the Link

MBCI'S NEWSLETTER

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

FALL 2024 • Vol 24

The Link, MBCI's Alumni Newsletter, is published to serve as a bridge between the past and present, sharing alumni stories and updates, MBCI news and events,and reflections on how faith, learning, and community continue to guide our work.
We look forward to sharing these stories with you!

Thank you for continuing to be a vital part of our school's legacy and future!

CONTENTS

page 2 • From the Principal's Desk
page 3 • Hallmarks of an MBCI Education
page 4 • Celebrations & Project Based Learning
page 5 • What's New At MBCI?
page 6 • Alumni Updates
page 7 • MBCI's 30th Annual Golf Tournament
page 8 • MBCI Connections

WELCOME BACK TO THE LINK

Welcome back to *The Link*! Or welcome for the first time if you've just joined our Alumni community.

While we've sent out various digital updates and online versions of this newsletter in recent years, this is the first hard copy since 2019. While we certainly will continue to communicate digitally, we aren't ready to let go of the printed word. There's something to be said for turning through these pages over your morning cereal or an afternoon cup of coffee.

As you read, we hope you learn something new about MBCI while at the same time remembering your own past school days.

As a school leader as well as alumnus ('96), I often find myself in this space too, between where we have come from and where we are going.

I believe we honour our legacy by focusing on who we need to be for our students today; and we serve our students by remaining grounded on the foundation upon which we are built. I do not experience a tension between the past, present and the future, but rather view it as a tapestry.

We continue to weave together the many threads that reveal the story of MBCI. Each generation adds their own colours and pattern to the design. And just as each generation before us has done, we respond to the questions of how best to educate young people within a Christ-centered context - how best to build on the foundation already laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Today, we answer this question from within our Vision and Mission as a Christ-centered school equipping students to learn love, and engage with the world.

The way students learn and grow here does not happen by accident. Instead, we design strategies to shape our learning environment and our student culture; all informed by the best of what we know about how to inspire curiosity and problem solving, as well as how to plant seeds of faith and develop character.

Our project-based, real-world, and student-centered approach to learning supports students in becoming community-minded citizens who are able to think critically and with discernment while they navigate the complexities of 21st century challenges. Our commitment to modeling and practicing together the principles of a Christ-centered life help to build community and support students as they grow in faith and in their ability to serve and care for the people and the world around them.

Understanding MBCI's journey as a tapestry is also one of the factors that leads us to value you as our former students! Your stories, and your engagement and support, are woven into the very fabric of who we are as a school.

Thank you to all of you who engage regularly with us – we're grateful for your support, your time, and your perspectives. If you haven't connected with us recently, I invite you to do so. Let us know if you want to come to campus for a visit or learn more about how our learning focuses on meaning, purpose, and belonging. We're always happy to hear from you.

Andrea Buller,
Principal

LEARNING. GROWTH. FAITH. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY.

The Hallmarks of an MBCI Education

When you walk across MBCI's campus, you will see these words posted in classrooms, in our hallways, student lounges, and even hanging on banners from the ceiling. More than just words, these are our **Habits and Characteristics of an MBCI Graduate.** We display them prominently so that we can keep within our sights the habits and characteristics we hope to nurture in our students during their time at MBCI. This is what sets an MBCI education apart. We know that our responsibility reaches beyond teaching to include nurturing character and faith.

Take a moment and consider what it was about your own experience at MBCI that shaped your habits and characteristics. We recognize that our students are the evidence of our vision at work and the real test comes with how this vision translates into everyday life. In its nearly 80-year history, MBCI has shaped the lives of over 6,800 students, helping them to acquire the tools and develop the character to live a ***Life Well Learned***. The following is just a sampling of how we witness these habits and characteristics embodied in the lives of our alumni.

