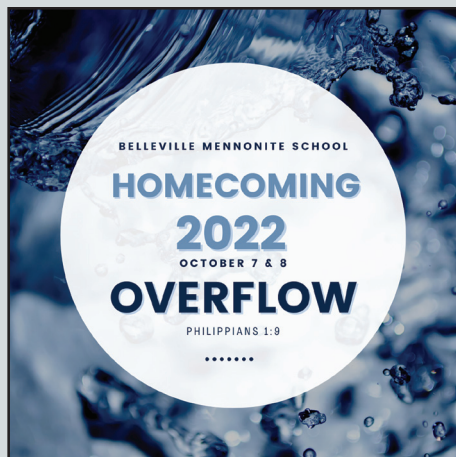


ALUMNI NEWS

Belleville Mennonite School Alumni Communication

2022



*"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding."
— Philippians 1:9*

Homecoming Weekend Activities

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Soccer vs. Meadowbrook Christian
Girls, 3:00 pm • Boys Varsity, 4:30 pm
Concessions & Ice Cream Truck

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Class of 1972 Reunion Brunch, 9:00 am
Class of 1962 Reunion Brunch, 9:30 am
Campus Tour, 11:00 am
Soccer vs. Johnstown Christian
Girls, 12:00 pm • Boys Varsity, 1:30 pm

Dedication of The Kauffman Library, 6:00 pm

Fall Fellowship Dinner, 6:30 pm

BMS friends, parents, teachers, and alumni are invited to gather in the gymnasium on Saturday, October 8 at 6:30 PM for a wonderful time of fellowship and reflection on God's continued faithfulness to the school at the annual Fellowship Dinner. The evening will feature a homemade dinner, recognition of classes celebrating milestone reunions, special music, and personal stories.

We will also take time to honor the Alumnus of the Year & Young Alumnus of the Year award recipients for the ways in which they are living out the mission of BMS. To RSVP for the Fellowship Dinner, please call the school office at 717-935-2184, or email Gwen at rennogk@bmsprek12.org.

Flourishing

by Nicholas Wilson, Superintendent

With a growing school comes more needs, tasks, and responsibilities. Two of our excellent educators from the middle and high school have added unique leadership roles to their teaching responsibilities. Mrs. Jessica Geissinger has been named Middle School Principal, and Mr. Jon Farley, High School Principal. We are thrilled to have them join our administrative team as department heads, working directly with me, while applying their giftings to new leadership roles. I believe they will do a tremendous job representing their peers and guiding our students as we work together for the good of all at BMS!

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BMS Administrative Team



Mr. Nicholas Wilson
Superintendent



Mr. Jonathan Farley
High School Principal &
Secondary History



Mrs. Jessica Geissinger
Middle School Principal &
Middle School Teacher



Mrs. Becky Williams
Elementary Principal &
Grade 4

Congratulations to our newest alumni, the BMS Class of 2022!

BELLEVILLE MENNONITE SCHOOL



And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. ~ Philippians 1:6

Class Reunions



Senior Trip 1997

If your graduation year ended in '02 or '07, you've reached a milestone year and we would love to help you reminisce and celebrate! The Classes of 1962 and 1972 will be gathering during Homecoming weekend to commemorate their time at BMS more than 50 years ago, but you can plan a reunion at any time and are welcome to use our available facilities. Please call the school office (717-935-2184) if we can assist with contact information or help to coordinate a special time together!

Spurring One Another On

The Alumni Awards are one way we recognize how individuals can inspire others to develop minds, build faith, and be disciples. Who have you seen cultivating excellence and a passion for Christ? How are your fellow alumni teaching Biblical truths to the next generation, impacting their peers at work, honoring the Lord with their time, reaching out to their neighbor, or the least of these? Help us share these stories and recognize the Lord's work in us by submitting nominations for the alumni awards.

Please send your nominations for Alumnus of the Year and Young Alumnus of the Year (graduates within the past 20 years) to rennognk@bmsprek12.org.

"It is such a blessing to see how God has worked through BMS in the past, I can see how He is working in the present, and together those make me very excited for what He is going to do in the future! Our faithfulness today in teaching and disciplining our current students will impact generations to come."

Phil Weaver, BMS Board member & parent

Flourishing

Continued from page 1

As I previously shared with you, we are focusing heavily on the shaping and development of new and expanded program offerings as well as a vocational track for students desiring to explore different career pathways at BMS.

I am beyond excited about these happenings and strategic goals coming to fruition at BMS with new opportunities for our students on the horizon... God is great, and He provides! Thank you for your partnership with us and ongoing support.



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BMS provides a Christ-centered education and biblical worldview that inspires students to develop minds, build faith, and be disciples.

Alumni Spotlight

Dean Peachey CLASS OF 1972

How did BMS help your heart and mind to grow and flourish?

It was clear that the BMS teachers cared about us as individuals. That was a positive thing for this kid who often felt constricted by the layers of tradition and conservative expectations I encountered while growing up. Several BMS teachers showed that it was possible to be committed to the church and at the same time to question or rethink the traditions.

Was there a teacher, team, or experience here at BMS that influenced you in specific ways?

Del Glick, as Phys ed teacher and coach had a huge impact on me. He taught us that through hard work, team spirit and determination, a little school like ours could compete with teams from much bigger and better funded schools. Through him I gained self-confidence and pride in being a BMS student.

