



CONNECTION

March 2017

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

March is here and March Break is just around the corner! Report cards have been handed out and it has been pretty busy in the school since Christmas break with lots of learning occurring as well as some fun things which the principal will touch on in his report I'm sure. One major thing is that Clubs have all wrapped up and as Board we are amazed by the incredible group of volunteers who are willing to spend whole afternoons teaching our students some different things.

Speaking of volunteers I want to express our appreciation to Melissa Kruisselbrink for stepping into the Grade ½ classroom while Janelle Vantol was away. Erica deHaan stepped up as well to do every Friday -what a fantastic staff we have! From the Board's point of view we feel confident that our students are receiving the care and attention and education that they need.

Usually at this time of year we are trying to fill some sort of staffing vacancy,

advertising, interviewing, planning, and trying patiently to leave all our cares and worries in God's hands. This year we have no vacancies to fill, and all of our staff has signed their contracts for next year!!!! We are very thankful to God for this for a few reasons:

1. we have awesome, dedicated, enthusiastic staff,
2. our staff can continue to grow and develop together,
3. this is good stability for our students and membership
4. It is a huge sigh of relief for all the Board and Ed Com.

At this point we would like to wish all of the staff a relaxing March Break; a time to catch up, breath, and plan ahead. We also pray that all the students and their families may have a safe time away from school and return rejuvenated and ready to resume using their God given talents and abilities.

On behalf of the Board,
Alex Sikkema - Chairman

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: Rachel Sikkema
 Member: Matt Hutten
 Member: Irene Baron

Teaching Staff

Gr. 1-2-Mrs. J. Vantol
 Gr. 3-4 - Ms. E. deHaan
 Gr. 5-6 & Principal - Mr. J. Meinen
 Gr. 7-8 - Ms. 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello Membership! By the time you read this, you should have received your tax receipt, including the childcare tax benefit. Thanks to all for your generous support! If you recall, the board presented two preferred budget scenarios for the upcoming school year. Scenario 2 was selected, which naturally results in the potential of higher fees. But not necessarily! Within the next week, you will see a Member Drive Newsletter. We are asking each and every one of you to consider sending this to your extended family, or anyone you know that could potentially support us at our school. Every bit helps! If you have someone in mind, and are not comfortable approaching them, you can also reach out to me, I'd be happy to

help. **We need these new member commitments soon!** With the final budget preparation, and determination of new fees almost upon us, this needs to be in order asap. Praying that we continue to be blessed with sufficient support into the coming year, and thanks again to everyone for your involvement in this.

Mark Hutten



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 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The sun is getting brighter and the days are getting longer, praise the Lord, spring is just around the corner. We are amazed at the goodness of our God and give Him much thanks and praise.

The Ed Com has completed the new Special Education policy, stay tuned for this to be posted to the website soon. We have also completed a Harvest Graduate survey that we will send to Graduates a year after their

graduation to obtain feedback from them on their experiences and how they were prepared for high school. We presently are working on updating the field trip and emergency policies and will keep you posted on those updates soon as well.

The Education Committee would like to especially thank the volunteers

that help to make our school run smoothly as of late, we also would like to wish the Harvest staff and students much strength and enjoyment while completing this school year, March break will be here before you know it! May God bless the children and staff of our school.

On behalf of the Education Committee, Matt Hutten

ART at HARVEST ~by Bonita Spanninga



"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau's words contain much truth. We live in a complex world, and it can often be difficult to know how to approach and view various challenges and issues. However, when we look through the lens of truth presented in God's Word, we can see things in a new light. We have hope, purpose and joy!

We see our God's faithfulness in the rose-tinted mist of a still summer morning. Our hearts are lifted as we watch a small songbird sing with its whole being, reminded of the peace that comes with laying down worry and trusting the One who created and knows us intimately. We marvel at the symmetry of a snowflake, the complexity of the shimmering wing of a butterfly and breathe, knowing that the one who formed and upholds these has a purpose for us and will complete it to His glory.

This ability to "see" doesn't come to us naturally, it grows out of a real relationship with our Saviour, by the grace given to us, and is worked in us through the Holy Spirit.

