

## A Not So Dingy Dungeon

Brrrrriinnngggg! The bell rings, and eager students hustle to their homerooms. The 2019-2020 school year has officially begun. Each year there are a few changes here and there throughout the school, but the transformation of the dungeon and new kindergarten classroom eclipses all else (clearly most notice the new modular, but I am talking aesthetics). Previously the dungeon was a gloomy hallway, with characteristics comparable to a dungeon, hence the reason it got its name. Surprisingly enough, the dungeon was not avoided by students even with the possibility of dragons that could leap out of lockers at any given time. Okay, not exactly, but point proven.

The glowing changes include new flooring, better lighting, and some much-needed paint. The navy blue and white on the walls spruce up the hallway, while the natural lighting in the classroom highlights its boho décor. Now that the dungeon hallway has been transformed, the kindergarteners use it frequently with no fear of mythical creatures coming from mysterious places. Thanks to Mrs. Snyder, the walls of the formerly dungeon-like hallway are decorated with posters and trees. So instead of entering a dingy dungeon with dragons and such, it is now the experience of entering a backyard woodland with all sorts of cute animal

friends. I think that this atmosphere is much more suitable for our new kindergarteners. Frankly, it is no longer worthy of the name “dungeon,” but due to previous circumstances, it is most probable that the hallway dubbed “dungeon” will not receive a name change.

In addition to the transformed and much more welcoming kindergarten hallway and classroom, Ephrata Mennonite School has moved a majority of the high school classes outside of the main building. This has been made possible by the new modular. Unfortunately the new modular is not as visually inviting as the updated kindergarten classroom and hallway; however, the additional space that it provides makes up for its lack of visual appeal. The health and safety benefits of the new modular exponentially surpass the formerly mob-like conditions of last year’s commonly commuted hallways, and the space benefits of the new modular far outweigh the disadvantage of no longer having the handy green “exit” buttons. I am sure that the teachers are also thankful for their secluded offices and increased space. But by far the best change that has come to the modular is the boardwalk. This walkway joining the old and new modulares is really enjoyable to walk on. The unfinished wood and the way it is built just feels like a boardwalk, and I can almost smell the ocean and hear the seagulls.

Overall the changes brought to Ephrata Mennonite School this 2019-20 school year have been beneficial in multiple ways. The atmosphere in both the new kindergarten area and modular aid the overarching atmosphere of diligent work and academic excellence in Ephrata Mennonite School.

- Shanda Nissley

## Riots to Holiday

May 4, 1886. Haymarket Square, Chicago. Seven policemen and at least four civilians lie dead on the street while screams of rage, fright, and pain echo off the buildings. Smoke and confusion hang everywhere as mothers push frightened children into their homes and guns begin to pop. Shoes slap against the rocks as others panic and create a riot, scrambling to get away from the danger. Almost 40,000 men were in Haymarket Square that day, seeking to change their lives. These men were there because their jobs were detestable, with twelve hour days, seven-day work weeks, unfair wages, and unsanitary conditions. They needed jobs, but they also desperately needed better circumstances. Some even had to have their children work to eke out a living. This tragic day changed our industry of labor, hence the holiday Labor Day. Because of the Haymarket Riot, Congress passed a law to make Labor Day a holiday. Prior to that several states had passed laws authorizing Labor Day, but finally, 8 years later, President Grover Cleveland signed the act. This gesture officially made Labor Day a national holiday on September 2nd. Not only did we obtain a day off work from their sacrifice, we acquired a fair eight-hour work day. The men that died in all the riots and strikes are considered martyrs by many for all they have done for us.

- Taryn Mellinger



EDITORIAL

# “The Three Stranded Cord”

What do Paul and Silas, David and his men, Jesus and his disciples, the early church, and Ephrata Mennonite Legends have in common? They are all admirable examples of teamwork. Whether spending the night singing in jail, running for your life, casting out demons, healing the lame and blind, or struggling through that arduous homework assignment, teamwork is always beneficial and may even be mandatory to success. So teamwork is clearly a great attribute to cultivate, but what is it? According to Mr. Joshua Good, teamwork, referred to as brotherhood “gelassenheit” by early Anabaptists, captures the idea that Christian brothers and sisters in a church

should yield to each other and in so doing will receive joy. One certainly doesn’t need to look far to see that the idea of teamwork is not embraced by American culture. Portrayed in modern day media, business, sports, and even traffic etiquette is the sober truth that the idea of submission to one another is becoming expediently irrelevant. Rather than becoming depressed by this fact, however, we can be invigorated by the truth that as Christians, more specifically as Ephrata Legends who are daily absorbing this culturally obsolete idea in our daily lives, we are equipped to share in an unimaginable way the love that God has for us as we yield to each other

in achieving teamwork in our school and community.

