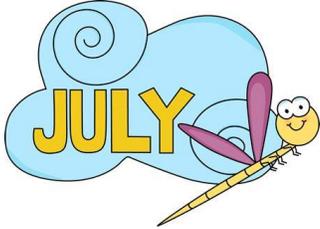




CONNECTION

June/July 2017

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



School Board

Chairman: Alex Sikkema
Vice Chair: James Gunnink
Secretary: Carolin Bosscher
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.

177551 Concession 5, R.R. #3
Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5N5
Phone: (519) 371-4498
Fax: (519) 371-6532
E-mail:

principal@harvestschool.ca

&

adminassistant@harvestschool.ca
Website: www.harvestschool.ca

FROM THE BOARD

Another school year is done! 5 more students have graduated from Harvest and they are ready to take on new challenges in high school! But first there is summer time and we pray that the Lord will bless everyone this summer as they spend time with their family and friends and take some time away from their regular school routines. We wish our staff a productive time to wrap up this year and as they prepare for the upcoming school year and maybe also squeeze in some vacation time too!

The Lord has blessed our school abundantly this year. It was wonderful to see James Meinen come in and with apparent ease take on the role and challenges that come with being a principal in a small school. Our other staff members also rose to the many challenges they faced through the school year and as Board we feel well prepared with staffing and finances for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year!

Thank you to all that have given their time and energy to make this year successful. The staff has hosted a breakfast event for all those people who volunteer in the school throughout the year. As a Board we say a big thank you to everyone who cares and gives of their time. Our school would not be the same without your help. A special big thank you to Melissa Kruisselbrink for her willingness and for all that she has

done this year to make our school year a success!

Since our last Board meeting and our spring membership meeting we have been able to secure Bonita Spanninga as Art teacher for first term or at least until their baby will be born. We will make final arrangements as the time gets closer, but at least for now the students can look forward to Bonita as their art teacher again!

We can also look forward to September when we welcome 5 new students to Grade One. There are a lot of arrangements that need to be made before then. The Principal, together with the staff and Ed Com will need to draft up a schedule for next year and there will be a school cleaning and work day sometime in August so be prepared for the requests that will come your way.

Once again the Board would like to express our thankfulness to our almighty God for how smooth everything is going this year. We have no concerns about staffing or finances, and so we also say a big thank you to membership for your involvement, encouraging comments, and financial support.

"Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Ps 29:2

On behalf of the Board,
Alex Sikkema

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello Harvest members, happy summer vacation! Thanks to all for your continued financial support, we continue in good shape into a new school year.

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.

We also wish to remind the membership that all students receive 24/7 insurance coverage under the board purchased 'blanket plan' through Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance. In the event of an injury at home, school, or a school sponsored event, the following coverage as listed below would apply:

\$75,000.00 Total and Permanent Disability

\$15,000.00 Accidental Death

\$75,000.00 Dismemberment or loss of use

Also included is Medical, counselling, dental accident etc. For a more detailed listing of additional coverage included in the plan, please see the website link: <http://www.insuremykids.com/en>

It is our prayer that nobody will need to make use of this insurance, but we wanted to highlight this information, as it is available if necessary and it covers an extensive list of scenarios.

Thanks again to all, have a wonderful summer. Mark Hutten



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Another school year has flown by and has drawn to a close with mixed emotions. Our principal recently reported a unique absence of "Woohoo! Summertime!" on the last day of school and rather a degree of sadness as teachers, students and classmates part way for the summer. This speaks to the positive atmosphere and overall happy school culture that was evident this past year for which we are extremely thankful! We are thankful for the successful completion of their Harvest studies for 5 young men and ladies and pray that what they've learned at Harvest will be foundational for their high school years.

As Education Committee we have recently reviewed our 3 year plan and amended it to reflect what we've completed and what is on the horizon for discussion. Of note... first, on the technology front, we have decided to make use of some internet filtering software to prevent students and staff from stumbling upon inappropriate web

content, and we hope to have this installed for the new school year. Second, upon reflecting on the French Aim program, we would like to balance the current interactive verbal French instruction with some "old school" grammar and vocabulary. And third, we have considered our "Health" curriculum in light of the provincial government's new sex ed guidelines. This year at Harvest, the grade 5/6 students received several classes of instruction on the reproductive system, learning about basic anatomy, and the development of a child from fertilized egg onward. This was received with rapt attention, and kept the students engaged in the final days of school. In today's culture of disrespect for preborn life and euthanasia becoming normal, we certainly want to instill in our children an awe-filled amazement in the miracle of life as God has created it!

At our last meeting, we welcomed Cathy Scheper and Luke Mulder to

the EdCom and look forward to benefitting from their expertise, insight, and experience. Cathy and Luke are filling the void left by the completion of Rachel's term and Matt's resignation to dedicate his energy to his role as deacon. We thank Rachel and Matt for their dedication and contributions of their time and talents. While Rachel's term is over, she is still very much involved in the affairs of the school on the administrative side of things and we are very thankful for the role she fills in that capacity!