Bill Enns, Class of 1959
Previous MBCI Staff (21 Years)
MBCI Golf Committee Volunteer

Over many years, I have witnessed MBCI's great impact on the lives of all who attend. The majority of my former students displayed characteristics of a love for learning and a willingness to solve problems in innovative ways. These same motivated students demonstrated a willingness and commitment to learn more about the faith that the school taught and that the teachers and staff demonstrated. The habits and characteristics of these highly capable professionals can be traced back to the school's stated vision that everything that happens is rooted in the foundation that is Jesus Christ.

Grace Capar, Class of 2017

At the start of my time at MBCI, I considered myself an independent learner. Though part of me to this day is still an independent learner, MBCI taught me the importance of having others around you for enhanced learning and growth through activities like labs, projects, athletics, band, and musicals. It allows you to hear different perspectives, draw from individual strengths, and provides a support system for success and failure. MBCI truly fosters an environment that promotes a group/team approach to learning - a community. Having a community to promote learning and growth, both pillars of MBCI, have continued to be pillars for me beyond MBCI, in my post-secondary education in Mechanical Engineering, as well as in my career in the local Steel Manufacturing Industry. Reflecting on my learnings since my time at MBCI, the most meaningful lessons and pieces of information I've learnt have been from those around me. I wouldn't have been as open to a community approach to learning if it wasn't for this being instilled in me at MBCI.

Habits And Characteristics of an MBCI Graduate

Community
- I work with others as a steward of the world.
- I care for others as a community-minded citizen.
- I engage with the work of caring for the environment and those in need.

Faith
- I understand clearly what it means to live a Christ-centered life, based on the teachings of Jesus.
- I move into the world with compassion for all.
- I look beyond myself to serve others.

Learning & Growth
- I practice a growth mindset, rooted in a foundational love of learning.
- I solve problems in creative and innovative ways.
- I think critically and with discernment.

Leadership
- I lead with integrity, character and skill.
- I take on difficult challenges with resilience.
- I communicate effectively and positively.

10 YEAR LETTER

Have you had your 10 year reunion but missed your 10 year letter? We may have it. Inquire by email.

Email to:
advancement@mbci.mb.ca

WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Whether it's a career milestone, family news, or exciting life update, share your alumni updates with us for publication in the next edition of *The Link*, MBCI's alumni letter. We want to celebrate your journey, help you catch up with old friends, and inspire others within the MBCI community.

Submit an update at:
https://mbci.mb.ca/alumni-updates/

Celebrating Excellence in STEM Education

Mr. Andrew Hiebert Receives Prestigious Prime Minister's Award

Resonance occurs when the vibrating frequencies of one object cause another object, initially at rest, to begin vibrating with a matching and amplified frequency.

This was the theme chosen by a former MBCI parent and alumus when pulling together the materials to nominate Mr. Andrew Hiebert for a Prime Minister's Teaching Award for Excellence in STEM Education. The theme captures well the energy and passion that Andrew brings to his work as a senior science teacher at MBCI for the past 18 years.

Drawing on stories and quotes from a wide range of enthusiastic alumni, the nomination spoke to Andrew's ability to inspire his students to see the wonder and beauty in the scientific realm; using sometimes quirky yet memorable techniques to motivate independent inquiry.

From Andrew's perspective, the honour of being nominated by the MBCI community felt like a humbling recognition of his work, but then to be chosen as one of just 15 teachers nationally to receive this award felt even more overwhelming.

Characteristically, he shared the honour with his colleagues: "This is a validation of what's happening in the MBCI community as we stive for excellence in a persistent and deliberate way – making it fun, interesting and rigorous – and providing substantial student supports to make it happen."

Also characteristically, Andrew speaks of this award within the context of teaching in a Christ-centered environment: "God has helped grant the compassion, the empathy, the eyes to see what needs to be done and the inspiration for 'let's try this!'. I feel as though I'm a player in a much bigger story."

The Prime Minister's Awards are designed to celebrate outstanding educators who play a vital role in fostering a culture of innovation and STEM learning, both in today's classrooms and for future generations. As a school community we are so pleased to congratulate Andrew on this outstanding achievement and for our students and staff to continue resonating together.

