



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!

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**80 Years of
Life Well Learned.**



NOTE FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL

It has been a full and rewarding fall here at MBCI due, in part, to our Homecoming celebration in September. Part of our recognition of this milestone is a Legacy Wall installation in the link walkway. With photos and captions that highlight important benchmarks in our story, this wall helps us to visualize our journey over the decades.

This installation, along with our Homecoming preparations, have provided space for me to reflect upon those factors that help an organization and a community like MBCI to survive through generations and also to flourish.

MBCI began in 1945 with a vision – shared by families and the church – for providing rigorous education that would open doors for students while passing on the treasures of faith and heritage. This vision only became a reality, however, when embodied through hard work, sacrifice, and deeply-held conviction.

We know today, just as our community understood 80 years ago, that core values fall short unless we have the foundational and understood behaviours to go along with them. Our vision and mission today – for equipping students to learn, love, and engage with the world, within an environment grounded in meaning, purpose and belonging – will fall short unless we nurture the kind of student and school culture we need to translate our vision into reality.

And just as MBCI's founders wanted to create a school with a difference, we continue to embrace the privilege and responsibility of shaping a learning environment that reaches beyond teaching and includes nurturing "the light" in our students.

The context within which we teach and learn in 2025 is shifting and changing in remarkable ways. While this can feel daunting at times, we believe in the ability of education and faith to shape our students in ways that equip them to move on from here to shape and serve the world.

We believe that the world needs young people who are prepared with the skillset required to solve problems, and also the character and habits they will need to serve and care for others.

We need young people who can think critically while also being able to sit at the same table with those who are different than us – to be respectful and even curious to listen. We need young people who can pursue individual goals while remembering their responsibility to others. In short, we continue to need vision and core values, embodied through character, practices, and behaviours.

At MBCI we're working toward this goal by focusing on the kind of student culture that we nurture here. This is our training ground for learning how to engage with the world.

Our learning culture is built on a growth mindset, embracing a willingness to try, and try again, knowing that through practice, creativity and collaboration we can improve and become better problem solvers. We nurture curiosity and innovation in our students and a sense of ownership over their learning.

Our community culture is focused on the privilege and responsibility of taking care of one another; understanding and treating each other as beloved children of God. This doesn't happen by accident, but through the relational and conflict transformation practices we choose every day with our students, and by designing culture-building activities to foster a sense of belonging.

Our faith culture is built upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, using that as our example for serving others with compassion. We know that as staff we need to model the behaviours for which we want to plant seeds in our students. And we provide the chance to practice Christ-like compassion through service learning.

Our Legacy Wall in the walkway does not have a conclusion. We have an entire wall facing it on which to continue the story some day! We are dedicated to a flourishing MBCI that serves our students, families and our world into future generations, guided by a clear vision and a steadfast commitment to embodying this vision through behaviour and action.

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 and to grow and expand our alumni connections.

Andrea Buller
Executive Director and Principal

WHAT'S NEW AT MBCI?

Legacy Wall

Over the past decade we have been working to ensure that our spaces on campus visually reflect our vision and mission as a way of keeping within our sights the framework within which we learn and the school culture we have chosen to nurture. Our most recent installation is a Legacy Wall, completed just in time for our 80th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration. Located in the link hallway between our two buildings, the gallery provides a timeline of some of the moments that have defined this school community and continue to guide its journey today – noting shifts in leadership, policy, program development, and campus building projects. These benchmarks do not tell the whole story of MBCI, but they help provide the big picture of how we have grown from 44 students in two grades, meeting in two rented classrooms, to almost 600 students, in eight grades, on a sprawling campus. We are grateful for a story where God's work intertwines with our work; where good intentions meet practical realities and where individual and community contributions combine to create something larger than any one person or generation could accomplish alone. Let us know if you want to come take a look for yourself!



Student Leadership in Chapel

We are a couple of years into a practice of having every grade take a turn each year in planning and leading an all-school chapel. Students take a variety of approaches to this opportunity, drawing on our theme verse for the year or from their learning in Bible class for content inspiration, and determine as a group how they want to engage their fellow students. The resulting chapels have included short films, skits, readings, service projects, inspiring and energetic singing, and we're grateful for the chance to experience student leadership in our learning and worship.



