Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

Bethany
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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Increasing Accessibility

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Cover: The grade 4-5 class with teachers Linda Hochstetler and Eliza Stoltzfus.

Increasing Accessibility

A key vision of Bethany's board and administration is to find ways to make Bethany more accessible, so that students who want to attend Bethany, can. Four new initiatives strengthen accessibility and have helped increase enrollment to 255.

Adding Grades 4-5

At the request of interested parents, Bethany's board approved plans to offer a combined 4th-5th grade class on a two-year pilot-program basis, on condition that at least eight students enrolled by March 30. In fact, 19 enrolled!

Eliza Stoltzfus and Linda Hochstetler, experienced teachers who volunteered to provide enrichment programming for middle school students last year, co-teach the class. Eliza, Bethany's first sixth grade teacher in 1996-2001, holds an M.A. in gifted and talented education. Linda, who taught in a Montessori school for seven years, holds a B.A. in biology and an M.D. degree.

The curriculum is interdisciplinary, hands-on, and innovative; it meets all state standards. Teachers individualize instruction so students receive focused attention in areas of need while allowing them to maximize their individual potential in areas of giftedness.

Bus Transportation

Another significant initiative for increasing accessibility is establishing a bus service to help meet the transportation needs of families living farther from Bethany.

For families west of Goshen, transportation—especially for younger students—has sometimes been a barrier. So this fall Bethany began a route that takes about one hour from the first pick-up to the school. Students may ride to or from school regularly or as needed.

From the Principal

In the past 15 years, Bethany has taken significant strides towards greater diversity as about one-quarter of our students now are other-than-Caucasian. The fact that socio-economic diversity, which can be less visible outwardly, has also increased significantly is evident from the rapid growth of our need-based tuition assistance cost—to about $450,000 this year.

As a church school, Bethany has long been committed to make it possible for all students, no matter what their racial-ethnic backgrounds or socio-economic situations, to choose Bethany. Much as we have been able to accomplish, however, operational dollars always have a way of running out.

Indiana's new Choice Scholarship (voucher) program has made our task easier by allowing students from families with lower incomes to use some of their state educational dollars for tuition at Bethany. The purpose of the voucher program is to give all parents the means to independently choose the best school to meet their child's unique learning needs. In the same way that Pell Grants have directed federal funds for students to attend the college of their choice, whether a state university or church college, Indiana's Choice Scholarship program provides funds for students to attend the school of their choice, including accredited nonpublic schools serving Indiana's children.

Many scriptures call followers of Christ to eliminate barriers among people based on racial-ethnic and socio-economic differences. Paul's classic words in Galatians 3:38 boldly assert that "all of you are one in Christ Jesus." We are grateful that a new law in Indiana is empowering church schools such as Bethany to better achieve this goal. —Allan Dueck



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BULLETIN

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Campus News

For some of the more than 30 families using the service, its availability was a significant factor in choosing Bethany; for others simply a convenience. Clara Gasabile, parent of a fourth-grade student, says, "The bus service is convenient and reliable and my daughter absolutely loves it. And for me it's less stressful than driving from Elkhart to Goshen and back twice each day."

International Students

Bethany is a diverse and global community—one-fourth of our students are other-than-Caucasian, including some from Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Paraguay. Several years ago, Bethany converted the Violett House into a boarding home for international students—in addition to students living with host families.

This year Bethany has engaged Denise Reesor, as an international student liaison and homestay coordinator to assist in recruiting international students to Bethany and to support them and their host families while at Bethany.

Choice Scholarships

An outside initiative that increases accessibility to Bethany is the State of Indiana's new Choice Scholarship program, often referred to as vouchers.

The program, enacted in June 2011, provides Choice Scholarships (vouchers) for eligible students to attend the school of their choice by applying a portion of the state's per-student grant towards their tuition at a private or charter school.

This fall 28 students—from nine different school districts—are receiving Choice Scholarships, with five families choosing Bethany as a result of the assistance. Admissions Director Rachel Roth Sawatzky notes that the program makes Bethany more accessible to families with lower incomes and increases the socio-economic diversity of the students at Bethany. However, Choice Scholarships cover only a portion of the cost of education, so congregational and individual support remains essential for finances not to be a barrier in a family's educational choice.

To be eligible for a voucher, students must be enrolled in an Indiana public school for two semesters immediately prior to receiving a scholarship for the first time, and family annual income must be within specified guidelines based on family size.

