



SCHS ALUMNI CONNECTION

Issue 9 - Spring, 2011



Quality Education with a Christian Perspective

Grade Five and Six
Alumni Updates
SCHS Physical Education Program
Fit For Renewal
From SCHS to Elsewhere
Eleven Years of Rube Goldberg

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome to the 2011 edition of the Alumni Connection. I hope you have great memories of your time at Steinbach Christian High School, and will enjoy reading about the past and present here at SCHS.

2010/2011 marks the start of our Middle Years program with the opening of grades five and six. This inaugural year has 20 students in a multi-level (5/6) class. Together with grades seven and eight, our Middle Years Program has a total of 73 students. I am excited about this expansion. It is a privilege to offer more families the opportunity of a quality Christian education.

Once again, we have some staff changes which include a few farewells and a couple of welcomes. Michael Plett, who was teaching grade 7 English, has moved back into Pastoral work. Taking his place is Michelle Barkman (Penner) who is returning after being away for two years in Morocco. It is great to have Michelle back. Alyssa Thiessen has taken the year off to welcome her new son Joshua and we have been so pleased to have Lina Braun join our team for the year.

On the sports scene, we were excited to host the Boys Junior Varsity Rural Basketball Provincials this March. Talk about March madness! This is our second run at this event. Last year we hosted both the Boys and Girls Junior Varsity Rural Basketball Provincial Championship. We are very thankful for the many staff, student and parent volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success. We are also planning a significant gym renovation to better facilitate our busy Physical Education Program. See pages 10 & 11 for more information.

Each of you have played a big part in shaping SCHS and we would love to see you at our upcoming school events. Our Spring Concert will be here at the school on June 7th, and our Graduation Ceremony is on June 26th at the Emmanuel Free Church. Many blessings to you as you explore all that God has for you.



Front Page Photo (left to right): Pearl Barkman, Amanda Pelland, Ashley Hildebrandt, Brooke Friesen

Grade Five and Six

We have almost completed the first year with younger middle years students in our building. Currently there are 20 students in a combined Grade 5/6 class - 10 in each grade. The students came to us from a wide variety of schools and backgrounds and so they spent some time in fall getting to know each other and the school. For many, this is their first experience in a Christian school environment and they have readily felt included and safe at SCHS.

So far this year we have enjoyed a number of combined experiences such as Canadian Novel Studies, Canadian History, Bible and Devotional Time. It is really only in Math that students are separated into their grade levels and even then we study the same concept but at different levels. This creates a rich learning environment where everyone feels a part of the class and together we are a team. Team building has been very intentional for this group with numerous activities both inside and out of the classroom. House activities, the Christmas Concert, Choir class, Physical Education and Small Group times all contribute to a spirit of inclusion here at SCHS.

Grade 5/6 students report that they are comfortable here. They have overcome their 'fear' of the older students and in fact really look forward to our combined Chapel Praise and Worship times. This year has provided a new experience for Mrs. Block and her students alike. They are all quick to say they feel blessed to be here.

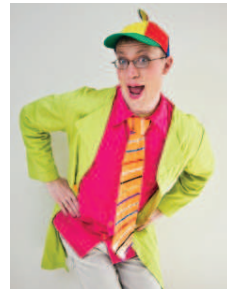


2005 Grad Updates

Michael Dueck: Hello, SCHS alumni! I attended Steinbach Christian High School from 2002-2005 and I am very thankful I could spend my high school years in the positive environment offered by SCHS.

Following graduation, I spent a year as an Educational Assistant at Kleefeld School (where I learned what the teaching profession was like from the other side of the staff room door) and then came right back "home" for a year of study at SBC. I thoroughly enjoyed learning in community and looking at the Bible academically. During this time, I sensed that God had other plans for me. On a whim, I auditioned for the Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. I thought I might try my hand at music education if that door would open to me. So now I am in the process of completing my fourth year at the U of M. What a blessing to study some of the things for which God has given me such a great passion!

School is very intense, but thankfully I have much to keep me busy outside of school. When not in class, I am likely performing in bands, choirs, or theatre productions in both the Steinbach and Winnipeg areas. I am privileged to play with Straight Ahead (*Providence College jazz band*) and to sing in The University of Manitoba Singers and Canzona choirs. Last spring I had a blast as the Mayor of Whoville in the Crosswalk Players production of *Seussical the Musical*. I also enjoy singing with some U of M friends in a male vocal quartet called Mint.



