

SCHS ALUMNI CONNECTION

Issue 8 - Spring, 2010



Celebrating 60 Years!

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From the Principal's Desk



Mr. Emery Plett

Steinbach Christian High School is 60 years old! Over the years SCHS has taken on different names, grades, and sizes of student population; but throughout its history has focused on providing quality education with a Christian perspective. You are all a part of that history. No doubt you have many memories of classes, assignments, sporting events, and music performances. I hope this year's Alumni Connection provides an opportunity for you to remember good times in High School!

2009-2010 has been a unique year for SCHS as we had no new staff coming on board. We did say farewell to Darin Sunley and Andrea Reimer in June, 2009. Darin is now married and living in Utah. Andrea is still in Steinbach but focusing her energies on home and family. A year without new staff and an enthusiastic student body of 209 has created an excellent opportunity for us to focus on future plans. We eagerly anticipate opening grades five and six in fall of 2010.

In February SCHS produced a Musical after a four year hiatus. James Fast and Ryan Polinsky directed a talented group of students in four performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore. Audience response was extremely positive and we hope this resumes our usual rhythm of staging a musical every other year.

On the sports scene, we were excited to host the Junior Varsity Basketball Provincials in March, 2010. Talk about March madness! Following quickly on the heels of our musical, plans were made and executed to host 16 teams from around Manitoba. We are grateful for the many staff, students and parents who volunteered to help make this event a success.

Keep your eyes open for our celebration events. I would love to see you out on June 10th for our combined Spring Concert and 60th Anniversary Celebration. Finally, if you are available, come and enjoy graduation at 3:00 pm, June 27th at the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church.

Upcoming Events

June 10	60th Anniversary Spring Concert & BBQ
June 27	Graduation Ceremony
September 8	First Day of School

2008 Grads



Samantha with her Dad

Samantha Dueck: After grad in 2008, I worked at Sobeys for the summer to make money for the CMU Outtatown Program that fall. For the first semester our group, which consisted of 35 people, travelled westward in Canada. After a month at home for Christmas, we shipped off to South Africa for the second semester. It was an awesome experience. We met so many amazing people and had an opportunity to volunteer at some really inspiring missions and aid organizations. I formed many awesome friendships and developed a love for living in community that I never expected I would have! Coming home and leaving that community was difficult I adjusted after a while.

Upon returning home, I began working at the Steinbach Aquatic Centre as a lifeguard, and I'm still there. I love my job, which is a huge answer to prayer especially because my previous jobs have been somewhat challenging. So, as of right now, I am lifeguarding, teaching swimming lessons and saving up money for university in the fall. I will be going to the University of Winnipeg and taking a Psychology major. I am both looking forward to, and a little nervous about, this new venture. But I am mostly looking forward to it, because I know this is what God is calling to me right now.

Rachel Mozhde Loewen: I thank God that I was able to attend SCHS and receive a quality Christian education. I have been doing so much since Grad in 2008. There is almost too much to explain, but I will start with work. Like many graduates, I had to work to make money if I had any plans of going back to school someday. I worked part-time at the Real Canadian Super-store in the seafood section. Wow



that was nice and cold, stinky and wet, **Rachel on right with fellow OM workers** yet the people and relationships I made there were unforgettable. After working for six months, God opened doors for me to go on a mission's trip. I have always had a heart for missions sparked by the fact that I grew up in Pakistan and Afghanistan as an misionary kid. I loved it and have always relished the idea of someday doing missions. So I joined Operation Mobilization - the organization my parents have been with for 25 years. I

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was assigned to an ocean liner for a two month short-exposure team. And no, it was not a cruise ship. It was a mission ship equipped with the biggest floating bookshop in the world. I flew to Manila, Philippines and met the ship there. We did two weeks of ministry in Manila, doing plays, skits, kids programs and ministry in churches and stadiums. We then sailed for three days across the choppy China Sea en-route to Taiwan. I spent my 19th birthday in bed seasick, on a rocking ship in the middle of a dark and hurricane rent ocean. That was a time I had to trust in God considering the ship was 95 years old, only four years younger than the Titanic. We worked for a month and a half in Taiwan doing similar ministry. The missions *Rachel with a class of students in the Philippines* trip was the best time I have had in years. God used this opportunity to strengthen me and grow me spiritually, and equip me for further ministry.



I am currently working at Tim Horton's part-time and attending SBC. I never thought that I would go to a school so nearby, but now I wouldn't want to go anywhere else. I am almost finished my first year and am considering a second year. I am also considering going overseas for a year on missions. I praise the Lord for all he has done for me and what he continues to do.