Outdoor Ed

We have expanded our course offerings in 2025-2026 to include an Outdoor Education option for Grades 8 and 9. Until now we have had co-curricular opportunities like canoe trips as well as field learning trips to

Fort Whyte Alive and other outdoor locations that have served to deepen our students' appreciation for creation and the importance of caring for the environment. This new course takes place primarily outdoors and helps students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for a safe and comfortable experience in all seasons. We incorporate biblical teachings regarding care for creation and how to be good stewards of the land, while also considering indigenous perspectives and land-based learning.



Junior Musical

While MBCI has a long tradition of producing an all-school musical every second year, we have recently introduced a junior musical production in the years between.



For our first junior musical in 2024, we presented *Into the Woods Jr.* exclusively featuring the hard work and talent of our middle school students. Although the scope of production is scaled back from our biennial all-school musical, this new undertaking provides our younger students with a focused opportunity to explore and develop their gifts. We are excited for February 25 – 28, 2026, when our middle school students will present *Moana Jr.*! They have been hard at work since September and we can't wait to experience the rewards of their dedication. Watch MBCI social media for information about the show and how to purchase tickets.

Increased Enrollment

MBCI has experienced four years of significant increase in enrollment. Up from 540 students last year, our student population for 2025 - 2026 is 593. We continue to accompany this increase with added staff to our Student Support Team. We are pleased to welcome a Social Worker to our team to help provide the level of care required by a large student body and to support a positive student culture.

FOCUS ON PROJECT BASED LEARNING

MBCI incorporates 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.

Serving Others with Our Learning

An important focus of PBL is looking at how we can incorporate service into our learning. When students serve others in some way as they are applying their own curiosity to real-world questions, it helps them practice their ability to look beyond themselves and connects their learning to the development of character and faith. Examples of how service is woven into a project include:

- Our Grade 9 Bible students engaged in a project where they learned from a local pastor who ministers in a church community that serves and supports individuals in Winnipeg who are experiencing homelessness. Students used their research to develop a non-profit concept to help those who are suffering with the aim of extending God's Shalom.
- When our Grade 10 Science students learn about Newton's Laws of Motion, they use these concepts to design games that demonstrate Newton's Laws, and invite our Grade 5 students to test out their prototypes while learning at the same time. This approach builds relationships across grades and helps make learning more personal, solidifying scientific concepts in the minds of both presenters as well as the audience they're serving.



Grade 9 Social Studies

Last year our Grade 9 students engaged in a Social Studies project focused on Truth & Reconciliation in which they were challenged to come up with ways that demonstrate commitment to reconciliation in our everyday lives. Students engaged in research and listened to Indigenous perspectives before proposing their own solutions for how to apply their knowledge. One group designed an activity of creating keychains with beads as a way of celebrating the resilience of Indigenous cultures.



When MBCI recognized National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in September, this activity became part of the learning and reflection for our whole student body. Our keychains have seven beads, representing the seven generations who experienced residential school. Seven-generational thinking is also an Indigenous concept of thinking ahead about how our actions today will affect future generations. Each key chain was first threaded with an orange bead for Orange Shirt Day and the importance of righting the wrongs of the past. Students chose their next beads by colour to represent various parts of their own identities, while reflecting on what it would feel like to have their identities forcibly taken away.

Our students continue to carry these keychains on their backpacks, binders and water bottles, serving as an everyday reminder of the work still required of each one of us toward Truth & Reconciliation.



An important focus in Project Based Learning is engaging with experts; discovering more about how questions are answered and problems are solved within the real world context.

Do you have an area of expertise and experience that you think could relate to what our students are learning in the classroom? We would love to hear from you and add you to our list of resources on which teachers can draw when connecting with experts.

Contact us at advancement@mbci.mb.ca and let us know a bit about your work, how it could relate to our learning, and if you would be willing to connect with students as part of a project.

HOMECOMING REVIEW



80 Years of
Life Well Learned.

MBCI HOME COMING



This September marks 80 years since 44 Grade 10 and 11 students, one teacher, and a part time Principal, gathered in two rented classrooms to begin a journey of Christ-centered education within an Anabaptist and Mennonite Brethren context.

On September 27 we welcomed almost 600 guests to MBCI Homecoming in celebration of this journey! The day was a powerful reminder that MBCI's story is about so much more than any one moment or memory in the history of our school. Our story is cumulative and ongoing; a community shaped by its past, engaged with its present, and committed to embracing the future.