In addition, receiving schools must meet some additional requirements, most of which Bethany has been meeting. Two requirements necessitated a change in practice: displaying the U.S. flag in each classroom and providing daily opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance.

To meet these new requirements, Bethany considered how to remain true to Anabaptist-Mennonite teachings and yet be accessible, welcoming, and respectful to those with differing beliefs. Bethany now displays the U.S. flag in a set of nine flags with the label, "Bethany's Global Community." The school also provides a daily moment of silence during which students and faculty may choose to recite the U.S. pledge of allegiance, the Christian pledge of allegiance, or the Lord's Prayer. Principal Allan Dueck says, "This change has been a blessing in providing opportunity to highlight our distinctive heritage while respecting the diversity of practices among us."



Zana Mlotshwa ('20) is one of the regular riders benefiting from Bethany's new bus service. Derrick Ramer ('98), youth pastor at Emma Mennonite Church, is the morning bus driver.

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I. PERCENT PAID	100%	100%

Campus News

Bethany Auction

The annual Bethany Auction will be Friday, March 23, 2012.

Auction items will be published in an auction catalog, available at bethanycs.net/Benefit_Auction by late February 2012. Everyone is invited to participate as a donor and/or buyer. Contact the office to donate auction items, baked goods, money to cover expenses, and volunteer help.



Renae Yoder (F'96-), high school math teacher, was diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer in September. She is on medical leave for at least the remainder of 2011. On Oct. 1 more than 50 students, faculty, and parents surprised Renae (in wheelchair above) by joining her in a local cancer walk. And the cross country team dedicated their lone home meet to her and others who inspire them (see **bethanycs.net/xc2011_inspiration**). Please keep Renae and the Bethany community in your prayers during this difficult time. If you are interested in following her journey, visit **caringbridge.org/visit/renaeyoder**.

Calendar

December 2011

9 HS Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Sauder Concert Hall

January 2012

2-3 J-Term, Job Shadow, Senior Trip
5-6 Alumni Nights (free admission for alumni to basketball games)

February 2012

19 John McCutcheon concert, 3 p.m.
23-26 *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, high school musical, see bethanycs.net/joseph_2012

March 2012

16-18 MRM Orchestra Festival at Iowa Mennonite School (Kalona)
17-18 MS Choir Festival at Bethany
23 Bethany Auction (see sidebar)

Visit Days

Feb. 20 and March 12, 2012

bethanycs.net/admissions/visit

News at bethanycs.net

Edible Education: Grade 4-5 students use Bethany garden as an outdoor classroom, and the cafeteria uses more local foods. See **ediblemichiana1110**.

Electrofishing: *Environmental Science* students help monitor the health of the Elkhart River as they learn about river ecosystems. See **/electrofishing2011**.

Speech and Debate: Bethany earns national charter in just two years! A distinctive honor. See **/forensics_2011_nationalcharter**.

New Library Collection: Teachers pool personal collections to start iRead collection categorized according to Lexile reading levels. See**/iread_110829**.

Emmaus: Bethany's performing arts troupe teaches and performs at church convention. See/watch at **/emmaus_2011_pittsburgh**.

Individual Achievements

National Songwriting Contest: Sadie Gustafson-Zook ('13) wins first place for "Unless I Loved," based on 1 Cor. 13. See and listen at **/winfield_2011**.

All-state Orchestra: Sara Erb ('12) selected on bassoon. See **/orchestra_allstate_2011**.

National Merit: Seniors Peter Schrock and Paige Wheeler named commended students. See **/Merit_Finalist_2012**.

History Contest: Jeff Yoder ('12) placed second in the high school division of the 2011 John Horsch Mennonite History Research Contest for his paper on Civilian Public Service. See **/JHMHRC10-11**.

New Board Member



Michelle Horning is professor of accounting at Goshen College and a member of Eighth Street Mennonite Church. She and her husband Chad have two children: Dylan (age 8) and Eva (age 5). For a list of all board members, see bethanycs.net/board.

Alumni News

Births

Rebecca Bare ('84) and Laurence Koehn, Champaign, Ill, adopted son Rafael (7) and daughter Andrea (6) in Columbia, Sept. 2011. She continues to work part-time as visiting projects coordinator at the University of Illinois.

Carmen Horst ('91) and Eric Kurtz, Goshen, daughter Rebeca Mariana Horst Kurtz, June 3, 2011.

Tim Swartzendruber ('91) and Nicolle Nogueras, Silver Spring, Md., daughter Shane, July 31, 2011.

