

# LANCASTER MENNONITE

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

## Bridges



*Centered in Christ  
Transforming Lives  
Changing our World*

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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, grades PreK–8**

598 Kraybill Church Road  
Mount Joy, PA 17552  
(717) 653-5236

**Lancaster, grades 6–12**

2176 Lincoln Highway East  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 299-0436

**Locust Grove, Grades PreK–8**

2257 Old Philadelphia Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 394-7107

**New Danville, grades PreK–6**

393 Long Lane  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 872-2506

Address alumni and school news to [sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org).

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Volume 34, No. 2

*The cover photo symbolizes the valued partnership that exists between our congregations and the school. Counter clockwise, from top left: Andrew Martin, high school; Jessica Shipkowski, Kraybill; Dorcas Lehman, campus pastor at Lancaster; Vincent Whitman, pastor at Crossroads Mennonite; Hannah Giagnocavo, Locust Grove; and Keith Weaver, moderator*

# Congregations invest in their future

by J. W. Sprunger, Director of Church Relations

According to Webster’s 11th Collegiate Dictionary, one definition for friend is “one that favors or promotes something (as a charity).” I have found that we have many congregations that are friends of Lancaster Mennonite School. They come from Lancaster Mennonite Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Lancaster County and the surrounding area. These congregations support our four campuses—Kraybill, Lancaster, Locust Grove and New Danville—through prayer, tuition assistance for their LMS families, and by sending students to our school. They are also the home churches of volunteers who help us in many ways.

These same churches support Lancaster Mennonite by promoting the school programming within the congregation and by affirming us with their offerings or a line item in their budget. A church that is providing an investment in Christian education up to \$1,000 is considered a FRIEND of Lancaster Mennonite School.

We call another group of congregations PARTNERS. These also support us with prayer and all those items mentioned above; the difference is that Partners support our annual fund with investments of over \$1,000. By supporting us at this level, these congregations can participate in the Partner Church Scholarship Program where every student from the congregation is eligible for a \$200 tuition scholarship.

The third level of partnership between a congregation and Lancaster Mennonite School consists of those churches who are VISIONARY congregations. A Visionary congregation supports us in all the ways a Partner congregation does with a greater level of commitment. God has called these congregations to a vision for Mennonite Christian Education. They are characterized by unusual foresight and imagination.

These congregations want all students from their church family to experience Mennonite Christian education, so for each young person attending LMS they have a plan in place to pay



*J. W. Sprunger teaches Bible at the high school.* PHOTO: GALEN SAUDER

for part or all of the students’ education. I have witnessed congregations who support their children and youth in similar ways and now experience a huge return on their investment as these young adults are serving the wider church throughout the world.

To what level is God calling your congregation? Presently there are 25 congregations who are Visionary congregations. They are part of a program called the Congregational Education Support Plan.

For more information about how your congregation can become a Friend, Partner or Visionary congregation, contact me at [sprungerjw@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:sprungerjw@lancastermennonite.org)

## Residence hall to honor founding principal

LMS alumni and friends are invited to attend a ceremony during the October 23 quarterly board meeting to formally name the residence hall, Graybill Hall, after J. Paul Graybill, the school’s founding principal. He served the high school from 1942-1953. Graybill family members will speak at the ceremony, as well as church and school staff persons. The ceremony will begin at 8:15 a.m. in the high school chapel service.

**The following "Visionary" congregations are members of the Congregational Education Support Plan which is described on page 2:**

Blainsport Mennonite  
 Byerland Mennonite  
 Carpenter Mennonite  
 Conestoga Mennonite  
 East Chestnut Street Mennonite  
 East Petersburg Mennonite  
 Elizabethtown Mennonite  
 First Deaf Mennonite  
 Frazer Mennonite  
 Goodville Mennonite  
 Groffdale Mennonite  
 Hernley Mennonite  
 James Street Mennonite  
 Landisville Mennonite  
 Lyndon Mennonite  
 Mellinger Mennonite  
 New Danville Mennonite  
 New Holland Mennonite  
 Paradise Mennonite  
 River Corner Mennonite  
 Ridgeview Mennonite  
 Sandy Hill Mennonite

Stumptown Mennonite  
 Weaverland Mennonite  
 Witmer Heights Mennonite

**These churches have 20 or more students attending the school:**

Brightside Baptist  
 Byerland Mennonite  
 Calvary Church  
 Church of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost  
 Crossroads Brethren in Christ  
 Crossroads Mennonite  
 Community Mennonite of Lancaster  
 Congregational Bible Church  
 East Chestnut St. Mennonite  
 East Petersburg Mennonite  
 Elizabethtown Mennonite  
 Forest Hills Mennonite  
 Good Mennonite  
 Hope Community  
 James Street Mennonite  
 Lancaster County Bible Church  
 Lancaster Evangelical Free  
 Landisville Mennonite  
 Living Stones Fellowship  
 Lyndon Mennonite

Manor Brethren in Christ  
 Marietta Community Church  
 Mellinger Mennonite  
 Millersville Bible Church  
 Mount Joy Mennonite  
 Mountville Mennonite  
 Neffsville Mennonite  
 New Danville Mennonite  
 New Life Assembly of God  
 Pequea Brethren in Christ  
 Petra Christian Fellowship  
 River Corner Mennonite  
 Stumptown Mennonite  
 Willow Street Mennonite  
 Willow Valley Grace Brethren  
 Worship Center  
 Zion Lutheran

**Twenty-four churches have 40 percent or more of their high school age youth attending LMS, according to school records and information received from Mennonite Education Agency:**

Blainsport Mennonite  
 Bossler Mennonite

Byerland Mennonite  
 East Chestnut St. Mennonite  
 East Petersburg Mennonite  
 El Buen Pastor  
 Elizabethtown Mennonite  
 Hershey Mennonite  
 James Street Mennonite  
 Landisville Mennonite  
 Marietta Mennonite  
 Masonville Mennonite  
 Mellinger Mennonite  
 Millersville Mennonite  
 Mountville Mennonite  
 New Danville Mennonite  
 New Holland Mennonite  
 New Holland Spanish Mennonite  
 Pilgrims Mennonite  
 River Corner Mennonite  
 Stumptown Mennonite  
 Sunnyside Mennonite  
 Willow Street Mennonite  
 Witmer Heights Mennonite