As we reflect on the past school year we see wave upon wave of God's blessings on our school community, evident in the students, staff, facilities, resources, and volunteers, and even as we enjoy a time of summer vacation we look forward to a new school year and seek God's blessings on the preparations being made.

On behalf of the Ed Com,
James Gunnink

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

As the clock wound down on the 2016-2017 school year the excitement in the air was almost palpable. Anticipation for summer holidays and all the associated fun that goes along with it was definitely on the minds of many of our students. Well the wait is finally over and our students have now traded their books for bikes, and classrooms for pools and campgrounds. For some the last day of school marks a brief hiatus from Harvest, while for others it marks the end of a stage of their



life. On June 22nd, five of our students graduated from Harvest. The graduation ceremony served as a great opportunity to look back at the many fond memories the graduates have had at Harvest

and more importantly praise God for His goodness towards them. Congratulations Adam Baron, Lucas Gunnink, Emily DeVries, Makayla Krusselbrink and Kara Kapteyn!



May/June Activities:

Over the course of the past two months a great deal of events took place at Harvest. Shortly after the last bulletin went out, over forty grandparents and friends visited Harvest for our annual Grandparents and Friends Day. It was pretty neat to see that our guests outnumbered our students! Seeing so many people join us on this date really highlighted for the students that there is a whole community behind them here at Harvest. Students have also been busy with a variety of sports these past two months. The month of May was all about baseball, and students could be found playing baseball before school and at both recesses. All this practice culminated in our annual baseball tournament. Harvest

played great, winning two games and losing one game. When baseball wrapped up, the school switched sports to track and field. Many recesses saw students practicing their jumping, running or throwing. In early June, Harvest held its annual track and field meet for all our students. We were blessed with beautiful weather for our track meet and all the students performed great. A week later, the senior students headed to Guelph and took part in the Regional Track and Field meet. Many of our students placed in the top four in their given events, and all performed great. A few weeks ago grade 7/8 took part in academic competition, namely the Gauss Math Test.

The test is a great way to assess one's math prowess and see how they stack up against thousands of other students in our province. Our students performed well on this test and of note Adam and Lucas scored in the top 25%. Other highlights this term included New Student Day earlier this month. On New Student Day, four little girls and one little boy joined us for a day of school. While they may have been a little nervous at first, they quickly settled into Harvest and seemed to enjoy their day with us. With five students graduating and five students coming in, our enrolment next year will remain at 42 students for 2017/2018 school year.

Looking Ahead – The 2017/2018

While many students may have been counting down the days to summer, in the office we have been busy planning for the 2017/2018 school year. We are blessed to have all our staff returning in the fall and to have

Ms. deHaan's teaching time increased to full time. Mrs. Bonita Spanninga will also be returning to lend us her expertise in grade 3-8 Art for the first portion of the year. With this stability in staffing, teaching

arrangements will change little from this year to next. Our calendar is also completed for the 2017-2018 school year and can be found attached to this Bulletin. Of note, our first day of school is set for *September 5!*

Report Cards:

Final term report cards went out last week and provided a great opportunity for teacher's to communicate final term results with parents. For the past few years major report cards were sent home three times a year and an interim report card was sent home in the fall. The format will be undergoing some changes next year. Next year there will be two interim report cards and two major term report cards. An interim report card will go out in November and April, and term report cards will go out in January and June. The other change will involve interviews being scheduled around the first interim report cards in November (in addition to interviews being offered after term 1 and the second interim report cards).

The rationale for this shift was multi-faceted. One reason for the move was to step in line with schools in the League of

Canadian Reformed Schools. As it stands now, Harvest is the last school in our region to change to this report card schedule. The change also allows teachers to sit down with parents to discuss student progress prior to any major report cards being issued. The goal being that any challenges facing students can be addressed and rectified before term 1 report cards. Pushing back the first term report card date also ensures that teacher's have sufficient grades in all subject areas to give a mark that truly reflects the students skills and abilities. Parents may have noted in the past that some subjects like Church History may not have had a grade associated with them on the earlier report cards. The change also will minimize redundancy in report card comments. Often comments from term 1 to term 2 to term 3 do not change dramatically and warrant the need for three

detailed reports. Finally, this change frees up prep time for staff to spend on Professional Development and working on bringing all our units and lessons in line with our Reformed Markers.

It should be noted that our sister schools are also looking into changing grades are recorded on report cards. There is a push to move to a four point scoring system (so children would receive a score of a 1, 2, 3 or 4). While Harvest has no plans to make such a switch at this point in time, a discussion about how grades are recorded might for some good discussions at BBQ's this summer!



Summer Work:

While summer will mean a time of rest and relaxation for the students and staff, many of our staff will remain busy in the summer months. Most of us will be busy working on unit and lesson planning striving to embed reformed markers into the units

we teach. Administration will also be busy completing government paperwork and prepping for PD days. The Lord willing all this summer work will translate into a smooth start to the 2017-2018 school year.

Until then, I wish everyone a wonderful summer. See you in September!

James Meinen



IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT YEAR:

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



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