- Timothy Burkholder



*EMS students join together in brotherhood as the school year begins, participating in a time of “South Korean prayer,” a means of prayer in which all participants pray aloud simultaneously.*

HUMOR

## Flashbacks to Our Cheesy Days



Miss Wagler



Miss Beachy



Miss Krista and Mrs. Burkholder



Mr. Jesse



# Do I Need to Feel Pressured to Know?

What should I do with my life after high school? What is God’s will for my future? These are the kinds of questions that encompass many students’ lives. Many of these questions can cause anxiety and stress for people in all points of life but especially for those who are in high school. It is important to discern God’s will. Ephesians 5:17 says, “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” However, discerning God’s will isn’t that complicated to discern. Simply put, God’s will for those who desire to follow Him is to bring honor and glory to His name. Jeremiah 29:11 promises, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Oftentimes many young Christians think that they need to figure out the specific task God has given them. This verse reminds us

that God’s plan for our lives is already put in place. We do not have to stress about figuring out what it is. If the Almighty knows the plans he has for us, the “figuring out” part of our future is done for us. Our task is to bring Him honor in everything we do. Paul commands in Romans 12: 1-2, “to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” What Paul means is that we are supposed to give our whole lives to God to bring glory to Him. That means in our workplaces and schools we give 100% of our effort because we are serving the King. That means that when we get compliments on anything we do we give the glory to God. That means

that every morning we wake up thinking, “Today I am serving Jesus!” We can then walk throughout our day with that mindset, and it can bring us and Jesus so much joy. When it comes to discerning God’s plan for our lives, we do not need to worry or stress because he will lead us in those plans He has for us. All we have to do is serve Him daily and follow in His footsteps.

- Bradley Hurst



## GUESS WHO

# Guess Which Teacher Hated What Vegetable?

1. “I hated green beans because they were hard to swallow.”
2. “I hated lima beans because the texture is horrific. They feel like wet saw dust in your mouth.”
3. “I hated broccoli because of the taste and texture.”
4. “I hated carrots because of how mushy they got.”
5. “I hated tomatoes. One time my mom made baked tomatoes and forced me to eat them.”
6. “I hated lima beans because they tasted like mush and looked like them too.”

## Answer Options:

-Mr. King -Mrs. Snyder -Mr. Stuafter -Miss Krista -Mr. Oberholtzer -Mrs. Rutt



## Pickle Lake Adventure

On July 19, 2019, the New Covenant Youth Group left Pennsylvania around 9 o'clock p.m. We headed towards Big Trout, Ontario, Canada, where we planned to teach Bible school to the native kids. We drove for about 40 hours on a bus and arrived in Pickle Lake on Sunday morning around 2 a.m. Then we all rested for a few hours before flying an hour into Big Trout. It took most of the day to fly everyone into Big Trout. We spent the rest of the day getting settled in; then in the evening we watched the natives play volleyball. On Sunday we split into three groups and went to different churches, where we listened to a sermon in Oji-Cree and sang for the congregations. There were only a few people at each church, and they were blessed to have a few more believers

come and worship with them. For the remainder of the day, we went on prayer walks, sang at the local radio station, and walked around the community telling the kids about Bible school. From Monday through Thursday we used the morning to prepare for Bible school, and then from 1-3 p.m. the kids came and participated in a variety of games and crafts. Every evening we cleaned up from Bible school, enjoyed a huge meal prepared by a few of the local women, hung out with the kids, and had team time. On Thursday evening after we had finished Bible school for the week, we drove to a beach called Sandy Banks and watched the sunset. We also stopped by a garbage dump, where we saw two black bears. The week having come to an end way too fast, we packed up Friday morning

and flew back into Pickle Lake to drive home. We arrived home at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 28. This trip allowed me to see others' pain and how blessed I am to be living a life without so much hurt. In the community of Big Trout, it is very common for kids to try to commit suicide at a young age or to get abused. We did our best to show them God's love and hopefully we impacted their lives in a good way.