Mayor of Whoville



Playing a bicycle

In addition to performing, I enjoy serving in my home church - Kleefeld EMC. It's great to be involved in the music and Sunday school departments, as well as occasionally have a chance to preach. Of course one must set aside time to earn money, so during my Christmas and summer holidays you may find me working at the Highway 12 North Ste. Anne Co-Op in Steinbach.

Looking ahead, I am excited to do another block of student teaching this spring. I also look forward to travelling with the U of M Singers to Sweden and Finland in May. Once I graduate in May 2012, I hope to find a job teaching high school choir.

Our God is good and His blessings in my life have been too numerous to count. I trust you will all continue to seek and experience His favour!

Felicia Reimer: While I am completing my studies at Providence College (graduating in April), I enjoy volunteering in different ministries at Southland, specifically worship ministry. In the future I plan to get married, complete my Bachelor of Arts and hopefully begin a career in publishing.

Jennifer Setlack: I am currently working as a paramedic with the City of Winnipeg. I'm also enrolled in the honours program in Biological Sciences & Microbiology at the U of M. I've had the opportunity to travel to various places including New York. I hope to travel to Nova Scotia in the near future. I'm also looking forward to seeing my little brother graduate from SCHS.

Scott Barkman: Currently, I spend my time working as a marketing manager at Barkman's.

Kim Dyck (Reimer): Since my time at SCHS I've graduated from SBC and I am currently working at the Steinbach Dental Clinic as a receptionist. In March, I married Johnny Dyck. I've been keeping myself busy with helping out in my church and spending time with my family.

2009 Grad Updates

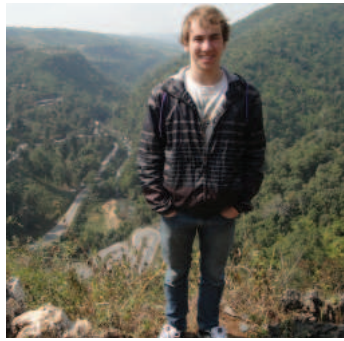
David Peters: Soon after graduating from SCHS I began full time work at Silverpine Cabinets. In September 2009, I applied for Discipleship Training School (DTS) with YWAM. Starting in January, I spent roughly three months in Montana in what is called the lecture phase of DTS. During this time we listened to speakers from all over the globe on different topics such as Salvation/Grace, the Father Heart of God, Relationships, Evangelism and more. The best part, I believe, was the opportunity to live in a community of young believers on fire for God and growing together. I made some of the best friends of my life.



The outreach phase followed the lecture phase and provided an opportunity to put what we had learned into practical scenarios. I chose to go to Thailand where the focus of ministry was on the sex industry. This was a challenging time of learning to worship in a spiritually dismal environment. We spent many nights in various bars and red light districts. Whether speaking with those seeking to procure a prostitute or those working in the industry, we could always expect new challenges. Though it very often felt dry, I know that God used and worked through us. We also had an opportunity to teach English at a local church and do some work at an orphanage for HIV infected children. At the end of the outreach we spent a week debriefing in Montana before heading home.

After getting home, I was able to return to my job at Silverpine Cabinets. Getting back into the swing of things went fairly well. I did however, have restless periods where I wanted to rush into the 'next thing', whether that be college or returning to staff with YWAM. I realized however that my motives weren't right and I was just looking to escape responsibilities and real life here at home rather than honestly looking to learn and/or serve.

This past summer I heard about an opportunity to go to Myanmar from a Burmese student at Providence Seminary who had connected with my church and become friends with my family. He was headed back to his home country for the year and invited me to visit and do ministry with him. I had a couple of other things in mind for my travels as well, so with much prayer and working out details, I embarked on my adventure on January 4th, 2011. My mission for this time away, was to seek God and listen to His voice. God made it a time where I would again learn to rely on His strength. On the way, I enjoyed a short stop-over in the US, to nurture some friendships with a couple of people from my DTS before I began my long trek to Myanmar.