The day was designed for connection, with activities chosen to appeal to guests of all ages and interests, while revisiting some favourite MBCI traditions.

We began the day in Jubilee Place for our opening program, with a chance to hear from our Executive Director and Principal Andrea Buller about how we live out the vision and mission of MBCI today. The program updated guests on the exciting Red Gym project currently underway and our plans for investing in this space to prepare it for future generations.

It was a privilege to open the day by recognizing three MBCI Distinguished Alumni. With **Patricia Kumbakisaka** and **Dr. Jerry M. Maniate** able to join us in person, while **Dr. Henry G. Friesen's** award was given posthumously, we were honoured to reflect upon the example these individuals provide of lives invested in service to God and others, while engaged in ground-breaking medical research, diplomacy, and the work of addressing inequities in healthcare.

As we moved through the middle part of the day, which turned out to be gloriously sunny and warm, guests enjoyed a complimentary lunch and snacks from a variety of food trucks, while taking in the petting zoo and family carnival in the greenspace. Indoors, our spaces were buzzing with conversation and catching up: the Red Gym produced much excitement for both current students and alumni with the basketball skills competition and volleyball tournament; guests got a taste of what daily school life looks like in the library by doing some crafting with MakerSpace; we had a chance to walk down memory lane in the newly unveiled Legacy Walkway and by looking through memorabilia and old yearbooks; and guided campus tours highlighted how MBCI is designed for collaboration and engagement while guests also revisited some familiar corners and spaces.



The day finished off in Jubilee Place with the extended stage filled by musicians of all ages. The massed choir and band demonstrated that the passing of years has not dimmed the talent of our alumni nor our enjoyment in creating beautiful music together.

Thank you to everyone that joined us! We're already looking forward to 2030 and our 85th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration!



CHECK OUT
THE PHOTO
GALLERY





MBCI Red Gym Renovation Plan

The **Red Gym Refresh Project** is a comprehensive renovation designed to transform this beloved space into a modern, 21st-century athletic facility. Scheduled to begin March 30, 2026, with completion by Fall 2026, the project ensures that MBCI students, athletic teams, and community groups can continue to thrive for decades to come.



What's new in the Red Gym?

- **State-of-the-art gym floor** featuring bio-cushion upgrades for safety and performance.
- **Modernized change rooms** for physical education, athletic teams, and community rentals.
- **Refreshed bleachers** with the current seating repurposed to upgrade the Blue Gym.
- **A fully redeveloped south end** including fitness facilities, storage, and office space.
- **A welcoming new vestibule entrance** designed with accessibility in mind.
- **Lower-level athletics hub** with dedicated Hawks home team lockers, jersey storage, laundry, and ice facilities.
- **A refreshed exterior** with new siding and insulation creating a bright and inviting face for the MBCI community.



Every day, students entering the Red Gym will step into a space that honors tradition while embracing innovation.

This refresh is not just a renovation - it is the launch of a forward-looking vision, the first step in shaping the campus of tomorrow.

This project is gaining momentum, and we invite our alumni, families, friends, and community to celebrate the space where so many of your own memories were made.

Together, we are ensuring the Red Gym continues to be a place where students grow, teams flourish, and the community comes together.



Together, we can make this happen. Together, we can ensure the Red Gym is a place that inspires students for decades to come.



YOUR IMPACT, YOUR WAY

Every contribution moves this vision forward. Choose how you can make an impact.

Gifts of any size bring us closer to our goal.

Choose your way to give:

- Cash or Cheque • Credit Card • E-Transfer
- Gift of Securities • Scheduled Installments

Consider making a multi-year pledge to amplify your impact over time!

However you give, you will be shaping a space of connection, growth, and inspiration for future generations.

DONATE NOW



BENEFIT DINNER

The Celebrating MBCI Benefit Dinner took place on May 8, 2025. The event was a resounding success, with over 280 participants, including alumni, friends of MBCI, parents, students, and community members.

Over \$300,000 was raised towards The Red Gym Refresh Project! The atmosphere at the RBC Convention Centre was filled with excitement as we heard about the impact and future of the Red Gym.

We are grateful to those who made an investment in the people and stories still to come, helping to ensure that the Red Gym remains not only a space of activity, but a hub of growth. This refresh will create a premier facility where students can develop their gifts and talents and cultivate a spirit of community, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

It is our privilege to have you as a partner in building this legacy!