This is what we work towards as we educate our children as well! We desire to see them equipped to view and interpret the events and issues they encounter in light of the purpose and plan of God revealed in His Word. Each aspect of what they learn, whether it be science, math or music, can be used as a tool not just to help our children succeed in life, but ultimately to direct them to a deeper understanding of Who He is and an

awareness of their own place, value and purpose!

Art is often a subject in our education system that is viewed as a luxury. When time or finances are short, this is frequently an area where cuts are made. However, research shows that intentionally incorporating the arts into academic structure has a host of benefits, developmentally and academically, emotionally, and on the social level. We are excited about art at Harvest and I would like to share with you some of the reasons why we feel it is so important in light of assisting our children to have a greater awareness and understanding of the realities of the world God has placed them in.

Developmentally, engaging in artistic endeavours has so many benefits. It can help hone fine motor skills, encourage problem solving and critical thinking and improve attention span, spatial perception and attention to detail. If we really want to get scientific, art can even improve overall brain function! It causes neural activity in both left and right hemispheres, causing them to work together, actually improving the brain's efficiency and plasticity (the ability to change and grow throughout life)!

Emotionally, art gives children a constructive outlet, it is an alternative form of communication, it relieves stress, and is a valuable way to learn persistence in spite of frustration.

Studies in art appreciation open up doors into other cultures, sparking interest in as well as empathy for

and understanding of people in different times and circumstances. It contributes to a sense of community and many projects require and practice collaboration with peers. Art can be a huge confidence builder, as there is no correct answer when being creative and expressing oneself in this way!

These are all incredibly valuable skills, but how can they assist our children in spiritual growth? This is where the benefits go beyond what can be measured in studies and surveys.

It assists us in using the minds we've been given to their full potential. As we study art through history, we can grow in an understanding of how lost and broken we are as humanity and yet how rich we are in Christ. Art provides a means to explore and delight in our surroundings, and to share our observations with others. And most importantly, art can be a way for us and our children to be inspired by and respond to the beauty, power, and glory of our Almighty God.

The measurable skills it helps develop can be combined and used to "see" and interpret the brokenness and beauty of our world through the knowledge given by our Creator, to marvel at His greatness and to say with the Psalmist "Give to the Lord the glory due His Name, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" (Ps 29:2)

Sources cited:

*10 Studies on the Importance of Art in Education, onlinecolleges.net
bebrainfit.com, raisesmartkid.com*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:



After being in Alberta for the past five years, there were several things I was really looking forward to experiencing once again when we moved back to Ontario last summer. Family get togethers was at the top of the list, but also on the list was more teaching time, fall colours, packing snow, a shorter winter and beaches (to just name a few things!) While there was much to look forward to, one thing I wasn't excited about was coming back to a province where the provincial government was so adverse to parental choice in education. Even under an NDP government in Alberta, our schools received significant government support. In contrast the experience of many schools in Ontario has been outright hostility from the government. It seems in Ontario the government touts choice and diversity, but that choice and diversity is best captured by the famous Henry Ford quote: "You can have a Model T in any colour you want, as long as you want it black." The irony is that while our government is working so hard for tolerance, it has become intolerant, particularly to those who hold Christian worldviews.

With this backdrop it was helpful to attend a recent Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Education (CARE) meeting on the topic of government. At the meeting Harry Moes, former principal of Credo High School, former director of the Federation of Independent School Association in BC and now ARPA consultant spoke about our current political context and how Christians should respond. What follows are some highlights from that presentation.

In the first place, Mr. Moes noted we need have respect for our politicians. The Bible is clear the we need to be respectful of those in authority over us, be obedient to the government in as far as they don't require us to go against God's will and finally we need to pray for those

in government. 1 Tim 2:1-3 states: *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior."*

While we need to be obedient, show respect and pray for our elected officials, we also need to be on guard that the freedoms we enjoy today don't erode. The big question of the day for politicians (and the courts) with ramifications for all of us is - whose authority are we under? Our response is in line with Abraham Kuyper who stated *"There is not one square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry mine!"* Contrast this quote with Canada's Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin who states, *"The authority claimed by (state-written) law touches upon all aspects of human life and citizenship... and leaves no aspect of human experience unaffected by its claim to authority."* So while we confess everything is under Christ's authority, the State says everything is under their authority.

