

CROSSROADS

MENNONITE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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FIVE STORY CATCH UP

Highlights from our first
weeks back at School

TAKING OFF OUR MASKS

Reflections from the annual
Christian Life Retreat

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On the cover: MCI students on the dock at Red Rock Bible Camp

Crossroads thanks the Yearbook Committee for capturing the excellent photos featured throughout this issue!

Managing Editor:
Sophie Gerbrandt

ENOUGH LIGHT FOR THE NEXT STEP

Written by Henri Nouwen

Jesuit professor and author

an excerpt from the Spirituality of Living

“

Often we want to be able to see into the future.

We say, “How will next year be for me?

Where will I be five or ten years from now?”

There are no answers to these questions.

Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step: what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark.

When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go.

Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all shadows away.

”

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FROM THE Principal's Desk

Greetings to all our MCI Crossroads readers! This is my first epistle as the principal at MCI, and I look forward to getting to know all of you personally at some point in this journey. It has been such a privilege to meet all our diverse student body and wonderful Christian staff, but I seek to get to know you as our school community and family as well.

Our chosen theme for this school year is "BE BRAVE!" Our chapels are focusing on this point, as is our Christian Life Committee. We as Christians are encouraged by Christ and the writers of Scripture to "take heart" and "fear not" many times in the Bible. We are often encouraged "to stand," to "run to our Rock," or shelter in God's almighty arms. Paul loves to encourage us that we are the army of God, marching into a battle against the unseen adversaries of Satan. We must "put on the whole armor of God" so we can stand and BE BRAVE!

When I was a child in Congo, we twice were evacuated under extreme duress during the Independence warfare of the 1960s. I recall the first time that guerrilla warriors were marching through eastern and southern Congo, fighting government troops, destroying whole villages, and killing missionaries and others indiscriminately. Our first inkling that they were nearing our mission station was

when six carloads of missionaries suddenly arrived. They were dusty and worn out from long hours on horrific roads, staying just ahead of the rebels, who had already overrun two of our mission stations. When the missionaries arrived, we hastily piled our families into three vehicles and joined the daunting journey to stay ahead of the rebels! The plan was to get out of Congo and into Angola if possible. Along the route was another large mission station. We made it safely there and they joined our caravan, now 12 strong! We careened down dusty roads, got stuck in deeply rutted sand, pushed each other out, and kept going. Finally, after two days we saw the lonely marker for the border. Cheers rang out and then we saw the dust cloud of the rebels just two kms behind us. We drove frantically for the border, and just crossed in ahead of the rebels! What a test of being brave in the very real presence of impending death! God had answered our prayers!

We all face times in our lives where we are called to step out and BE BRAVE. These circumstances look different for each one of us, yet God remains the same - a constant rock to turn to and rest upon. God bless each of you and have a wonderful brave school year!

Gerald Barkman, MCI Principal

FIVE STORY CATCH UP

The 2019-20 school year has been off to a roaring start! We welcomed 22 new students into our halls, created & strengthened relationships, and jumped right in to the craziness that September brings.

Here are a few of our highlights!

1



REGISTRATION DAY

We welcomed new and returning students into our halls on September 5th for Registration Day. The halls filled with excitement as students moved into dorm, reunited with friends, and registered for their courses.

Along with new students, we also welcomed two new teachers to our academic staff: Mr. Naushad Mostafa and Mr. Nolan Thiessen (pictured), as well as Brette Elias to our dormitory staff.

GIRLS' SOCCER

Another soccer season is in the books at MCI!

The girls' team enjoyed a very successful season while playing in an extremely tough division. The girls improved immensely by the end of the three-week regular season, they played together as a unit and gelled very well together. Even though they narrowly missed the playoffs, they battled hard throughout the season, scoring a total of ten goals in just five games!

Along with these highlight-reel goals on offense, our defense and goalkeepers became a seemingly impenetrable wall in the last half of the season. We went two and one to end it off. Our coaches are so proud of what the girls accomplished this year and can't wait to see what next season holds.



2

3



GET ACQUAINTED SOCIAL

Our social committee head, Tielle Thiessen, led the student body in an evening of fun at the "Get Acquainted Social." Nearly the entire school gathered to play MCI classics such as Knights, Horses and Ladies, Mennonite Dancing and other icebreaker games.

