Mug, I hope that they enjoy it. Hopefully people use it to get warm and escape the snow, but I also hope they use it as a place to meet new people."

Merlin Bruan, Art teacher at MBCI was thrilled with the alumni involvement during the length of this project.

"We had numerous alumni step up and help us in this endeavour. Andy DeFehr '86) was instrumental in helping us with funding and providing a great warehouse space in which to work. Ted Geddert was asked, along with his wife Carolyn (Wall '84), to be on our expert panel in the design phase of the project. Ted became an essential part of this project as the build leader! It was wonderful for him to launch himself into our lives and provide great leadership in helping the grade 11 Art students build this hut! Hans Boge ('90) and Brendan Klassen ('12), (current architecture student) also joined us in our critique session where each student got to present their ideas to the panel. David ('86) and Stefanie (Martens '88) Frischbutter from Espresso Junction, without a moment's hesitation, readily volunteered to provide the hot chocolate to give away," Braun commented.

In the end, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity put MBCI Art students on the same stage as architects and designers from around the world.

"This whole Warming Hut project and how the students were involved, wouldn't have been possible without alumni participation. From funding of materials to building expertise, alumni stepped up and helped us make this build a reality. We, as a school, both designed and built our hut (with alumni help). I'm pretty proud of how alumni stepped up, particularly in being experts in areas in which we were not very capable," concluded Braun.

FOR THE RECORD

CLASS OF 1967 - 50th Anniversary Reunion

May 26-28, 2017

On a moody May weekend, the class of '67 was briefly reunited. Around 25 former classmates, some with spouses, attended four planned events. A beautifully produced memory book was distributed. For all their hard work and superb planning we, who were there, know whom to thank and have already done so.

At the Friday evening house party the feeling was warm and welcoming. What a joy and a relief to be recognized (at least by some) and especially to recognize, in this group of sensible looking seniors, the boys and girls of our youth. Of course there were nerve-wracking moments: I don't see you in there ... oh there you are! A lot of water has gone under the old Disraeli Bridge.

On Saturday the fun continued with a school walk-through. We felt sorry for the kids nowadays with all their fancy facilities and educational options; it was so much simpler then and, well, more basic, and yet a few (surprisingly few it turns out) managed to matriculate.

The evening banquet at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada was memorable. The setting sun blazed through the glass wall as we wined and dined on exquisite fare, visited around tables and were entertained. We were addressed by our former teachers Bruce Enns and Peter Peters in the flesh and John Regehr in word and spirit. Our school secretary, Kay (Siemens) Pauls, who always kept the school running smoothly, also joined us. Peace be with them all!

Sunday an atmosphere of calm and comfort pervaded; no doubt some ghosts had been laid to rest. There was hugging (more than would have been deemed appropriate back in the day) and sadness too, as 12 of our friends, already passed, were brought to mind. There was music, a beautifully read sermon that was pure JR (and that's good!) and some wise words from some of our classmates. Many of us then lingered awhile in the MBCI multi-purpose room over coffee and treats. It was all pretty wonderful!

Submitted by **Ernest Ewert ('67)**

CLASS OF 1962 - 55th Anniversary Reunion

On September 15th, about 15 members of the Class of '62 had an evening get together in the meeting room at the condo where Vern and Agnes Koop reside. Most of the classmates also brought their spouses and we had an enjoyable evening socializing and reminiscing. One of our former teachers, Hank Visch and his wife Kay, also joined us for the evening. On Saturday about eight members of our class went to Steinbach to have lunch with a former classmate, Herb Suderman, who resides in a Personal Care Home in Steinbach and was unable to come to Winnipeg.

Submitted by **David Loewen ('62)**



The class of '67 honoured their time together as a class by purchasing bricks in the MBCI Legacy Walkway. On a cool September afternoon the class, their families and the families of those already passed, gathered together to unveil their commemorative bricks and once again reminisce on their time spent here together.

10 YEAR LETTER

HAD YOUR 10 YEAR REUNION? MISSING YOUR 10 YEAR LETTER?

MBCI COULD HAVE YOUR LETTER! CONTACT SANDI AT
SHAMM@MBCI.MB.CA OR VISIT MBCI.MB.CA/ALUMNI

CELEBRATING
MBCI
 ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

Thank you for joining us May 5, 2017 for the Celebrating MBCI Annual Benefit Dinner.

We are thrilled to share some exciting news!

