

LANCASTER MENNONITE

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Bridges



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Students 2-7**

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Growing in the light of God

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

Lancaster Mennonite School has four campuses:

Kraybill, 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-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.

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Cover photo: In larger photo, runners compete at Lampeter-Strasburg High School in 2005. Runners are, left to right: Dietrich Eitzen, Dietrich Linde, LS runner Adam Little, and Cooper Linde (2005 graduate). In smaller photo is hurdler Rosine Bogoto.

PHOTOS: LINDA WINGARD

PRE-K/ELEMENTARY CENTER EMERGES

New Danville improves safety, lays plans for growth

New Danville Principal Judi Mollenkof credits the strong leadership of the school's site council that led to planning facility improvements which will include a new entranceway and renovated office space.

"The changes will give the school an attractive and welcoming entrance, clearly visible from the road," she said.

More importantly, the new front will create separate areas for bus and car pool drop-off/pick-up, "providing much needed safety improvements."

"It will look nice, but the biggest thing is safety," she said about the project which is scheduled for this summer. The total project will cost about \$350,000.

Changes compliment creation of early childhood/elementary center

The New Danville building renovations come at a time when the school is changing gears to focus on a PreK-6 program. When New Danville's site council discussed facility changes in the fall, they also addressed the decreasing middle school enrollment.

After New Danville became part of the Lancaster Mennonite School system in 2001, some families chose to move their children to the Lancaster campus's middle school, despite curriculum and program improvements at New Danville. At Lancaster, students were finding expanded program opportunities and larger classes with a broader social setting.

Because of the shifting enrollment, the New Danville site council recommended that their seventh and eighth grade program be phased out and that the campus be transformed into an early childhood/elementary center. After approval by the LMS Board of Trustees, efforts moved forward to develop a strong PreK program. Much to Mollenkof's delight, 15 PreK students are already enrolled for next year.

Although parent and site council member Paul Hoffer would be in favor of keeping the middle school if it were viable, he recognizes that changes are needed.

"We're not able to maintain adequate

enrollment in grades seven and eight, so we're going to use the resources in another way that may be better," he said. "I think there are great opportunities in PreK." He agrees that the renovations are coming at a good time.

"I think it's exciting," he said. "It shows we're moving in a spirit of optimism, and it will really enhance safety."

The plan is to phase out the seventh and eighth grade by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. This coming year the current seventh graders will finish out their eighth grade at New Danville, with most seventh graders transferring to Lancaster's middle school.

Math teacher Brad Brenneman, who teaches math at both the elementary and middle school levels, agrees with Hoffer that changes are needed but says he will definitely miss the middle school students.

"A lot of good things have been happening here in middle school," he said, "One of the strengths here is a real positive atmosphere. There have been a lot of older kids working with younger kids.

"Now 'the older kids' will be grades five and six. For most of the kids, there will be greater opportunities with the change."

"It's very exciting," Mollenkof said about the new direction. "When you have both elementary and middle school grades, you really do run two different programs. Now we can focus on PreK to elementary, and with the middle school phasing out, we'll have the physical space to do it. By changing our emphasis, the whole program will be strengthened.

"It gives us a real vision for the future of the school. We need to embrace change when God leads us to it." ■



Above, the artist's rendering shows the plan for New Danville's new entrance. At right, New Danville Principal Judi Mollenkof discusses changes with kindergarten students, left to right: Dominic Mattilio, Hannah Adams, Kenny Colon and Josiah Kanyiha.



New Century Jubilee in action

Although the school's Annual Fund provides teacher salaries and other critical resources needed for an excellent academic program, adequate facilities are also critical. Over the years, the New Century Jubilee (NCJ) Campaign has raised funds for both the Annual Fund and capital projects. This issue of Bridges focuses on several NCJ capital projects—renovations at New Danville and changes at the Lancaster campus that include a new track and field facility, a soccer/field hockey stadium, a new junior varsity baseball field, and widening of the back drive to allow two-way traffic. The projected cost for the projects is \$3 million. About \$164,000 is needed to break ground for the New Danville work, and \$1.2 million is needed to begin the field changes at Lancaster.

We invite your feedback and financial support for any of these student projects. It is through your prayers and generosity that we can continue to be a Christ-centered school that transforms lives and changes our world. For more information on how you can become involved, please contact Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 394-7107 or Superintendent Richard Thomas at (717) 299-0436, ext. 301.

Building community, developing character

When ground breaking occurs for the school's new track and field facility—this spring, hopefully—it will set off a series of changes that will also impact baseball, field hockey and girls and boys soccer.

As explained on page 3, these field changes are part of the New Century Jubilee Campaign that includes renovations at New Danville. It also includes a new academic building and retrofitting the current classroom building at Lancaster.

The field changes will bring to completion the athletic zone of the campus while preserving the woodland between the athletic fields and Mill Stream Road.

"It meets our concern for ecology and also allows us to continue using the land for biology and agriculture classes," Superintendent Richard Thomas said. "Plus, it remains a place for the LMS community to just enjoy God's wonderful, natural environment."

Track and field finds place to call home

Sixty-four years ago when volunteers cleared the Lancaster campus for a new high school they dumped debris on an old track that was used by the former Yeates School. In those early days it was hard to imagine that a Mennonite school might someday need a track.

"Mennonite will never have foot races here," a volunteer said, according to *Passing on the Faith*, the book by alum Donald Kraybill that chronicled the school's first 50 years.

Over the years church leaders and others began to see that sports played an important role in teaching students about fitness, discipline, teamwork and leadership. By the early 1960s, track was included in physical education classes, and in 1970 a new athletic field was constructed for track, field hockey and soccer. However, due to insufficient interest, track never became an interscholastic sport at LMS.

