Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



Inside this Issue

Alumni Reunions and News 6-7
Campus News .....
- Soccer Sectional Champs 6
- The Star on My Heart.....6

Farm to School Initiative.....8
From the Head of School.....2
Spiritual Life/Worship Groups.....5
Students Give Thanks.....5

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GreenRibbonSchools
2017 AWARD WINNER

see pages 2-4

Bethany
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Winter 2017
Vol. 63 No. 1
www.bethanycs.net

Learning That Lasts

Cover photo: Receiving the Green Ribbon Schools Award on behalf of Bethany are physics and chemistry teacher Calvin ('89, F08-) Swartzendruber and his wife Karen with U.S. Department of Education officials Holly Ham, assistant U.S. secretary of education for management, and Adam Honeysett, managing director of state and local engagement.

Green Ribbon School

Bethany Christian Schools has been chosen as a 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School and was honored in a ceremony in Washington D.C. on July 19. Bethany is among just 45 schools nationwide honored for achievement in three areas: "innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education."

Head of School Tim Lehman notes that Bethany did not set out to earn this national recognition, but rather it is a reflection of Bethany's long practice of sustainable living that grows out of our faith beliefs: "We've been doing environmental education and hands-on learning for a long time."

The U.S. Department of Education commended Bethany for providing innovative environmental and sustainable education

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GreenRibbonSchools
2017 AWARD WINNER

to its students, participating in sustainable practices such as recycling and composting, and being powered entirely on renewable energy, a portion supplied by the installation of 300 solar panels and a wind turbine.

Reducing Environmental Impact

In 2014, Bethany embarked on a capital campaign focusing on three areas: technology, finances, and environment/energy. The third aspect of this campaign made possible the installation of roof insulation and a full-fledged HVAC system in the old por-

From the Head of School

Today is a cool but sunny November day in northern Indiana. In case you have moved away and forgotten, not many days are like this in late fall. Outside my window the wind turbine is spinning and the solar panels are soaking up maximum energy from the sun. As depicted in this issue of the *BCS Bulletin*, the turbine, solar panels and other recent sustainability improvements significantly reduce our environmental impact and save money.

Bethany is a place where good things are happening. Of course, Bethany has been doing good things for a long time, blessed by a legacy of involved alumni. When the U.S. Department of Education honored us as a Green Ribbon School, I should not have been startled to notice many alumni made the award a reality.

Science teachers Calvin Swartzentruber ('89) and Amy Thut ('95) collected and organized evidence to highlight our sustainability, wellness, and educational practices. Facilities Manager Brent Miller ('81) has a knack for identifying energy inefficiencies and finding economical solutions to those problems. And as noted on the back page, Tara Swartzendruber-Landis ('95) is building on existing programs to enhance educational and sustainability programs. Many other alumni have contributed to these efforts over the years with monetary support or through service.

Though winning awards is not our goal, it is a pleasant surprise to discover that the things we do as a matter of regular practice are worthy of recognition. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank you—alumni and others in the Bethany community—for your interest in, contributions to, and support of Bethany. I hope you will have a chance to tour the school, see us in action, ask questions, and offer suggestions.



—Tim Lehman

Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

USPS 817-760

The BCS *Bulletin* is produced twice a year by the Advancement Office of Bethany Christian Schools. The *Bulletin* is distributed to all homes in the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, as well as to parents and alumni of the school.

Editor: J. Kevin Miller
Consulting Editors:
Tim Lehman
SaeJin Lee
Sarah Kraybill Lind
Denise Risser
Karen Shenk
2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499
574 534-2567
info@bethanycs.net

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to Bethany *Bulletin*,
c/o Bethany Christian Schools
2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499



Photo at left shows a view of Bethany with the 300 solar panels visible on the south roof and the wind turbine at the north end of the building.

tion of the building to improve indoor air quality and heating efficiencies; a geothermal wellfield for operation of the HVAC system; a 3.6-kilowatt wind turbine; and 300 solar panels that can provide 77 kilowatts of electricity.