Events like this one help facilitate an atmosphere where people can be themselves and feel comfortable in a new school.

ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

We had a great turn out at the Alumni Volleyball Tournament this year with seven teams returning to MCI to play and compete., plus our two home teams. It was a hot and humid day in the gym, but the stands were still full of supportive classmates and family members ready to cheer each team on!

Taking home the coveted title of "Champions of the 2019 Tournament" were the 2011-2013 Women's team and 2012-2014 Men's team.

A big "Thank-You" to everyone who came out to make this day such a great success!



4

5



HOMECOMING

Homecoming is a special gathering for the previous school year's graduating class to reconnect and remember their Grade 12 year by paging through the newly released yearbook and visiting their alma mater.

Students gathered around tables to sign each others yearbooks and reminisce. Some graduates who are studying out of province were unable to attend, but FaceTime allowed them to still chat with past classmates and teachers!



TAKING OFF OUR MASKS *a Red Rock Reflection*

As head of the Christian Life Committee I had the opportunity to help plan one of the main events of our school year, the Red Rock Retreat. I was thrilled to be apart of the work that goes into making it such a memorable event. During the last week of September, MCI students and staff (and three staff children) headed off to Red Rock Bible Camp in the Whiteshell for our annual Christian Life Retreat. It's the highlight of the year for many students, as we get to know each other more in a super fun environment.

The Grade 12's, who went out to camp a day early, prepared a team building game for everyone to play. There were 12 stations each with a different challenge we needed to complete to find Paul Peters, who had been "kidnapped." We had to work together to memorize verses, get through obstacle courses, get out of a human knot and complete puzzles. It was a lot of fun!

During free time we were able to go on hikes, paddleboard, canoe/kayak, play bump, and just hang out together. There were lots of other fun activities planned like the friendship walk, polar bear swim, beach volleyball tournament, and talent show. Our talent show this year was over an hour and a half long! We had lots of students sing songs, some even wrote their own. Some acts were more comedic, like Trinity's - who taught us all how to stack chairs the correct way. The staff even entered the talent show this year, telling jokes, reciting poetry and showing off their "stupid human tricks".

Our sessions were great this year too, and helped our school to grow closer together. Annika Enns-Dyck (MCI Dean) and Andrea Heide (Gr. 12) led us in singing before each session. Every night Annika invited us up to the stage to sing "Be at Rest" together to conclude our

session. Retreat speaker, Peter Epp ('98) spoke on masks and how we are all a part of God's story. Peter went through the whole Old Testament sharing story after story of how masks were what held people away from God until Jesus came to take our masks away.

We were challenged to remove any masks we wear, from pride to perfectionism, to shyness. Many students accepted the challenge by becoming real and vulnerable with one another. Three students, Max Wiens (Gr. 12), Melody Odekunle (Gr. 12) and I even shared about the masks we have worn (and continue to wear sometimes) in session which helped to open up the conversation.

The retreat was a great way to kick off the year. I hope the masks we all wear continue to fall off and that more students feel comfortable enough to be vulnerable at MCI.

Jesse Wiebe (Gr. 11)

Christian Life Committee Head

Peter Epp, past teacher and MCI grad, led our sessions at Red Rock this year.

Peter is currently the lead pastor at Albany Mennonite Church in Oregon.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

My favourite part of Red Rock was the Beach Volleyball Tournament. It may have been a bit cold - but it was still so much fun! - *Isabel Mierau (Gr. 9)*

I really enjoyed the sessions at Red Rock this year. It was really relatable to hear from students about what they are going through and the masks that they wear. - *Julia Dyck (Gr. 11)*

I love all the free time we get at Red Rock to just hang out. I spent a lot of time with my friends but also got to know some new people. - *Tammy Voth (Gr. 11)*

This was my first Red Rock, so I didn't know what to expect. It was very beautiful and different from anything I have ever done before. It was fun to get to try and canoe with my friends - *Alvin Lo (Gr. 11)*

reverie

an arts and literature publication

Reverie Review, a project that began in Spring 2019, stemmed from a dream to interact and create relationships with fellow artists while enabling artists to have their work published for the public eye. As artists, we have goals: to have our work viewed, for our work to be appreciated, and for someone, anyone, to see the potential of what we create.