David in Myanmar, Burma

I wasn't sure what to expect and part of me wondered if I would just be a tourist. However upon arrival I was informed that I would be speaking and ministering in music at a number of different services and house churches throughout the country. This was quite a challenge for me but I am so glad for the chance to step out of my comfort zone and share with different groups of people across Burma. In many ways it is a different world there. Myanmar is listed as the thirteenth poorest country in the world. The people live under a very oppressive military government which makes it difficult to be released from poverty. Many times I struggled to think of something to share with them in my 'messages', that the believers there don't already practically put into action so much better than I and the church here. The hospitality I experienced was incredible as people gave so much when they have so little. After about one and a half weeks in Myanmar, I travelled to Thailand to relax and connect with some friends there before heading home. Now I am home again and back at work. I am considering options for college in the fall - possibly a music ministry program in BC.

Here are a few things I have learned or am still learning since leaving SCHS.

- *When you follow God's call, He'll take you all sorts of places that you never thought you would go and the possibilities are endless.*
- *It's not about the places you've been, but rather the relationships you form.*
- *God created me exactly as I am. If He asks me to do something that I don't think I can do well, I don't need to worry; because He knows me through and through. He will work with me, and ultimately is not dependent on me.*
- *Jesus calls us to live a radical lifestyle in abandonment of our own desires as we seek to serve Him and His children.*

I continue to have my own struggles and sometimes find myself questioning if what I do or believe is really worth it. In the end however, I know that God is good and will prove Himself faithful as I follow Him.



Heather Loewen: Since graduation I have worked at the Oakridge Café and travelled to Newfoundland for a second cochlear implant surgery. I'm currently attending Peace River Bible Institute where I have great friends and God is teaching me many things. In the future I'd like to go on a mission trip or attend university to work towards a career in medicine/health.

Theresa Petkau: After graduating I visited family and friends in Texas and Mexico. In February 2010, I did a six week mission trip to Nicaragua. In the future, I would love to go backpacking in Europe and I also hope to get married and have a family. I am currently working as a Christian Light Education teacher at the New Hope Christian School in Kleefeld.



Stephanie Cullen: I spent Christmas 2009 touring the North & South islands in New Zealand and visiting with my cousins. I also spent time working on a farm there from June 2010-December 2010. From January to June 2011, I will be with YWAM in Tauranga, New Zealand.

Rebecca Loewen: I spent my 2010 Christmas travelling to Mexico and Belize with my family. I am currently studying to become a Dental Assistant. In the meantime, I will be busy baking at Tim Horton's.



Tiffany Funk: Right now, I spend my time attending the School of Ministers & Ministry at Southland and I'm really enjoying it. In the future, God willing, I hope to get married and have a family.

Mark Budala: One of the highlights for me since attending SCHS was being able to travel to Israel, Egypt and Jordan. This spring I will be finishing my schooling at Red River College and then I plan to work with my Dad selling furniture. Aside from school, I keep busy with church, family and friends.



**SCHS is moving toward
email distribution of this newsletter.**

Please forward us your email address.

Your email address will not be shared, sold or added to any other mailing list.

**Contact the SCHS office
schs@schs.ca or 326-3537**



SCHS Physical Education Program



Mr. Dewayne Penner

Physical Education at SCHS is so much more than playing a sport in the gymnasium for an hour. Physical Education is compulsory in all grades and in the past two years has become a full credited course in both grade eleven and twelve which is required for graduation. The program is designed to help students take greater ownership of their overall health, pursue activities



Mr. Jamie Rogalsky

that interest them and engage in an active lifestyle. Mr. Dewayne Penner is head of the SCHS Athletics Department and takes responsibility for Grades ten to twelve PE classes, Senior Years intramurals as well Senior Years extracurricular sports. Mr. Jamie Rogalsky provides leadership in grades five through nine PE classes as well as Middle Years intramurals and extracurricular sports. The Athletic Program at Steinbach Christian High School is growing and thriving in three main areas.

Physical education classes focus heavily on increased fitness as well as skill development. We have heart rate monitors which students use to track how hard they are working while doing physical activities. Grade five to nine students are familiar with UML activities which increase their Upper, Middle and Lower body strength through a variety of push-ups, core and leg strengthening workouts. Beep tests evaluate their aerobic fitness, and 12 or 20 minute runs test their endurance.

