



CONNECTION

August 2017

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

As the summer is about to wrap up, hopefully many of us can look back on this time with fond memories made with family and friends, and new places traveled, and now we can look forward to another school year beginning! This year we welcome into our school 6 new Grade one students: Sydney, Easton, Brynn, Lauren, Julie, and Damien who will begin making new memories here. Also this year entering into grade 8 will be Julia, Alyssa, Megan, and Anna. This will be their final year at Harvest, and a year that they will hopefully be able to look back on with fond memories. Of course our school is about more than building fond memories. It is about building a firm foundation for the rest of their lives, so they can grow up strong in the reformed faith and take that faith with them wherever they go. A sure knowledge and a firm confidence that they have Jesus as Saviour who has paid for their sins, and that they belong body and soul to Him, and this knowledge can provide comfort to them in every situation in their life ahead of them.

commitment that reformed markers are taught here in our school too.

Over the summer our staff has readied themselves for another school year. Also our school was cleaned top to bottom and we thank everyone who is involved with this school cleaning - it sure sparkles!

Some things we as Board are looking forward to this school year is a Principals Conference which our Principal will attend in late September, a League meeting Sept 29, and a School Membership meeting in November. Also we welcome back Bonita Spanninga as Art teacher for the first term. We are also going to follow the League's recommendation and conduct a Principal evaluation.

Our school is in a good position; we are on a firm foundation. The Lord has blessed us richly. We feel we are doing well financially, we have experienced staff, a good volunteer base, small classroom sizes with a bit of room for growth, good relations with other schools and the League, and a strong support base of parents, grandparents and other people. We have so many reasons to thank God in our prayers, and we continue to ask you to pray our school and the important work that is done here.

On behalf of the Board, Alex Sikkema

School Board

Chairman: Alex Sikkema
Vice Chair: James Gunnink
Secretary: CarolinBosscher
Treasurer: Mark Hutten
Maintenance: Andrew Groeneveld

Education Committee

Chair: James Gunnink
Vice Chair: Ken Hutten
Secretary: Cathy Scheper
Member: Luke Mulder
Member: Irene Baron

Teaching Staff

Gr. 1-2 - Mrs. J. Vantol
Gr. 3-4 - Miss E. deHaan
Gr. 5-6 & Principal - Mr. J. Meinen
Gr. 7-8 - Miss A. Hutten
Art - Mrs. B. Spanninga

Volunteer Staff

Mrs. J. Antuma (Librarian)
Mrs. R. Sikkema (Admin Assistant to Principal)

Mission Statement:

Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.

As Board and Society we too can look forward to a new school year with all the same staff as last year- this is such a huge blessing for our school society and students. It provides stability and strength to our students. It is with thankfulness to our heavenly Father that we can have Mr. Meinen, Mrs. Vantol, Miss Hutten, Miss deHaan, and Mrs. Spanninga teach here again. They are experienced, and work well together, and they work hard to draw out the reformed markers in every subject in school. A Christian school is more than just having memories of Christian friends, Bible lessons, opening and closing devotions. The staff works hard to teach science, language arts, math, geography, phys. ed. all with a Reformed Christian perspective. Our principal has been assisting other schools with this at PD days, and it is his



**We will have a
Membership Meeting
November 9, 2017.**

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Another fiscal year end is just about wrapped up and behind us, and we can be very thankful to God for the financial position that our school is in at this point. Wonderful!

The financial statements that you will see at the end of this newsletter for last fiscal year (ending June 30 2017) include a number of new details that previously had not been reported. First, you will see a balance sheet, which summarizes all account balances and activity. New to this report is an annual reconciliation of the Voucher Bank Balance, Voucher Gift Cards on hand, Student Fund Bank Balance, and Student Fund Petty Cash. It continues to amaze me how much revenue is channeled through these fundraising efforts, and now you can see it for yourself. A huge thank you to all of those involved in these fundraising efforts! Of course, you will also see Harvest's own Bank Balance, as well as several other interesting and very exciting details :)

It is very important to understand when you look at the balance sheet that previous years of voucher and student income were not previously reported as school income on our

Charity Tax Information Form, or on the official school financial records. Although you've always been kept up to speed as membership, to become compliant, we have to claim the equivalent of these previously unrecorded bank balances, plus any additional surplus realized from this past school year as new income. This income will show up on our operational statement of income and expense vs budget, resulting in a skewed net profit.