To submit for Reverie's next publication email:

✉ submitreverie@gmail.com

Learn more by visiting:

📷 [@reverie_review](#)

f Reverie Review



Co-Editors: Emily McDonald & Laura Woelk

Reverie is a submission-based publication which artists of all mediums can apply to have their work featured. Submissions including poetry, prose, photography, drawings and paintings are submitted and I, along with my co-editor-in-chief, Emily McDonald, review the art. The process of deciding what is accepted and what is declined for a particular volume is difficult, knowing full well that an individual is putting their work in our hands to be viewed for perhaps the very first time. Following the submission deadline, we design the layouts, export our final copy and send it off to be printed.

The celebration for the release of the publication, as well as for those who helped make it possible, is the next item on our list. This event aims to bring the artists that have been involved in the publication together, encouraging interactions and fostering excitement within the group of artists and their supporters. Here we release and sell the volume, also taking a moment to thank everyone who made this project possible. We further showcase a variety of music at this event in hopes of furthering the careers of local musicians. Following this celebration, we start the process again, working to create the next volume of the publication.

This project has exceeded our expectations. Opening submissions to artists across Canada began a network of relationships all over the country. We have gained trust within the arts community, as artists have submitted their work to a small, unknown publication. Over 150 submissions were received for Volume 1 of Reverie Review. What began as a hope and a dream, has become a reality, one in which we feel supported. As artists and co-editors we know there is value in putting artwork into the hands of another to be critically reviewed. It is how we become better.

This project is not only for us, the co-editors/artists who are excited to have initiated a new project. It is for the 16-year old girl who just made her big break, the transitioning woman who writes his truths in poetic format, the art school student who wants to be recognized in more than just a classroom, and the girl who's dream has always been to be a published author. This project is for all of them and all of us. It is about artists helping artists in Winnipeg and extending to the coasts of Canada, creating a network of people who want to share their work with a wider community.

*Laura Woelk, Class of 2016
MCI Board Member*



On May 6th, 2019, MCI alumnus, Danielle Goerz ('14) was honoured as an Outstanding Graduate Student from the College of Nursing at the University of Manitoba's 27th Annual Students' Teacher Recognition Reception. As part of Danielle's award, she was invited to honour a teacher from elementary to high school years as well as a professor from the university who had a significant impact on her both academically and personally. Danielle chose current MCI teacher, Toby Wiens ('00) as a teacher who had a positive influence on her during her high school years and after graduation.

Danielle served as the Vice President of the Nursing Students' Association and also worked as the Mentorship Program Coordinator where she showed incredible leadership, organization, and a gentle approach in supporting the groups she worked with. In her time attending the College of Nursing, Danielle took the opportunity to represent the U of M in Shanghai, China at the Shanghai International Nursing Skills Competition. She also attended

numerous nursing conferences across Canada. The College of Nursing selected Danielle as their Outstanding Graduate Student for representing them with professionalism, as well as for "continually demonstrating a commitment to growing in knowledge, skills, and abilities as a nurse and as an empathetic human being."

The reception awarded Danielle for her achievement and gave her time to recognize her chosen educators for the impact they had on her. Danielle reflected on Mr. Wiens' ability to make sure students are welcome in his classroom and that his room always has "an open door." Danielle also joked about Mr. Wiens' lame dad jokes and his love for the Last of the Mohicans theme song. As much as she wished to remember the in-class content taught by Mr. Wiens, Danielle cherished the life lessons learned from him such as working hard, staying humble, and keeping the focus on what God has planned for her. Danielle thanked Mr. Wiens for his time and efforts as her high school teacher.

College of Nursing dean Netha Dyck (nee Froese) and MCI grad of '72 was at the award ceremony to recognize Danielle's achievements in the College of Nursing in her graduating year.

Danielle has completed her Bachelor of Nursing and has her convocation ceremony in October. She is currently working in rehabilitation at Boundary Trails Health Centre as a Registered Nurse after passing her licensing exam. In November, she will transfer to surgery and obstetrics where she's hoping to be trained for labour and delivery. Danielle is currently living in her hometown of Morden.

What are you up to? What experiences do you want to share with the MCI community?

Email us at alumni@mciblues.net to be featured!



MCI

50th Reunion

Photo by Dennis Fast

CLASS OF '79

July 6, 2019 was a day to remember.