## Students challenged to grow in their faith

*During Locust Grove's Spiritual Life Week in September, speaker Lawrence Chiles invited the seventh and eighth graders to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Below, Chiles invites Charlie Hargrove to catch a falling dollar bill between his fingers—a difficult feat—to illustrate that God blesses our sincere efforts in living out His commandments, even if we "haven't arrived yet." (Chiles rewarded Hargrove's efforts by allowing him to keep the dol-*



*On the final day of Commitment Week in late September, 188 Lancaster Mennonite High School students responded to speaker Stan Shantz's question, "Where am I being sent?" by attaching "foot prints" to a wooden cross. Students were invited to think about ways they can follow Christ today—by helping a friend or stranger in trouble, for example. "You do not have to go overseas to do mission work," speaker Shantz said. "You can do mission work right now." Shantz is lead pastor at James Street Mennonite Church, Lan-*

# Behind the scenes

**Many schools hire people to do this for them. Our students have a lot of chances to experiment with different techniques with every aspect of production.**

- Ryan Rohrer, Fine Arts Center Technical Director

**H**ans Smucker, 2002, says the open, trusting attitude of the school staff is what contributed most to his learning marketable technical skills at Lancaster Mennonite High School.

“I remember one evening I stayed after school and Jerry Peters (Fine Arts Center technical director, 1989-2000) let me sit down at the lighting board and play with it for two hours,” he said. “I essentially taught myself the basics of the lighting board that evening.”

That kind of learning atmosphere gave Smucker a working knowledge of staging, lighting and live audio, plus a ton of experience. After graduation he found himself at Syracuse University (SU) in a major that combined television, radio and film. As a university student he also landed an event and technical services job and supervised other technicians. He couldn’t believe his good fortune.

“I get paid to do almost exactly what I did at LMH every day?” he mused. For the rest of his college career he used the basic technical skills he learned at Lancaster Mennonite, setting up and running events that ranged from simple lectures (Garrison Keillor) to a variety of shows and concerts.

That position led to another opportunity—working for NBC at the Athens 2004 Summer Olympics in the diving venue. Today Smucker is a digital media editor at the CBS Broadcast Center in mid-town Manhattan, helping to create content for the show “Guiding Light.”

Hans Smucker isn’t the only LMS student to apply his tech experience to life beyond high school. Like Smucker, Lane Crouse, 2004, and Leah Bomberger, 2006, also chose Syracuse University. Crouse is studying television, radio and film, and Bomberger is studying stage management.

“Probably the most valuable thing about being part of the tech crew at LMH was the amount of responsibility given to the students,” Crouse said.

“Ryan (Ryan Rohrer, current technical director) was great at letting the techies try things. If he felt it was something that we could feasibly do, he would do everything he could to help us achieve that goal.

“With musicals, Mr. (John) Miller and Mr. (Dean) Sauder would ... always include me in the design process, almost from the point of the original concept. Our artistic opinions were respected, and we had a great deal of input toward the final design.”

According to Rohrer, the opportunity for high school “techies” to be involved at that level is



*Hans Smucker: 2002, at his editing station at CBS Broadcast Center. He says he first dabbled with “tech stuff” while helping with drama productions at the Locust Grove Campus.*

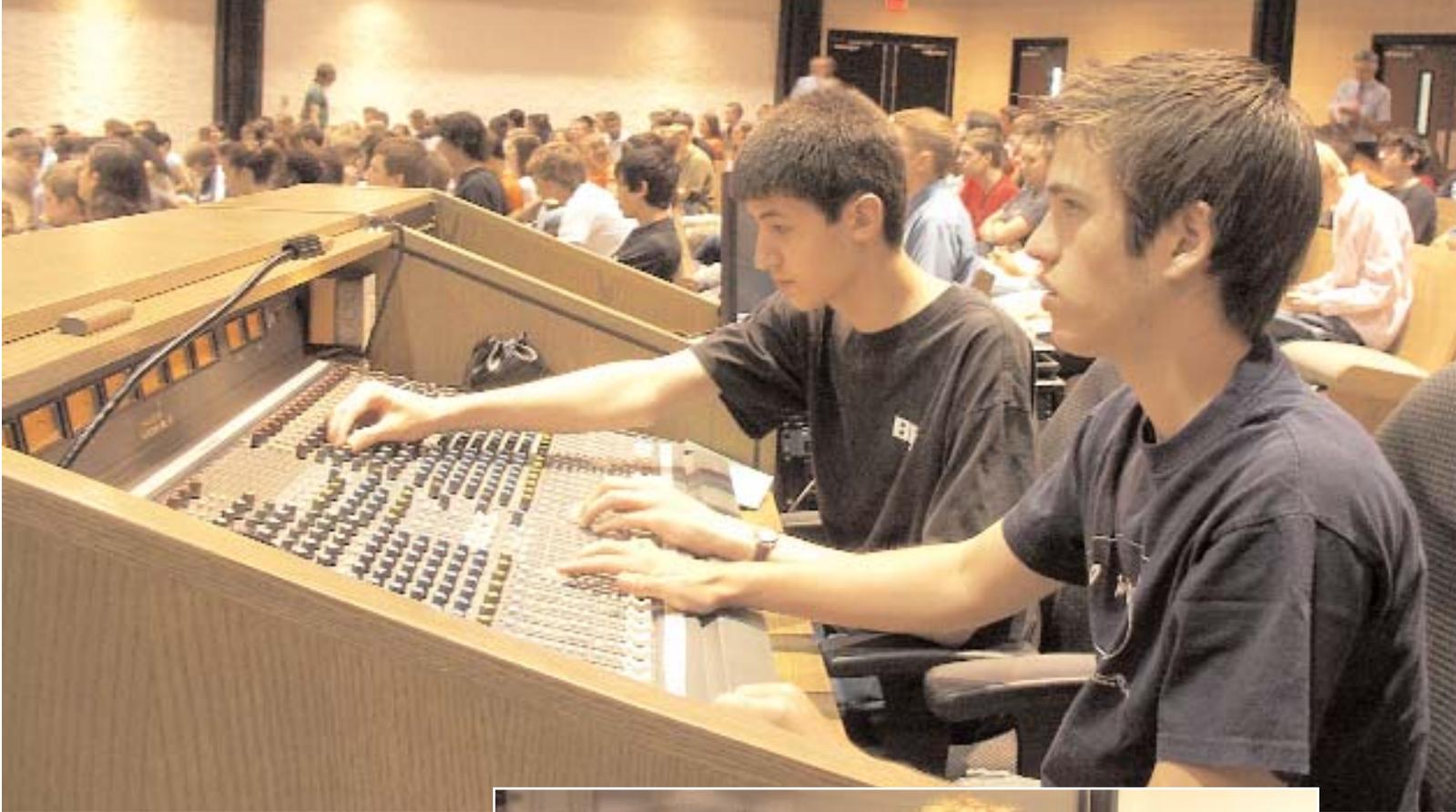
fairly unique.