- Becca Weaver



## Summits of our Summers

"I was at a Phillies game, and Bryce Harper hit a walk-off grand slam." Brent Weaver

"Being on top of a mountain in Montana with a mountain goat while it was sleeting." Julia Zimmerman

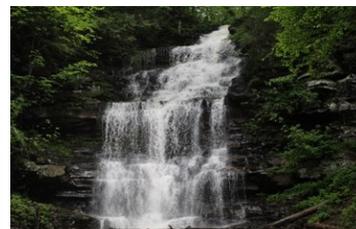
"Going on a mission trip to Guatemala and getting to experience a different culture. It was very eye-opening, and I hope to get to go back sometime!" Danisha Wenger

"My highlight was that my family and I spent June and July on the Island of Lesbos, a Greek island in the Aegean Sea. We helped with the refugee crisis there." David Kauffman

"My highlight was sitting on a hillside in a park in Buffalo, New York, and laughing uproariously at the humor in Shakespeare's comedy Love's Labour's Lost. It was a Shakespeare in the Park presentation and was very well done!" Miss Leanna Martin

"I went on a youth trip to Alaska!!! It was AMAZING. We split lots of wood and hiked lots of awesome mountains and a glacier! Alaska is now my new favorite state." Joshua Beachy

"I went kayaking in the Adirondacks which is located in New York. We kayaked to the spot we were staying for a few days. I went with Nandri and Averi, who are my best friends, their dad, my dad, and Kya. We caught some fish and found mussels, so we cooked and ate them. While kayaking we had to go over some beaver dams. We saw some shooting stars as well. We all had to gather under the tarp that we set up because it started raining two times. We had some good times there." Kenya Snyder



# Distasteful or Delectable?

Have you ever found yourself wondering what exactly goes on inside the Backyard Ag class? If so, be at rest. I am here to answer all of your biggest questions. Recently, I had the opportunity to shadow the Backyard Ag class and to get some awesome insight on their class activities.

When I stepped into the kitchen, a variety of strange aromas immediately met my nose. The whole class was split into different teams, with each team making a different dish of food. Now, this is not your average “meat loaf and mashed potatoes” kind of cooking. I would describe the food as slightly exotic and fascinating. Jade describes the lemongrass bars that her team made as “strong flavored and zesty.” The next time you make pancakes, don’t just stick with your regular, boring pancakes. Hanna can give you a few tips on how to make parmesan and herb pancakes for something completely out of the box. If you are a tomato lover, you could

prepare baked tomatoes for something new. I tasted a baked tomato that Krista and her group made and found it to be quite delectable.

For a moment, I stood and observed the busy room. That’s when I first noticed that everyone was wearing hair nets. Before I had entirely finished pondering this observation, Tasha passed by and offered me a mouthwatering pineapple chocolate leaf.

In addition to cooking on Thursdays, the class is creating tri-folds to present to young children at the Ephrata Fair. Four girls are doing research about chickens, while the rest are researching about different herbs. They have also been practicing sharing that research with

classmates by giving speeches.

The Backyard Ag class portrays an excellent example of team work. I appreciated the deferential interaction between Mrs. Heller and her students through their diligent work and cheerful attitudes.

- Alia Summy



*Professional backyard Ag cooks in the kitchen hard at work to create their stupendous herbal dishes.*

## STUDENT ARTWORK

# Cultivating Creativity



Top left: Becca Weaver (11th grade)

Top right: Kassidy Zimmerman (11th grade)

Bottom left: Shanda Nissley (12th grade)



Bottom right: Tim Burkholder (12th grade)



## Stuco Update

As the new school year begins, Stuco begins again with new executives, Kya Snyder as president, Derek Martin as vice president, Taryn Mellinger as the secretary, and Derek Cassel as the treasurer. Rondre Weaver, Hans Burkholder, Micaiah Weaver, and Samantha Weaver are the class representatives. So far Stuco has opened snack stand again and has been implementing some new ideas there. They have planned an event for the first day of school, offered a sale of iced coffee and donuts, and are currently scheduling other



events for high school and middle school. This year the mission statement is, "Stuco will be known for its Christ-like service and humility to the secondary students through consistent high-quality events,

devotions, and snack stand that demonstrate to the students that we are: #ServingForAPurpose."

- Taryn Mellinger (Stuco Secretary)

## October Calendar

**4th:** HS Girls volleyball game vs. Fierce Homeschool Team (Home) 3:15 pm

**7th-11th:** Spiritual Life Week

**10th:** Annual Banquet at Shady Maple 6:15 pm

**14th:** HS Guys Basketball vs. Dads 7:00 pm

**15th:** HS Girls Volleyball vs. Faith (Home) 4:00 pm

**18th:** No School

**21st:** HS Guys Basketball (V vs. JV) 7:00 pm

**30th-31st:** Early Dismissal 12:00 pm

## A Word from the Team

We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the articles and features in this month's *EMS Expression*! This newspaper will be mailed to you in the first week of the new month from October to May. If you would like to be taken off the mailing list, however, please email Miss Martin at [leanna.martin@ephratamennonite.org](mailto:leanna.martin@ephratamennonite.org) or call the school office (717-738-4266). Thank you!



### Guess Who

1. Mr. King
2. Mr. Oberholtzer
3. Miss Krista
4. Mrs. Snyder
5. Mr. Stauffer
6. Ms. Rutt

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### Learning to Serve

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