In the late 1990s, a growing interest among students prompted the school to consider moving track and field from a club to an interscholastic offering. The sport became part of the Lancaster-Lebanon League in the spring of 2005, and today 55 students are involved in the program. Gracious neighbor Lampeter-Strasburg High School has been making this possible as they share their facility for practices and home meets.

Although students are thankful for a place to practice, they are eager to have their own facility.

"It would be a lot nicer to practice at home and begin practices promptly after school," sophomore Josh Byler said, explaining that late practices often result in homework being completed much later in the evening.

"Plus, it will be nice to have that home track

advantage," he said.

"And maybe if we have a home track, we'll have fans," added sophomore Rachel Olinger, laughing.

According to Athletic Director Mike Yoder, the much more user-friendly track will also greatly enhance the school's physical education program.

If funding can be provided, groundbreaking for the planned track and field facility will occur at the completion of spring sports in May. The new facility will be located on the current varsity soccer field.

Coach Dennis Kauffman believes the new track and field facility could easily double the number of students involved.

"It's the variety of activities that makes it appealing," he said, ticking off running events, shot putt, discus, javelin throwing, high jumps, long jumps and pole vaulting.

"And it's a very good way to improve their fitness," he added, "not just for doing other sports but for improving their own personal health and lifestyle. Hopefully when they know how good it feels to be in shape, they will make it a priority after school as well."

New fields for baseball, field hockey and soccer

As soon as funding is provided, construction will begin for a new stadium for field hockey and boys and girls soccer that will include an artificial turf, lights, seating for approximately 1,200, and eventually a field house. The stadium will be located east of the back drive where the junior varsity baseball field is now, prompting construction of a new, greatly improved junior varsity field west of the tennis courts.

"I am excited about this project because it will help our players develop better skills," varsity field hockey coach Karen Gyger said about the stadium. "Field hockey on turf is so much easier to teach and coach. And due to the true roll of the ball, the players will be less frustrated and enjoy the game more."

"I love playing on turf," junior Sarah Buckwalter said. "I feel like I have so much more speed and control of the ball. It makes it more fun."

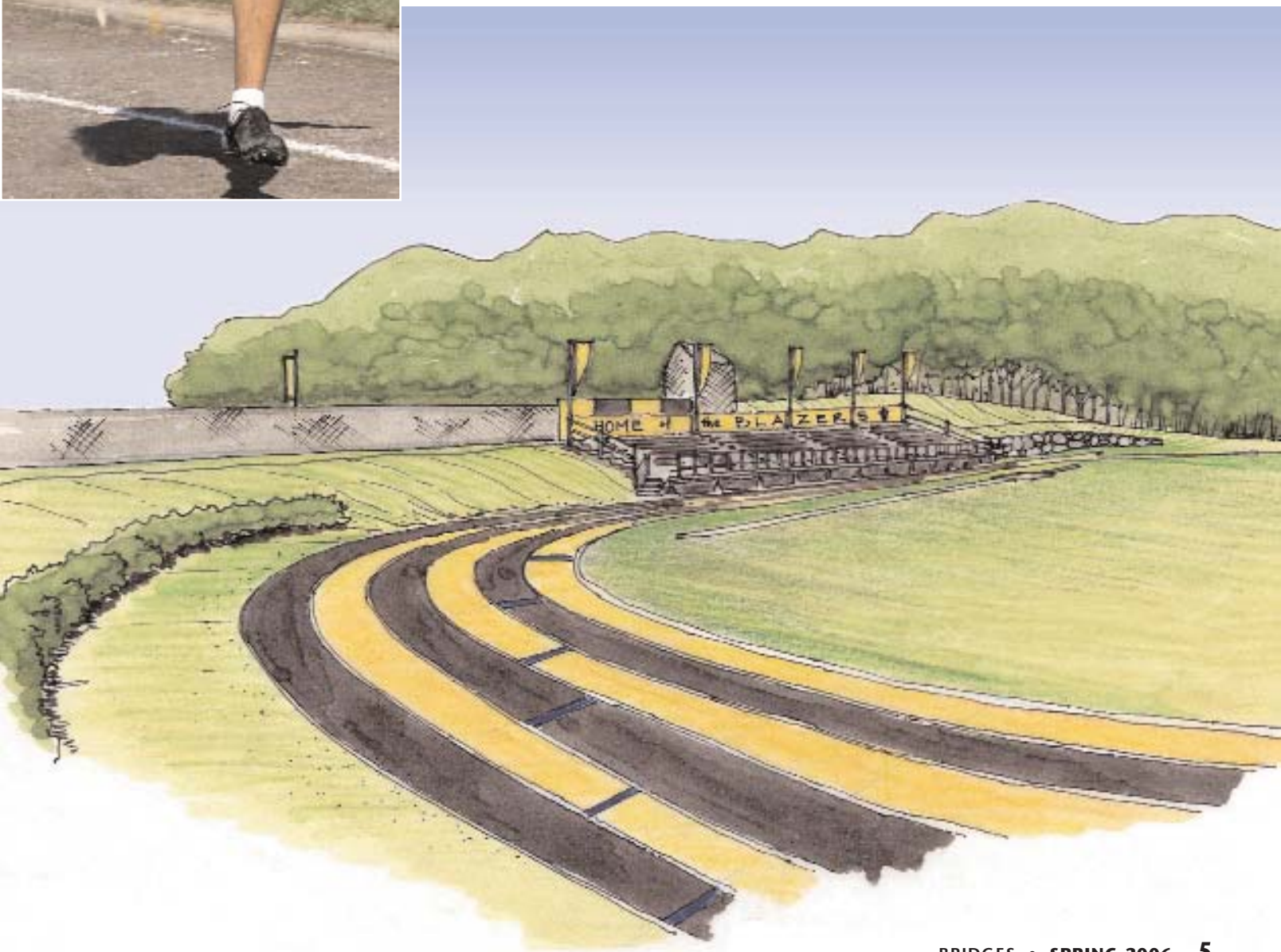
When the team prepares for post-season competition, they will no longer need to rent a turf facility, and with the team still being able to practice on grass, they'll be prepared for either surface. According to Gyger, it also will be a big help to students playing college ball, since all colleges now play on turf.