On this statement of income, you can see the final numbers for the School's operation. When comparing to the budget, it is also important to know that this is not the original budget approved at the fall meeting of 2015, but rather one that was modified Aug 2016 with new teaching arrangements. You'll notice that besides the voucher and student fund excess, there are a number of other items off or above budget. These are quite often items that we monitored throughout the year, allowing some expenses as income also grew to match our ever changing financial demand.

The final surplus, again, is grossly

overstated for the previous year itself, but reflects a number of years of unreported income, now all lumped into this year. What happens with this money is simply a new level of reporting in bank accounts across all of the school's operations, which you will see again, looking back at the balance sheet. With a high need for cash flow in purchasing voucher cards, or pre-funding our electronic payroll and bill paying system, these account balances allow all school operations to continue comfortably.

This new reporting detail showing all financial activity is not only required, but will protect our School from future increasing audits on Non Profit organizations.

Through this (at times painful) transfer to a new set of books, now complete, I also want to acknowledge Rachel's tremendous support in the background, and willingness to turn the previous system upside down. Good times! :)

Thanks again to all, and wishing you a great remaining summer.

Mark Hutten

As a reminder, the new school fees are in effect as of July 1, 2017.
\$690.00 Parental
\$300.00 General
\$160.00 Single/Retired
\$50.00 Student.

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Listening to the principal's report at our recent EdCom meeting you could sense the excitement building for the new school year as the theme text is introduced, class schedules get ironed out, teaching duties get divvied up, volunteers organized, and even field trips planned! The laptops have been checked over and new for this year is the installation of internet filtering software (OpenDNS) to prevent stumbling upon inappropriate web content. After a quiet summer for the EdCom, we got back to work and in our meeting continued our trek

through the Teacher's Handbook reviewing it for our own understanding, interest, and to keep it current. We also put together the details for the EdCom Open House, scheduled for Sept. 21 and look forward to what some staff will be presenting. We hope to see you there! There is a slight change on the French front. Having made French instruction much more engaging and interactive with the AIM program we anticipate re-introducing some balance with "old-fashioned" grammar, vocabulary and

verb conjugation this coming year. We wish the staff, students, and volunteers God's all-sufficient grace for the new school year!

On behalf of the Ed Com,
James Gunnink



**September 21,
2017 ~
look for an
invitation
coming soon!**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Hopefully this report finds you and your family well rested and eager for the start of a new school year. We are blessed to have the same staff returning who will be teaching our growing student body. This year Harvest welcomes 43 students, six of which will be attending Harvest for the first time as grade one students. Welcome Brynn Meinen, Damien Gelderman, Easton deGelder, Julie Gunnink, Sydney Hutten and Lauren Sikkema!

While summer marked a time off for teachers as well as students, the staff has been busy the last few weeks prepping for the upcoming year. Part of that preparation involves getting things ready in our individual classrooms, but part also involves professional development. A topic I have been researching both at the University of Alberta and independently over the past few years, has been measuring the impact Christian education has on students. While a lot of qualitative feedback suggests our schools do good work, can that be measured?

The answer to this question is a resounding yes! It can be measured and last year I highlighted the results of CARDUS's research into different educational systems (Public, Catholic, Prep School, Christian School, Home School) that clearly showed Christian schools are having significant success in



achieving their goals. While Christian schools generally outshone the other educational systems on every metric, I shared that CARDUS's results showed Christian schools tend to be average when it comes to academics. This is a complaint I sometimes hear lodged against our schools. An individual might acknowledge how a faith based school is great, but suggest that our academics are subpar compared to the Public or Catholic system. So how are our schools doing?