For a full list
of sponsors and
prize winners,
SCAN THE QR CODE



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Many thanks to all who participated in the 31st Annual MBCI Golf Tournament, which took place on August 21, 2025! The generosity of the MBCI community was evident, as we raised **over \$86,500** in support of the MBCI Bursary Fund. This year, we were thrilled to receive a record level of sponsorship support, with 46 unique sponsors contributing to the success of our event.

The tremendous silent auction and prize donations further enhanced the day, making it truly unforgettable. We were blessed with great weather and enjoyed a day filled with fellowship, all in support of a cause that directly impacts MBCI families.

Thanks to our community, the MBCI Bursary Fund is able to make Christ-centered education more accessible for many within our community, and for that, we are incredibly thankful.

**For a full list of sponsors and prize winners,
SCAN THE QR CODE >**



ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Matt Smorang, Class of 2022

After graduation from MBCI, I worked landscaping and took a year off from school – believing that I would pursue carpentry as a career. The following year, I enrolled at MITT and completed the Level 1 Carpenter's Apprenticeship Program. I spent multiple years working in construction but recently decided to pursue Audio Engineering as a career. I recently moved to London, Ontario and began my training at Ontario Institute Of Audio Recording Technology (OIART), one of the best audio engineering schools in the world. I've only been here for a few months, but it's been a blast!



Josue Dubon Class, Class of 2013

Currently living in Victoria, BC, I had the honour of receiving the 2025 Chamber Member of the Year for The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

The organization is the oldest chamber in Western Canada at 162 years and I'm the youngest to have received this recognition since the award's inception.



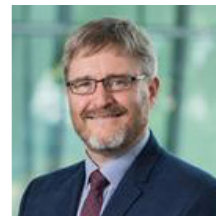
Evelyn Labun, Class of 1960

I live in my own home in Winnipeg and enjoy being an active member on the Eden Health Care Services Board, and supporting Nurses Christian Fellowship and Pioneer Camp, among other things. Last year I traveled to Greenland and Labrador. I am attending Explore classes at Canadian Mennonite University and attend Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren church. I enjoy going out with friends, skiing, gardening, cycling, and canoeing when I get a chance!



Linda A. Huebert Hecht, Class of 1963

Linda A. Huebert Hecht published "Women in Early Austrian Anabaptism: Their Days, Their Stories", with Pandora Press of Kitchener, ON in 2009. The Second Edition was published in 2023.



Daniel McAlister, Class of 1980

I am a faculty member at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where I teach Management and Leadership classes in the NUS Business School. I serve at Helix House, a student residence, as a Faculty Advisor. My family has called Singapore home for over 20 years, though I have opportunities to travel back to North America once or twice each year.



Emma Dicks, Class of 2017

Congratulations to Emma Dicks, Class of 2017, on her recognition as a 2025 LAF Olmsted Scholar in the Landscape Architecture Foundation's Olmsted Scholars Program. Emma completed a Bachelor of Environmental Design (2021) at the University of Manitoba and graduated from the Master of Landscape Architecture program this past spring.



Garry Roehr, Class of 1986

It is with deep appreciation that MBCI recognizes Garry Roehr's nine years of dedicated service on MBCI's Board of Directors. During his tenure, Garry served as Vice-Chair and contributed his insight and leadership through the Finance, Advancement, and Executive Committees. His commitment to MBCI continues as a valued member of the Comprehensive Campaign Committee. Beyond his Board involvement, Garry has been a dedicated coach, an engaged parent, and an active presence at MBCI community events. His thoughtful leadership and genuine care have left a lasting impact on our school community. Thank you, Garry, for your steadfast service and investment in MBCI's mission!

Class Of 1959 Reunion

On September 3, eight alumni and five spouses attended a lunch gathering celebrating 66 years since we graduated from MBCI. We talked about our MBCI days, studied yearbook pictures of our Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 classes, reminisced about our days at school and also our subsequent life journey beyond school.

Using the Grade 12 class list of 34 graduates, we talked about each person in the class and their stage in life at this time.

We have current email addresses for about one half (17) of the classmates, nine or more have died, and we have lost contact with about six.

Highlights were: John Rademaker shared the story of God's miraculous ministry through the Vineyard church in Nepal and northern India. The book, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary God*, about this ministry will be released this fall. Also shared were comments relating to MBCI's influence in affecting the direction of our lives.