Other important benefits of the artificial turf are its low cost maintenance and the fact that the sur-

continued on page 6



The track and field facility will provide many opportunities for students. The 400 meter relay (Brook Fekadu, senior, left) and the discus throw (Amanda Shank, junior, above) are just two of the 18 track and field events that are offered. Below is the artist's rendering of the new facility. PHOTOS: LINDA WINGARD. ART (BELOW): DERCK & EDSON ASSOCIATES



continued from page 4

face recovers quickly from inclement weather.

“The reason it is appealing for the girls (soccer) program is the fact that we will be able to get out on the field much earlier in the spring,” soccer coach Vernon Rice said. Rice also noted that it is only because soccer is being relocated that the girls can use the new facility, since girls soccer and track and field run at the same time.

According to Athletic Director Mike Yoder, the new turf will increase playing time from two to three hours a day to as much as 14 hours, opening the facility to other sports and creating the possi-

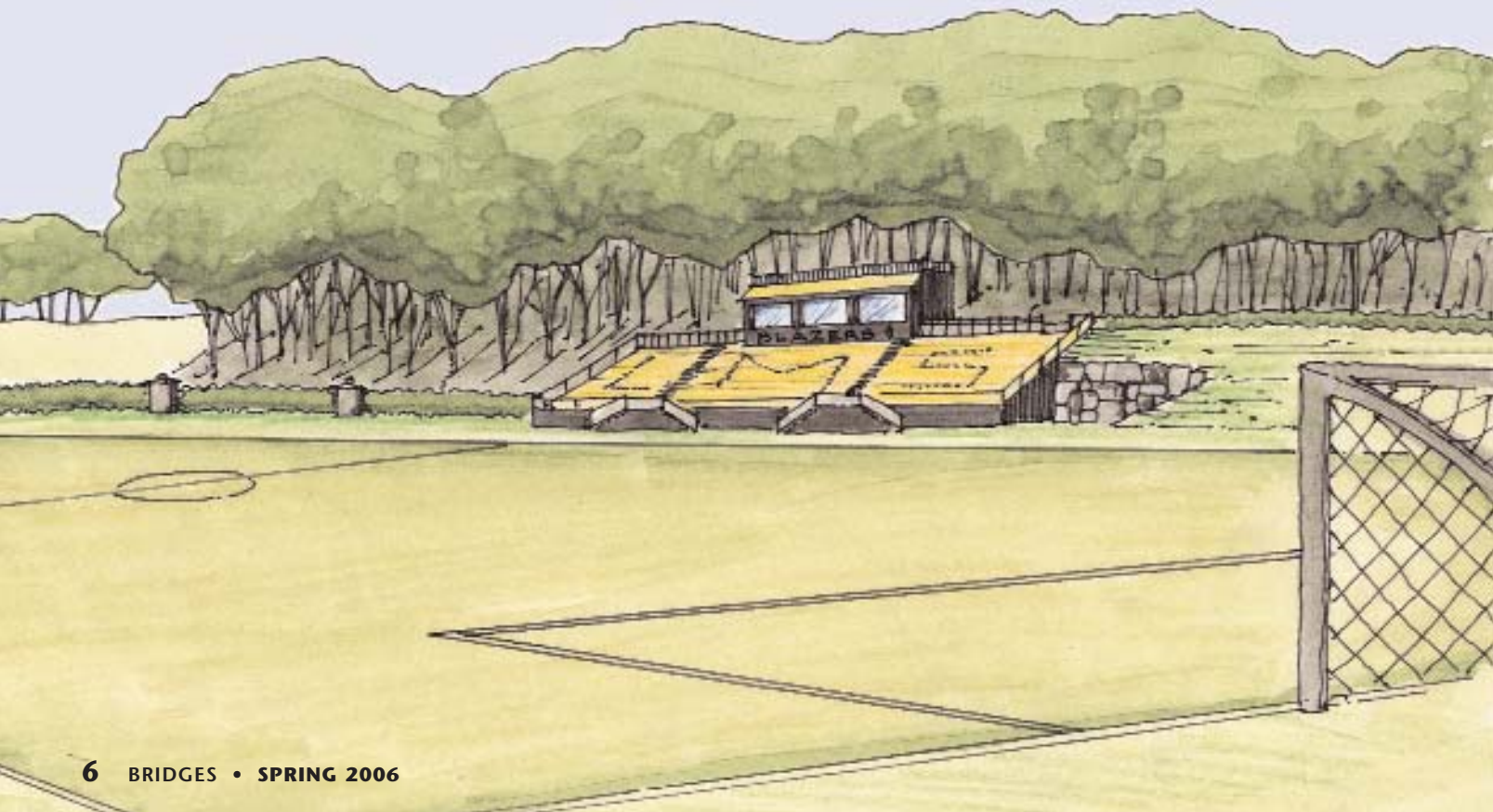
bility for future athletic expansions.