Jill (Landis '94) and Anuraj **Jha**, New York, N.Y., daughter Navya, July 2, 2011. In 2010 Jill served as an intern for an international company in Kathmandu, Nepal, as she completed an M.A. in conflict transformation from Eastern Mennonite University. Jill currently is a stay-at-home mom; Anuraj works for the United Nations.

Lana Miller ('94) and Andy Miller, Phnom Penh, Vietnam, son Aaron Ding, March 14, 2011.

Julie (Landis '95) and Marc **Smith**, Loveland, Colo., daughter Jayna Marais, March 16, 2011.

Jason ('95) and Patty **Lehman**, Goshen, daughter Abigail Ann, Apr. 28, 2011. Jason is president of Goshen Noon Kiwanis.

Jim ('96) and Kelly **Neff**, Goshen, son Mason James, Jan. 9, 2011.

Jonathan ('96) and Takesha **Stoll**, Goshen, son Daijon Zechariah, June 11, 2011.

Alyssa (Wyse '98) and Duane **Chamblees,** Raleigh, N.C., daughter Sara Rochelle, July 24, 2011.

Stephanie (Miller '99) and Jeremy **Entz**, Newton, Kan., son Drew Michael, March 2, 2010.

Amber ('00) and Nate **Kaufman Butler**, Goshen, daughter Charlotte Maye, Aug. 29, 2011.

Janice (Miller '00) and Dallen **Troyer**, Goshen, son Silas Avery, Nov. 12, 2010. Grandmother is Virginia (Miller '64) Miller.

Deaths

See online obituaries at bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

David Lee Miller ('61), Middlebury, June 21, 2011.

Summer Inquiry

Six alumni developed leadership skills in summer camping, ministry, and service inquiry programs through Goshen College: **Kelly Frey ('08)**, ministry at Shalom Mennonite, Indianapolis, Ind.; **Hannah Grieser ('09)**, camping at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center; **Luke Slagel ('09)**, ministry at North Main Street Mennonite, Nappanee, Ind.; **Alisha Snyder ('09)**, camping at Amigo Centre; **Alita Yoder ('09)** camping at Menno Haven; **Lynelle Yoder ('09)**, service at Inner City Development, San Antonio, Tex.

Marriages

Charlotte Yoder ('81) and Gerhard Neumann, Halle/Saale, Germany, June 20, 2010.

Matt Plank ('99) and Janessa Pierce, Harrsionburg, Va., Apr. 10, 2011.

Jonathan Gingrich ('03) and Rachel Meyers, Goshen, Sept. 3, 2011.

Ashley Bontrager ('04) and Brandon Wenger, Goshen, Aug. 20, 2011. Ashley is a program director for the Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County.

Elizabeth Nafziger ('06) and Jordan Miller, Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 5, 2011 in Goshen. Liz is a medical student at Indiana University.

David Pettifor ('06) and Tiffany Becherl, Goshen, Oct. 15, 2011.

Kristen Fath ('06) and **Quinton Huffman ('07)**, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 4, 2011, in Goshen. Quinton graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in May 2011 and is a chemical engineer for Honeywell Aerospace; Kristen graduated from Goshen College in May 2010 and is a registered nurse.

Collette Weaver ('08) and **Weston Troyer ('08),** July 30, 2011. She works at Interra Credit Union; he is a student at Goshen College.

Alumni Entering Service

Hannah ('03) and **Justin ('03) Heinzekehr**, Los Angeles, Calif., MMN Youth Venture leaders.

Heather Kaufman ('02), Manta, Ecuador, teaching English through a local church.

Kelly ('04) and **Peter ('04) Shenk Koontz,** Kabul, Afghanistan, MCC, peacemaking curriculum development.

Ben Miller ('11), Atlanta, Ga., Mission Year.

Laura Schlabach ('06), Seattle, Wash., MVS, marketing assistant with an environmental news agency. During summer 2011 she studied fire ecology in Kenya with a Goshen College research team.

Sarah Thompson ('02), East Jerusalem, Palestine, MCC SALT, research and information assistant.

Elizabeh Weidner ('00), Nicaragua, MCC rural community development promoter.

MMN=Mennonite Mission Network,
MVS=Mennonite Voluntary Service,
MCC=Mennonite Central Committee

Serving at Amigo Centre

Eight Bethany students or alumni served as 2011 summer staff at Amigo Centre, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference's camp and retreat center: Daniel Barwick ('09), Sadie Gustafson-Zook ('13), Jay Mast ('08), Danae Miller ('10), Heather Schwartz ('11), Alisha Snyder ('09), Andrew Snyder ('13), and Natalie Thorne ('13).