Our goal of raising \$300,000 has been met thanks to the generosity of so many of you, in addition to a small group of anonymous donors who matched the \$150,000 in donations received in May.

This means we have officially raised all of the necessary \$3.2M for the campus expansion!

Together we have provided a space for MBCI students to learn with intention, discover their faith, cultivate character and be challenged to develop a growth mindset in all that they do with the goal of each student discovering how to live a *life well learned*.

We are fortunate to have an incredibly supportive community. Thank you again for supporting this project and demonstrating your belief and confidence in the work of the school!



Thank you to all our sponsors

Celebrating

Mark ('83) & CariLyn (Friesen '83) Buller

Dinner

DeFehr Foundation - Art ('61) & Leona

DeFehr, Dave ('64) & Ester DeFehr, James ('88) & Heidi DeFehr

Diamond

Richard ('81) & Bonnie Olfert

Platinum

Boge & Boge (1980) Ltd. Design Builders Consulting Engineers - Hans ('68) Boge, Hans E. ('90) Boge, Paul ('91) Boge

Phil ('92) & Rachele (Dueck '92) Buller

DeFehr Furniture (2009) Ltd. &

Perimeter Industries Ltd. - Andy ('86) & Leona (Reimer '88) DeFehr & Rick ('83) & Charlotte DeFehr

Flowing Well Breeders Inc. - Jake & Lisa Rempel

Gold

Airmaker Mechanical - Kal & Lisa (Fast '83) Loewen

Beaver Bus Lines/Fehr-Way Tours - John ('77) Fehr & Diane ('84) Fehr Palmer

Shawn & Jessica Boese and Reyn & Heloise Buhler

Hans E. ('90) & Tanya (Ewert '90) Boge

Friend of MBCI

David ('86) & Stefanie (Martens '88) Frischbutter

Carolyn (Wall '84) Geddert P. Eng., Garry ('86) Roehr P. Eng., Bill ('55) Fast P. Eng.

Holz Constructors Inc. - Ted ('84) & Carrie (Wall '84) Geddert

Carl & Sally Kauenhowen

Lakeview Insurance Brokers Ltd. - Anthony Reimer

Langreen (2005) Ltd. - Jascha ('67) Boge, P. Eng. & Marcia ('90) Friesen P. Eng., Hans E. ('90) Boge, P. Eng.

Ron & Sandy (Olfert '84) Malech

Justin ('95) & Andrea (Buller '96) Neufeld and Neil ('69) & Joyce (Riediger '68) Buller

Phil ('81) & Michelle ('83 Enns) Pauls

Penner Autobody - Dan & Daphne Roller

Michelle R. Redekopp - MLT Aikins LLP

Onyx Financial - David & Donna Holm

Leroy & Joanne (Friesen '92) Storsley

Norm ('80) & Sherry Sukkau

Richard & Wendi (Ronald '83) Thiessen

United Therapies Rehabilitation Centre - Eugene & Christine Capitano

United Therapies STRIVE - Eugene & Christine Capitano

VNJ Futures Inc. - Harald ('85) Schulz

Wallace & Wallace - James ('96) & Betty (Rahn '96) Buhler & Kori ('93) & Cynthia (Ens '93) Buhler

Elwood & Tamira Wiebe

Winnipeg Building & Decorating Ltd. - Brian Thiessen

Silver

Sabie & Sindy Brar

Fillmore Riley LLP - Jessica Isaak ('09)

Friend of MBCI

Galaxy Comics and Collectibles - Jeremy Gartner

Henry & Ebonie Klassen

Stanley & Kat Koodoo

Star-Brite Electric Ltd. - Leo Wilzer



MBCI 22nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you for being part of MBCI's 23rd Annual Golf Tournament. We are thrilled to announce a net total of over \$34,000 was raised with funds going in support of the MBCI Bursary Fund – a fund that ensures finances don't get in the way of families experiencing a Christian education at MBCI.

In the spirit of giving back to our local Elmwood community, we were also pleased to commit an additional \$3,500 to the Lord Selkirk Breakfast Program.

Many thanks for your participation and for your support of MBCI!

Thank you to all our sponsors

TITLE

Mark ('83) & CariLyn (Friesen '83) Buller

FRONT NINE

Derksen Law - Waldy Derksen ('74)

BACK NINE

Cardinal Capital Management
- Ron Malech

PUTTING & CHIPPING

Friend of MBCI

GOLF CART

The Cristall Pollack Braun Blatt Advisory Group at CIBC Wood Gundy
- Jason Braun ('89)

LUNCH

Holz Constructors Incorporated
- Ted Geddert ('84)

HOLE-IN-ONE

Century 21 - Bachman & Associates
- David Unruh ('74) and Chris Unruh

Enns Brothers Ltd.
- David Enns & Bob Enns

Polaris Industries - Norm Sukkau ('80)

EAGLE

Crosstown Civic Credit Union
- Mona Forsen

DeFehr Furniture (2009) Ltd. & Perimeter Industries Ltd.
- Andy DeFehr ('86) & Rick DeFehr ('83)

Fidelity Investments - Liam Eveleigh
Lighthouse Exteriors - Alex Boersma

Norm Sukkau ('80) & Sherry Sukkau
The Janzen Family

Visions Contracting Services
- Henry Wiebe ('73) & David Wiebe ('99)

BIRDIE

4L Communications - Lars Koop

Art Upholstery - James DeFehr ('88) & Randy Friesen ('87)

Capstone Construction (1998) Ltd.
- Gerry ('77) & Cathy Neufeld ('77) Dyck

Canoe Financial - Travis Jensen

Hardy ('81) & Kaethe (Pauls '81) Rahn

Haynes International - Scott Johnstone

Howell Mechanical - Allan Peters ('74)

Larters at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club - Peter Ewert

Legacy Kitchens - John Buller ('65)

Olympic Building Centre
- Garry Roehr ('86) & Tamara (Fast '86) Roehr

Quick Transfer - Mark Mueller ('91)

Tag Warehouse - Neil Buller ('69)

Wescan Electrical Mechanical Services
- Murray Modjeski

PAR

CIBC Wood Gundy Structured Product Group - Jason Braun ('89)

Dynamic Funds - Richard Wazny

Friends Funeral Service
- Harry Froese & Harold Koslowsky

Horrocks Insurance
- Chris Horrocks ('99)

Renaissance Investments
- Ryan Coulombe

Restall & Restall - Ian Restall

CASH DONATION

Adams Supply - Jack Enns
Wiebe Chiropractic Centre
- Kevin Wiebe ('98)

GIFT IN KIND

Austin Kylie Photography
- Austin Pauls ('12)

Lea Marc Inc. Professional Printing Solutions - Brian Matychuk

Old Dutch Foods Ltd. - Ron Zapotochny

Tim Hortons
- Will Martens ('94) & Victor Martens ('99)

TEAM PRIZES

Big Sand Volleyball Clothing
- Howard Wiebe

Denny's Meat Market - Mark Dueck ('89)



FOR THE RECORD



TIME TO REUNITE

Class of 1953 - 65th Reunion
 Class of 1958 - 60th Reunion
 Class of 1968 - 50th Reunion
 Class of 1993 - 25th Reunion
 Class of 2008 - 10 year reunion

If you would like to help plan YOUR class reunion, please contact Sandi Hamm, Event Coordinator at shamm@mbci.mb.ca or 204.667.8210 ext 2109.

CLASS OF 1991 - 26th Anniversary Reunion

It was an excellent time reuniting with the class of 1991! We met together at MBCI in May, 2017 to celebrate 26 years since graduation. We were honoured to have Brian Plett speak to us. His compassion and his detailed memory of events that happened more than 25 years ago reminded us of the great times and privilege we had in attending MBCI. The following day we had a barbecue together. The reunion was a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and to be grateful for God's leading and guidance. It feels like yesterday that we were all together at MBCI. May God continue to bless and encourage each one of you. It was so great to see you again. My sincerest thank you to all the grads and alumni, to Brian Plett, and to the reunion team of Melanie McGill, Lisa Watson and Mark Mueller for the many fun times we had planning together.

Submitted by **Paul H. Boge ('91)**

CLASS OF 2007 - 10 Year Reunion



The 10 year reunion occurred on August 26th, 2017. The MBCI Graduating Class of 2007 got together at the school and were given a tour by their former teacher Mr. Reynold Buhler. They had some refreshments and afterwards headed to Buccacino's for dinner.