For soccer player Matt Weaver, being able to practice on the same field he ends up playing on is a real advantage. He is also excited about the potential for more spectators.

“It’ll help bring attendance to night games, so it could really improve our soccer and field hockey programs when they see what a nice field we have.”

As mentioned on page three, \$1.3 million is needed to begin the two projects. There are about 120 students in the baseball, field hockey and boys/girls soccer programs. ■

Athletic Director Mike Yoder, second from right, stands on the site of the new field hockey/soccer stadium with students, left to right: Matt Weaver, Morgan Umble and Sarah Buckwalter. Below is the artist’s rendering of the new field. ART: DERCK & EDSON ASSOCIATES



Lights turn on for baseball

Thursday, April 13, the high school's varsity baseball team enjoyed its first night game at home, thanks to the Baseball Booster Club who provided the lights and also set up an endowment to cover costs for electricity and maintaining the lights.

In gratitude, the players are raising funds for Friends of Shirati, a non-profit organization that provides medical, educational, and developmental assistance to East Africa. One of the organization's goals is to provide operating room lights for a hospital in Tanzania. So far, the students have raised over \$900 toward the effort. PHOTOS: JONATHAN CHARLES



SCHOOL UPDATE

■ Nearly 600 high school students from 16 Mennonite high schools across the USA and Canada gathered at the high school April 7–9 for the 44th annual Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) High School Choir Festival. The event culminated with two public concerts on the final day that featured selections by individual choirs as well as the combined group.

The guest conductor for the event was Dr. Jerry Blackstone, director of choirs and chair of the conducting department at the University of Michigan, and the piano accompanist was Dr. Douglas Bomberger, head of the music department at Elizabethtown College.

Participating schools, in addition to our own Campus Chorale, were:

- Belleville Mennonite School, Belleville, Pa.
- Bethany Christian School, Goshen Indiana
- Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio
- Christopher Dock Mennonite School, Lansdale, Pa.
- Conestoga Christian School, Morgantown, Pa.
- Eastern Mennonite High School, Harrisonburg, Virginia
- Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota
- Iowa Mennonite School, Kalona, Iowa
- Lake Center Christian School; Hartville, Ohio
- Philadelphia Mennonite High School, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener, Ontario
- Sarasota Christian School, Sarasota, Florida
- Shalom Christian School, Chambersburg, Pa.
- United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington, Ontario
- Western Mennonite School, Salem, Oregon

■ Lancaster Mennonite High School senior Rhoda Shirk, daughter of Maynard and Alice Shirk, has been named a finalist in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. She achieved a high score on the PSAT/NMSQT test she took when she was a junior and is now eligible for a merit scholarship.

■ Junior Patrick Ressler, son of Gerald and Mary Alice Ressler, was selected for the Pennsylvania Music Educator Association (PMEA) Region V State Chorus Festival which was held in March at Kennard-Dale High School.



PHOTO: JONATHAN CHARLES



Rhoda Shirk



Patrick Ressler



L. Swartzendruber



Rachael Ranck

■ Loren Swartzendruber, president of Eastern Mennonite University, will give the commencement address at the high school on Saturday, June 3, at 10 a.m. The dedication service on Friday, planned by the Senior Class Committee, will begin with a concert by Campus Chorale at 6:30 p.m. followed by the dedication service at 7:30. Tickets are required for Fine Arts Center seating Saturday morning, (limited to the

graduates and their guests), but Friday evening's events are open to the public.

■ Senior Rachael Ranck, daughter of James and Joan Ranck, recently received the Dekalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award, the school's highest agricultural honor—for excellence in academics, leadership and agricultural work experience. The award was sponsored by the Monsanto Corporation who recognizes the outstanding FFA senior in schools across the nation.

May 19 & 20	Locust Grove Chicken Barbecue & Auction
May 21	Spring Drop-in, Lancaster campus, 1–3 p.m.
June 2	High School Dedication Service, 6:30 p.m.
June 3	High School Commencement, 10 a.m.
August 21	LMMS/LMHS New Student Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
August 23	First day of school



In March the Lancaster section of the American Welding Society held a trade show in the welding facilities at LMHS. The show, which brought in about 20 vendors such as Miller, Lincoln, ESAB, and Hypertherm, was an opportunity for students to meet with factory reps and try new technology and equipment. The event attracted about 75 visitors, including students from local high schools. This year about 85 students registered for the school's five sections of Welding and Mechanics Technology. In the welding lab photo above are, left to right: Eric Sather, teacher Chris

FFA speakers take top awards

This spring five Lancaster Mennonite High School FFA students took top awards in public speaking contests. They are:

- Dana Hiestand, daughter of Dale and Lucy Hiestand, first place in Junior Prepared Speaking
- Josiah Rohrer, son of J. Kevin and Audrey Rohrer, second in both Junior Prepared Speaking and Creed Speaking
- Sharon Byrne, daughter of James and Dorothy Byrne, second in Extemporaneous Speaking
- Mary-Elizabeth Keeney, daughter of John and Gail Keeney, first in Creed Speaking
- Krista Breneman, daughter of Larry and Sandy Breneman, third in Creed Speaking

Also this spring, sophomore Charise Garber, daughter of Joe and Yvonne Garber, and junior Sara Wenrich, daughter of Martin and Esther Wenrich, attended the regional one-day Cooperative Leadership Seminar and earned scholarships to attend the National Institute on Cooperative Education (NICE) to be held the last week of June.



L-R: Sara Wenrich, Sharon Byrne, Krista Breneman, Charise Garber, Josiah Rohrer, and Mary-Elizabeth Keeney. Dana Hiestand is missing from the photo.