Alumni News

Notes

Rachel Hensley ('61), Mount Juliet, Tenn., exhibits her art in the Nashville airport and serves with an organization that works against domestic violence.

Dan Koop Leichty ('83), Goshen, began as director of admissions at Goshen College in September.

Jonny Gerig Meyer ('04) placed first in the graduate division of the 2011 John Horsch Mennonite History Research Contest for his paper "Just Wages: Toward an Anabaptist Philosophy of Employee Compensation for Mennonite Institutions of Higher Education." **Hannah Gerig Meyer ('04)** is a graphic designer for Goshen College's public relations office.

Maya Kehr ('06), Kalona, Iowa, teaches Spanish at Iowa Mennoite School.

Jordan Kauffman ('07) is an adjunct professor of art at Goshen College.

Stephanie Hollenberg ('07) and **Emily Grimes ('10)** are part of Goshen College's five-member, student-led worship team, *Parables*.

Alum Stories at bethanycs.net

2011 County Athletic Hall of Fame: Gary Chupp ('87) and Eliot Friesen ('97). See /countyhall_2011.

Menno Tea: Niles Graber Miller ('10) markets new drink. See /GraberMiller10_11.

***Johann*:** New historical fiction by Everett J. Thomas (F'72-89). See /ethomas11_johann.

Hope for Northern Ireland: Jenna Liechty Martin ('03) sees exciting conflict transformation. See /jliechtymartin03_11.

Churchwide Recreation Coordinator: Cindy (Bontrager '82) Hawkins concludes longtime service. See CindyHawkins82_11.

For these and other alumni stories, see bethanycs.net/alumni.



50-year reunion, class of '61: (front) Carl Metzler, Wes Steiner, Wayne Sommers, Wilbur Hershberger, Karl Lambright, Duane Stutzman, Phil Mullet, Warren Yoder; (row 2) Margaret (Mann) Steiner, Rachel (Leichty) Pittman, Sharon (Nunemaker) Brooks, Jean (Lehman) Moyer, Josephine (Guedea) Jamin, Irma (Yoder) Stutzman, Shirley (Slabaugh) Shoup, Barbara (Yoder) Nissley, Carolyn (Dye) Marquand; (row 3) Janet Moore, Carol (Hartzler) Grieser, Shirley (Yoder) Yoder, Lauretta (Ramer) Hoover, Janice (Carpenter) Miller, Nancy (Yoder) Nofziger, Betty (Mullet) Hochstetler, Diane (Burkey) Weldy, Esther (Yoder) Kern, Irene (Plank) Beachy; (back) Freeman Lehman (class sponsor), Bob Brenneman, Dwight E. Grieser, Donald Schrock, Carl Ropp, Lavon Welty, Carlos J. Ovando, Judy (Kauffman) Kennel, Ruth (Yoder) Neely, Elsie (Hochstedler) Hochstetler



25-year reunion, class of '86: (front) Lloyd Gingerich, Heidi Kauffman, Jodi Miller, Connie (Sark) Eash; (middle) Beth (Bare) Hawn, Michelle Lehman, Lisa (Dintaman) Skinner, Elizabeth Surface; (back) Joe Bare, Kent (Smith) Dutchersmith, Joy (Maust) Holmes, Carl Bontrager

A Pioneer in Bilingual Education: Carlos Ovando ('61)



Rosemary Wyse Reimer and Carlos Ovando chat at the 2011 Alumni Weekend banquet.

Carlos Ovando ('61) is a professor at Arizona State University and the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Latino Alumni Award from Indiana University for his research and teaching focusing on the intersection of language policy, educational leadership, culture, curriculum, and instruction. He is a much sought-after expert on the effect of globalization on education and his book *Bilingual and ESL Classrooms: Teaching in Multicultural Contexts* is used by more than 300 universities. His most recent work involves societal and educational dynamics related to reverse migration in which families of Mexican origin—with English-speaking children familiar only with American culture—return to Mexico as a result of anti-undocumented legislation such as SB1070 in Arizona. However, Ovando's life path may have been quite different, had it not been for the encouragement of a Bethany teacher, **Rosemary Wyse Reimer (F'58-62, 65-66)**, 50 years ago.