The attached picture shows seven of the eight classmates - the five spouses were temporarily gathered at the other end of the table.

The people in the picture are: L to R: Marlene (Wieler) Mueller, Hedie (Wall) Derksen, Len DeFehr, John Rademaker, Jake Dueck, Richard Krohn, Jake Neufeld, (Missing is Bill Enns).



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!



Class of 2005

The graduating class of 2005 had a great time connecting at their 20-year high school reunion this past September! Alum gathered at the restaurant Gather located at the Leaf. The group played a getting to know you game and participated in a draw where all proceeds went to Ubuntu Clinique which is a medical clinic based out of Burundi and founded by fellow alumni Jackson Nahayo!

If you have the means and desire to give to this incredible initiative, please check out this link to donate: www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/63416

Here is more information about this wonderful initiative: www.ubuntuclinique.com

If you were interested in purchasing a copy of Jackson's book for \$10, please email Robert Neufeld: jklrob4@gmail.com

For those of you from our graduating class, keep your information current with us for future events and spread the word to other alum by emailing: reunion@mbci2005.com

Feel free to follow our group page on Facebook MBCI Class of 2005. See you at the next one!

Written by Lana Hastings



Class of 2015

Our class had the privilege of returning to our school for our 10-year reunion. Guided by Mrs. Boese - once our Grade 9 English teacher and now Assistant Principal - we toured the building and were amazed by the changes. The school has transformed into a more comfortable and high-tech learning environment, giving students opportunities we never imagined during our time here.

It was also heartwarming to see familiar staff members who have remained so dedicated throughout the years. As someone now working in education, I deeply appreciate the effort it takes to create a supportive environment for both staff and students. Coming back reminded me of the strong foundation this school has given us and the pride we carry as its alumni.

Written by Christina Kim

CLASS OF 2016 - 10 YEAR REUNION!

We are thrilled to invite you to our 10-Year Reunion, which will take place April 2026 (exact date to be determined)! We would love to see as many classmates as possible back together to celebrate this milestone! We will also have our 10-Year letters that we wrote before graduation to share with the class.

More details are on the way - but for now, save the date and stay tuned!

To ensure that you receive all the details about the event, please reach out to advancement@mbci.mb.ca, who will connect you to the planning committee!
Heather Milan & Olivia Kehler

The Hawks Shop is open YEAR-ROUND!

Order your Hawks apparel anytime you would like with our user-friendly system. With options for customization and a wide 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.mbc.mb.ca/mbci-hawks-shop

500 FAMILIES. ONE VISION.

As an MBCI alum, you know the Red Gym is more than just a building - it is a place full of memories. It is where you cheered on your teammates, celebrated victories, learned the value of teamwork, and built friendships that lasted a lifetime. Now, you have the opportunity to help ensure that future generations of students have the same experiences you did.

The Red Gym Refresh will include:

- A new gym floor with bio-cushion upgrades
- Modernized changing rooms and refreshed bleachers
- South End redevelopment: offices, fitness facilities, and storage
- Lower-level athletics hub: home team lockers, jersey storage, laundry & ice
- A welcoming vestibule with accessibility upgrades
- A bright, refreshed exterior reflecting the energy and spirit of MBCI

Used over 2,500 hours each year, the Red Gym impacts every MBCI student and the broader community. Its future depends on alumni and families stepping forward in support today.

Thanks to 195 families, we have already raised \$1.6M toward our \$4.25M goal.

Now, we are calling on 500 families to come together—alumni, staff, parents, grandparents, and community members alike—to leave a lasting mark on the Red Gym and shape the experience of students for decades to come.

Your gift matters, and multi-year pledges are welcome.

Contributions can be made by cheque, credit card, e-transfer, or securities.

Will you, as an MBCI alum, be one of the 500 families helping to refresh the Red Gym?

By joining this community-wide effort, you honor your own memories, celebrate our shared history, and leave a lasting legacy of faith, connection, and inspiration for the students who follow in your footsteps.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and for your continued connection to the MBCI community!

With gratitude,



Cody Quiring,
Director of Advancement



You have the power to impact generations of students with a Christ-centered education that nurtures meaning, purpose, and belonging.

For more information about making a gift to MBCI, please contact:
advancement@mbci.mb.ca

SCAN
TO DONATE ONLINE