Linda Nolt's English class helped me become a better writer, a skill that served me well throughout my life. Her notes on the margins of my essays not only pointed the way to better prose, they also sometimes poked and prodded me to think more deeply about what I had written—which meant thinking more deeply about myself and my motivations in the writing.

How did your BMS experience help to prepare you for life?

We were a small student body, so there were lots of opportunities to be involved in extra-curricular activities. Looking back, I was probably involved in too many activities, but editing the yearbook and other projects gave me experience in organizing and leadership that shaped my life as much or more than what I learned in the classroom.

As you reflect on how others invested in you at BMS, are there any other thoughts or ideas that come to mind?

As a student, I was aware of how my parents scrimped and saved so that they could pay tuition to send us to BMS. I saw other parents similarly invested in Christian education, and that made an impact on me.

What was your educational and career path following graduation?

I went to EMU and majored in psychology, then to the

University of Waterloo in Ontario for an MA and PhD in psychology with a particular interest in social conflict. That led to a variety of activities.

I worked for a couple decades in mediation and conflict resolution while teaching university courses part time, then was full-time in university life for another twenty years in various administrative roles as well as teaching. I am now blissfully retired!

How did the Lord lead you to your vocation(s)?

Del Glick liked to quote Elizabeth O'Conner that God's will for our lives is written into our gifts. That seemed to make sense to me, and I explored those various gifts one step at a time.

I never had an overall career goal of plan.

I seized opportunities that arose (or created a few) and had wonderful experiences in ministry and leadership.

What are some of the triumphs and challenges you have experienced over the years?

Working with people in conflict is challenging, but deeply rewarding. In moments of crisis and conflict you can connect deeply with people. I loved teaching. Reflecting on my work life, some of my favorite memories are of encounters with students, especially in human rights and conflict resolution "field courses" in a variety of settings in Canada and overseas.



Dean vacationing in the Austrian Alps with his sister, Shirley Roth Brower (Class of '65)



Dean and his wife, Melissa, with their son, Daniel

Plan Now for our Annual Auction! May 26-27, 2023

We celebrate another successful auction and the delightful time we had together. This year's income from sponsors, food sales, merchandise, and gift certificates surpassed \$85,000 and we praise the Lord for his faithful provisions! We are grateful to Andy Raber & Daniel Weaver for their commitment to lead this traditional event at the end of May in the years to come. Holding the Annual Auction on the longer holiday weekend will help to create a memorable, year-end event with our school family and community while providing a unique opportunity for alumni and friends from out of town to join us.



Growth & Improvements

It is exciting to see updates continue to happen across campus! Each project that is completed is evidence for both donors and current BMS families that we are indeed flourishing. The transformation of the library is underway, the main bathrooms in the secondary building have been renovated, new flooring was installed in the kitchen and Café, the west end of the elementary building received a new roof, and the concession stand/storage shed is being upgraded. We are so blessed by the Lord's provisions through the generosity of friends like you who continue to invest in the next generation of students at BMS!



Campus Projects

During our Annual Auction in May, we highlighted the high school library in our Auction A Need feature and were encouraged as individuals quickly responded and donated \$4,500 to begin updating and enhancing this valuable resource. In addition, the senior class donated over \$450 to the project and alumni have given more than \$1,200 in memory of Miss Brenda Kauffman.

Additional campus projects:

- Installation of windows in the Athletic/training room — \$1,800
- Update entrance signage — \$9,500

We invite you to be a part of The Kauffman Library refresh project:

- Library furniture & supplies — \$6,000
- Digital card catalog — \$2,000
- Book supports (4 packs of 24) — \$500 (\$125 per pack)
- Book display easels (36) — \$95
- Wooden shelving label holders (3 packs) — \$75

Contributions can be sent to the school office or made online through our website: www.bmsprek12.org/support. Please consider how you – or perhaps your entire graduating class – can continue to be a part of what's happening at BMS!



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Support the BMS Annual Fund

The Fall Fellowship Dinner is a launching point for the Faith Promise Annual Fund which provides an opportunity for friends, alumni, parents, and teachers to play a critical role in supporting the school's mission to prepare young men and women to develop their minds, their faith and be disciples. Representing nearly 20 percent of the school's operating budget, fundraisers including the Annual Fund, underwrite all the things that make Belleville Mennonite School extraordinary. Even if you are not able to join us for Homecoming Weekend, we invite your contribution to the Faith Promise Annual Fund. **Donations can now be made online through our website! www.bmsprek12.org/support**

Alumni Database

We are in the process of updating our Alumni database, while also streamlining how we can most effectively connect with you. Please take a few moments to call or send an email to the Development Office (rennogk@bmsprek12.org) to ensure we have your correct contact information and let us know about your communication preferences. You can receive several different publications that are routinely sent out to BMS alumni and supporters:

- The Alumni Echo, a bi-monthly update which features various alumni stories, reflections, and notes of interest
- The Newsday, a quarterly review of school events, student accomplishments, and the latest BMS news
- The Alumni Newsletter, a yearly publication with alumni features and annual school updates

To be good stewards of our resources and save money on paper and printing costs, we're transitioning to digital delivery of our newsletters. We will make every effort to maintain communication with each of our alumni – your stories and experiences are incredibly valuable to us! We are always interested to learn about your life following graduation! In turn, we enjoy sharing with former students the variety of ways the Lord continues to work in and through BMS each new year.

If you prefer to continue receiving print newsletters, you have the option to do so by calling the school office (717-935-2184) or sending your request to rennogk@bmsprek12.org. To catch a glimpse of what's happening at BMS each week throughout the year, follow us on social media!

