

here & now

As they do every year, the students at Jubilee Christian School selected a country to study during the month of March. This year the students chose Germany. As part of the study unit, all of the students in kindergarten through sixth grade learned about German geography, history, vocabulary, government, religion, economy and history. Orchard Drive resident **Werner Philipp**, a native of Germany, came in once a week for Deutscher Klub, a German language and culture lesson. Other highlights included a visit from Mt. Lebanon Police Officer **Mike Smakosz** and German shepherd Sundi, one of Mt. Lebanon's canine officers.

The students learned traditional Bavarian dances, which they performed in Bavarian costumes during a celebration at the end of the study period. At the end of the month-long celebration, the students chose Egypt as next year's area of study.

If we pollute the Earth and fail to conserve its resources and wildlife, the people who will likely suffer may not be us—it may be our children, says a



Kids' organic cotton T-shirts with environmental designs by Mt. Lebanon native **Meghan Stein-Webster** are available at One, Whole Foods and online.

Mt. Lebanon native.

Meghan Stein-Webster, who grew up on Newburn Drive, works in financial services full time, but when she's not doing that or caring for her 3-year-old daughter, Clare, she's a clothing designer. And the Charleston, S.C., resident chooses children as her canvas.

Her line of 100 percent organic cotton T-shirts for kids features graphic designs printed in water-based inks without chlorine bleach. On each is an eye-catching animal or depiction of Earth with a catchy slogan: "Get on Board. Fight Global Warming." "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, No Fish. Protect our Oceans."

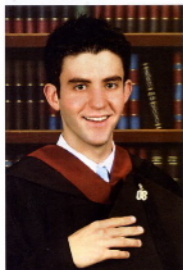
A 1993 graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School, Stein-Webster graduated from Duquesne University with a law degree. Her husband, **Jeff Webster**, grew up on Valley Park Drive. She is a trust officer with U.S. Trust, Bank of America's private wealth group. Her mother still lives in Mt. Lebanon, but her father died in 2002 of leukemia, Stein-Webster says the doctors attributed his illness to the fertilizers and pesticides he used to treat their family garden, which included more than 300 tulips in the front yard. It was her introduction to the toxic power of chemicals.

Eco-generation is the name of her company, created about three years ago after she gave birth. While she was pregnant, her physician prohibited a slew of things, including gardening or eating certain types of fish because of toxins. More and more, she began to wonder how she would protect her child from the risks.

"The whole idea is to make the little kids the billboards for the Earth," Stein-Webster says. She hopes

GUTEN TAG: March was Germany month at Jubilee Christian School. Students such as sixth-grader **Martha Betschelder**, left, wore traditional Bavarian costumes, learned dances and celebrated German traditions.





Steve Silver received two regional student writing awards from the Society of Professional Journalists.

It will help the adults realize "whose environment is being affected."

Currently the shirts are available at Ona, 682 Washington Road, Whole Foods and online at www.eco-generationkids.com. They range up to size 4T but Stein-Wabster is hoping to make them available up to size 6, especially since she finds that kids who are learning to read enjoy the shirts. At a recent trip to an aquarium, she found children utterly fascinated with the designs, which paralleled what they were learning in school.

She hopes to bring the shirts to a wider market to get more children in on the fun, helping them be fashionable while they're learning. "I hope I can have the message out across the country."

Steve Silver, a 2007 graduate of Northwestern University and a Mt. Lebanon alumnus, received two regional student writing awards from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). Silver, a former *mtl* intern, took first place for sports column writing and third place for sports writing in SPJ Region 5, which encompasses colleges in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. Silver's sports column will now move on to the national round of judging.

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