While every year The Fraser Institute puts out a comprehensive report that ranks schools in every province based on their results in government testing. Last year's result were pretty typical for our schools in provinces where our schools participate in such testing. Here are some relevant highlights from the 2016 report:

- In Alberta two of our three schools were in the top 3% for academics in the province (being ranked 21st and 24th out of 790 schools).

Our worst school still scored in the top 20% and the previous year scored in the top 5%.

- In BC, all our schools were ranked in the top 25%, with our top school being ranked 60th out of 956 schools.
- In Ontario, none of our schools participate in government testing at this time so none were ranked. But of note there was a nine way tie for first place out of 2900 schools. Can you guess what type of schools were on top? The top nine schools included 5 independent faith based schools, 1 independent prep school, 2 public schools and 1 Catholic school.

So our lowest performing schools in academics that take part in government tests are in the top 25% of all schools in any given province. Or to state that a different way, these schools outshine over 75% of schools in their province! While our top schools match up with the absolute best schools in their given province. You simply cannot say our schools don't stack up academically! We have had phenomenal success in helping our students fully utilize their God given talents. Coming from a school in Alberta that has regularly

scored in the top 5% of all Alberta schools, it is clear to me that Harvest's academic success is in line with such stellar results in our sister schools. While there are many factors that lead to this success (excellent parental support, quality teachers, small class sizes), a huge factor stems from the fact our schools are built upon a solid biblical foundation. We indeed are truly blessed to have Christian schools.

Another interesting take-away from the Fraser Institute's results, stemmed from class sizes in the top schools. When it comes to academic success, there is a correlation between excellence and a small class size. In scanning schools at the upper echelon of academics the average class size for these top schools was 14 students. So while we may long for a larger enrolment at Harvest, our small size in this case is indeed a real advantage.

As we kick off a new school year in on September 5, there is so much we can be thankful for here at Harvest. We are not a school that is simply struggling to exist, but a school that is thriving in its task of assisting parents in

their task of raising covenant children. God has richly blessed us!

One way the staff highlight God's blessings on us is through choosing a theme text upon which to frame the year. This year our theme text is 2 Corinthians 12:9 which reads: *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."* The staff will unpack this text over the course of this year. One reason the text was chosen is because of its link to the Reformation. While we always celebrate the Reformation, this year is special as it marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. Harvest will celebrate this milestone in a number of different ways. Some of these ways include having our theme assemblies focus on different Reformers, and putting together a Reformation Evening Program in conjunction with the church. At present we are looking to put together a small committee to

organize our Reformation Day Evening and if this is something that interests you please get in touch with the school.

For those who are wondering about our calendar for the 2017/2018 school year, the calendar can be found on our school website. The first notable date on the calendar is our school Opening Assembly on September 5th at 8:45. All are welcome to attend to this Assembly.

Finally, Harvest is always looking to have volunteers assist in various capacities. While we are in fairly good shape for the upcoming year with many volunteers already signed up (to work in the classrooms, with special education and in the library) we always welcome more involvement. If you are interested in helping out please feel free to contact any staff member. Thanks again for all those who help Harvest in the work that it does. We pray that God will continue to bless our school and give it all that it stands in need of this upcoming school year.

James Meinen

September 5th - Harvest Christian School's Doors Open!

We welcome everyone to join us for our Opening Assembly on September 5th. Students are welcome to come in the building at 8:30 a.m. They will be given a few minutes in their classroom and then join parents and other members in the church for our Opening Assembly around 8:45 a.m.