“Many schools hire people to do this for them,” he explained. “Our students have a lot of chances to experiment with different techniques with every aspect of production.”

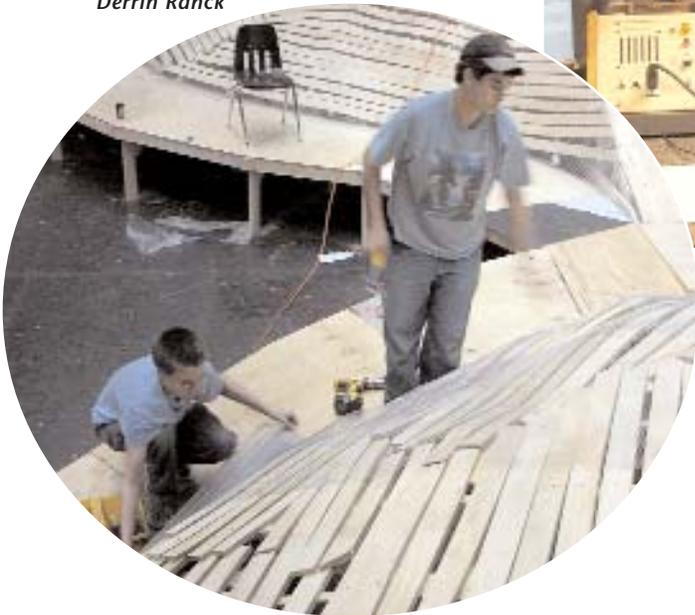
Serving on the high school tech crew also helps prepare students to work in their congregations, sometimes in a paid position. Joe Zimmerman, 2005, says his LMS experience helped land him a job at Petra Christian Fellowship as audio visual manager. His future interests include training for mission work that could involve helping churches with their sound systems.

John Miller, who is both music teacher and drama director, says the school is an excellent training ground for students, “whether they’re learning technical skills or helping to direct a drama production.”

“Under the competent, quiet leadership of Ryan Rohrer, who grew up in the system as a student (1995), the students are given not only the tools to do excellent work but also wings to soar almost as high as they can go,” Miller said. “It is wonderful to see backstage and front stage meet in this productive manner. It’s a lot of work, but it’s also a lot of fun, and it’s a great place to belong.” ■



*Each year about 20 students at Lancaster Mennonite High School have the opportunity to learn technical skills as they assist staff in the production of school performances, morning chapels, the annual student talent show, and rentals such as the Lancaster Community Concerts. In photos, clockwise, starting at top: Rod Barlet, left, and Peter Mickley work the light booth for morning chapel; David Porter and Nathaniel Tann operate the sound console, also for chapel; and Jason Long and Derrin Ranck*



# Helping students enjoy success

***There is nothing as unequal as the equal treatment of unequals.***

- Guide for LMS Learning Support Program

For Kristin Hines Ege, 1997, elementary school was a challenge. She couldn't remember the subject matter. Taking tests was a nightmare. Then, diagnosed with a learning disability, she began to receive help from a learning resource center.

When it came time for ninth grade she panicked. The public high school was so big. That's when she found Lancaster Mennonite High School. The LMS Learning Support Program helped explain her learning style to her teachers and provided a quiet, safe environment where she could take tests without competing with others. The program also arranged for tutoring and taught life skills such as organizing a check book and saving money.

"During high school I was able to help myself more," she said. "I became very independent in finding the resources I needed to succeed."

When it came time to think about college, the Learning Support Program helped arrange for an un-timed SAT test, helped her explore various colleges, and recommended a seminar where she learned how to take college notes effectively. At Goshen College she no longer needed the aid of a resource center.

She graduated from Goshen with a B.A. in elementary education and later added an early childhood degree to that.

For Debra Zimmerman, finding a Christian school with a strong learning support program has been an answer to prayer.

Zimmerman, who has four children in the school's Learning Support Program—three at New Danville and one at the Lancaster Campus—says a public school administrator once insisted she would not find a Christian school that would meet the needs of her children.

"He said private schools do not have the resources available and cannot compete," she said. "Thank the Lord we found a school that is able to meet our academic and spiritual needs."

She and her husband were thrilled when all of their children's standardized testing scores improved after just one year of being in the LMS system. She described the Learning Support Program as one where compassionate teachers place high importance on academics while providing a "calm, peaceful environment" that is not rigid.

## One curriculum, four campuses

One curriculum unites Lancaster Mennonite School's Learning Support Program across four campuses—Kraybill, Lancaster, Locust Grove and New Danville. According to Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brenda Bare, Learning Support teachers meet together several times a year where they share resources and ideas, an important part of maintaining a unified program. This year eight teachers are providing learning support to 147 students.

According to Jan McDowell, who has served in the Learning Support Program at the Lancaster Campus for 23 years, LMS's program has the ability to minister to so many different challenges.

"It's a unique situation," McDowell said, describing a community effort where teachers and parents work together, and even youth pastors become involved as they visit the school, sometimes eating lunch with their students.