Intramural sports have increased gym use and school spirit during lunch hours. Numerous times each week, you will find 50 - 80 students participating



by playing, refereeing, scorekeeping, or cheering. A good number of teachers and staff members participate regularly in intramural activities. Middle Years (grades 5-8) intramurals are twice a week with activities such as volleyball, dodgeball, floor hockey and bucketball. All Middle Years students are assigned to one of four house teams. The teams have cool new names - thanks to some great input from our grade 8 students. Black Nineveh, Blue Galilee, Green Eden and Red Romans were created to reflect Bible themes. Senior Years intramurals run on Mondays and Wednesdays with great participation in volleyball, dodgeball, basketball, badminton, floor hockey and volley-pong.

Extra-curricular sports are a huge draw for students of all ages. We were excited to have our first ever Grade 5-8 Cross Country Team compete in the Hanover School Division races this year. Three of our students finished in the top ten in their category, and qualified to compete in Winnipeg. Our Middle Years program also fielded three Volleyball and four Basketball teams in the Hanover School Division league. Each team competed in exhibition games and tournaments both at our school and at other venues. At this age, it is very exciting to see them learn and progress in their basic skills because of the extra games they play.



Grade 5-8 Cross Country Team



In High School Athletics we have four categories: Junior Varsity Boys, Junior Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls. Students can contribute to the success of the SCHS Flames by joining teams that compete in golf, soccer, cross-country running, curling, volleyball, basketball, badminton, beach volleyball or track and field.

The Flames have turned up the heat with student athletes and coaches pushing for excellence in their sport working to display Christian character. Mr. Scott Wiebe has taken the Cross-Country team to new heights, winning Zone 13 Varsity Boys Banners in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and Provincial titles in 2008 and 2010. The Track and Field team has been very strong in recent years, winning banners in 2007 and 2010. In March of this year, our Junior Varsity Boys hosted the MHSAA Basketball Provincials for the second year in a row. With so many teams doing well and learning to compete at a higher level, we are constantly challenged to find gym time for teams to practice and play.

We love to have SCHS grads get involved in our athletic program through coaching and refereeing. Steinbach Christian High School alumni are making a significant impact as they model excellence in teaching their sport and living out their Christian values from the sidelines. Great job coaches!



Senior Cross Country Team

Fiction, Commentaries, Movies...



Leroy Barkman

The SBC/SCHS library is full of surprises! For a small \$10.00 annual fee, these unpredictable treasures are available to all SCHS alumni. The library has so much to offer:

- Books, books and more books (*over 20,000 titles*)
- Movies
- Magazines (*check out our lovely reading room!*)
- Journals
- Kits (*audio and print material*)
- CDs

We receive new titles nearly every day, which means that content is kept current and interesting. High school students are enthralled with graphic (cartoon) novels, so the library has recently created a section for this genre.

The library could be a fantastic resource for you as well. Perhaps you need help finding a Commentary on the Book of John, or a kit that you could use with your Bible Study group? Maybe the latest Karen Kingsbury novel is more your style? The librarians would be more than happy to help you in your quest! You are always welcome!



Chrystie Kroeker Boggs

Introducing Len Sawatzky



Fifty years ago I was a student at the Steinbach Bible Institute (SBI) High School, graduating in 1962. Since graduating from SBI Bible in 1965, my wife Ella and I have served in the EMMC in a pastoral role and as Missions Administrator in the conference office. Our two daughters and oldest granddaughter have all graduated from SCHS. As a family we have a fond connection to this school. Today I am blessed to be back on the campus of these schools as Director of Donor Development. Yes, that means I am the fundraiser for both schools with 20% of my time designated toward SCHS.

I look forward to meeting with alumni and friends of the school. Together we can help meet the financial commitment this school has made to offer quality education with a Christian perspective.

THE PLUGGED 3

Quality Education with a Christian Perspective

Current Staff Spotlight



Michelle Barkman

Long, long ago, when fluorescent shirts and oversized Club Monaco sweaters were en vogue, when Amy Grant cassette tapes were in every young girl's Walkman, and "Not!" punctuated the end of most sentences, I was a junior high student, eagerly anticipating my chance to become a grade 10 student at Steinbach Christian High School.

15 years have passed since then, and while my fashion sense and music tastes have matured over time, one thing I can't seem to outgrow is SCHS... and what a blessing that is!

After graduating from SCHS in 1998, I attended University of Manitoba to earn a degree in Education. Not much later, I was back at SCHS, teaching junior high English Language Arts. The classrooms were newer than when I had left, and the staff had changed (well, for the most part!), but I was grateful to return to the place that had been instrumental in my development as a teen.