We had 79 people come out to celebrate at the Morden Golf Course - it was fitting for our class of '79. There were 44 out of 75 living grads. We also had five teachers join us. Only two grads have passed on from our class. After 40 years the lines vanished between the athletes, academics, and others. Great people all around.

Many came from a distance. Several from other provinces: Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and B.C. Two grads came from the USA: Florida and California. The winner of the furthest travel was from China. No, it wasn't our fellow Chinese grad, but a couple who were currently teaching in that country. The banquet supervisor commented that she had never served a banquet before where she felt everyone truly enjoyed each other's company.

One of my highlights was joining the group in a wonderful rendition of 606. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, in four part harmony, sung acapella, in the beauty of the golf course, the sunshine, and the company of old friends.

Wendy Peters

CLASS OF '69

On June 8th, 2019, 33 stookies and ten retired teaching staff descended on the MCI to see what had changed in 50 years and to reconnect with each other ... some of whom they hadn't seen since graduation. The class of '69 consisted of 53 graduates who are now scattered from BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, California, to Germany.

We appreciated the tour of current facilities by Harold Schlegel, singing a few songs of faith and a couple of selections from our album 'Peaceful River,' led by Henry Engbrecht and accompanied by Annele (Ens) Robertson. We met at the Neuberghal Commons for dinner and were entertained by none other than Art Harms. Lee (Kathler) Dyck took us back to graduation by reading her original valedictorian address. Di (Janzen) Brandt transported our minds back to 'math class' with poetry written specifically for the evening.

Many memories of our MCI experience surfaced. I heard comments of gratefulness for the foundational principles which were planted, nurtured, and grown during our time at the MCI.

Willie Ens

A BIG "thank-you" to the Class of '69 for raising money for a new keyboard for our Performing Arts Program. It has already been put to good use!

CLASS OF '59

Nearly half of the graduating class of '59 gathered in the halls of MCI, along with their spouses to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their high school reunion. Some graduates had not returned to MCI since graduation! The day began with some of feeling like strangers, but by the end friendships had been renewed.

An informal program was led by John Friesen. Each grad was given the opportunity to share reflections on their life as well as share some favourite MCI memories. There was much laughter when stories of rule breaking came to the surface - 60 years later!

Ernie Dyck had the opportunity to share his research on the life of Paul J. Schaefer with the group. A highlight for the group was taking time to sing together. Nick Unrau led the group in singing a class favourite, "Lieber Vater," in rich harmony.

Many thanks to the planning committee; Peter Dyck, Nick Unrau, Micki Warkentin, Jake Voth and John Friesen who made the event possible.

A BIG "thank-you" to the Class of '59 for raising money to install air conditioning into two mods of the Boys' Dormitory. Your gift is very appreciated!





Karla Warkentin, Director of Finance

The past few months have been difficult for MCI's board, leaders, and staff. Four years of lower enrolment and sizeable deficits have left us uncertain about our ability to meet our financial obligations and concerned about the future of the school. Henry Nouwen's questions on page two, "*How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or ten years from now?*" ring true for the staff personally as well as for the school.

We rarely grow in the easy times. It's the difficult times when we have to dig deep that bring change. As challenging as the last few months have been, we are learning valuable lessons along the way. We would like that "*great beam that takes all shadows away,*" but we are called to walk by faith, not by sight, and to continue turning to God for guidance, wisdom, and strength. MCI is in a season of pruning, but we look forward to the promise of new growth once this season has passed.

Please continue to pray for our staff and students. Pray that we will continue to be a safe harbor for our students, a vibrant Christian community that draws people to Jesus. Pray for more opportunities to transform young lives. And pray for our staff whose workloads have increased at the same

time their salaries have decreased in an effort to help balance our budget. Our staff continue to give sacrificially to MCI every single day.

And for those who are able, we humbly ask for your financial support. We need the support of our alumni and friends now more than ever before if we wish to keep the school going. Pray that we will be able to meet our financial obligations, and that we will live out Nouwen's words, "*When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go.*"

Our God has infinite resources and boundless love. Our challenges may be great, but God is greater. We trust in Him.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church [and at MCI] and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For our full calendar of events visit www.mciblues.net



SOUP & PIE

Join us for MCI's annual Soup & Pie Fundraiser. Supper will begin to be served at 5 pm. We will then transition into Buhler Hall for our Fall Concert at 7:30 pm. This event is by donation.