■ Locust Grove's 32nd Country Auction and Chicken Barbecue will be held May 19 and 20. For more information call Gail Lanas at (717) 394-7107.

Friday, May 19

Chicken Barbecue, 11:00-6:00
Art Display/Silent Art Preview
Sweets & Treats Stand Open

Saturday, May 20

Country Breakfast, 7 a.m.
Art Display, 8 a.m.
Candy Drop, 8:15 a.m.
Main Auction, 8:30 a.m.
Lawn & Garden Auction, 9 a.m.
Art, Silent Auction 10 a.m.
Children's Activities, 10 a.m.
(Childcare for ages 4-7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.)
Specialty Items, 12 noon

■ At Lancaster's middle school campus, Suzy the dog helps seventh graders learn about life sciences. The Lhasa apso dog belongs to teacher Janice Southwick who says Suzy fits perfectly into her inquiry-based curriculum that includes classification, genetics, the life cycle, viruses, bacteria and more. Besides learning everything about the Lhasa apso dog—its history, diet, grooming, potential health problems, etc.—the students have learned how to care for and train the dog. They also have begun to visit The Mennonite Home where Suzy becomes a therapy dog and the students learn about ministry and service to elderly citizens.

Drop in May 21 to learn about LMS

Lancaster Mennonite School will hold a Spring Drop-In on Sunday, May 21, for parents and students exploring Christian education at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The drop-in, which runs from 1-3 p.m. at the Lancaster campus, will include conversations with staff, program and scholarship information, campus tours and refreshments.

There is room at all grade levels at the school's four campuses—grades PreK-8 at Kraybill, grades 6-12 at Lancaster, grades PreK-8 at Locust Grove, and grades PreK-6 at New Danville.

Guests are also invited to the high school's annual Spring Concert at 3 p.m. that day. For more information call (717) 299-0436, ext. 312.



Locust Grove's May 20 auction will include ski trips, beach vacations, beautiful handcrafted items, sports tickets, gift certificates, gift baskets, and original art such as this piece (left) by Suk Shugli.



Peter Weida



Valerie Garton

■ This winter Locust Grove seventh grader Peter Weida finished in second place in the K-8 State Chess Championship in Carlisle and was the best seventh grader in the state. He played first board for the high school's chess team and helped the team finish second in the Lancaster league and second in the League playoffs. The team went on to compete in the State Scholastics Chess Championships at Carlisle where they finished in third place in the U1300 category. Peter is

the son of Thomas Weida and Elizabeth Brubaker-Weida.

■ Kraybill Mennonite School teacher Valerie Garton has been named a finalist for the 2006 Teacher Impact Award sponsored by WGAL TV, Capital Blue Cross, Rotary District 7390 and Central Penn Parent Magazine. The award recognizes teachers who have made a significant difference in the lives of their students in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties.

Garton, who joined the Kraybill faculty in 1996, directs the school's computer education program and the middle school enrichment program for academically gifted students.

Below: In February, New Danville first and second graders made Valentines Day cards and collected fresh fruit for children who live at the Water Street Rescue Mission in Lancaster. Teacher Jennifer Miller said the activity was designed to help students think of others who need encouragement. The cards contained Bible verses about God's love. Left to right: Alexandria Pilotti, Mrs. Miller, Kamia Wilson, Jordan



Above: This winter Jean Forshey's high school child development students visited kindergartners at Locust Grove and New Danville so they could observe the physical, emotional, intellectual and social stages of the young child. The high schoolers also studied about learning centers and the kindergartner's academic level. The forty students visited the schools in groups of eight to ten. In photo, senior Esther Trimble observes New Danville students, left to right—Josiah Kanyiha, Juliet Gordon, Emily Aukamp, Aaron Musser. Forshey described Locust Grove teacher Marcy High and New Danville teacher Beth Yoder as "very encouraging and informative."
"It was a great learning experience for the stu-

Garden Tour to benefit scholarship fund

Locust Grove invites you to walk down the Garden Path June 17 and June 18. This event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, will benefit the Vi Bender Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Locust Grove after May 10. Or, send check and self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to Locust Grove at 2257 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at any of the garden locations. Garden tour stops will showcase the handiwork of eight local gardeners:

- English-style gardens of Judy Harnish, 168 Witmer Road, Lancaster.
- Creative four-seasons garden of Don Dieter, 709 Lampeter Rd., Lancaster.
- Garden at Locust Grove, planted in memory of Vi Bender, former Locust Grove teacher, counselor and friend.
- Lush gardens of Master Gardener Kathie Bootie, 3 Meadow Lane, Smoketown.
- Gardens of Donald and Ruth Harnish of Flowers and Thyme Bed and Breakfast, 238 Strasburg Pike, Lancaster, featuring a spectacular display of larkspur and poppies.
- Gardens of Gary and Christina Seldomridge, 150 Riveredge Drive, Leola, beside the Conestoga River.
- Jan and Dean Mast's stone patio, perennial beds, four-square gentleman's vegetable/herb garden—Smoketown.



- Gerald and DJ Kling's rock gardens, whimsical garden ornaments, potted plants and one-of-a-kind potting shed at 5 Meadow Lane, Smoketown.
- Gardens of Wilbur and Rachel Siegrist, 203 West Newport Road, Lititz., with quaint children's playhouse, greenhouse, Oriental garden, water features and more.

For more information call Marcy Root at 394-7107 or

CLASS NOTES

Karl Stoltzfus, 1958, Harrisonburg, Va., chairman and chief executive officer of Dynamic Aviation Group, Inc., was named "Business Man of the Year" by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce. Stoltzfus, who started his business as a high school senior and a third generation family farmer, is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University.

