



Steinbach Christian High School

Alumni Connection

Issue 5 - Spring, 2007

From the Principal's Desk



Two decades ago I was preparing for my final exams and getting ready to graduate. This June marks my 20th year since graduating from Steinbach Christian High School. As I look back there are many changes that have happened at the school - new staff, new building, and new grades. But the core of what SCHS is has not changed. The goal to educate students and help them grow in their spiritual lives has been encapsulated in our mission statement,

"Quality Education with a Christian Perspective". This is what SCHS was when I attended and still is today.

So what is happening at SCHS? We have five new staff this year. Darin Sunley was hired as Computer Teacher taking the roll that I filled prior to becoming principal. In the music department, Johanna Hildebrand has taken on the task of Music Director. Finally, De-wayne Penner was a late addition as Physical Education Director. In our resource department we added a second Educational Assistant

and Adrienne Reimer (1998) was hired to fill that position. It is exciting that of our five new additions, two are alumni!

This year has been an exciting one. Our student population is just under 200 students. We hope to break the 200 barrier next school year. In sports, both our Junior and Varsity boys basketball teams made it to provincials finishing 5th and 6th respectively. Another milestone in the history of SCHS is that students from our first grade 7 class in 2001 are now graduating.

This past week I had the pleasure of introducing some alumni to our new classrooms. If you haven't had the chance to come and see the school in the last few years, drop on by for a walk through. You are always welcome.

Graduation is drawing closer. If you are in the city take the time to join us for Grad 2007 on June 24, 3:00 pm at the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church. As you read through this edition of the Alumni Connection newsletter I hope it brings back memories of your time at SCHS. Enjoy it and God's blessings in all your endeavours.

Mr. Emery Plett, *Principal*

2006-2007 Staff



Quality Education with a Christian Perspective

In Memory



As many of you know, Jamie Rogalsky's wife Charlotte, passed away this past February. We continue to stand together with friends and family who pray for and support Jamie and his family as they go through this difficult time.

Charlotte was an example of God's grace in action. Her depth in trusting God as He brought her through this trial was a challenge to my own faith journey. One always went away from a visit with her feeling that she had encouraged you instead of you encouraging her.

In August Jamie chose to take a deferred salary for the 2006-2007 school year and so Dewayne Penner was hired to take on the Physical Education position. Just recently Jamie requested and was granted an extended year leave. Please continue to uphold the family in prayer as they adjust to the new reality of life without Charlotte.

Meet Jo-Ann Friesen



Greetings Alumni of SCHS

My name is Jo-Ann Friesen and I am the new Director of Community Relations for SCHS. I have been involved here in one way or another over the past twelve years: first, as a parent; then as a member of the SCHS Cabinet; a member of the Parent Advisory Council and a weekly volunteer. I firmly believe in the educational direction of this school and I am excited about being part of a vibrant growing institution that believes in the development of the whole person. The teachers and staff truly care about every individual and desire to see each one excel to his or her full potential. With small class sizes, an excellent chapel program, large peer ministry, musical excellence and athletic endeavors, this really is the place to be. SCHS continues to be community based with 90% of the student body from the Steinbach area. There are great ways for you to get "plugged in" here as well. As alumni we want to hear from you. Tell us about your journey in life: How is God working? What is your passion? Where do you live and work? Would you be interested in a school reunion? Contact me anytime at 326-3537 or jfriesen@schs.ca I am looking forward to connecting with each and every one of you. God Bless.

Jo-Ann Friesen, *Director of Community Relations*

Spiritual Growth



Each year we have two very special days here at SCHS called Spiritual Emphasis Days. The Student Chapel Committee organizes these events. Each semester the goal is to provide a more focused opportunity than usual to connect with God, on a corporate and personal level. Both staff and students benefit from these days, as it is a chance to receive spiritual refreshment with the added benefit of classes being cancelled!

In November our keynote speaker was Isi Masi, who is a youth pastor at the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church. Isi spoke to us about God's great power which He uses to work in and through us. We also had other youth leaders and alumni from four different local churches come and do some workshops on various topics. Guys and girls were divided for these workshops and topics were geared to specific age groups and genders. Praise God for commitments, a first time commitment, and much repentance and renewal in the lives of our students.

Our second Spiritual Emphasis Day was in May. We were so privileged to have a praise and worship team from Shalom Family Worship Centre come and minister to us. It was powerful and many students commented on that being their favourite part. We also had alumni, Stephanie Nicole Friesen (2001) (*Morning Show Host for CHVN*), share with the student body about struggles that she faced as a teen. Our second speaker, JJ Hunter, who came to us from the Manitoba Moose (in between play-off games), spoke to us about how critical it is for Christians to truly understand that we are saved by faith and that our victory over sin is by faith and not by earning it. The day ended with some commitments to Christ and freedom experienced in certain areas. We thank God for opportunities like this.