In 2008, my husband Thor and I prayerfully embarked on a 2-year international teaching opportunity. We taught at an overseas school that provided an American-based education. One of the national languages was French, but luckily we were able to speak English at school! (My former SCHS French teacher, Ms. Hildebrand, would have been disappointed to hear how far I've fallen in my French skills...) The grade 6 students I taught were very patient with me as I learned about their culture. I enjoyed my students immensely. Our two years ended quickly, and as we settled back into life in Canada this past summer, I was very glad to return to my Middle Years ELA position at SCHS. Having taught in a completely different environment for the past couple of years, I see even more clearly what a blessing it is to be a part of the SCHS community.

I love the positive energy of my Middle Years students, and it's awesome to witness their growth as they develop physically, mentally, and spiritually over their years here.

A few weeks ago, SCHS had an 80s/90s Spirit Day, and seeing all that neon illuminating the hallways brought me back to my junior high days. There was a reason why I was so excited to be a part of SCHS back then, and that feeling hasn't changed. God has been at work and continues to work in the lives of students at Steinbach Christian High School, and it is a privilege to be a part of His work here.



Michelle Barkman (right) with Grade 7 Small Group



Fit For Renewal

Steinbach Christian High School has existed for over 60 years. During that time, countless students have travelled the school's hallways in pursuit of their diplomas. Throughout the school's history, numerous capital projects have been undertaken in an effort to facilitate growth and maintain a high level of education. The most recent project, in 2004, saw the addition of a new classroom wing. In 2003, a vision was set for the school to grow to 240 students. This goal has been achieved, especially as SCHS has now opened its doors to grades 5 and 6.

While it is exciting to see the school grow, this growth also means that pressure is felt in various areas on campus. One of these areas is the school gymnasium. Current in-house activities are making it difficult to schedule all the desired practices and games in the gym. An additional concern is the air quality in the gymnasium. Excess heat build-up and poor air exchange result in compromised air quality during any event taking place in the gym. Furthermore, the current playing surface is not up to the same standard found in most high school gymnasiums.

To deal with these issues, a gym renewal is planned.



Conceptual drawing of gym upgrade

This project will include:

- **Installation of a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system**, to improve air quality in the gym and accommodate more rental opportunities in the summer months.
- **Installation of a new hardwood floor**, to improve the athletic standard of the gym
- **Removal of the existing stage**, to increase the floor area
- **Installation of a dividing curtain**, to allow for multiple use of the space and increased flexibility.

To make this project possible SCHS is undertaking the challenge of raising \$500,000. Our goal is to begin gym renewal work in the summer of 2012.

How Can You Help?

- Your gift will make a difference in our ability to provide a quality education with a Christian perspective.
- Where do you see yourself fitting into this project?
- Your gift can be spread over 3 years or given as a one-time gift.

Donate online @ schs.ca or fill out the donation card provided with this mailing for your convenience.

Thank you! Your gift will help bring this project into reality.

Check out our Website.

schs.ca

- **New SCHS Promotional Video**
- **Monthly School Newsletter (Communique)**
- **Upcoming School Events**
- **Teacher Email Addresses**
- **Donate online**
- **Meet Burnie (new Flames mascot)**
- **Student Application Forms**
- **Job Postings**
- **Online Library Catalogue Search**



From SCHS to Elsewhere



Dr. Arley Loewen

It was 1975. School was out! Grade 12 was done. I had completed Grades 10, 11 and 12 at SCHS, and now, filled with energy, I was ready to face the world, or so I thought. Indeed the world has changed incredibly in the last four decades. What a privilege it has been to journey to very different parts of the world, witness so much change around me and at times be part of this change.

As I walked the street in Islamabad, Pakistan in the late 1980's, memorizing names, places and dates of medieval Islamic theologians, philosophers and writers for the exam the next day, I wondered, "What am I doing here, the son of a Mennonite preacher/farmer from rural Manitoba?" Little did I know where this venture into Persian studies would lead me.

I joined a faith-based agency 30 years ago, sensing a call to work where needs were acute. After college in Alberta, I soon found myself in Pakistan and India working with Afghan refugees who had fled the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. Encouraged by leadership and driven from within, I threw myself into the cultures of Afghanistan and its two national languages, Pashto and Dari (Afghan Persian).