A choral group founded and directed by **Glenn Lehman, 1962**, Leola, has appeared nation-wide on Public Service Radio (PBS). The group, called Foresingers, specializes in early American church music and was featured on the segment of "Destination America" which looks at the religious reasons Mennonites came to colonial America.

Anna Mast Bishop, 1962, Harrisonburg, Va., was honored as "Teacher of the Year" for 2005-06 at Peak View Elementary School, Penn Laird, Va., in the Rockingham County School system. She taught for 23 years and currently teaches kindergarten.



Anna Mast Bishop

Four LMS alumni were recent keynote speakers at Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) Lancaster chapter events. They are: **Rosalie Roland, 1964**, Mechanicsburg, who is a partner in the family business, W. Lee Roland Builder; **David Hollinger, 1970**, Denver, owner of Four Seasons Produce; **Kent Martin, 1985**, Mohnton, owner of Signature Custom Cabinets; and **Alex Hartzler, 1986**, Harrisburg, president of WCI Partners LP, a real estate investment fund. According to a MEDA spokesperson, MEDA chooses speakers who view their business as a way to live out their faith.

Cheryl Hollinger, 1978, Lancaster, was recently named education director at Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

Linda J. Martin Espenshade, 1980, Lancaster, recently won a fellowship from the Casey Journalism Center on Children and Families to attend the national conference, "Crossing Divides: Reporting on Diverse Communities." Since then she wrote two stories on how local undocumented immigrants are responding to national legislation that would affect their future in the country. Espenshade has been a feature

writer for the Intelligence Journal's Lifestyle section since 2000.

Brent Stoltzfus, 1980, Lancaster, has been awarded the 2005 Builder of the Year Service Award, by the Building Industry Association of Lancaster County. Stoltzfus, president of E.G. Stoltzfus Homes, has served the BIA as president, vice president, secretary, committee chairman and as chairman of the Lancaster Building Industry Foundation.

Kevin and **Sharon Witmer, 1980, Yoder**, Nairobi, Kenya, recently began a 2-year service term with Mennonite Mission Network providing pastoral care and administration of the Eastern Mennonite Missions Kenya team, relating to the Kenya Mennonite Church.

Robert (Rob) Bomberger, Jr., 1987, Lancaster, took over as president of Benjamin/Roberts Ltd., a commercial office interior furnishings company located in Lancaster.

A recent Mennonite Weekly Review story commended **Darrell Ranck, 1988**, Ronks, for donating a heifer each of the past nine years to Mennonite Central Committee's Pa. World Relief Heifer Sale.

Alum discusses faith questions

In March, Nelson Kraybill, 1972, and president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, told 110 pastors, other church leaders, and students at the Lancaster campus that it is important to grapple with the hard questions that face our congregations today.

In his talk on "Missional Leadership in an Age of Doubt," Kraybill discussed these faith questions: (1) In a multi religious world, how can we make exclusive truth claims about Jesus? (2) In a scientific age, how can we believe in miracles, especially the resurrection? and (3) When historians and theologians question the reliability of the Bible, how can we think of it as the word of God?

"We live in an age of doubt," he said. "Even believers struggle with doubt. We need a clear proclamation of the gospel at the center of our churches, but we also need to leave room at the edges

for doubt and struggle if we want to reach people in a post-modern age."

In answer to the question of who Jesus is, Kraybill says we need to graciously acknowledge the sincerity of seekers in other faiths but also tell our story, inviting others to know Jesus Christ.

Regarding the question of miracles, he pointed out that all belief systems (atheism, evolution, Big Bang, etc.) ultimately lead to mystery.

"We choose to embrace the life-giving mystery of a Creator God, and God's self-revelation through incarnation, the cross, and resurrection," he said. "We avoid pitting science against faith. Science focuses on 'what' ques-



tions; faith focuses on 'who' and 'why' questions."

In discussing the credibility of the Bible, Kraybill said the important thing is to realize that "we come to know the truth of Scripture by living it. We dwell in the text because through it we meet God and know Christ—not because we can prove it is all true."

"If we are living out the truth of the gospel, we can credibly proclaim that we are a people transformed by our en-

Jeffrey Horst, 1991, Ephrata, of Rein- sel Kuntz Leshner LLP, Certified Public Accountants & Consultants, Lancaster, received outstanding performance awards upon completion of the RSM McGladrey Network Partner Development Program. He was recognized for consistent superior results throughout the program and also received an Outstanding Achievement award for new business.

In December of 2005 **Neal Martin, 1994**, New Holland, completed his degree in anthropology with a minor in French from Millersville University. A summa cum laude graduate, Neal was one of the two top students of the 475 graduating class. He currently works for Bird-in-Hand Restaurant and volunteers at CROSS CONNECTIONS, a youth center in New Holland.

Rosemary Siegrist, 1997, Lancaster, was recently named artistic director for The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster (MCCL). She will give direction to the Chamber Choir which serves



Rosemary Siegrist

youth, grades 9-12. Siegrist is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University where she studied piano performance and business administration. She is on the piano faculty at the Pennsylvania Academy of Music and teaches piano through the non-credit lesson program at Franklin and Marshall College.

Kristen Jo Groff, 2005, Denver, received numerous awards this year as a freshman at Gordon College. In soccer she was named to the Commonwealth Coast Conference Honorable Mention Soccer Team and received The Offensive Player of the Year Award, Rookie of the Year Award and "Golden Toe" Award (most goals). Her soccer team finished second in the Conference. In swimming Kristen won three individual Gold Medals (200 Individual Medley, 100 Breaststroke, 200 Breaststroke) at the New England Conference Championships. She was also named the 2006 Female Swimmer of the Meet at these championships. Kristen competed at the NCAA Division III National Championships at the University of Minnesota, where she finished 7th in the 200 Breaststroke and 18th in the 100 Breaststroke and was named All-American.