Shane "Sven" Dyck: Since graduating in 2008, I attended the Cross Current School of Discipleship program at Winkler Bible Camp. I travelled to California, Mexico and Belize. I am currently studying Pastoral Ministries at SBC and am in the process of looking for a part-time job. In the future, I look forward to graduating with a B.A. in Pastoral Ministries and to getting married (hopefully).

Kathryn Driedger: Recently, I spent three months down in Kansas City, where I had a very sweet, focused time with Jesus. Currently, I am searching for a job as well as trying to get in all my prerequisites to attend Red River College. In the future, I hope to work as a medical radiology technician, get married and live a life set aside abandoned to my Father.

2004 Grad

Benjamin Reimer: Some of the highlights since my time at SCHS are my baptism at Southland church and attending SBC for two years. I am currently working on a two year Business Admin program and then plan to move on to RRC in Winnipeg to graduate with either a CGA, CMA or CA designation.

SCHS Music Program



Mr. James Fast

My name is James Fast and I am currently head of the music program at SCHS. I am in my second year in this position and I am enjoying it thoroughly. We have five choirs spanning grades 7-12. This year, 171 students are involved in choir, which means that about 80% of our student body is involved in a vocal ensemble. This means I have the awesome opportunity of getting to know almost everybody. I appreciate working with the students because they are at a malleable and teachable time of life. They stretch and grow and in the process I too (in my middle age) stretch and grow with them.

The band program at SCHS is flourishing. We have 54 students between 3 bands. Because my background has been mainly choral, I have faced a substantial learning curve as I deal with the intricacies of things pertaining to band. I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of learning to play (in a crippled fashion) the basic instruments. I now know the travails that young clarinetists, trombonists, and sax players experience.

This past February, we presented our first musical in a number of years. A 1950s take on Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore was staged for the first time at SCHS. The students and directors worked very hard, and the pay off was an awesome piece of entertainment. The very talented cast deserves a whole lot of credit for their creativity and dedication to excellence!



HMS Pinafore Production

Steinbach Christian High School's flagship ensemble is the Chamber Choir. In May 2009, they travelled to Chicago to compete in the Heritage Festival where they won first place in their class, taking the gold medal. This achievement is especially noteworthy, since each of the other five schools they competed against, have between 600 and 2,000 students. This year in April, the Chamber Choir competed in the St. Louis Heritage Festival and again placed first in their class with a gold medal performance. The choir also won the Spirit of St. Louis Award for best representing their school and community.

The SCHS Music Program is thriving and full of enthusiastic musicians. What more can a music director ask!

Current Staff Spotlight



Curt Plett holds Olympic Torch

My name would suggest that I have had a long relationship with SCHS and SBC. All other current SCHS staff with the fortune of the Plett handle have been involved here for decades! I'm a relative new comer, this being my 8th year at SCHS. I spent my first 15 years of teaching in the public school system in Southeast Manitoba.

My roots are in the Landmark area, where I went to school and now currently live. My wife Dolores (from yant zede) and myself, with our three children (aged 17, 15 and 13) live on a 4th generation farm. The transition of the farm has gone from land farmsteaded by my grandfather and used to run a dairy, to a mixed farm and now to a hobby farm.

My years at SCHS have been focused primarily as the Junior High Social Studies teacher. If asked to share a highlight, it would be when Peter Brandt, a grade 9 SCHS student represented Canada at an international geography competition and lead his team to become world champions. My interest in geography has resulted in opportunities to live and work in France and Indonesia as well as travels in many parts of North America. My hobbies include cycling, camping and other outdoor activities.

While my roots at SCHS may not go deep, they are currently well spread out. I have two daughters attending in grades 8 and 10 and a son interested in attending SBC next year. My family and I attend the Prairie Rose EMC church in Landmark. I have also been involved with camping ministry for many years.

I see working at SCHS as a tremendous privilege. I enjoy teaching young people how to better understand the world around them and also how that can best be done within a Christian world view. The positive SCHS environment, where students are free to be who they are in Christ rather than replicas of who the world thinks they should be, is a very fulfilling environment to work in. God continues to make himself known to students here at SCHS in many ways and I count it a blessing to play a small role in His work.



Outdoors is the best!