At SCHS we want to be imitators of Christ. It is a privilege to have many opportunities for spiritual growth. Peer Ministry meets each Wednesday at 7:30 am and students come for a time of prayer for our school and beyond. Students have also initiated a prayer and praise time on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the lunch hour. God is definitely at work in our students' lives and our prayer for them is that they will learn about God, embrace God and His Word, and apply His freeing truths to their precious lives.

Feature Alumni

Jordan & Stephanie (Klassen) Kroeker (Grad 2001)

The Jordan and Steph that graduated from Steinbach Christian High School are hardly recognizable in us. If you were to know us today, we would vaguely remind you of some love struck kids you knew back in 2001. Since graduating we have been on a journey that may look very familiar to you. We were madly in love, we got married, we bought our first house, and we dreamt as big as we could for ourselves. Jordan courageously quit his safe and secure job at Derksen Printers and created a web-based business. Steph in all her restlessness longed to return to school. With finances as a high priority, we sold our house and moved to Otterburne so Steph could attend Providence College. She intended to major in psychology, hoping it would lead to a successful and fulfilling career. Jordan continued to work on his web-based business and also worked full-time outside of the home.

The thrilling, liberating, and deeply personal education that Steph began to receive from Providence quickly shifted from psychology to sociology and was excitedly passed on to Jordan and we suddenly came to an unfamiliar fork in our journey. We realized that we could either continue to live our lives for ourselves, pursuing wealth, comfort, and safety or we could live for others and sacrifice wealth, comfort, and safety in the process. The decision was a freeing and surprisingly easy one to make; it became clear that living for ourselves was in stark contrast to the teachings of Jesus and we could not pick and



Steph playing hockey with the girls



Jordan and Dominico and their pool table

choose which teachings we would live by. For us, this decision did not mean we would pull out of school and the workforce and become missionaries. It meant that we would think globally and begin to fight for those who are in desperate need of help. We immediately started volunteering at Winnipeg Harvest, preparing orders for food banks and soup kitchens. We made ourselves aware of the exploitation that leads to our comfortable lifestyle and changed our spending habits accordingly, doing our best to not support sweatshops and slavery.

Most recently, and perhaps most excitingly, our journey has led us to Malawi, Africa. Our deep concern for the poor in Africa and the providential idea of a friend brought us to Victory Christian Children's Home in Bvumbwe, Malawi. For 4 weeks, we, along with our dear friend Rhonda Patterson, helped out as best we could with 130 children ages 4 to 20, the vast majority of whom were teenagers. We spent most of our time with the younger children who often receive less attention simply because they cause less trouble. We helped plant a field of sunflowers by hand and Jordan helped in the construction of a pool table. We heard many stories of how the Malawians live and met many fascinating people. The greatest lesson we learnt was that international aid and mission work is absolutely necessary but it is far more complex than we had imagined. We are extremely grateful for the experience and all the difficult lessons we learned and trust that we will get the chance to build on it all.

New Teachers



Dewayne Penner (left) joined our team as director of the Physical Education department. Dewayne was teaching at Calvin Christian Collegiate in Winnipeg.



Johanna Hildebrand (left) is our new head of the Music department. Mrs. Hildebrand student taught here and has been involved in music in the Steinbach area for many years.



Darin Sunley (left) is our new Computer Teacher. Darin comes from Winnipeg where he has been teaching for the past 2 years.

Alumni Updates

This year's updates focussed on the Grads of 2001 and 2005. They were asked "What keeps you busy? Highlights since graduation? and What are your future plans? We thank them and many others of you who have also sent us updates. The information that follows is from the last couple of months unless otherwise indicated.

1998

Denise (Frechette) Friesen

Kevin and I have 3 kids now. Scotty is 4, Joel is 2, and Alexa is 7 months. I have the best job in the world, being a 'stay at home' mommy! I love it! Kevin has his semi truck on at Petra Freight, working for my Dad. We live in Vita and really like it there. It's not that far!

1999

Lucy (Kornelson) Friesen

We had a daughter, Shoreh Bonita, on Nov. 8, 2005.

2000

Martha Ma

Since graduation from SCHS, I moved to Vancouver for 4 yrs for University. I went back to HK in 2004, worked all year long and spent my summer '04 in Europe (8 countries), also I met my sister-Heidi Esau in Germany we celebrated my birthday. In the year 2005, I worked and traveled in Asia all year long. I am currently working in the Legal & Compliance Department of Lehman Brothers Investment Bank in Hong Kong.