Focus on Project Based Learning

Several years ago, MBCI began a journey of incorporating a Project Based Learning (PBL) approach across grades and in every subject area. Projects are a student-centered, inquiry-based approach to curriculum engagement through which students apply their own curiosity and hands-on problem-solving skills to real-world questions. Learning this way helps students grow in their ability to communicate, collaborate, and think creatively and critically.

Canadian History Museum Installation

Our Grade 11 Canadian History students were challenged to design and create a museum-style installation on a chosen topic that would give visitors a better understanding of the complex and nuanced stories in the history of what we now know as Canada. With topics including refugee settlement, prohibition, women's suffrage, Norad, MMIWG, the two World Wars, and many more, students developed displays that were both visually and intellectually engaging.

Several students then applied and were accepted to share their work at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights as part of the "Be an Upstander Showcase". MBCI was well represented with seven of the 70 total participants from Manitoba schools in Grades 4 – 12 at the showcase.

Citizenship Ceremony Hosted at MBCI

For several years now, our Grade 9 Social Studies students have engaged with a project that includes hosting a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony in Jubilee Place. With students taking on various roles such as welcoming and ushering in our guests and the instrumental performance of "Oh Canada", to preparing treats for and serving a welcome reception for the new citizens, this day is a special opportunity for our students to serve others with their learning. As hosts, we are given the privilege of inviting an MBCI representative to speak at the ceremony, an honour each year that has been filled by an alumni or friend of MBCI.

We're grateful to Willie Reimer ('68), Herb Buller ('60), Ethel Schroeder, and Tamara Roehr ('86) who all have or will share their reflections and insights at this ceremony.

WHAT'S NEW AT MBCI?

Henderson Buildings

For those of you that attended MBCI before the creation of CMU, you will remember well the MBBC/Concord College buildings that extended from the MBCI campus toward Henderson Hwy. MBCI recently acquired this property from the Manitoba Mennonite Brethren Conference. For now, we have taken on the role of managing those buildings that are currently rented to various ministries and not-for-profit organizations.

Increased Enrollment

MBCI has experienced three years of significant increase in enrollment. Most recently, a 14% increase into 2024-2025 puts our student population at 540.

We have accompanied this increase with added staff to our Student Support Team as a way of providing the care and support that each students needs along with safeguarding a positive student culture.

MBCI Musical

2024-2025 is another all-school musical year! The tradition continues with Roald Dahl's *Matilda - The Musical!* Running from April 23 - 26, 2025, the cast has just been announced and students and staff are already hard at work in preparation. This musical tells the story of a brilliant and kind young girl who is neglected by her parents and mistreated by her headmistress. Matilda learns to stand up for herself, her classmates, and her beloved teachers with the power of her intelligence and a touch of magic. Watch for information about when tickets go on sale!

Student Spaces

For alumni of a certain vintage, you would understandably go looking for the main office around the corner from the Red Gym hallway. Due to the generosity of our alumni and school community, that space has now been transformed into a student lounge and Student Services centre. With such a sprawling campus, we felt the need to create a "hub" where students could gather, work, and ask for help if they need it. This area now hums with activity as do two other new student spaces on campus.

Athletics Director

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Ryan Ratushniak as the new MBCI Athletics Director. Ryan steps into this role on the heels of Mr. Brian Plett who, not yet ready to retire, remains on campus to share his knowledge and experience. Most recently from Queen's University, Ryan served as the Head Coach of the Women's Volleyball program (and was awarded the OUA Women's Volleyball Coach of the Year for 2024). He has also provided leadership for Canadian National Teams and the U of M Bisons. This position brings Ryan back to his hometown of Winnipeg where he has a broad network of connections across multiple sports and organizations. We are excited for the many ways Ryan will contribute to MBCI and to our Athletics Program.

The Hawks Shop is now open YEAR-ROUND!

Order your Hawks apparel anytime you would like with our new, user-friendly system. With more options for customization and a wider selection of brands and products, there is something here to please everyone! Let your school spirit shine bright with our exclusive merchandise. Go Hawks!