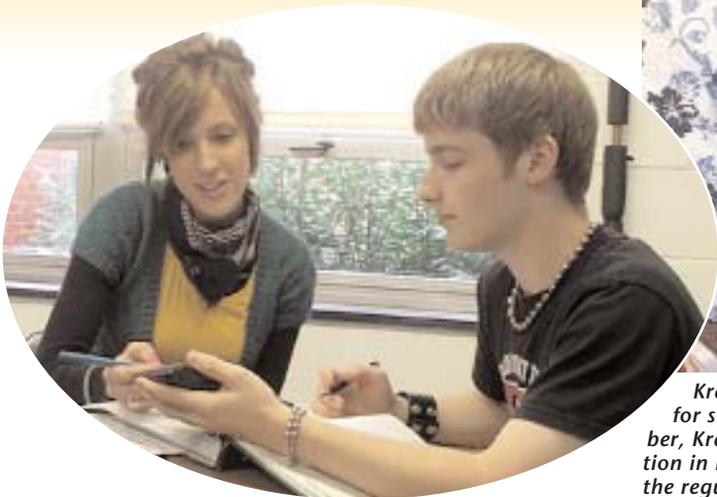
## IEP's lead to inclusion

A key to the program's success, says McDowell, is the IEP—Individualized Education Plan—which outlines for every student his/her goals for being in the program as well as services, educational activities, modifications and adaptations needed for a positive learning experience.

"I don't understand the word, 'normal,'" McDowell said, "because no two people or situations are exactly the same. I had a student who was reading at a second grade level, but if I had a computer problem he could fix it immediately."



*Former Learning Support student Kristin Hines Ege teaches English at a private school in Gaziantep, Turkey, where she lives with her husband, Omer, and their 15-month-old son, Hasan. Here she is pictured with several of the 300 students she teaches in kindergarten through grade*



*High school tutor Allysn Longenecker, left, assists Collin Horst with an algebra assignment in the Learning Support Center. Each year 10–20 students*

“I see nothing in Scripture,” says McDowell, “where our loving God says, ‘Congratulations. You have a special need so you will have to work harder and longer than anyone else to be successful.’”

The IEP allows the school to practice inclusion where students are part of the regular curriculum and all school activities, usually taking the same tests as other students.

An important part of each student’s IEP is a transition plan that will enable the student to prepare for employment, healthy lifestyles, independent living, and post secondary education and training. It is also set up to help students exit the Learning Support Program (when feasible) during school.

#### Peer tutors

Another unique aspect of the program is the peer tutor assistance that brings high school students together with Learning Support students. It’s a two-way street where the Learning Support student receives individual attention while the tutor gets service credit and learns about career options.

Brittany Clemmer, 2005, volunteered as a tutor in the Learning Support Center during her senior



*Kraybill has provided learning therapy and small group instruction for students with special learning needs since 1978. Above, Diane Gruber, Kraybill resource room coordinator, supervises small group instruction in math for middle school students who need additional help outside the regular classroom. PHOTO: GARY HILLER*

year.

“Being a part of the learning center was one of my most memorable and worthwhile experiences in all of my four years at LMH,” she said. “Volunteering there helped me to establish relationships with people I probably would have never gotten to know otherwise.”

Although Clemmer had decided to go into the special education field before her experience in the center, she says “the experience validated and confirmed that decision every day.”

#### Further developments

McDowell and Lois Whitcraft, an Intermediate Unit 13 guidance counselor working in the Lancaster Campus Learning Support Center, recently attended a cutting-edge conference on transitioning. As a result, McDowell is redesigning the high school’s transition plan to increase the time devoted to career exploration and preparing for job applications and interviews.

According to Brenda Bare, Learning Support students receive such excellent preparation for life after high school that they actually have an edge over other students, a fact that has led to the school’s planning similar preparation for all students. ■

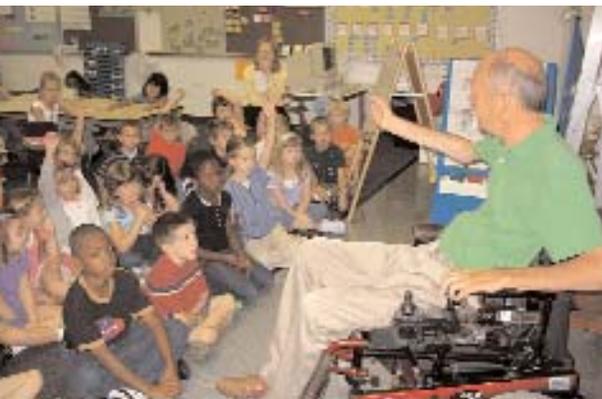
#### Guiding values for Learning Support Program

- LMS believes each student is an individual, uniquely created by God.
- LMS values success for all students.
- LMS provides a common experience for all students with most classes being heterogeneous.
- Students are challenged to do their personal best with minimal frustration.
- There is nothing as unequal as the equal treatment of unequals.
- Success breeds more success; continued failure breeds low self-esteem and more failure.



*Peter Horst has been named a semifinalist in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program, and five others have been named Commended Students. Pictured above, the six seniors are, left to right: Heidi Baker, Franklin Peiffer, Hannah Moffett, Andrew Mumma, Peter Horst and Trevor Kuhlengel. The students qualified for the honors by participating in the PSAT/NMSQT test taken in 2005. About 90 percent of the semifinalists become finalists who are eligible for merit scholarships, presented*

■ Jesse Charles, former Locust Grove student and 1982 LMS graduate, visited Marcy High's kindergarten class at Locust Grove on October 4 to share his experiences in coping with a disability. Charles, who has been paralyzed from the neck down since a fall, uses a wheelchair and drives a van. Later in the month High has scheduled guests from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of Lancaster County and the Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired—all part of her curriculum that observes October as "Disabled Month."



*Jesse Charles captivates kindergartners at Locust Grove.* PHOTO: NEIL REINFORD

■ LMS juniors Laura Benkendorf and Kira Wenger are winners of the 2006 Peace Essay Contest, this year sponsored by St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster. Benkendorf took second place in the junior division for an essay



*Peace Essay Contest winners: Laura Benkendorf, left, and Kira Wenger.*

that focuses on how everyday people can create peace in their lives, creating a global chain reaction. Wenger placed third for her essay in which she uses biblical references to discuss fear on both a personal and national level. They wrote their essays in Jon Metzler's and Kathy Engle's Academic Writing classes last spring.



PHOTO: JUDI MOLLENKOF

■ Friday, September 15, was a morning of celebrating the completion of the New Danville renovation project that provided a new and safer entranceway, renovated office space, and roof repair. Nauman Construction provided the changes.