2001

Leah (Brandt) Bouchard

My husband, Guy, and I got married in 2005! Since then, I've been working as an Educational Assistant in a Hutterite Colony and trying to learn French. We've worked with kids and youth in our church. I hope to get more involved with horses and farming, perhaps start a ministry for kids who need healing, and have some kids of our own!



Elleah (Dyck) Derksen

Being at Capernwray in England and getting married to Jared in 2005 were definite highlights in my life! I am now working full-time at Harvest Honda, doing cell group, hip hop class, and praise & worship at Calvary Chapel! Looking ahead includes buying a house and eventually having kids!



Carmella (Penner) Toews

Graduating from U of M with a BA was a highlight in my life until getting engaged eclipsed it! In summer I did landscaping for Oakridge Nursery. I'm married to Tim Toews now and plan to attend UBC in the fall of 2007 to get my Masters in Linguistics.

Luke Penner

I work as a flight instructor at Harv's Air here in Steinbach. I also recently started teaching aerobatics! I've traveled abroad several times to countries like Japan, India & New Zealand. For the future, I plan to keep flying, keep traveling, and just continue to enjoy the life God has blessed me with!

Jodie Reimer

I'm working at Loewen Windows and enjoy my college and career group (BASIC) and teaching Sunday School. I was blessed with the chance to go on a missions trip to Cofradia, Mexico with a group from my church in 2005. I want to buy a house and go back to Mexico!

Joshua Reimer

I'm busy working at Loewen as an apprentice cabinet maker, playing competitive paintball, and skydiving. A highlight for me was playing on one of the top paintball teams in the province! After I get my Journeyman's, I might take engineering or secondary wood processing.

Rhonda (Reimer) Giesbrecht

Since marrying the love of my life, Lee, in April of 2005, I've been busy being a housewife, working on my photography course, helping with Awana & other church activities, scrapbooking, and card-making. Our cat Smacky and all 7 of our outside cats & kittens keep me busy too. My niece Courtney and adorable little niece Acacia (adopted from China) are so special to me. I plan to have babies and/or adopt in time, buy our house & build on, finish my photography course and be a photographer, and sell my homemade candles at craft shows!

2005

Dustin Martens

I keep busy with sports, my girlfriend, and family. I passed my real estate exams so I plan to sell homes and get married!



Felicia Reimer

My life is filled with church activities, work, spending time with friends, and my various hobbies etc... Getting baptized was a highlight for me! I hope to attend university to pursue photography and travel to England.

Kim Reimer

I'm enjoying attending Steinbach Bible College full time! After high school grad I worked at Carillon Stationers in Stenbach for about a year which was a great experience. Having good times with a small College & Career group in my church and my sister's wedding are, indeed, highlights for me! After this year at college, it's back to the workforce for me or whatever God has planned!

Jennifer Setlack

I'm going to university: chemistry major. I teach First Aid and CPR classes for the YMCA and the city of Winnipeg. I also am a manager at DYNAMITE, a clothing store in the St. Vital mall. Highlights for me have been becoming an Emergency Medical Responder, moving into Winnipeg on my own, buying a new Cobalt (no longer driving that beast, the 5th Ave). My goals are to buy a horse, get my major in Chemistry, write the MCATS, and become a Doctor.



Keep in Touch with SCHS!

We hope you enjoy the *SCHS Alumni Connection*, published near the end of each calendar year. This year, the grads of 2001 and 2005 were specially contacted to send us their updates. Each grad class will be so contacted one year after they graduate and five years thereafter. We hope to keep our alumni and former staff better informed of the exciting things happening at SCHS and help you stay in touch with your classmates. With frequent changes in people's lives, many alumni addresses have become obsolete. Let us know if email is a good way for us to contact you. Also, if you know of someone in our SCHS community who did not receive this newsletter, please ask them to contact us with new mailing or emailing information!

Upcoming Events

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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| June 7 | Spring Concert |
| June 24 | Graduation Ceremony |
| September 5 | First Day of School |
| December 18 | Christmas Concert |

Please send us a tidbit on what's happening in your life and stay in touch! Mail, phone or email!

STEINBACH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

50 PTH #12 N, Steinbach, MB R5G 1T4
 Phone: 204.326.3537 Fax: 204.326.6908
 Email: schs@schs.ca Website: www.schs.ca

GET
PLUGGED
IN

...TO YOUR FRIENDS
...TO YOURSELF
...TO GOD

SCHS
ST. CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL



SCHS is now accepting applications for grades 7 through 12
QUALITY EDUCATION WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE