



CONNECTION

June 2016

Melissa Kruisselbrink
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

School Board

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Vice Chair:	James Gunnink
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Chair:	James Gunnink
Vice Chair:	Ken Hutten
Secretary:	Rachel Sikkema
Member:	Matt Hutten
Member:	Jenn Vandenberg

Teaching Staff

Gr. 1-2 - Mrs. J. Vantol
 Gr. 3-4 - Ms. T. Jonker
 Gr. 5-6 - Ms. E. deHaan
 Gr. 7-8 - Ms. A. Hutten
 Principal - Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink

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.

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By the time you read this the school year will have wrapped up and the year-end / graduation program will be over. As we look back on the school year that was we can see that the LORD has been with us and blessed us richly once again. It is hard to believe that the year is already over; as we have mentioned recently, we weren't sure how all the planning for a year without a full time principal would work out. It did work, by God's grace, and we can thank Him for granting us His blessings. We should also thank the many people who help make our school a thriving place of learning and fun ;-)

We have many volunteers who put in many hours over the course of the school year. Our teachers put on a lovely breakfast every year as thanks for all the assistance our volunteers provide. At the time of this writing the full list isn't complete yet but we anticipate that there will be over 40 invited to the breakfast! There are; drivers, those who helped with clubs, those who plan soup days and those who brought soup, librarians, those who worked with students, administration, maintenance, school cleaners, those involved with sports, the Ed-Com, the Board, and anyone else not listed here. The Board would like to express our great thankfulness for the involvement of all our volunteers, the school wouldn't be the same without you. ☺

Of course we shouldn't forget the great teachers we have here at Harvest. Huge thanks go out to Erica deHaan, Anne Hutten, Carol-Ann Hutten, Tiffany Jonker, Bonita Spanninga, Jenn Vandenberg, and Janelle VanTol. Your love for our students and for teaching has made this another great year at Harvest. The students learned a lot and they seemed to have fun doing it. The extra duties you took on this year were also a great help. Thanks also to those

who answered the call from the Ed-Com for substitute teachers, it has been a blessing. Melissa Kruisselbrink and Rachel Sikkema have also made significant contributions this year which is greatly appreciated.

We should once again acknowledge the help we had from the Teachers College this year. We had help with: staff evaluations, fast tracking Erica so she could come here earlier than would normally be possible, the 'Virtuous Minds' presentation, they are always willing to help with advice and finally they do an excellent job of training teachers for our schools. Perhaps this would be a good time to put a plug in for the College, they could really benefit from more memberships and donations. The Harvest Foundation has also been helpful for us this year providing us with funds. We have come to rely on the cheques they give every year. They continue to work hard towards their goal of making Christian education more affordable. Donations to, or investments with, the Harvest Foundation are beneficial for member schools in Ontario and for our school in particular.

Finally we should thank all those who are members of the school society and those who donate to the school. What a blessing it has been to have sufficient funds to run the school so that we can continue assisting parents in raising their children in the fear of the LORD!

May the Lord grant our staff and students an excellent summer so that they can return in September refreshed and ready for the start of another great year!

Psalm 34:2,3

"My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;
 The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
 And let us exalt His name together."

On behalf of the Board, Calvin Kapteyn

TREASURER'S REPORT

As the 2015/16 school season draws to a close, we can be very thankful to the Lord for the blessings he grants, also for the financial support that we could receive through the supporting members. The current bank balance is \$21, 520.34 which leaves us in a good opportunity to hold some momentum into the future, and manage what appears to be an exciting year ahead of us!

Thanks to all who have enrolled in the pre-authorized debit program, we have quite a number participating, and this is working well. For the new fiscal year, along with the assistance of an accountant, we will have fully transferred our accounting books to a new system, which will allow for a little more detail come budget time, and a lot more ease of use!

Finally, *please be reminded that school categories take effect as of July*, so if you're becoming a parental member, have recently become a non-parental member, or are just looking at a new category that you could fall into, please don't hesitate to reach out to me (if you haven't heard from me already).

Thanks!
Mark Hutten

FEE SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2016 (remains the same from 2015)

- Category 1 (Junior/Student): **\$50.00/month**
- Category 2 (Young Adult/Single/Retired): **\$150.00/month**
- Category 3 (Regular members): **\$295.00/month**
- Category 4 (Parental members): **\$675.00/month**

Postdated cheques are required. We now have the option to do Pre-authorized Debit from your bank account. Please talk to Mark Hutten if you wish to sign up for this.