■ During the September Pastors Day event, 56 pastors from 50 congregations visited the Lancaster Campus. They attended a chapel service and joined their students for classes and lunch. The goal of Pastors Day is to strengthen the partnership between church and school as together they invite students to personal faith, Christlike witness, peace-making and service.

■ Diane Umble recently was named school board chair to replace Connie Stauffer who has assumed the role of literacy coach at Lancaster Mennonite, primarily working with PreK-grade 2 students. Umble, who has a doctorate

## Kraybill hosts international visitor

Janeth Magiri from Mugumu, Tanzania, is serving as a teacher assistant at the Kraybill Campus under the International Visitor Program of Mennonite Central Committee. Through this program, Kraybill students have the opportunity to develop a relationship with a person of a different culture, obtain an international perspective, and see how Christian faith is expressed in other countries. Magiri is a member of the Mugumu Mennonite Church.



PHOTO: GARY HILLER



October 22	Mennonite Piano Concerto, Lanc. 3 p.m.
October 28	New Danville Chicken Barbecue, 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
November 2	Prospective Student Day—all campuses
November 3–4	New Danville 8th grade drama, 7 p.m. & Sat. matinee
November 16–18	High school play, <i>Jane Eyre</i> 7:30 p.m.
November 17	Pastors Day, New Danville Campus
November 17	Pig Roast/Chicken Barbecue, 12:30–8 p.m.—Lancaster
November 18	Fall Gathering Auction at Lancaster (see page 11)
December 17	High School Instrumental Christmas Concert, 3 p.m.
December 21	Middle School Christmas Concert, 7 p.m., Lancaster
January 25–27	High School Drama, <i>Importance of ... Earnest</i> , 7 p.m.
February 5	Open House, all campuses, 6-8:30 p.m.

from the University of Pennsylvania, is acting associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Millersville University. She is also a current LMS parent and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Young Center at Elizabethtown College. She has served on the LMS school board for seven years, most recently as secretary.

*In photo at right, new LMS Board Chair Diane Umble presents outgoing chair, Connie Stauffer, with a prayer shawl to symbolize gratitude for 23 years on the school board (11 years as chair) and to show support as Stauffer begins her new role as literacy coach.*



## New

The following faculty joined the school this year:

**Kraybill Campus**—Gena Fisher, grade 4.

**Lancaster Campus**—Justine Beiler, science; Kirk Benner, business education; Cheryl Miller, family & consumer sciences; and Lydia Ramer, mathematics.

**Locust Grove Campus**—Stephanie Kreider, PreK and kindergarten, and Andrew Zook, language arts.

**New Danville Campus**—Annette Driver, grade 2, and Nicole Kiser, grade 3.



Gena Fisher



Cheryl Miller



Andrew Zook



Justine Beiler



Lydia Ramer



Annette Driver



Kirk Benner



Stephanie Kreider



Nicole Kiser



■ LMS students participated in the groundbreaking for the new turf field at the Lancaster Campus which will provide additional opportunities for soccer and field hockey players. In above photo, front, left to right: Alex Eby, 5th grade, Kraybill; Joshua Shirk, 5th grade, Locust Grove; and Britani Marks, 2nd grade, New Danville. Back: Kayla Steffen, 5th grade, Kraybill.

*Photo below: More than 100 sixth graders from Lancaster Mennonite School's four campuses came together recently at the Lancaster Campus to explore numerous career options. The career awareness event was presented by the Lancaster-Lebanon Science & Technology Alliance (LLSTA). LLSTA volunteers represent a variety of vocations, including health care, engineering, construction, environmental science, agriculture, chemistry, computers, statistics, biology, electronics, and com-*



## Opportunities to learn more about LMS

Prospective students and families may call anytime to arrange a personal tour at any of our four campuses. In addition, here are several visitation opportunities planned for the next several months:

### Prospective Student Days—November 2 and January 25

Prospective students are cordially invited to attend classes at our four campuses on Thursday, November 2, and Thursday, January 25. For times and registration, please call (717) 299-0436, ext. 312.

### Open House—February 5

LMS will hold an open house at each of its four campuses on Monday, February 5, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Along with guided tours and the opportunity to meet teachers, there will be a 7:00 information assembly at all campuses. At the high school there will be an opportunity for students entering grades 9–12 to register for courses for the 2007-08 year.

### For more information or to schedule a visit

Kraybill Campus, PreK–grade 8, Principal John Weber (717) 653-5236  
 Lancaster Campus, grades 6–12: Eliza Booth (717) 299-0436, ext. 312  
 Locust Grove Campus, PreK–grade 8: Principal Jay Roth, (717) 394-7107



PHOTO: JOE HOLLINGER

■ In above photo, varsity soccer players celebrate with coach Vernon Rice (in blue jacket) who won his 500th career coaching victory on October 3 against Northern Lebanon. Rice has served as Lancaster Mennonite's varsity soccer coach since the program entered the Lancaster-Lebanon League in 1981. His list of coaching accomplishments include 11 section championships, six league championships and four district championships. In 1981 he was named the Pennsylvania Coach of the Year and in 2000 the W. Gene Davis Male AA coach of the year. ■

## Campus Chorale Schedule 2006-2007

November 5, 6 p.m. ....	Tel Hai Retirement Community
December 3, 7 p.m. ....	Neffsville Mennonite Church
January 21, 10:15 a.m. ....	Mount Joy Mennonite Church
February 18, 10 a.m. ....	Frazer Mennonite Church
March 11, 10 a.m. ....	East Petersburg Mennonite Church
March 18, 7 p.m. ....	Lancaster Conference Celebration of Church Life
April 1, 9 a.m. ....	Gingrich Mennonite Church
May 6, 10 a.m. ....	Mellinger Mennonite Church
May 20 7 p.m. ....	Stumptown Mennonite Church

If you are interested in having the Campus Chorale present a morning or evening program at your church, please contact Director John Miller at (717)

# Weekend of fun to benefit our students



The main auction on Saturday will include Eagles skybox tickets and this beautiful quilt, fan back chair and painted wooden bowl. Displaying the items are LMS students, left to right: David Kang, Jillian Burkholder and Justine Burkholder. PHOTO: GARY HILLER

**D**on't miss the Fall Gathering & Auction, which will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 16–18 at the Lancaster campus. The high school fall play, *Jane Eyre*, runs nightly at 7:30 in the Fine Arts Center. On Friday, preface the show with a delicious pig roast/chicken barbecue in Alumni Dining Hall (details at right). Also that evening—a baked goods stand, silent auction and auction preview—all in Gym A.