Restrooms were updated with low-flow fixtures, and hallway and parking lot lights were retrofitted with LEDs. Skylights were preserved and enhanced to provide natural lighting. As a result, Bethany has reduced paper use by 31 percent, water consumption by 19 percent, energy consumption by 31 percent, and greenhouse gas emissions by 12 percent. Additionally, Bethany generates 12 percent of its energy needs on campus with wind and solar, and purchases the rest from other wind and solar sources.

Bethany participates in school-wide recycling, which accounts for a diversion of 24 percent of waste from the local landfill. Food scraps from the cafeteria are composted and used in the student-tended school garden, which provides fresh produce for the school's cafeteria and serves as an educational opportunity for students to learn about gardening and sustainable living.

The biannual student-run fish fry fundraiser has become an opportunity to educate students and the general public about sustainable practices. Food scraps and paper products are composted, rather than going in the trash. At the most recent fish fry, 12 cubic yards of compostable material was diverted from the landfill.

Sustainability Education

In 1993-94 Bethany science teachers Roy Hartzler and Marisa Yoder developed an innovative hands-on *Environmental Science* curriculum for which Yoder ultimately earned the National Conservation Secondary Teacher-of-the-Year Award from the National Association of Conservation Districts. That vision continues today under the leadership of their former student Amy Thut ('95, F05-), who has built upon their foundational award-winning work, most notably in transforming the school's retention pond into a native wetlands that is used as an outdoor lab. It is not uncommon to see students in waders collecting water samples to analyze or to examine for aquatic life.



Environmental Science students (from right) Emma Bontrager, Kassy Miller, and Sid Romanowski assist Daragh Deegan, City of Elkhart's aquatic biologist in monitoring the health of the Elkhart River in an electrofishing project.

The primary goal of *Environmental Science* is to understand the role of humans in affecting and responding to changes in our local and global environment. Special emphasis is placed on our local ecosystems, including wetlands, watersheds, and soil with students assisting local officials in monitoring and assessing the health of the Elkhart

Learning That Lasts

River through activities such as electrofishing and water testing. Environmental sustainability issues are reinforced in Bible classes where students study stewardship of resources, including environmental resources such as energy.

A key component in sustainability education is learning to share knowledge and resources with others. During a unit on renewable energy, *Environmental Science* students use their knowledge of Bethany's solar and wind technology to help fifth graders from a neighboring public school learn about fossil fuels, wind and solar power, and conservation. And first graders from another local elementary school explore alongside Bethany students as they learn about plants and animals in Bethany's wetland lab. Bethany's lower school students (grades 4-8) also benefit from these resources as they learn environmental and sustainability concepts in their Bible and science classes.

Promoting Health and Wellness

Being physically active and experiencing the beauty of our natural environment is an important part of educational programming at Bethany. Outdoor education helps students make sense of why conservation is important and cultivates appreciation for our waterways and food systems.

Opportunities for outdoor education at Bethany abound. Not only is outdoor education a natural part of classes such as science and physical education, but some courses in Bethany's Interterm—one-week special interest courses between third and fourth quarters—are designed around outdoor education that include hiking, biking, and canoe camping trips.

Near the beginning of each school year, all students participate in one to two days of special outdoor activities. Ninth grade students incorporate team-building and other outdoor activities into their regular classroom curriculum during a two-day, one-night stay at a local camp. Fourth and fifth grade students study colonial and Native American life at a local camp, where they build primitive shelters in the woods, find and eat wild edibles, and play games applicable to those time periods and cultures. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students spend two days and one night in a Wilderness Experience (also at local camps) in which they participate in outdoor education and team-building activities, culminating with eighth grade students learning wilderness survival skills such as fire building, shelter building, orienteering, and canoe rescues.

With the school situated along the Maple City Greenway bike trail, nearly half of students and faculty participate in the school's annual Bike/Walk to School Day—some biking from as far as 26 miles away! High school students spend the afternoon on the first day of fall in fitness activities at a local park to raise awareness of how easy (and enjoyable) exercise can be. And the entire school takes impromptu all-school recesses on the first warm day in the spring or unusually warm days during winter. Service days also provide students opportunities to care for the environment, such as picking up trash along the Elkhart River or removing invasive plants from city parks, as they work with local agencies and learn how they serve our community.