THE MBCI HAWKS SHOP

www.mbci.mb.ca/mbci-hawks-shop

ALUMNI UPDATES

Joy Huebert (Class of 1974)

After a 37-year career as a librarian, I retired in 2018. I now spend my time volunteering, cycling, swimming in the ocean and enjoying friends.

Patricia Kumbakisaka (Class of 2007)

Since 2018, I've made Ottawa my new home and have come to love every aspect of this vibrant city! Moving here has been one of the most rewarding steps in my career, and I'm fortunate to be part of the Federal Government of Canada, where I work on migration and diplomatic cases. One of the highlights of my career has been the opportunity to represent Canada on multiple international platforms, including the United Nations General Assembly headquarters and the Human Rights Council in Romania. Through these experiences, I've gained a deeper understanding of the importance of diplomacy and the values Canada champions on the global stage. The journey has been busy but incredibly fulfilling, and I look forward to what the future holds!

Josh Goossen (Class of 2013)

Last year was the 10th anniversary of my MBCI Graduation, and life has taken an unexpected course! Aside from my full time job as a camera operator at a local commercial video company, my wife Lily and I operate a business called *Wpg Eats* - a social-media based page that features our favourite spots to eat around the city. We have also been lucky to work with tourism boards across Canada, making content for travel itineraries, and dream of expanding our work overseas.

Class Of 1959 REUNION

June 16th 2024 marked 65 years since we had been together writing exams in a hot classroom and planning graduation events. Although 'we' were 34 in 1959, there were only ten of us at the MBCI lunch, two of whom were spouses. Understandably, most 'out of towners' would not have come to Winnipeg for a lunch. Several of our classmates have passed on, and some were unable to attend due to aging and health issues.

Those who attended enjoyed a delicious "home cooked" meal from the student cafeteria, followed by a lively time of reminiscing. Interesting how 'confessions' surfaced without fear of incrimination. With some remorse, we recalled how we had not understood one teacher in particular who we felt was too intelligent and academic for us in high school. We recalled him teaching us "Charakter Bildung" as we memorized long poems in German, eg. Schiller's "Das Lied von der Glocke" (Song of the Bell). A masterpiece of German literature, it depicts a typical life from birth to death with all the events between. How unappreciative we were of this teachers' attempt to instill in us positive character attributes. Adelheid Martens recited the entire poem in German for us again 50 years later in 2009 at our 50th reunion.

During the tour of the facility, we met MBCI's longest serving teacher, Brian Plett (40 years) and had our picture taken with him. Milly (Penner) Dyck and Bill Enns had both been on staff at MBCI with Brian. See the picture where Brian is flanked by Milly and Bill.

A number of us have connected since the reunion, and if you (classmates) have not been included in the emails recently, and would like to be, please email Jake Dueck jedueck@gmail.com. We are planning a restaurant rendezvous sometime in the New Year.

Written by Jake Dueck, Class of 1959

PLAN YOUR ALUMNI REUNION TODAY!

Whether it feels like a lifetime ago or just yesterday, your time at MBCI and the friendships you made here are worth celebrating and remembering!

Reach out to Samantha Groenendijk, Alumni and Community Relations Coordinator, at **advancement@mbci.mb.ca** to receive more information about planning your next reunion!

MBCI 30TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 30th Annual MBCI Golf Tournament was hosted on August 22, 2024 on the beautiful greens of Larters at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club. We were blessed with great weather and enjoyed a day filled with fellowship, all in support of a cause that directly impacts MBCI families.

THE GENEROSITY OF THE MBCI COMMUNITY WAS EVIDENT, AS WE RAISED OVER $74,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE MBCI BURSARY FUND.

Thank you, to all who participated, for helping to make Christ-centered education more accessible for MBCI students and families!
Please join us in thanking the following sponsors for their contributions towards the success of the Tournament!