On Saturday come early for the breakfast and stay to enjoy a wide variety of sale items beginning at 9:00. The quilt sale begins at 11:00 and the specialty items at noon (see list at right). The silent auction ends at 2:00.

Proceeds will benefit LMS students through the annual fund. For more information or to make a donation, call Gail

## Fall Gathering Schedule

### Thursday, November 16

7:30 p.m. High school play: *Jane Eyre*

### Friday, November 17

12:30–8 p.m. Pig Roast/Chicken Barbecue  
Adults \$9.50 • Children 3–12 \$5.00

Take-outs: 12:30–8 p.m. • Dine in: 4:30–8 p.m.

6:15 p.m. Bake Stand

Silent Auction begins

Auction preview including quilts

7:30 p.m. High school play: *Jane Eyre*

### Saturday, November 18

8:00 a.m. Breakfast selections

- Pancakes & sausage
- specialty coffees
- Fresh fruit, pastries, quiche

3 v 3 Basketball Tournament

Iron Bridge Run/Walk Registration

9:00 a.m. Main auction

- Gift baskets and certificates
- Household Items

Iron Bridge Run/Walk Begins

10:00 a.m. Small auction

- Agricultural Items
- Garden equipment

11:00 Quilts & Wall Hangings

12 noon Specialty items

- 1973 Super Beetle
- Tickets: Phila. 76ers & Eagles (skybox)
- Victorian dinner for six
- Vacation packages to Hilton Head Island and beach properties
- Sports memorabilia
- Hand-crafted san back chair
- Arbor and porch glider
- Handpainted wooden bowl
- Artwork

2:00 p.m. Silent Auction ends

7:30 p.m. High school play: *Jane Eyre*

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

Coming soon to the LMS Fine Arts Center!

## Jane Eyre

Lancaster Mennonite High School students will perform *Jane Eyre* Thursday through Saturday, November 16–18, in the Fine Arts Center. Curtain time is 7:30 each evening.

*Jane Eyre*, a classic love story by Charlotte Brontë, begins with Jane as an orphaned girl left in the care of her aunt who, wanting to be rid of her, places her in the Lowood School. The

years that follow bring a mix of hardship, humiliation, friendship, love, secrets, heartbreak, poverty, fortune and finally true happiness.

Major roles include Charlotte Wenger as the adult Jane Eyre, Eric Mylin as Edward Rochester, Kristina Fenninger as Mrs. Fairfax and Hana Grosh as Adele. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance Monday through Friday, November 13–17, 11:30–3:30, at the ticket office, or call



*Jane Eyre*, as played by Charlotte Wenger, left, and Heidi Smucker. PHOTO: J.

## CLASS NOTES

**Leon Good, 1960**, Lititz, has been named the packing coordinator at the Material Resources Center, MCC, Ephrata. He works with volunteers in the center and also packs and coordinates the materials. Leon retired from LMS in 2005 after teaching science for 18 years.

**Nelson Kraybill, 1972**, Elkhart, Ind., has been reappointed to a fourth term as president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart. Kraybill was recently affirmed for his relational skills, strong, clear leadership, his teaching gifts, and his love for the church.

**Barry Freed, 1986**, Lebanon, returned to Lithuania in July for an additional two-year term of service with Eastern Mennonite Missions. He is an English teacher and assists with church development in Panevezys. Barry has been serving with EMM since January 2003.

**Justine Beiler, 2002**, Kirkwood, participated in a Chesapeake Bay Meaningful Watershed Experience project this past summer. This training focused on watershed education, the understanding

of freshwater ecosystems, water chemistry testing, aquatic insect identification, and implementation of hands-on activities in the classroom.

**Janelle Engle, 2002**, Mount Joy, is one of nine finalists for the National Athletic Collegiate Association (NCAA) 2006 Woman of the Year awards. Since 1991, the awards have been presented annually to senior collegiate student-athletes who have distinguished themselves in the areas of academic achievement, athletic excellence, service, and leadership. Currently a senior at Old Dominion University, Janelle was the Colonial Athletic Association's (CAA) nominee for the award. Finalists will be honored at a NCAA event/banquet on October 28 in Indianapolis.

**Lauren Rodriguez, 2002**, Lancaster, recently signed copies of her new book, *Finding her Courage* (PublishAmerica, 2005), at Borders Book Shop as part of a local authors' showcase. Her second book, which she hopes to release soon, is titled, *The Power of Prayer*. The visually impaired author began to lose her vision at age 5. A recent Lancaster New Era story said "she hopes her writing inspires people to follow their dreams and find their faith, as she has."

**Andrew Heil, 2004**, Lancaster, a current Messiah College junior, is studying in the Honors Program at Oxford University in Oxford, England, for the 2006 fall semester.

**Meredith Talbert, 2004**, Lancaster, a Messiah College junior, is doing a semester abroad in Belize this fall.

## BIRTHS

Steve and **Carol Ness, 1987, Welch**, Lititz, second daughter, Kyra Leigh, August 20, 2006.

Anthony and **Rita Hess, 1990, Steffen**, Wellsboro, fourth child, third son, Benjamin Paul, July 22, 2006.

Larry and **Kendra Peifer, 1991, Guengerich**, East Petersburg, first child, Carter Ross Peifer, August 29, 2006.

Steve and **Julia Rohrer, 1991, Smucker**, Manheim, fourth child, first son, Wyatt Daniel, June 29, 2006.

Michael, III, and **Regina M. Denlinger, 1994, Romanucci**, Butler, second child, first daughter, Danielle Mae, July 21, 2006.

## CLASS REUNIONS

Twelve class reunions were planned this year, including the 1971 reunion which will be held October 28. Many of the classes held all or part of their reunions at the Lancaster Campus. Following is a glimpse of several of the events that brought classmates back together to reminisce and renew friendships.