Communication between home and school is paramount to ensure everyone is on the same page throughout the year. Hopefully through the weekly newsletter and bi-monthly Connection, report cards, the website and parent/teacher conferences, you will be kept very informed as parents to what is taking place in the school. However, there are times when you may want to get in touch with the staff throughout the year. In these situations you are encouraged to contact the school during school hours and, if needed, set up a time to meet. If you cannot get a hold of a staff member, emails are also an effective means of communication. The staff checks their email every school day and will be sure to get back to you right away. However, for more time sensitive issues you can contact the staff at home. Parents are asked to refrain from texting staff as a means of communication and use the options outlined above instead. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Drop Off and Pick Up

To all our parents & grandparents who drop off or pick up students from the school, please note the following guidelines:

1. In the morning students will be supervised after 8:20 a.m.
2. Please ensure that when you drop off your child they head down stairs towards the school.
3. When picking up your child, please park in the straight line parking (not the angle parking) and watch for any child that may be crossing the parking lot to their vehicle.
4. Once a child is in their vehicle please have them stay with you to prevent any accidents.
5. After school outdoor supervision will go until 3:30p.m. After that time your child will wait in the school or on the playground until you pick them up. Please inform a staff member when you pick them up so we know they are leaving.
6. Please call the school to inform the staff of any late drop off or pick up.
7. If your child is going home with another family, or a different driver than normal, please make a note in the student agenda or call the school.

School Cleaning

Each week of the school a family will take their turn and clean the school. Usually this is done on a Wednesday afternoon and a Friday afternoon. There is a list on the wall in the staff room of the cleaning duties to complete. This is a very important task that we share, an opportunity to teach our children about stewardship, but also as parents this is an opportunity to serve in the educating of your children, a clean school means a healthy school and a better learning environment. Thank you parents for your willingness to help in this way!

However, if you can not do the cleaning we do have an option to have the Grade 7/8 Students clean the school and you give a donation to the school for your week. Please contact the Gr. 7/8 teacher (Miss Hutten) for further details.

September 5-8: Guichelaar, Rita
September 11-15: Gunnink, James & Jenn
September 18-22: Hutten, Mark & Lindsay

Owen Sound School News Email Group

This group has been created to share news and information regarding our school. Weekly News-Makers and the semi-monthly newsletter are posted to the group for information. The group is also used to inform parents of snow days and membership notices or where other information that directly impacts our school are posted. What this means in real terms is that you may get approximately 4-6 email messages a month.

Please send your email address to adminassistant@harvestschool.ca to be added!
If your email address has changed, please also send an email to adminassistant@harvestschool.ca so that the list can be updated.

Supplies for 2017-2018

Grade 1 & 2

- ✓ Non-marking soled running shoes suitable for Phys Ed.
- ✓ A change of clothing in case of accident (Grade 1 only)
- ✓ Pencil Case
- ✓ Pencil Crayons
- ✓ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- ✓ eraser
- ✓ Ruler with cm and inches
- ✓ School bag

Grades 3 &4

- ✓ Non-marking soled running shoes suitable for Phys Ed
- ✓ Pencil case
- ✓ Pencil Crayons
- ✓ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- ✓ Eraser and white out (no liquid)
- ✓ Ruler with cm and inches
- ✓ Red, Blue, Black pens
- ✓ 2in Binder with 7-10 dividers with tabs
- ✓ Physical Education Clothing
- ✓ 1 USB stick (for transportation of files to and from school)
- ✓ School bag
- ✓ Lined paper

Grades 5-8

- ✓ Non-marking soled running shoes suitable for Phys Ed
- ✓ Pencil case/pencil holder for on desk
- ✓ Pencil Crayons
- ✓ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- ✓ Eraser and white out (no liquid)
- ✓ Ruler with cm and inches
- ✓ Red, Blue, Black pens
- ✓ Highlighter (2 colours)
- ✓ 2 x 2in Binder with 7-10 dividers with tabs (no zipper)
- ✓ Physical Education Clothing
- ✓ 1 USB stick (for transportation of files to and from school)
- ✓ Scientific Calculator (Just 7/8)
- ✓ School bag
- ✓ Deodorant - no spray
- ✓ Lined paper