11 Years of SGN



The 2009-10 school year marks the 11th anniversary of SGN (Strategy Games Night) at SCHS. The group has grown a long way from the small cluster of boys who gathered together on Wednesday nights in our first year. Now, we are a group whose average attendance every other Friday is 20. Our membership base is even larger, encompassing male and female students

from grades 10-12 and even alumni. The core of our agenda remains the same ... we play strategy games! With our group so large, we play a great variety of games. For us "epic gamers" as we are now called – old standby's like Axis & Allies (we now play with an expensive anniversary edition) and Mega Supremacy still remain favourites. There are those who lean toward lower organized games like Carcassone and Settlers of Catan while others enjoy a game somewhere in between – like our popular May-fair rail building series. The club has expanded its game collection over the years, and hopes to add several new titles this year.

I think the greatest highlight over the past 11 years has been some of the enduring friendships I have made because of SGN. There are many former students whom I continue to meet (and even play games with) on a fairly regular basis. We've made a lot of good memories and had solid talks along the way. Looking back I recall many great gaming moments as well as hi-jinks that students have played over the years. In fact, the day before writing this article, I discovered a prank played in our teacher prep room many years ago!

I would be interested to hear from alumni about meaningful SGN memories. Feel free to stop by sometime for a visit or drop me a note. God Bless.

Mr. Kevin D. Peters

Receive your SCHS Alumni Connection by email.

Contact the SCHS office

326-3537 or schs@schs.ca



60 Years of Leadership

In our 60 year history, Steinbach Christian High School has been blessed to have strong servant leaders who have worked and sacrificed much to make the school what it is today:

Ben D. Reimer	1949 - 1965	Cornie Martens	1991 - 1995
Harvey Plett	1965 - 1968	Lloyd Penner	1995 - 1996
Edwin Plett	1968 - 1970	Randy Dueck	1996 - 2005
Henry Fast	1970 - 1991	Emery Plett	2005 - Present



Mr. Harvey Plett

Mr. Harvey Plett provided leadership at SCHS from 1965 - 1968. Harvey also served as President of Steinbach Bible College from 1966 - 1982 during which time SCHS was considered the High School Division of SBC. Harvey was glad to let us in on some of his highlights over the years.

I have had the privilege of teaching a variety of classes in churches in Steinbach, Winnipeg, Portage La Prairie, Winkler, Rosenfeld as well as in Ontario and Alberta.

Pearl and I have enjoyed the blessing of raising four children - one daughter and three sons. We are the proud grand-parents of nine grandchildren, one foster granddaughter and her three children.

After our children were old enough Pearl went back to nurses training becoming an R.N. This was her dream when we got married. She has retired now but continues to nurse on a casual basis. I have it on good authority that she is an excellent nurse. I believe it.

It has been a joy to develop a counselling ministry which keeps me busy to this day. I have also done a lot of preaching in many places as well as serving in conflict resolution situations.

Pearl and I enjoy good health and love serving God and His people wherever we can.

In 1974-75, we spent a wonderful year on Sabbatical in Germany. We have also spent seven winters teaching in the Low German Bible School, in Steinreich, Mexico.

From the year of our marriage, we have been a lay-ministerial couple at the Prairie Rose EMC. It is a pleasure to work with that leadership team

Quality Education with a Christian Perspective

A theme verse that I have taken as a motto is found in 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore my beloved brothers and sisters, be ye steadfast immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."

Mr. Henry Fast was principal from 1970 - 1991. Here's an update on his interests after SCHS.

Retirement gave my wife Helena and me the opportunity to travel in continental USA and Canada. These journeys took us from Alabama to California, north to Fort St. John and to both the East and West coast of our beautiful country. I have good memories of our travels together.

Mennonite history has been an interest for me ever since I was asked to pick up this subject during my time of teaching at SCHS. A highlight for me was the 2006 completion of my book on the village of Gruenfeld after some twenty five years of research and writing. I have also been privileged to serve as a director of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada representing the EMC Conference. I continue to research and write short articles for publication.

Gardening has been a relaxing past time for Helena and me. Unfortunately, I am now left to carry on this activity on my own. My wife Helena passed away suddenly on November 6, 2008, due to a massive stroke. The prayers and support of my church family and friends have helped me cope with this abrupt change in my life.

I do have very good memories of my time at SCHS and give thanks to God for the privilege of teaching at this school.



Mr. Henry Fast



Mr. Cornie Martens

Mr. Cornie Martens was principal at SCHS from 1991- 1995. We asked Cornie to tell us a bit of what has happened in the years since.

I retired from the teaching profession in 1995. The first year of retirement was a year of relaxation and praying for direction and purpose in my retirement years. He responded with more opportunities than I could have imagined.

In 1996 I was asked to fill the role of pastor at a small CMC church in Thedford Ontario which is northwest of London. We spent two years serving a small congregation of Mennonites who had come to Canada from Mexico. *Continued on next page*

When we moved back to Manitoba in 1998 we began serving a small country church called Weidenfeld which is south of Grunthal. We served this church until 2006, and had the joy of seeing numerous people choose to follow Christ. We made many good friends in this congregation.

In 2007 the CMC Board of Missions asked us to move to Winkler, MB, to start a church plant. A small group of people came from another CMC church located four miles south of Winkler to be part of this venture. The church grew rapidly so that in two years we had an average of 125 people on any given Sunday. The church is now under the leadership of a young pastor which gave us the liberty to move back to our home in the Kleefeld area. At present time I am ministering by invitation only.

Since retiring, Mary and I have had the opportunity to travel. In 2000 we spent a month in East Paraguay, visiting relatives and seeing the countryside. We toured the Maritime provinces in 2001 and in 2006 we spent the month of February in Yuma, Arizona. We have been privileged to travel through the western provinces of Canada visiting and encouraging CMC missionaries serving in various postings. This, too, has given us a wonderful opportunity to see God working in people's lives. We really are enjoying our retirement years.



Mr. Randy Dueck

Mr. Randy Dueck was principal from 1996 - 2005. We are pleased to share a part of his journey with you.

Upon leaving SCHS in July of 2005 it became very clear that God was calling our family to India.

Our family enjoyed a very challenging and stretching year at Kodaikanal International School in the south of India where I served as the Academic Vice Principal. This was quite literally a mountain-top experience as we lived at 7,000 feet in a beautiful setting. It was a special delight to live one winter with year-round blossoms and not a speck of snow. The most important phrase that I learned while in India was, "By God's grace".

Despite the wonderful experience that India was we were delighted to return home to Steinbach in July of 2006. At that time Hanover School Division hired me as the Vice Principal at Steinbach Junior High School. This proved to be another challenging and valued learning experience for me.

In July of 2007 I was hired as one of two Assistant Superintendents of Hanover School Division. This is the job that I hold to this day and it provides me with many opportunities to serve as an educational leader in communities within Hanover.

Through all of these adventures I have been deeply blessed to enjoy this journey with my wife, Bev and my two children, Samantha and Matthew. I am also proud to say that Samantha was privileged to graduate from SCHS in June of 2008.

Finally, and most importantly, I continue to learn daily what it means to love God with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength and love my neighbour as much as I do myself.

Looking to the Future

SCHS endeavours to play a significant role in the academic, spiritual and social development of our students. Parents see SCHS as a valuable education choice that is making a distinctive difference in the lives of their students and in the surrounding community. Over the past 60 years, graduates have gone on to impact their community as teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, missionaries and more.

Looking to the future, we will continue to provide "Quality Education with a Christian Perspective" by offering small class sizes, an excellent teaching staff, a strong music program as well as a vibrant sports program.

In Fall of 2010 SCHS will expand it's program by offering **grades five and six**. We are excited about this new growth opportunity.



Textbooks for Tanzania

Earlier this year, through a parent of a student, we learned of a Christian school in Tanzania, Africa that was in great need of textbooks. It was exciting to think that SCHS might be able to meet just such a need. When curriculum changes are mandated by Manitoba Education, new text books must be purchased. We have recently implemented new Math and Science curriculum leaving a large number of obsolete textbooks sitting unused. In no time flat, parent volunteers boxed up the books and set to work arranging for shipment to Tanzania.

Recently we received a letter from the Director of Harvest Mission Secondary School in Tanzania. "Praise the Lord Jesus. Thank you very much for giving the books for our school. May God bless you so much. We have 350 students and I believe this is the start of big things. Thank you for accepting us as your brothers and sisters in the Lord."

SMARTboards at SCHS



Some of our teachers are very excited about a new and powerful tool with which to improve student learning experiences. Interactive SMARTboards have been installed in four SCHS classrooms.

With SMARTboard online technology, teachers and students have the world at their fingertips.

One student is quoted as saying "This giant touch screen computer is an exciting way to learn. My courses have come to life."



60th Anniversary Spring Concert Celebration

You are invited to join us on Thursday, June 10 at 5:00 PM
for a **Free Outdoor BBQ**
followed by our **Spring Concert** at 7:00 PM.

*This is your opportunity to
meet former classmates, teachers and principals.*

*Come enjoy a delicious BBQ, tour the facilities,
and be inspired by excellent music.*

GET PLUGGED

If you are planning to attend the BBQ, please **RSVP** to
Jo-Ann Friesen at 326-3537 or jfriesen@schs.ca before May 21, 2010

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