Students on a canoe and orienteering excursion as part of their two-day Wilderness Experience at Amigo Centre. Students get exercise as they learn survival skills, to appreciate the beauty of nature, and why it is important to care for God's creation. Pictured (from back) are Theo Siemens-Rhodes, Colin Ward, and Will Nisley.

Faith That Lives

Spiritual Life and Worship Groups

Two new student groups are providing leadership for spiritual life and worship at Bethany this year. Vocal music teacher Brody Thomas mentors one group, dubbed Brody's Bunch, whose primary purpose is to lead music and worship in high school chapels. During their mentoring time, they plan and practice, but also ponder questions such as: What is the role of hymns and praise music in the church? How can music impact an individual's perspective on faith? How can we reach a level of worship in our music? How does the music we sing reflect the church in today's world?



Some worship team members preparing for chapel: Hannah Kaethler, Gavin Rusel, Anna Smucker, and Melina Liras.

Krysten Parson, phys ed teacher/coach/spiritual life coordinator, leads a spiritual life group which she says, "gives student voice on how we do community." They pray together, write notes of encouragement to faculty and students, plan Spiritual Life Week, and discuss what they would like to see done differently, such as more students sharing in chapel with authenticity and vulnerability. They recognized that in order for the latter to happen, they needed to lead by example. Following are excerpts from two student testimonies shared in chapel:

***Brooke Reinhardt ('18)**, at left in bottom photo, shared a meditation on her struggles and efforts in living out Christ's mandate to love our enemies.*

"Loving your enemies is mentioned many places in the Bible, but how easy is it to live out? In my experience, it's really hard. When Jesus was talking about loving our enemies, he also meant people we see every day: maybe a teacher I don't like, a classmate I don't agree with, or an ex-boyfriend. Loving your enemy means helping them in times of need and being kind, patient, and forgiving—just like us, our enemies make mistakes. This year I have tried to be more patient, to be intentional about not speaking poorly of others, and to mend broken relationships."

***Anne Nisley ('18)** shared about her personal stressors and hope amid challenges that led to her decisions to leave and then return to Bethany.*



"Bethany's community was just the community I needed; it gave me hope, faith and mercy during a time when I was hurting. My year attending a public school gave me a better understanding of the type of person and friend I wanted to be, but Bethany allowed me to be myself and taught me the value of friendships and community. When I returned to Bethany, I felt God's presence, a sense of peace, and more content with my life and who I am becoming."



The Spiritual Life group used money from Goshen's Year of Goodness school program to plant tulips at community non-profit organizations: Brooke Reinhardt, Carissa Mast, Izzy Mujica, Sasha Dyck, Rachel Leininger, Tarynn Clark, KeShawn Smith, Mariah Miller, Ronit Goswami, Emma Thomas, Caleb Shenk, Nathan Oostland, Evan Brown.

Thankful to Be at Bethany

What sixth graders like best about Bethany:

- we are like family (Eva Horning)
- you are able to ask prayer to God (Daven Molina)
- everyone is accepted, no matter the race (Jessica Ortiz-Perez)
- we never use our locks; we can trust everyone. (Morgan Chupp)
- my teachers listen and actually care (Sophia Damer)
- friendships with teachers; time to talk with my mentor (Joryn Yoder)
- teachers help us learn and it is fun (Victor Ralios)
- friends from all grades 4-12 (Shemaya Magatti)
- we learn many ways to pray (Tristan Mast)

Campus News



2017 Boys Soccer Sectional Champions

Sectional champions: The boys soccer team won the Westview sectional. The Bruins defeated Bremen in a regional semifinal shootout and lost 2-1 to Boone Grove in the championship.

Facebook

For daily photos and news follow Bethany on Facebook:

school news/photos
/BethanyChristianSchools

athletics
/bleedingbruinblue

News at bethanycs.net

New Faculty: Aaron Johnson, band; SaeJin Lee ('06), advancement associate; Tara Swartzendruber-Landis ('95), farm-to-school coordinator. See /new-faculty-2017.

New to Bethany Board: Weston Troyer ('08). See /board-new-2017.

Fall Athletics: For awards and summaries, see /content/fall-sports-2017.

Eclipse as Science Lesson: Entire student body viewed solar eclipse; physics students used cosmic ray detector for national project. See /content/eclipse-science-lesson.