*Please note: You can write your cheques to either
"Harvest Canadian Reformed Christian School"
OR "The Canadian Reformed School Society of Owen Sound and District"
- the bank now accepts both!*

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As you all know by now we'd like to welcome James Gunnink to the Ed Com. Some much needed time was spent on whether he would go by the name James, or Jim. Upon consideration, it was decided to be, James. Not sure what we will do when James Meinen comes!

We also welcome (back) Matt Hutten, we only gave him a short break from this committee and we are so thankful he was willing to come and help us again!

It was a great turn out at the Virtuous minds presentation, thank you all for coming! As Christine VanHalen Faber mentioned we are truly blessed with the staff that we have and all the effort and work that is being brought forth. On top of all that needs to be done, the staff are currently enrolled in professional development courses during the summer months too! We encourage you all to continue to hold them in your prayers, and also to encourage them in the

work that they are doing.

As we continue making plans for the year ahead and reflecting on the many blessings we have received this past school year, it is a wonderful blessing to see how God has all things in his hand! As the school year has come to a close, it is our prayer that this summer is filled with much fun, rest and relaxation for all the students and staff and volunteers!

Ken Hutten



IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT YEAR:

Please see the school year calendar at the end of this newsletter.



www.owensoundfallfair.com

Parents and children please see this link to start preparing your fall fair entries! Click and open the fall fair booklet. School entries can be found under Class 19 Junior Work. Please note it goes by the grade your child was in June 2016.

Supplies for 2016-2017

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



*For those who missed it or
would like to remember it
again!*

Board Chairman's Address: Calvin Kapteyn

Good Evening,
I would like to welcome everyone here this evening, friends, family, loved ones, from near and far, to our year end and graduation evening. Harvest Canadian Reformed Christian School been richly blessed once again by our Heavenly Father. Tonight as we celebrate together may we remember all that the LORD has provided and give all praise, honour, and glory to our God.

Today students you have finished the 2015/16 school year. Are you excited? Are you looking forward to summer holidays? I would like to thank all of you students for helping our teachers to have a good year. Not having a full-time principal gave the teachers more work to do and there wasn't always someone right there to give them advice and words of wisdom, so I imagine all of you were on your best behaviour to help out; Isn't that right?! I would like to thank our teachers for doing an excellent job this year. We were blessed as a school by all your hard work and enthusiasm. Many times over the course of the year some of you could be found at the

school till late in the evening working away getting ready for the day ahead! This doesn't take into account all the work you regularly do at home as well; I expect you too are looking forward to some well-deserved holidays.

Tonight we could open by reading from Colossians 2:1-10 and the text for this evening is from vs 6,7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving". Beautiful words to live by. I hope that all of you students have learned a bit more this year about how to serve the Lord in many ways. You, of course, studied Bible and Church history, but I hope you also learned how to serve the LORD by developing those gifts and talents he gave each of you. And what about during sports or recess; you could have been serving God by looking out for others on the playground, being a friend, and encouraging your classmates. In these ways each one

of you can walk in Christ Jesus. Mariah, Timothy, Michael, and Kimberly your time here is completed! Was grade 8 good for you? Hopefully you learned a lot and are ready for High-School. As you face changes and challenges ahead we hope that your time here at Harvest has laid a solid foundation for your future as each of you seek to serve Jesus, your Saviour and your master. The text chosen for this evening talks about being rooted and built up in Christ. This means that Jesus is source of your strength, he is your anchor, and He is building you into something He can use for the advancement of His Kingdom. We hope that the teaching you have received here at Harvest reinforces what is taught at home and at church so that you may be established in the faith, serving the Lord with thanksgiving.

I hope everyone has a great evening as we celebrate tonight and I wish all of you a blessed summer.

Calvin Kapteyn

Principal's Address: Melissa Kruisselbrink

Congratulations Graduates! Tonight is a special night and it is an honour to be able to celebrate with you. Good Evening parents, grandparents, students and dear friends of this community. This past week I had the opportunity to guide the grade 7 students as they prepared decorations for the graduation dinner. As we gathered together in their classroom Monday morning, I asked them to reflect on the entire year and let me know what their

best memory of this year was. The beautiful thing with that was not that they started recalling a math lesson or history text book, but it was all special events that allowed them to grow together as young members of the body of Christ. One student couldn't pin point a specific event, as there were just "so many special memories", another loved the opportunity to work with fellow students decorating the classrooms

during the festive Christmas season, another enjoyed the latest elevator science experiment, and this led to a special memory for all the students as they recalled water ending up "all over the classroom, or school?" What struck me as I watched the students discuss and interact was how comfortable they were with each other.

Continued on next page...

When you are not present in the school daily, you do not get to witness the special relationships the students build with one another. As I reflected on their thoughts I couldn't help but think, school at Harvest is so much more than just about the text books. Ed Com you are doing a great job keeping our curriculum up to date, Board your work of ensuring policies are in place and in general things are running properly and in good repair, is fantastic. Yet at the end of this school year I would like to ask all of you to reflect with me on how God's grace was bestowed on us so richly to allow us to have this Reformed Christian School. A Christian School to allow us to work together as a body of Christ, to help each other in the instruction of our covenant youth, and to allow us to worship God together as students and parents at Harvest.

This past year is truly one full of memories proving that it is God who carries us through all times, not our committees or leaders, but God. To God be the glory for this past year. We have created history at Harvest by running our school with a principal committee. A great thank you to Janelle Vantol, Carol-Ann Hutten, Rachel Sikkema and Carolin Bosscher for working so diligently with me over this year and taking on so many tasks a principal would normally do. Your dedication to your extra work load was incredible. God truly blessed your efforts, for things were able to run so smoothly. It is truly by God's grace that a school can run smoothly and this year was proof that it is God's grace and faithfulness that allows us to start and finish every school year that happens here at Harvest.

This year students were blessed with an inspiring staff. Each

staff member carried with them their own special gifts and talents. The beauty is that all students could experience and benefit from these different gifts. Thank you staff for taking on subjects in other classrooms such as Music or French to allow the students to be instructed through your gifts. A special thank you also to Mrs Bonita Spanninga who guided our children through many beautiful Art lessons. As well to Miss Erica DeHaan who fast-tracked through her studies at the Teachers' college so she could finish off the year teaching our grade 5/6 class - we appreciate your hard work!

Thank you also staff for taking turns leading the entire school through devotions on character. This past year five character traits were studied and worked on. It is a gift from God that our students have the freedom to discuss their characters with each other, and as a young body of Christ discuss the need to work for God in all areas of life, from curiosity to tenacity to integrity. May all our attitudes and efforts be ultimately to serve God first and our neighbor second!

There were many special events that happened this year, soup days, skating afternoons, sports events, speech contests, reading week, a special lunch from our dedicated librarians, plays, grandparents day, track and field. The list could be much bigger. Thank you parents for your willingness to help. We always had enough drivers, judges, helpers, and food and at track and field we were blessed with more than enough volunteers! Here again we can say it is God's grace! It is God who works in us the desire to do any good, it is God who worked in us the desire to work together at Harvest to give our covenant children these special opportunities to grow.

Students, I did not have the

opportunity to be in the school daily, but the moments and days that I was able to be there I often saw encouragement, kindness and support for one another. It is by God's grace that you were able to work together in your classrooms, or with older/younger students. God has given you opportunities to build special relationships with one another. Hold on to these relationships and cherish each other's different gifts that God in love has given to each one of you. Congratulations Grade 8 Graduates, tonight you finish a special chapter of your life. Elementary school is a special stage of life in which you begin to see that God is the Creator of all of life. Continue to grow in Him, seek Him in everything and you will never cease to be amazed of how great is our God.

Parents, tonight is the final event of the official 2015/2016 school year. God graciously provided safe travels every day, and though there was a number of different sicknesses this year, we are all still relatively healthy. God graciously blessed us with this Reformed school this past year to help us in teaching our children about Him and His Word. Truly God is good and truly God is faithful. As we look forward to the summer off, we can also look forward to the coming year. We can without a doubt know that God will guide that year as well. Already we can see His grace in providing us a new principal. May God bless the plans for next year and may God continue to bless all efforts to raise our children in the Lord, so that by His grace they may all grow up to serve Him in love and unity. thank you.

Melissa Krusselbrink



CLASS OF
2016



Mariah Degelder

Timothy Feenstra

Michael Nordeman

Kimberly Scheper

Inspirational Address: Carol Hutten

Mike, Kim, Mariah, Tim ... Miss Hutten asked me to do an inspirational speech at your graduation. I was honored. I was a little intimidated. I was the student who had an 'R' in math in grade 8, that's what happens when your mark is lower than an 'F', and it didn't get much better in high school. I just didn't care. I didn't have any desire to try. So now...I'm to talk to you about giving it you're all. You've had an amazing teacher, incredible parents, and what can I possibly add? Besides the last time Miss Hutten left her classroom, I tried to inspire you to keep going on your writing assignments. The best I could come up with was 'if you write more than me before she gets back I'll give you candy.' That can't be real inspiration. So...inspiration - what is it? I could say...You've got this! You can do it! Decide to do well and you will!.. Hmm. Nope - not really inspiring. I needed help. I asked about a theme, or main idea, and was told that Colossians 2:6-7 was the text chosen for your grad. I looked it up. I read it. I'll read it to you: As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Three words. Walk in

Him. Seriously? another instruction? Something else to do right? Another rule to obey now that schools out? NO! Not at all! Graduates, and everyone in attendance, these three words are so much more than just another instruction, it's inspiration. I know now that I don't have to inspire you, God's so much better at it! We can walk in Christ Jesus the Lord. We don't have to do high school or the rest of life on our own - with God somewhere up in heaven, cheering us on, we don't have his help only when we have our Bible open, and He's not just holding our hand in hard times. We're IN him, always!

Think of it this way. You're near a big storm as it's building up...knowing your house is around the corner is good - but not great, standing right outside the door - better but not perfect. Once you're inside you're good. The storm will pass by, and you don't have to worry. That's the inspiration we have when we live in Christ! He's all around us, sheltering us all the time. That's awesome!

You're looking ahead to some summer months. Time off, maybe some camping, swimming, time with family or friends. Enjoy that. Then it's off to ECHS. It's exciting, you have some good times ahead of you.

You're all going to the same school, you'll meet new people, make new friends, experience learning, and sports opportunities in new ways.

You know, there's something I've enjoyed about watching you reach this point together. There are four of you, and you're all so different from each other. In the way you learn, the way you interact with others, your interests, and your skills. It's been amazing to watch you learn, grow, and really enjoy time together even though you're so different. But you know what? Despite your differences, you're going to face some of the same things in the future. Big decisions: what courses do you choose? What to do when you're done high school? What friends do you stick with? What about if you're offered alcohol/drugs?

Your response in good times and struggles can be the same. You're in Christ. So pray. Every day. 10 times a day. Not necessarily closing your eyes, getting down on your knees. When you live in Christ, He hears your thoughts before you speak them - so you can pray when you're walking in the hall, writing a test, a party with friends. And every day, remember, you're in Him so nothing's going to be too hard, not with God on your side. That's inspiration.



Grade 8 Classroom Teacher: Anne Hutten

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.
Good evening graduates.

Good evening and welcome.

I've been asked to ensure that my speech is funny. The problem is, whenever I try to be funny, I'm usually really not that funny at all. So, I've decided to just speak from my heart. Besides, whenever I've done that this past year, the students have all just laughed at me anyway, so I think it will be a win win situation.

First of all, I'd like to say a quick little something to the parents of the graduates. Mr. and Mrs. Degelder. Mr. and Mrs. Scheper. Mr. and Mrs. Nordeman. Mr. and Mrs. Feenstra. Thank you.

Thank you for allowing me to spend so much time with your child this year. Thank you for trusting me to be such a major part of their life. I hear that you never really love someone as much as you love your own children, but I want you to know, I often refer to your children as "my kids". I've loved every minute with them. They have truly become such an integral part of my life; I'm not sure how I'll manage with the whole summer to myself. They've definitely left a mark on my heart. ☺

AND NOW

I would like to describe to you all, Mariah, Timothy, Michael, and Kimberly, the way they are through my eyes.

Kimberly is first... Because I know that will make her feel super awkward and embarrassed. Like. Why Miss Hutten.

Kim has been so fun to get to know. She's very expressive and sometimes she laughs at my jokes so that's always nice. More often though, she just dramatically rolls her eyes and says, "Seriously..."

Kim has many different gifts and a lot

of things come naturally to her. She's quite particular - even so far as ensuring on the grad trip this week, that everyone brushed his or her teeth at appropriate times, "Say it with me now everyone... Hygiene!"

I learned something else about Kim this week on the grad trip. We are much more alike than I thought. Our first activity was tree top trekking... basically.. climbing around high up in the trees over precarious lines and swinging logs, with a very slim chance of survival. Definitely not my forte.

As we began the climb, Kim was ahead of me, ready to tackle the first rope balancing act between two trees. All I hear is, "I hate this." And despite that, she was more often the one turning around and encouraging me to keep going, and that I would be ok - "You've got this Miss Hutten." Thanks Kim.

However, we proved to be much different again, because long after I decided to keep my feet firmly planted on the ground, Kim's fierce determination won her over and she completed even the most difficult courses available at the tree top trekking facility. Wow Kim! I was so impressed!

Kim, for you I have chosen this text: Philippians 1:9-10 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

And since ladies are first, next we will look at Mariah. Mariah is crazy about sports. I don't know how else to say it. From day one, it was clear to me that Mariah would much rather be out on the soccer field, football field, baseball diamond, hockey rink, than anywhere else in the world. Like Kim, she is fiercely determined and quite competitive. Let me tell you... The final activity of the grad trip was to go to a blue jays game in Toronto. Shortly after announcing that this

activity would take place, I was notified, that we HAD to arrive VERY EARLY because they were going to be giving out Edwin Encarnacion t shirts to the first people that got there, and MISS HUTTEN WE HAVE TO GET THERE EARLY I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.

I'm happy to report, we arrived at the jays game an hour and a half early and everybody got their t shirts, as you will see in the slide show ☐

Mariah in the classroom was normally a very calm person. She was the one who would keep people on track, gently remind them to get their work done, calmly encourage. Be the first to volunteer to clean up. But the Mariah on the grad trip? Yikes. She was a wild one. Running around laughing hysterically. Doing yoga stretches in the hallway in the middle of the night. Knocking on the boys' doors. I mean, this calm young lady became an unmanageable wild thing.

Mariah, it's been so fun to get to know you too this year. You've shown so much strength of character, and determination, and at the same time, incredible empathy for everyone around you. For you I have chosen this text from Philippians 4:4-7 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Alright then. On to the gentlemen.

Timothy joined us close to the beginning of the year.

Continued on next page...



It was a relief for everyone that Timothy came, because finally there was an even number of boys in the classroom, and Miss Hutten would now allow the boys to do group work together in pairs.

What. A. Gigantic. Relief.

Timothy was immediately well liked in the classroom when he announced a few days prior to the soccer tournament that he really liked soccer. Another relief.

Timothy has a definite keen interest in farming - his favourite animal is the goat. He just loves tractors. He also loves the blue jays. Timothy loves to sing, and one time I asked him what his favourite music was close to the beginning of the year (do you remember Timothy?), and he told me, "Anything organ." Is this starting to sound like anyone in particular? I think that Timothy and his dad are two pees in a pod. ☺

Timothy, I know this has been a difficult year for you at times. It has not been easy to leave familiarity and friends behind in Fergus, and I know you've missed them a lot. We are so happy that you joined us though, and it has been so fun to get to know you. You completed our classroom Tim! For you, I have chosen this text appropriately I think, from I Timothy 4:12, where Paul is addressing Timothy, and if I may have the liberty of adding the name, it would go like this, Timothy, let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

And finally, Michael.

It has been difficult for me to teach Michael, because I've grown up as being almost like his older sister, often at the Nordeman home. However, this year, allowed me to get to know Michael in a totally different way. Michael is definitely the class clown. He will do pretty much anything to get a laugh out of someone. It's just great. A well-loved moment in our classroom was a few weeks ago, while everyone was working on their stories, writing quietly, with myself marking at the front of the classroom. It was a rare occasion where peace reigned in the kingdom of Miss Hutten. Imagine

it, if you will. I look up and appreciate the silence. I admire my diligent students. All is well in the world. I return to my marking.

Suddenly, Michael dramatically drops out of his desk to his hands and knees, crawls around for a little while. Crawls up to the front of the classroom beside me.. sniffs my arm several times, and RUFF!!

A moment of complete and utter bewilderment dissolved into laughter for quite a long period of time.

Yes Michael always likes to laugh, and have fun. He, like the rest of the grade 8 class, loves his sports. But Michael also has his sentimental serious side. A perfect combination of this and display of Michael's character was shown on the grad trip one night.

As I was rounding up the students and directing them to bed.. brush your teeth, go to bed, you didn't brush your teeth yet? Why are you out of bed again? Why are you laying on the floor? Would you.. you can't possibly be hungry...

.... the typical bedtime process for teenagers, I'm sure. Everyone was starting to get settled, and I called out, "Don't forget to say your prayers!" Michael popped out of his room and said, "Oh Miss Hutten, that's what I was going to talk to you about.. I forgot my Bible at home. "

So I said, "No problem, Mike, I'll let you borrow mine."

So I delivered my Bible to Michael, and after thanking me, he promptly slammed his bedroom door and yelled out to Timothy in the back room.. "Hey Tim! What Bible story should we read tonight?"

Timothy yelled back, "David and Goliath!"

Michael, "Yah! I love that story!!!"

We girls lay in our rooms and could listen to the Bible story through the walls.... When it was over, Michael came and knocked on my door to

return the bible, "Mann... that is a longgg story.."

Michael, you bring a lot of laughter and joy to people's lives. For you I have chosen Colossians 3: 14-15 But above all these things, put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful.

Kim, Mariah, Timothy, and Michael, In just a few moments, you are going to walk across the front here and receive your diploma. But I want you to know something. That moment that you receive your diploma... it's not about you. This evening is not about you. And the dinner we just had, has not been about you. This whole evening has been brought about, not because of your hard work, but because of the immense grace and abundant blessing of our Awesome God. One of my favourite memories of this year, was driving home with you and the grade 7s from the volleyball tournament. You were all chatting in the back and Mrs. Hutten and I were in the front. Do you remember? We were listening to the Matt Redman song, "Abide with Me." And it came to your favourite line, and all of the conversation in the back of the van stopped mid-sentence as you sang the line "Abide with me. Abide with me. Don't let me fall. And don't let go. Walk with me. And never leave. Ever close, God, abide with me. And the singing from the back seats grew louder as you all joined in singing, "A love that will not ever let me go. A love that will not ever let me go. You'll never let me go." Mrs. Hutten and I had to look out the windows to hide our tears. It was just the most amazing moment.

It is my prayer, as you graduate from Harvest this evening, that you keep singing those words, and never ever stop. May God bless you so richly as you all continue your education at Emmanuel Christian High School. Thank you.

Anne Hutten



Speech By The Graduates: Michael Nordeman & Kimberly Scheper



Good evening ladies and gents, board, teachers, fellow classmates, family and friends! We have been blessed with many years at Harvest by our Father in heaven and now it has come to an end. We have definitely learned many things over the years, though looking back we're not too sure that any of it is useful.

It all started with Grade one. The "old" Mrs. Jonker as everyone now calls her, taught the five "happy to be at school" kids; that changed quickly for all of us.

In Our class were Janice Vanderloo, Jacob Pieterman, Kimberly Scheper, Michael Nordeman, and Mariah Degelder. We learned the safety rules, but never quite took them to heart, as they forbade our fun.

We enjoyed swinging on the desk as we came back from asking questions, wrapping the strings from the blinds around our ears. We also loved playing house during lunch. Michael and Andrew being the wild kids, Mariah sometimes being the vicious dog or caring mother, and Kimberly chasing everyone around laughing her head off! We had lots of fun. Mrs. Jonker also rewarded us for our bravery, when she pulled out our teeth, by giving us a sucker.

It was a great achievement, making grade 1, a bearable year. At the end of the year we said goodbye to Janice.

Grade 2 came around and we hadn't matured at all. All of us still needed the comfort of our oversized companions.

Michael brought his huge stuffed duck;

Mariah brought a big bear, and Kimberly brought her big dog. We then would form a circle on the tires during recess and talked about who knows what.