GET SMART

Cottonwood Community Drama presents its 12th production, Get Smart. It's a show you won't want to miss! For tickets and more information give us a call at 204.327.5891 or visit us at www.mciblues.net.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us in celebrating the Christmas season at our Christmas Concert, at 7:30 pm. Our Performing Arts Department is already working to prepare for an evening you won't want to miss!



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ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

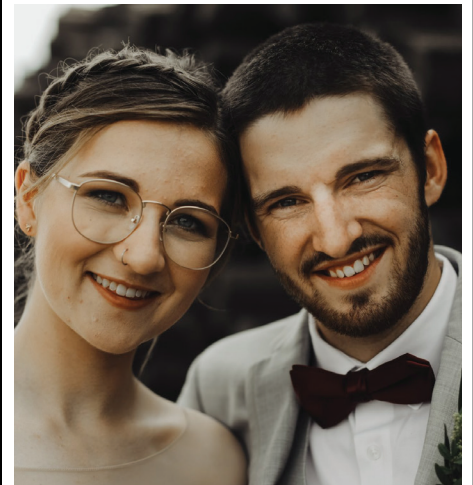
Do you have news to share? Email alumni@mciblues.net to be featured!



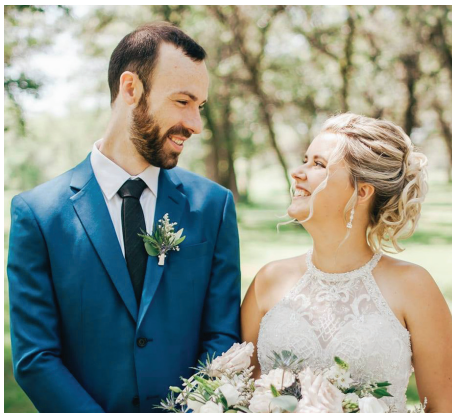
Kelly Fehr ('11) and **Evan Giesbrecht** were married on June 14, 2019 in Winkler.



Lauren Harms ('10) and **Jonas Cornelson** were married on July 20, 2019 in Winnipeg.



Drew Gerbrandt ('16) and **Josh Voth ('16)** were married on August 24, 2019 in Woodlands.



Katrina Schultz ('13) and **Justin Rempel ('10)** were married on July 7, 2019 in Morden.



Kirsten Friesen ('15) and **Matthias Warkentin** were married on August 4, 2019 in Reinland.



Brooklyn Friesen ('12) and **Brent Peters** were married on September 8, 2019 in Killarney.



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BIRTHS



Tennyson Edward Rocket Wiens was born June 2nd, 2018 to Candice (Janzen) Wiens ('00) and Toby Wiens ('00 & current staff). Little brother to Finley, Mackenzie, and Londyn.



Madeleine Brian Myungji was born on March 11, 2019 to Johanna Rempel Petkau ('98) and Jimmy Bang.



Jessy (Neufeld) Fehr (MCI Dean '04 - '09) and husband, Peter, welcomed their first baby girl, **Esther Grace** on April 28th, 2019.



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DEATHS



Nettie Rose Cornelson
1932-2019

Nettie Rose Cornelsen (MCI Class of 1954), aged 87, of Rosenort, MB, passed away on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at the Morris General Hospital, Morris, MB. She is survived by three brothers: Ed (Kathy), Art (Rose), Jake (Joyce) and their families. Nettie was predeceased by one brother John, and two sisters, Evelyn Friesen and Ann Reimer.



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2019 Alumni Volleyball Tournament Winners



Men's 2012-2014 (L-R): James Loewen, Cooper Wiebe, Evan Ratzlaff, Ryan Ratzlaff, Nathan Heppner, Nick Kehler



Women's 2011-2013 (L-R): Rayzanna Kehler, Larissa Giesbrecht, Kristen Giesbrecht, Edina Preteau, Jozanna Loewen, Victoria Tubrett



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We invite prospective students & families to join us for dinner and an information session. Prospective students receive a FREE ticket to Cottonwood's Performance of "Get Smart" following the presentation!

NOVEMBER 28 & 29

DINNER AT 6PM

PRESENTATION AT 6:45 PM

SHOW AT 7:30 PM

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