I met Janice in Pakistan and a year later she joined the same agency. Her humor, intelligence and serious commitment to the Lord inspired me. She was someone I wanted to live with, for the rest of my life. We got married in Superior, Wisconsin in 1984, and returned to Pakistan the next year where I then enrolled in a Pakistani university.

In 1989, near the time when Ayatollah Khomeini died, I graduated with a master's degree in Persian Studies. For two years I had delved into Iranian history, culture and religion with Muslim professors and classmates. I am indebted to my professors from Iran and Pakistan, who exemplified a liberal perspective on their own faith and respected me for my Christian commitment.

Janice and I returned to Canada and settled in Toronto, where we stayed for nine years and I finished an MA in Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. Toronto opened up another world to us. Together, Janice and I became deeply involved with immigrants from Iran and Afghanistan in the Greater Toronto Area. We loved Toronto, and here we began an innovative, far-reaching media project for Central Asian peoples. We also adopted our two daughters while living there.

It was also during this time that I entered a doctorate program in Persian studies. This catapulted me further into cultures other than our own. Reading, translating and analyzing Persian poetry, medieval classics, modern short sto-

ries and novels from Iran and Afghanistan immersed me in the lives of people who see the world so differently than we do. Thanks to all you Canadian taxpayers who paid the entire tuition for my five years of study!

We have been blessed and sustained always. As a family we lived in Pakistan during the 9/11 crisis and the subsequent fall of the Taliban. As Afghan refugees flocked back to Afghanistan, we soon joined them. After two decades working with refugees and immigrants, we experienced four years of the challenge and privilege while living among Afghan citizens in Kabul. In Afghanistan we started a development project focussing on leadership training and publishing good books for children.



Lecturing at Kabul University

In 2007, we returned to rural Manitoba where I grew up. My two daughters have now both finished their High School at SCHS and my wife Janice, works at SCHS as an Educational Assistant. I continue to travel to Afghanistan twice a year and manage other projects from home. As this country appears to descend further into chaos, we consider it an immense privilege to work alongside the people of Afghanistan, its children, university students and professionals.

SCHS Staff



Back row left: Natasha Fry, Scott Wiebe, Michelle Barkman, Ryan Polinsky, James Fast, Marj Block, Audrey Guenther, Kevin Peters, Jamie Rogalsky, Frank Chan, Dewayne Penner

Front row left: Adrienne Buhler, Janice Loewen, Jennifer Duerksen, Scott Schalla, Dwayne Martens, Lina Braun, Jo-Ann Friesen, Curt Plett, Emery Plett, Sharon Fast

Eleven Years of Rube Goldberg



2011 marks the 11th year of the annual SCHS Rube Goldberg Machine Contest. This is a contest in which physics students create and build a machine with multiple steps, typically 15 or 20, to accomplish a simple task. I recall my apprehension the first year I had my students try this project. I wondered myself, if it could be done. Well, not only could it be done, it was done remarkably

well! I have been impressed year after year with the quality of projects that our physics students have turned out. For many this project is the highlight of the year and for some it is the reason they enroll in physics. For others, well, let's just say it's not their favourite project.

Past tasks have included: placing a golf ball on a tee, getting toothpaste onto a toothbrush, inserting and playing a CD and even filling a time capsule to mark the year we moved into our new SCHS classrooms. Last year, in honour of flu season, the machine had to dispense an appropriate amount of hand sanitizer. Each year we have guest judges who evaluate the projects and they too are impressed by the quality and creativity demonstrated. Judges must work hard to maintain impartiality in the face of bribes put out by student groups - cookies are always a favourite.

Although there are many highlights from each year; one project from 2005/06 still stands out in my memory. The student group created a machine that put a golf ball on a tee. Their theme was "Pilgrim's Progress" and the second last step flipped the entire table over before completing the final step. It was impressive to say the least.

Guests are always welcome to watch and cheer, so call the office to find out when you should come by. Perhaps you would like to be one of our guest judges. If so, contact Scott Wiebe at the school.

Upcoming Events

June 7	Spring Concert - 7:00 pm, SCHS Gym
June 26	Graduation Ceremony - 3:00 pm, EEFC
September 7	First Day of School

Steinbach Christian High School
 50 PTH 12 N, Steinbach, MB R5G 1T4
 Phone: 204.326.3537 Fax: 204.326.5164
 Email: schs@schs.ca Website: www.schs.ca