Then one unfortunate lunch time, Jacob Pieterman and Michael thought they would play with their food, just to a different extent. Jacob thought it would be funny to hit Michael with a yogurt tube, as his sword. Michael didn't think it was necessary to stop him, and eventually he ended up with a pile of yogurt on his head. At the end of that year we had to say good-bye to "old" Mrs. Jonker as she moved away.

In grade 3 our mornings started with Mr. Balch dramatically acting out a Bible story; sometimes even asking for our help. To add to the fun, Mr. Balch would reward for us singing to 100 in French, under a minute, by giving us peppermints and sometimes extra Phys Ed. To demonstrate our knowledge in French, Mr. Balch would ask someone to stand on his stool and describe our clothing.

We were very hyper that year as Miss. Versteeg would give us candies to help with math problems. Now don't worry, we weren't given candy for everything.

Our teacher was Ms. Meijjard, now Mrs Gordon, in Grade 4. We 'learned' to play the recorders that year. Every time we played we would burst out laughing at the sound because none of us could play very well.

In order to see if anyone had been

talking we had the "Blurt Box". One lucky student would checkmark the boxes behind a name if they talked. It was definitely not a reliable way to record.

Mariah received a lot of checkmarks although looking back, she feels it would have been more accurate if Michael received more checkmarks than her.

At the end of the year we had to say good-bye to Jacob Pieterman.

In grade 5, we had Mrs. Petra Jonker, as our teacher. She was a strong believer in BMS, the big man syndrome. She never wanted to admit that we were taller than she was so, she said we had BMS.

We let her have her way since during science that year we were allowed to watch many cool videos. We learned to research topics thoroughly because when Michael was asked what the Furious Overfalls was he replied "I don't know.... a waterfall??" Mrs. Jonker had a sore stomach for the rest of the day because she laughed so much.

Grade 6 was the year we had Mr. Diek. One of our popular arguments was if boys or girls were better. All the boys had to say was "we were made first" and Mr. Diek declared us winners.

That year we were in the class with the storage room. During lunchtime we would run around the classroom waving the flags, which were in the room, and sing O Canada... How patriotic!

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There also happened to be a bunny suit in that storage room so, Michael decided to put it on and parade around the classroom.

In Grade 7, we had Mrs. Hulst, and Mrs. Melissa Kruisselbrink. During the winter, we played football in our sweaters and snow pants. We also got in trouble for throwing snowballs, so the girls had to shovel a path from the school to the hill. The girls mostly just sled down it so; it was not all that bad.

On track and field day Michael had the pleasure of hitting Mrs. Hulst with a water balloon. Mariah ambushed Mrs. Hutten with a big bucket of water. The last week of school was messy, as we had to decorate the gym for the grade 8's. We got primer and paint on everything.

In grade 8, we had Miss. Hutten as our teacher. Boy, were we in for a treat! On the first day of school it was just Mariah and Kim. I wasn't there because I shot my foot with a pellet gun. A couple days in to school Miss. Hutten was already rewarding us with

candy for not making fun of her weird noises. Then there was the candy for test anxiety and for working well.

At the beginning of the year Timothy Feenstra joined us. He was a great addition to our class as now we had an equal amount of boys and girls.

We learned quickly that Miss. Hutten was not a morning person. Do not bug her until she's had a few espressos!

Tournaments were a highlight of the year. We even had our own personal cheerleader, Miss. Hutten, who promised to cheer us on even if we were losing terribly. After a day of exercise we would stop at McDonald's to reward ourselves. Miss. Hutten mentioned many friends' names during the year, she's so popular! She also had a lot of favourite songs, which we would listen to every day at school.

Our school days were never boring. Most days someone would make a lame joke and Miss Hutten would be in a great mood and laugh her head off, sometimes having to take a short "commercial break".

At Christmas time, we had fun with the whole school, decorating our classroom with many Christmas things. This included more than 50 snowflakes and tons of Santa outfits. Later in the year, things got more serious because Miss Hutten realized that we were more like animals than students. That's when the threats of essays came along. Then there was the threat of having to vacuum or staying in all recess.

We were lucky because she gave us warnings before getting us in trouble.

Lots of warnings!!

We are thankful for all the people who have helped us get this far throughout the years. We couldn't have done it without the teachers, our parents and family, volunteers, and most importantly God. Thank-you!