Title Sponsor

Cardinal Capital Management Inc. / Investment Counsellors – Ron Malech

19th Hole Sponsor

Holz Modern Prefab

Golf Cart Sponsor

The Pollack Braun Blatt Advisory Group at CIBC Wood Gundy

Tee Gift Sponsor

Winters Collision Repair

Front Nine Sponsor

Wallace + Wallace

Back Nine Sponsor

PKF Lawyers

Lunch Sponsor

Concord Projects Ltd.

Hospitality Sponsor

Postma Consulting Ltd.

Chipping Sponsor

EnviroForce Group Inc.

Hole-In-One Sponsors

Century 21 Bachman & Associates,
David Unruh and Chris Unruh
Vickar Ford

Print Sponsor

Lea Marc Inc.

Eagle Sponsor

Access Credit Union
Boreal Woodworking
Enns Brothers Ltd.
Fidelity Investments
Friends of MBCI
Friends of MBCI
Henry ('73) & Susan (Derksen '74) Wiebe
Marwest Group of Companies
McIvor Mall
Precept Management Inc.
Shoal Developments Ltd.
The Standard Press
Woodland Supply

Birdie Sponsors

CBZ Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.
CIBC Structured Products
Hardy ('81) & Kaethe (Pauls '81) Rahn
Lakeview Insurance Brokers Inc.
Garry & Tamara (Fast) Roehr ('86)
Quick Transfer – Experts in Moving – Mark Mueller ('91)
The Sukkau Family

Par Sponsors

Beutel Goodman Investment Counsel
Canoe Financial
Capstone Construction
CIBC Asset Management
Connor, Clark, & Lunn Funds
Friends Funeral Service
GDI Services (Canada) LP
Mat Master
Prairie West
Restall & Restall

Gift-in-Kind and Prize Donors

Alliance Door Products
Arctic Beverages
Assiniboine Park Conservancy
Colosimo Coffee Roasters
Connor, Clark, & Lunn Funds
Cranked Energy
Friends of MBCI
Jason Braun ('89)
The Koodoo Family
Larters at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club
Luxe Barbeque Company / Luxe Furniture Company
Manitoba Harvest
Manitoba Museum
OEB Breakfast Co
Old Dutch
Splatters Paintball
Western Glove

MBCI CONNECTIONS

As an MBCI alumnus, you are a vital part of our school – our past and our present. You helped shape the spirit and character of this community during your time here, and we are grateful for the impact you continue to have.

Each day we are privileged to witness firsthand how MBCI continues to build on a solid foundation within the educational, social and spiritual context of our current generation of students.

Our mission remains steadfast – to provide an education focused on learning, growth, faith in Jesus Christ, leadership and community, helping students acquire the tools and develop the character to live a ***Life Well Learned***.

Your support is vital to the continuation of our work! There are many opportunities to give back and invest in the future of MBCI.

I would invite you to consider how you might contribute financially through a charitable donation, volunteer your time, pray for us, share your story, visit campus, host a reunion, attend an MBCI event, or encourage a student to attend MBCI.

Scan to donate online

Every act of giving and connection strengthens our mission and builds into our shared legacy. If you wish to give a charitable gift to MBCI – whether through a one-time donation or ongoing contributions – you can do so easily through our website (**mbci.mb.ca/make-a-donation**).

From supporting student bursaries to upgrading facilities and creating innovative student spaces around campus, your generosity makes a tangible difference in the lives of our students. Every gift, no matter the size, is a step toward strengthening the future of MBCI and ensuring that more students have access to the same transformative experiences you did. Whether you choose to give financially, offer your time, or share your story, your involvement is deeply appreciated and valued.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to invest in the next generation of MBCI students. We look forward to partnering with you.

Cody Quiring,
Director of Advancement

SAVE THE DATE

MBCI HOMECOMING AND 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FALL 2025

Alumni, Students, Families, Staff And Community Members are invited to join us as we celebrate 80 years of Christ-centered education at MBCI. We look forward to celebrating God's faithfulness across generations! Watch **mbci.mb.ca** for more details as they become available.