We had an amazing time together. It was great to see majority of the class coming including those who have families already. The reunion gave us a chance to see how we all have changed. I could see my classmates were very emotional and happy to see one another. Some people there had not seen each other since we all received our diplomas in

June 2007. Good or bad, high school was a very important time in our lives. It was a period of momentous firsts: first cars, first concerts, first loves, etc. I barely remember people I went to university with but I can bump into someone from high school in the grocery store and instantly know them, despite 10 years having gone by!

High school years in general left a mark on all of us. It was a shared experience and the reunion was about remembering those who went through it with us. We rekindled old friendships or created new ones!

Overall the reunion was a blast. It was emotional and nice to see everyone, hear about everyone's life and changes, and just seeing everyone grow.

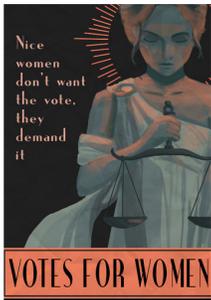
Submitted by:
Patricia Kumbakisaka ('07)

HERE & NOW

Ayiya Ottogo ('17) committed to the University of Manitoba Bisons Women's Volleyball Team for the 2017/18 season. Ottogo also played on Team Manitoba during the 2017 Canada Summer Games, winning the gold medal.

Michaela Hamm ('17) committed to the Aurora University women's hockey team for the 2017/18 season. Hamm was the recipient of the largest scholarship ever offered by Aurora University valued at \$91,000 for four years. She plans to finish her undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry and move towards a career in medicine.

Marissa Naylor ('15) is the 2017 Manitoba Women's Amateur Golf Champion playing for the University of Manitoba Bison Women's Golf Team.



Congratulations to **Kristen Braun ('14)** for winning first place in the 19-29 category in the Historica Canada's Vote for Women! contest. Pictured is her winning submission titled "Lady Justice Demands the Vote".

Technology is still expanding rapidly and people are making technological breakthroughs each year. I began an aerial photo/video service in May of 2017 for real estate agents, construction companies, farms, golf courses, and so much more to take advantage of this extremely beneficial and helpful technology. **Submitted by Noah Schlichting ('16)**



Since graduating from MBCI back in **2011**, I have finished my studies and volleyball career at Brandon University, graduating with my B.B.A (Hons). Since then, I have become a realtor working at Royal LePage Alliance and the new home builder A&S Homes. I would like to extend my services to former alumni and their families. If you are thinking of buying, building or selling a home, I would be happy to reconnect and guide you through the process! Sincerely **David Stasica ('11)**

Patricia Kumbakisaka ('07) won the RDI Radio Canada Young Leaders of Canada/Jeunes Leaders D'ICI – congratulations!



Sonya Matthies ('90) passed away April 12/17 after five years of struggle with sarcoma cancer. Sonya excelled as an assistant administrator in several positions one of them being with the Truth and Reconciliation. We miss her large infectious personality, her sense of humour, her strength and determination in all she undertook – and her looking out for the needs of others – Sonya is so missed, but we are eternally grateful for the 44 precious years with her! Submitted by Errol and **Rita ('60) Matthies Smyth** of Swansea Point, BC.

Life has a way of taking us along circular paths. Seventeen years ago I was experiencing my first year of university studies, sitting in on inspiring courses that unbeknownst to me would guide me back to the place I first sensed a calling into spiritual care. Fast track years of theological studies, discernment of calling, raising three energetic kids for good measure [not a single-handed endeavor! I'm indebted to the love of my life, Rachel (Poysti)], and two pastorates, I'm back at the place it all started for me, the University of Manitoba. I currently work as the on-campus Spiritual Care coordinator; helping students of all faith backgrounds, including students who do not identify with conventional faith traditions, cope with issues of loss, grief, and transition. My work helps students grow in the awareness of how their spirituality provides resilience. It contributes to the university's mandate of understanding health as not simply the absence of physical or psychological ailments, but a person's ability to find meaning, hope and purpose in the face of suffering. **Submitted by Edgar French ('99)**

Kurt Guenther ('65) passed away April 30, 2017 after being diagnosed with NSC lung cancer. Kurt completed high school at MBCI where he met his life's partner, Elfrieda. She caught his eye in a school play where she played a flirt and he was smitten. They married on November 25, 1967. Kurt received his MSW at the University of Manitoba and then moved his family to Morden, MB. He started his profession at E.M.H.C. as Director of Social Services. Kurt enjoyed "retirement" as a probation officer and blessed the people he taught life skills to.

CELEBRATING
MBCI
 ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 4, 2018

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE WINNIPEG