## 1951

During the 1951 class reunion on September 7 & 8, classmates and spouses looked back 55 years, examined the 55 years prior to that, and pondered what the next 55 might bring. "There was a feeling of hope, along with a concern for our children, grandchildren and the church," said reporter Elizabeth Wengers, who stressed the need to be "reconcilers and peacemakers."



*The 1951 class reunion was held at Black Rock Retreat. Shown here at the registration table are, left to right: Hershey Leaman; Hershey's wife, Norma; Dorothy Shenk Burkholder; Anne Sauder Siegrist; and Louella Beiler Mosteller. In the background are Mike Zehr, Jim Gingrich, and Jim's wife, Joan. PHOTO: JOHN KAUFFMAN*

**Clark, 1996,** and Kara **Stoltzfus,** Leola, a daughter, Madeline Grace, August 21, 2006.

**Benjamin, 1998,** and **Sarah Gehman, 1998, Bixler,** Harrisonburg, Va, first child, a son, Calvin Lowell, August 3, 2006.

**Trevor Eby, 2000,** and **Jessica Eby, 2000,** Ephrata, were married in 2004. First child, Leila Catherine, was born July 17, 2006.

## DEATHS

**Ellene (Mellinger) Myer, 1959,** Quarryville, died August 15, 2006.

**Evan Southwick, 2000,** Portsmouth, N.H., died August 30, 2006.

**Jordan Umble, 2002,** Atglen, died July 28, 2006. ■

## First networking breakfast a success

**F**ifty-two persons attended Lancaster Mennonite School's first Business Networking Breakfast on September 15, with Daryl Heller speaking on "Company Values: The Business Tenets of Success."

Heller, a 1988 LMS graduate, is founder and CEO of Premier Companies LLC, which provides solutions in telecom/datacom brokerage, integration of communications equipment and technologies, and brokerage of energy services.

During his talk, Heller shared how his LMH experience influences how he tries to implement moral values as an entrepreneur in a highly competitive environment. He said "doing the right thing" often hurts financially, but integrity is priceless.

Realizing that he may have some blind spots in his leadership, he has a policy of welcoming dialog about any of his business practices that seem inconsistent with his stated mission and values. He holds his employees accountable to act in accordance with



*Architect Dale Yoder of Cornerstone Design, front left, chats with Paul Lewandowski of E.G. Stoltzfus, Inc., and a cluster of LMH alumni and business persons gathering for the Alumni Business Networking Breakfast. PHOTO: GARY HILLER*

the company's values and asks them to hold him accountable as well.

According to one attendee the networking alone made the event worth attending. Most participants were alumni or current Lancaster Mennonite parents.

The event was planned by the LMH Alumni Association

A big **Thank You** to sponsors Premier Companies, LLC; E.G. Stoltzfus, Jr., Inc.; Haller Enterprises, Inc.; and Benjamin Roberts, Ltd.

## 1956

Eighty-eight alumni, spouses, LMS staff and former staff members attended the August 18 dinner that kicked off a two-day reunion for the class of 1956.

The reunion, held in Alumni Dining Hall, included a school update and tour by LMS Superintendent Richard Thomas, along with special music by a class quartet. That night 20 classmates and spouses "dormed" in the LMS residence hall.

Saturday included a bus tour to an



*1956 classmates, left to right: Robert Weaver, Daniel Wert, Donald Sensenig, and J. Donald Martin. PHOTO: DAN WENGER*

For all alumni and friends—join the fun!

## Iron Bridge Run/Walk

Lancaster Mennonite School will hold an Iron Bridge 5K Run/Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 18, with registration at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Register by November 10 to receive a free tee shirt. Participants have the option of paying the registration fee or collecting \$25 or more in sponsorship money.

Prizes will be awarded to the top two male and female runners in the following categories:

- under 15
- 15-18
- 19-34
- 35-49
- 50 and over

Walkers are also invited to participate, but the walk is not a competitive event and no prizes will be given. Walkers who pay the registration fee or sponsorship money of \$25 or more will also receive tee shirts.

To register go to [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) or contact Jeff Shank at (717) 394-7107 or [shankja@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:shankja@lancastermennonite.org).

The event, held in conjunction with the school's Fall Gather-



ing and Auction, will help provide a new track and field facility for the Lancaster Campus. See page 11 for the complete listing of Fall Gathering events.

### CLASS REUNIONS

Amish store and farm plus a walking tour of downtown Lancaster. For the full story, go to [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) and click on "alumni."

#### 1981

About 100 attended the 1981 25th class reunion which was held at the Lancaster Campus in July. The evening included campus tours, a buffet meal served by Dottie Weber, door prizes, trivia about each classmate present, a meditation by Glenn Sell, their senior class advisor, and ice cream sundaes outdoors. Classmates agreed that it was a "wonderful evening."

#### 1996

In mid-September, the class of 1996 began their 10th year reunion with a tour of the new facilities at the Lancaster Campus and then gathered at the East Lampeter Park for a pot luck and fellowship. The event also included



1981 classmates, left to right: Jenelle Weaver Miller, Naomi Frederick Ruth, Kristine Yoder Duncan, Betsy Leininger Rudy, and Twila Miller Sauder.

# New leadership role for Sam Thomas

**W**hen Sam Thomas was a first grader at New Danville Mennonite School, he never dreamed he'd follow his father's footsteps and become a bishop in the Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

But 50 years later, he is doing just that. Sam, prepared to begin that role on May 1, 2007, will oversee the Landisville District.

"I walk into this role feeling a bit intimidated," Thomas admitted, "but I'm ready for the change."

One of his primary roles as bishop will be to "be a pastor to the pastors" of the congregations he oversees.

"Being a bishop has to do with helping congregations understand who they are now and what God may be calling them to in the future," he said. His dad, David Thomas, served as a Lancaster Conference bishop for many years.

After Thomas graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School in 1968, he served a two-year term of voluntary service in Mobile, Alabama, then became director of Eastern Mennonite Board's Voluntary Service and Discipleship Ministries program. After attending Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, he chaired the Bible department at Lancaster Mennonite High School for two years. Since 1988 he has been lead pastor at Landisville Mennonite Church, a post that will end when he becomes a bishop.