Five **2005 LMS graduates** earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Exams. **Alexander Lake**, New Holland, qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Four others qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations with grades of 3 or higher. They are **Jesse Edwards**, Lancaster; **Charles Engle**, Mount Joy; **Ben Jackson**, Lancaster; and **Leah Ruth**, Lancaster.

MARRIAGES

Wanda Reinford, 1985, and Terry Martin, March 25, 2006. They reside in Goshen, Ind.

Emmalie Zak, 1991, and Jeremy Holmberg, April 22, 2006. The couple resides in Burton, Ohio.

Jana Oberholtzer, 1999, and James MacKay, January 7, 2006. They live in Chicago, Ill.

Roxine Zook, 1996, and Jason Riehl, September 10, 2005. They live in Willow Street.

counter with the risen Lord," he said. ■

• Visit The Smithsonian

For all alumni and friends!
Washington, D.C.
Remembered

Please join us Friday, October 6, through Sunday, October 8, 2006, for three days of fun, fellowship and adventure in Washington, D.C. Here is the tentative itinerary for this fall trip:

Friday, October 6

- Visit Washington National Cathedral
- Tour Mt. Vernon
- Performance at Ford's Theater

Saturday, October 7

- Visit Mennonite Central Committee Peace Office
- Tour the Capitol and Library of Congress
- Cruise on a historic waterway

Saturday, October 8

- Worship at Washington Community Fellowship

The bus will leave the Lancaster campus Friday morning (for you

alumni—just like your senior class trip!) and return Sunday evening around 8:30. For more information, return the form below or watch our web site for details coming this summer. Go to www.lancastermennonite.org.



October 6-8, 2006 • Alumni & Friends Fall Trip
Washington, D.C.
Remembered

Please send me more information about this special opportunity. (Brochures will become available in August.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Instructions: Return this form to LMS Fall Trip, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Carla Denlinger, 1997, and Kenneth Shirk, December 3, 2005. They live in Ephrata.

Heather L. Good, 1997, and Joel Nyce, October 8, 2005. They live in Lederach.

Michelle Gingrich, 1999, and Chris Wenden, January 14, 2006. They are living and working in Beijing, China.

Trent Hess, 2000, and **Emily Par-marter, 2003**, December 17, 2005. They reside in Lancaster.

Nicole Martin, 2003, and Terry L. Doyle, Jr., October 22, 2005. They reside in Ephrata.

BIRTHS

Garl and **Roberta Martin, 1984, May-nard**, Big Prairie, Ohio, fifth child, third son, Amasa Alan, January 5, 2006.

Jim, 1986, and Gina **Yoder**, Lancaster, second son, Kaden Eric, October 14, 2005.

Chris and **Karen Landis, 1987, Botkin**, Harrisonburg, Va, third child, Laura Michelle, July 11, 2005.

Patrick, 1988, and Kristen **Leaman**, Reading, Jake Charles, April 12, 2006.

Steve, 1989, and **Jonel Herr, 1989, Ness**, Lancaster, second child, first daughter, Ilse Helena, December 22, 2005.

Lynn, 1990, and **Laurie Eshleman, 1990, Longenecker**, Lancaster, third child, second son, Jesse Michael, February 27, 2006.

Matthew, 1991, and Tammy Wenger **Forrey**, Lancaster, second child, Aubrie Marie, September 7, 2005.

Roger, 1991, and **Jacquelyne Samuel, 1995, Rudy**, Knoxville, Tenn., first child, Samuel Blaine, September 23, 2004.

Scott, 1992, and Jennifer **Gochena-ur**, Willow Street, a son, Brennan Scott, December 31, 2005.

Robert and **Christine Martin, 1993, Blake**, Maytown, third child, second daughter, Madison Ann, December 26, 2005.

Jeffrey and **Gwenyth Stambaugh, 1993, Eyler**, Hanover, second child,

first son, Caleb Jeffrey, November 11, 2005.

Rodney, 1993, and **Sherry Smoker, 1997, Gingrich**, Mountville, first child, Adam James, November 22, 2005.

Dustin, 1995, and Sarah Frye **Gingrich**, Puerto Montt, Chile, South America, Sophia Grace, August 24, 2003, and Edison James, August 19, 2005. They are serving in Puerto Montt as missionaries with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM).

Tim and **Maria Hurst, 1996, Forry**, Lititz, second child, first daughter, Sarah Jo, January 15, 2006.

Myron, 1997, and **Courtney Bechtold, 1998, Brubacher**, New Holland, first child, Talan Christian, December 27, 2005.

Zachary, 2001 and **Megan Hostetter, 2001, Kennel**, Lancaster, first child, Landon James, January 24, 2005.

DEATHS

Marvin Linus Brubaker, II, 1987, Pueblo, Colo., December 28, 2005. ■

Stoner was early LMS administrator

Clyde Stoner, one of three founding Lancaster Mennonite High School administrators, died March 9, 2006, at the age of 89. Clyde was business manager and also taught business education until he retired in 1984. He worked at the high school from 1942-1945 and 1946-1984. His legacy of balancing school program and budget continues to inspire and challenge us.



Class Reunions

1951	Sept 7-8, 2006
1956	Aug 18-19, 2006
1961	April 29, 2006
1966	June 17, 2006
1981	July 8, 2006
1986	July 16, 2006
1996	September 16, 2006
2001	Summer of 2006 (TBA)

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 394-7107.