The Star on My Heart: Elizabeth Eby and Gabi Klopfenstein portrayed Inge Auerbacher (center), one of the few children to survive the Nazi transit camp Terezin. Read about Inge's visit and the play, which tells her life story, at bethanycs.net/somh17-visit.

Next Alumni Weekend

The next alumni weekend will be Sept. 22, 2018, with reunions for classes ending in 3 or 8. Information and registration will be available online in summer 2018 at bethanycs.net/reunions.

Alumni Reunion Weekend

More than 200 alumni attended the Sept. 23 event, which included class reunions for classes ending in 7 or 2, tours of the school, an evening banquet, and children's activities. Reunion and class photos can be viewed at bethanycs.net/alumni-weekend-2017.



50-year reunion, class of '67: *front* Wanda Graber Bontrager, Gloria Yoder Landes, Judy Ramer Martin, Mary Ann Lehman Wieand, Verda Schrock Fletcher, Donna Zehr Conrad, Sherry Stahl Mast, Nancy Davidhizer Yoder, Sharon Myers Birkey, Kay Troyer Schrock; *row 2* Rosie Birkey Miller, Shirley Brenneman Bontrager, Cindy Miller Mast, Jane Cripe Schrock, Carol Troyer, Betty Miller Gruber, Susan Gardner Nelson, Joann Troyer Garber, Gay Hunsberger Lehman, Maxine Martin, Carol Schrock Newhard, Donna Johnson Greenawalt; *row 3* Charles Steiner, Tim Stolzfus, Jim Gingerich, Larry Schrock, Marvin Borntrager, LeRoy Mast, Robert Slabach, Tom Bontrager, Phillip Burkey, Craig Yoder; *back* Ken Gingerich, Craig Garber, Jerry O. Yoder, Ben Nelson, Jay Hershberger, Dan Miller, Dale Weaver, Ephraim Martin.

Alumni News

Deaths

See online obituaries at bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

Barbara (Plank '57) Slabach, Goshen, June 29, 2017.

Gail A. Williams ('62), Elkhart, Ind., Aug. 14, 2017.

Richard Yoder ('68), Goshen, Nov. 13, 2017.

Anita (Yoder '98) Miller, Goshen, Nov. 12, 2017.

Births

Malinda Berry ('92) and John Stoltzfus, Elkhart, Ind., daughter Chloe Mae, June 23, 2017.

Mary ('00) and Tristan **Beechy-King**, Goshen, son Atticus Tristan Shetler, Nov. 4, 2017.

Kelly ('04) and Peter ('04) Shenk Koontz, Boston, Mass., son Elliot, Dec. 9, 2017.

Julia (Klassen '05) and Grant **Baker**, Goshen, daughter Emma, July 10, 2017.

Simone (Sommers '08) and Michael **Horst**, Harrisonburg, Va., son Emerson Frederick, March 31, 2017.

Katie (Yoder '09) and Dean **Grass**, Goshen, son Hudson Dean, Dec. 1, 2017.

Caleb ('13) and Sara **Morris**, Goshen, daughter Avery Anne, July 30, 2017.

Joel ('01) and Jessica **Bontrager**, Middlebury, Ind., son Tobias Ryan, June 29, 2017.

Julia Gingrich ('03) and **Josh Weaver (F'11-)**, Goshen, daughter Eliza Catherine, Oct. 10, 2017.

Lauren ('05) and Mark **Eash Hershberger**, Goshen, son Leo Elliot, Sept. 21, 2017.



Elkhart County Sports Hall of Fame 2017 inductees Sarah Yoder ('01) and Charlie Steiner ('67) with Dan Bodiker (F'64-). See /countyhall-2017.

Berry Research Honored



Joseph Berry ('90), a senior research scientist at the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado, was honored by Penn State University as a 2017 Outstanding Science Alumni. His research has resulted in advances in solar power technology and electronic devices that use or are affected by light and his graduate research was foundational to semiconductor spintronics.

Marriages

Tony Hartman ('98) and Krysta Hawkley, Elkhart, Ind., Aug. 5, 2017.

Erin Richard ('02) and Tom Frantz, Goshen, March 25, 2017.