Now a naturalized citizen, Ovando left Nicaragua and came to Texas, where as a teen he experienced firsthand issues that confront language minority students. He wondered why many of his schoolmates seemed ashamed to speak Spanish and why he was punished for speaking Spanish on school grounds. He recalls feeling alone in a strange, and sometimes hostile, world, wishing he could show teachers and classmates that he was intelligent. But after flunking sixth grade, he began to doubt his intellectual abilities and his Latin American heritage.

His family's move to Defiance, Ohio, further immersed Ovando into English-speaking American culture, in which teachers seemed insensitive to his struggles to understand this new world. However, his academic career turned around when, through a series of events, his father sent him to Bethany. Ovando says, "There, I worked for my room and board, improved my conversational skills in English, and learned important lessons from the Mennonite community about the work ethic and about caring."

At Bethany he connected with Wyse Reimer, who took a personal interest in him and convinced him to take her Spanish class—to improve his own skills and to enrich others, including herself. Ovando says, "I was impressed that a teacher was willing to learn from a student." Further, her allowing him to sometimes take charge of class increased his confidence and gave him opportunity to succeed among his peers in the one area of his life that he felt secure, Spanish language. With Wyse Reimer's encouragement, Ovando entered a statewide competition in Spanish and placed second! And that was the spark that led to a flood of scholarships. After graduating from Goshen College, Ovando taught high school Spanish, was one of 15 people nationally to receive an Experienced Teachers Fellowship to study in Spain, and ultimately earned a Ph.D. from Indiana University. Ovando, who has continued to communicate with Wyse over the years, says, "Thanks to Rosemary, I envisioned myself in the world of ideas that has led me to where I am today. She opened the door for me."

Wyse Reimer's own interest in Spanish began when Spanish-speaking migrants came to her home community to work in a local agribusiness and no one could converse with them. This inability to communicate motivated her to study Spanish at Goshen College. In reflecting on her role in helping Ovando change the course of his life, Wyse Reimer says, "It wasn't a great thing that I did, but it led to great things." And she adds, "If we give students a little confidence, they can do marvelous things."

Alumni News

Alumni Weekend

The third annual alumni weekend was held Sept. 24, 2011.

Approximately 275 alumni, former faculty, spouses, and children attended the weekend, which included class reunions (for classes ending in 1 or 6), tours of the school, an evening banquet, children's activities, and complimentary admission to the Bethany-Westview girls soccer game.

Photos of the class reunions are available to view/download at bethanycs.net/reunions/2011.

The next alumni weekend will be Sept. 21-22, 2012, with reunions for classes ending in 2 or 7. Information on these class reunions will be posted at bethanycs.net/reunions as it becomes available.

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Notice to parents:

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

Character Development and Leadership

Character Development and Leadership, a new course this year, supplements Bethany's Leadership Development program by more formally training student leaders as they lead in church, community, or school settings.

Each week students focus on one of 18 characteristics essential for successful leadership by discussing ethical dilemmas, examining role models, learning basic skills, and reflecting on how to apply what they learn.

Working in pairs, students have reinforced their learning by teaching some of the character traits to sixth graders. Parson says, "They all will have roles in their lives where they will be in front of people. This helps them lead in front of people and learn the value of building relationships with others."

In class students discuss situations or issues from their leadership roles and reflect how they might improve as leaders. Junior Caleb Morris says, "The viewpoints of my classmates have helped me grow as a person, and I am able to communicate more effectively with my teammates, classmates, and teachers."

Malaina Weldy, a senior fish head (leader), adds, "This class has increased my awareness of myself as a leader and has helped me be more deliberate in my actions. It has also helped me to focus on relationships with people and recognize the diversity of peoples' opinions. This has helped me approach situations on sports teams, in church, and the fish fry from a more understanding angle. As a leader, I feel better equipped to deal with situations of differences or conflict."

Parson is pleased with how students have become more aware of their actions, strengths, and weaknesses. She says, "My biggest desire is for them to become well-rounded leaders."



The boys soccer team highlighted a successful fall sports season at Bethany, winning a fifth consecutive conference championship and advancing to the final four in the state 1A tournament. Goalkeeper Jeff Yoder (left) and midfielder Femi Hollinger-Janzen earned all-state honors and set school records for most shutouts and goals scored. See bethanycs.net/sectional_fall11. Femi was also named Indiana's Player-of-the-Year! Also, he has been selected as one of the top 40 players in the nation and will participate in the Dec. 10, 2011, High School All-American game, held in conjunction with the College Cup in Birmingham, Ala.