Questions? Call Heidi Stoltzfus at (717) 394-7107.

Jerry and Anita Hostetter: ready to help

It all started in typing class when Verlen Rufenacht seated Anita Augsburger and Jerry Hostetter next to each other.

“I think Verlen would like to take credit for our getting together,” Anita joked as she and husband Jerry described what it was like to be a campus couple in 1978-79 when they were seniors at Lancaster Mennonite High School.

“Since we lived so far away (Anita came from Reinholds and Jerry from Cochranville) being together at school was a real perk,” she said. “There were no cell phones!”

Jerry admits to serving as manager of the softball team in his senior year, just to be close to a particular team member. That was a surprise to Anita, but she does remember sitting beside Jerry on the bus during their senior class trip to Washington, D.C., a significant relationship-building time.

There were other reasons, too, why they loved the school. Friendships with others and sports were right up there.

“A very important thing during my junior and senior year was playing soccer for Rice,” Jerry said. “It was just a lot of fun as a team. The competitiveness was there but there were also the friendships. And Rice always had a way of connecting with the kids. I liked his style.” Jerry played basketball as well. Anita played field hockey and softball.

Today Jerry says it was a combination of strong academics and the lessons learned right there on the soccer field and the basketball court that gave him what he needed to be successful in business—leadership skills, teamwork, discipline, and a strong work ethic.

“I don’t think people understand how much athletics can make persons great employees,” he said.

With Anita’s and Jerry’s positive high school experience, they were delighted when all four children chose the school (Matt also attended Locust Grove, grades 6-8). The values taught and the “safe, nurturing environment” were important to them as parents.

“It was an extension of the home and church,” Anita said.

They recently reflected on the school’s growth that they witnessed over the years.



The Hostetter family: Front row, left to right—Matt, Anita, and Jerry. Back row, left to right—son in law Zach Kennel, Meagan Hostetter Kennel, Mikaela, and Mitch.

“For a while I felt we were a good Christian school but were second class in other areas but not today,” Jerry said, giving as examples the Fine Arts Center, Gym B, and the G. Parke Book Building (agriculture/ technology), along with other excellent opportunities such as AP courses.

“The Fine Arts Center rounded out in my mind that LMS was concerned about all aspects of the educational experience, not just sports,” he said. “They had the foresight to actually deliver something of that magnitude. That continues to impress me as we continue to grow the campus.

“You can’t stop planning for growth or growth will stop. The board realizes that if you want change in five to six years, you have to plan for it today.”

The Hostetters have been members of the school’s New Century Jubilee Campaign Committee since its inception in 2001 and share their excitement as they host fund raising dinners, support it financially, and encourage others to give. They were instrumental in securing funds for the G. Parke Book Building and now are involved with funding efforts for the track and stadium at the Lancaster campus.

Jerry and Anita are also passionate about the physical appearance of school grounds, and understanding that the budget doesn’t always cover the cost

needed to maintain the grounds, they lend a helping hand whenever they can.

Being a stay-at-home mom, Anita feels fortunate to have the time. She is quick to offer her services when she sees campus needs such a lavatory or office that needs painting. Recently the Hostetters, together with Rick and Joyce Haller, planned for and provided a new trophy case in Gym B. Anita also served on the golf committee for several years and in the fall helped with the 3 on 3 basketball tournament held at the Lancaster campus.

More about the Hostetters:

Since graduation: Jerry spent over 20 years in the swine industry, including ownership of Hostetter Management Company from 1991 until 2004 when he sold the business. Today he is a partner with Alden Place, a firm that is developing an active adult community in Cornwall, Lebanon County. Anita has worked mostly as a stay-at-home mom. They attend James Street Mennonite Church.

Family: Megan is married to Zach Kennel (both 2001), and they have a son, Landon. Mitch is a sophomore at Eastern Mennonite University, Mikaela is an LMS senior, and Matt is an LMS freshman. ■

Validating the Vision

This spring marked the completion of the school's self study and re-accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) and by the Mennonite Education Agency (MEA). The self study, called "Validating the Vision" (VTV), ended with an oral report by the MSA and MEA visiting team whose chairperson described LMS as "a very special school."

We were complimented on a "thorough and comprehensive planning process" and our desire to "strive to do better." The chair noted the many times LMS staff expressed appreciation for how the self study brought the three newly-merged campuses together.

According to the team, the new LMS foundation documents are "fabulous" and should serve us well as we move into the future. They observed that the school is Centered in Christ and we work hard to transform students to change the world.

The school's seven-year educational strategic growth plan includes specific goals to help students develop, under-

stand and use their God-given gifts. The plan also focuses on faith development and the academic areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

"Everything you do is consistent with the foundation documents," they said. "Your plan for the future will solidify what you are doing and should enable you to do it better."

The self study process involved the entire range of LMS stakeholders and the team's report reflected that. The report said students "want to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a world citizen," and parents and students together said faculty are "the best thing about the school."

"There is a comfortable atmosphere for learning," the report noted. "And there has been an amazing job done of interpreting curriculum across the campuses."

The VTV team reported that faculty enjoy working together; administrators are "appreciated, trusted, respected and even loved;" the school has "wonderful school facilities;" there is commitment from students and parents to the vision of the school; and there is appreciation



J. Richard Thomas

for the diversity of the student body.

Thank you, LMS constituents, for your help at so many points along the way and for your prayers. It feels good to hear strong affirmation from the VTV Team and to know that we have goals for school improvement that have grown out of hearing from the entire range of LMS stakeholders. It is so helpful to hear this collective voice in planning for the future.—jrt



LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

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