Deanna Cender ('07) and Arturo Martinez, LaGrange, Ga., May 13, 2017.

Jodi Stutzman ('09) and Scott Misamore, Goshen, Oct. 14, 2017.

Will Troyer ('09) and Abby Williams, Goshen, Aug. 19, 2017.

Lauren Hooley ('11) and Brayden Foreman, Marion Ind., Aug. 12, 2017.

Eva Lapp ('11) and Sam Smucker, Goshen, Oct. 21, 2017.

David DeLeeuw ('12) and Kelly Pender, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 4, 2017.

Andrew Slagel ('12) and Megan Smith, Muncie, Ind., Oct. 14, 2017.

Madeline Gerig ('13) and Ben Shelly, Goshen, Aug. 6, 2017.

Notes

Linda Slabaugh ('62), Goshen, visited the Holy Lands upon retiring from Oaklawn (after 37 years). She sings and plays piano on her church's praise team.

Linda ('85) Martin Burkholder, assistant to cross-cultural programs at Eastern Mennonite University, has co-led (with her husband) two study groups in Bolivia and is planning for a group to Mexico in 2019.

Sarah Thompson ('02), Atlanta, Ga., is a 2018 Generations Fellow at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She will assist in planning commemorations related to the 50th anniversary of the dramatic social events of 1968 and advancing the legacy of Rev. Dr. King in a new generation.

Julia Gingrich ('03) was ordained Sept. 17 at Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen.

Hannah Heinzekehr ('03), Goshen, Ind., resigned as executive director of *The Mennonite* to serve as Communications Program Director for the Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame beginning January 2018.

Jieun Han ('07), Gangneung, South Korea, works in the broadcasting services department for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games.

Hans Hess ('07) teaches English and Social Studies at Modern English School of Cairo (Egypt).

Karsten Hess ('09), Barcelona, Spain, is studying theater and corporal mime.

Katie Hurst ('14) graduated from Goshen College in December and begins a 6-month external communication internship with Walt Disney World in January 2018.

Suzanne Ehst (F1997-2008), assistant professor of education at Goshen College, earned a Ph.D. from Western Michigan University in June 2017.

Donate Online

Donations for the Bethany Fund may be made online: **bethanycs.net/donate**.

"Missing" Alumni

Bethany needs updated contact information for some *missing alumni* (with urgent interest for those with upcoming reunions). See bethanycs.net/alumni/missing and send updates to alumni@bethanycs.net or call 574 534-2567.

Bethany CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Bourbon IN
Permit #29

Return Service Requested

Notice to parents:

Please notify the *BCS Bulletin* of the new address of your son or daughter.

Farm to School Initiative

The newest effort in Bethany's continuing vision for stewardship and sustainability practices/education that led to receiving the Green Ribbon Schools award (see p. 2) is a Farm to School Initiative in which Bethany desires that food choices align with our faith values.

Farm to School Coordinator Tara Swartzendruber-Landis ('95, F'17-) says, "We want our students to be focused on being whole people. This includes care for creation, ourselves, and our neighbors. Part of this care is a realization that what we eat and decisions we make about food each day affect our overall health and wellbeing." With students getting one-third to one-half of their caloric intake at school, what they eat at school plays a significant role in their health and wellbeing.



360 cycle: compost is created from cafeteria food scraps and used to grow food for use in the cafeteria. Pictured, *Environmental Science* students Ana King and Seth Valdez shovel compost to spread on the school vegetable garden.



Environmental Science students Rachel Gibson, Genesis Maust, and Colin Ward display some of the produce harvested from the school garden and grounds: tomatoes, peppers, squash, and apples.

Tara plans to build on existing learning activities, which include field trips focused on sustainable food and the environment, a student-tended vegetable garden, and composting food waste. She envisions the cafeteria as a place not just for eating daily meals, but as a center of students' experiences related to learning about sustainable food.

Additional opportunities on the horizon include developing a campus land use plan that incorporates fruit trees and edible landscaping, writing new curriculum for Family and Consumer Science courses, expanding field trip and Interterm options, and increasing use of local food sources in the cafeteria.

Tara says, "As a Christian school we are pushing ourselves to a higher standard. We have an opportunity to lead in our community so that upon graduation our students can be leaders in the world."