Thomas and his nine siblings attended Lancaster Mennonite School, beginning with first grade at the New Danville Campus. In addition, his daughters graduated from the school—Janelle in 1991 and Melissa in 1994. Other connections include serving as high school Commitment Week speaker and speaking twice at commencement. He and his wife, Marian, live in Landisville.

#### **Other community involvements:**

I serve on the WILS (Women in Leadership sub committee) for Lancaster Conference and am active in the Hempfield Ministerium. I served for several years on Haverim, the support group for the Bible Department at Eastern Mennonite University.

#### **My most outstanding**

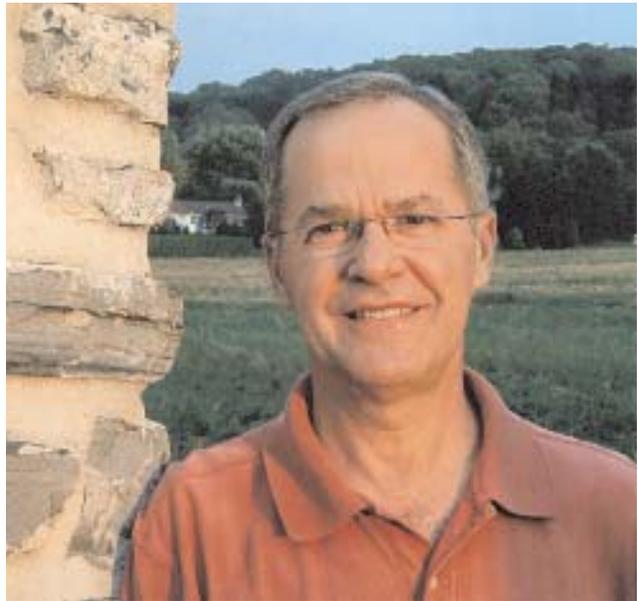
**LMS memory:** I first committed my life to Christ at church when I was 13 years old. I don't remember who the speaker was, but during a week of special renewal meetings in the LMS chapel, I rededicated my life to Christ. I recall that very well, because for the first time I saw my first commitment to Christ as a starting point rather than the culmination of my Christian experience. I realized that my whole life could be a progression of knowing Christ more fully and of continual surrender. A meaningful experience!

#### **How LMS impacted who I am today:**

Two things stand out. From New Danville on, my friends were primarily kids I went to school with. A number of those continue to be good friends. I needed the support of good peers during those years, so that was a real gift. Additionally, my strong commitment to our Anabaptist faith heritage was impacted by LMS in many ways. The faculty, the chapels, and the Bible classes and integration of faith into all subjects (even though I did not value all of it at the time) had its influence on my life. I'm very grateful for that.

#### **What excites me most about LMS:**

The school's commitment to academic excellence while imparting the faith of our Mennonite heritage is essential. This emphasis will spark the kind of learning that generates faithful church members and strong leaders. It will also infiltrate the secular world as kids take their faith into their professions. As Christians, we have good news (gospel) to share with the world. LMS can play a critical role in shaping these kinds of Christians.



*Sam Thomas, class of 1968*

**My passions:** I care deeply about the witness of the Christian Church in our day and have a strong passion for our Mennonite witness to be one that reflects the life and teachings of Jesus. I am deeply disturbed by the civil religion and the support of military force and violence that Christians support. The gospel of Christ, the gospel of peace, is good news and desperately needed in our world. Our Mennonite faith heritage provides a unique opportunity for us to be witnesses to the way of Christ. I hope and pray that we can embrace this gospel with boldness, yet in an invitational and non-coercive way.

**Just for fun:** I enjoy flying remote control airplanes, reading (novels and religious books), biking, walking, and doing chores around the farm where we live with the help of my golden retriever, Tucker. Marian and I have our first granddaughter—Macy—and are anticipating a second grandchild. Now that is awesome!

**For today's students:** I was not a strong student during my LMS years. I now regret that. Go ahead and have some fun and enjoy your friends, but embrace the opportunity to learn and grow both academically and spiritually. You'll never regret it. ■

# Faith dimension defines LMS Difference

Superintendent Richard Thomas in his annual report to the board of directors articulated seven characteristics that add value to private Mennonite Christian education. These seven values show the uniqueness of Lancaster Mennonite School as compared to public education settings. Faith-infused classroom instruction and preparing graduates to live faithfully in the Kingdom of God are two characteristics that public education is mandated not to do but at Lancaster Mennonite School are a priority. This means Jesus Christ, the true eternal God who became flesh, is not only taught but discussed as to how we can live in this world by following Christ's example. Jesus Christ is central to our education.

Students spend over 60 hours in classroom instruction per class during a school year. These students are asking an additional set of questions when they try to solve problems, such as, "How does my commitment to Jesus Christ impact what I need to do right now?" Students take about 12 classes a year. Multiply those classes times 60 hours of instruction and we have 720 hours of faith-infused studies which students in the public schools will not receive.

Phyllis Pellman Good, New York Times best selling author, stated it well at a recent event honoring her as the LMS Alumna of the Year:

Two images come to mind when I think of LMS when I was a student here. LMS as a basket-woven protectively around us, cocoon-like, holding us close, holding us tight. We felt those strands, and yet, I realize now, all that structure, that basket, still let the light in! Yes, strenuous efforts were made to mold us,

to



J. W. Sprunger

enclose us. But now, with a wider lens than I had 40 years ago, I see how big the spaces were between the reeds and the bands

Another image concerns language, Pellman Good said. that tried to hold us firmly in place, that shaped our life here. ...

We use our first language inside our faith family. We use it to talk about belonging, about our people, about our community of faith. ... It is how we express our deepest beliefs and hopes and disappointments and fears. ... Our second language is what we speak when we're doing business, when we're talking about the newspaper editorial, about gas prices. ...

We knew some of both of these two languages when we came to LMS as students. But at LMS, we learned to speak those two languages more fluently. We extended them. We explored them. We learned to use them side-by-side.

At Lancaster Mennonite School, we provide the Light of Christ (within the "basket" of a caring community) to a diverse student body that is searching and seeking what it means to live a transformed life. Providing faith-infused classroom instruction and a curriculum that prepares graduates to live faithfully in the Kingdom of God are just two characteristics



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