What do these two contrasting viewpoints mean for education? Well these two views look at the students in our classrooms in very different ways. Our view is that the students in our classrooms are God's. And God in His wisdom has delegated education to the parents of those children. This God given authority is recognized by our churches. In fact our Church Order specifically states that the elders of the church are to ensure that parents, to the best of their ability, provide education for their children

that is in harmony with the Word of God (Article 58).

However, there are many groups that are looking to usurp this parental authority that we need to be wary of. The State is looking to assume authority over children - think of Chief Justice McLachlin's comments above. Social engineers want our children - think of the early childhood education movement that wants to see full time schooling for children as young as three. Political lobbyists want our children - think of the homosexual lobby pushing to change curriculum and our views on sexuality. And other religions want our children - think of the push by The Truth and Reconciliation Committee to have schools cast Native religion in a positive light.

All these groups recognize that whoever controls the children controls the future. Vladimir Lenin stated *"Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will not become uprooted."* Similarly Hitler noted *"He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future."* A more recent quote from Erwin Lutzer states *"they are stealing our children, but because they are leaving the body of the child with us, we don't even know it is happening."* Our model of education stands as a bulwark against the government's push to have the minds of our children. Harvest and schools like it exist to ensure the biblical view of parenthood is maintained. We are not beholden to the State!

Continued on next page...

Speaking Out

It is imperative that we hold this biblical view of God given parental authority to those in authority over us. ARPA put out a booklet a few years back that stressed the importance of speaking out. The booklet begins with a great quote from G.K. Chesterton “Only dead Christians go with the flow. Living Christians must speak up.” This is similar to a John Piper quote that states “as you swim with the culture, be a dolphin that cuts through the currents, not a jellyfish

that goes with the flow.” I encourage all parents, and church members in this community to reach out to our politicians. We need to encourage them in their task and remind our provincial politicians the importance of parents and their right to make decisions about their child’s education. At day’s end they need to understand that education is not at all neutral and falls under the authority of parents.

been active getting in touch with our MPP Bill Walker and we have invited him to visit us. We have yet to hear back, but I hope to meet with our MPP in the near future and personally extend him an invitation. The Covenant Canadian Reformed Teacher’s College has also met with Bill Walker and spoke in glowing terms about Harvest and the work that takes place at our school. Such advocacy is positive!

On the school front, grade 5/6 has

School Activities

Over the past two month a whole host of activities have taken place at Harvest. Most are captured in the weekly newsletter with pictures and brief stories. If you would like to receive the school newsletter to keep abreast of what’s happening at Harvest simply contact the school. Some notable events over the last month included: students taking part in the Annual Speaking Contest, skating at Keady Arena, skiing at Blue Mountain, the start to the basketball season, a Disney dress up day, officially taking on the sponsorship of a child from Haiti, and Club afternoons. It is great students have such diverse opportunities at our small school!



This is a huge undertaking and we really appreciate her willingness to teach our rambunctious group of grade 1/2 students!

Grade 1/2

As most are aware, Mrs. Van Tol has

been off on sick leave this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with her in this difficult time. While the road to recovery will take some time, it has been great that Mrs. Van Tol has been able to come back to work part time this last couple of weeks. The Lord willing, she will be able to take up her regular teaching duties in the near future. In the interim we have been so blessed to have Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink step into the grade 1/2 classroom as their full time teacher.

I want to conclude by once again thanking the membership for their wonderful support. I did a tally the other day of the number of community members who have helped at Harvest this past year in any capacity and the number was over forty! That means that there are more people helping our school than there are students! We are richly blessed. I pray this support may continue and God will bless our efforts to help parents teach the next generation God’s praiseworthy deeds. Have a blessed Sunday.

James Meinen

For the past month we have been working on poetry in Grade 5/6. What follows are some of the poems the students have created in past few weeks. The diversity of the poems reflects the diversity of personalities in our class! Enjoy.

Church by Max

There was a place called church
Surrounded in birch
The organ was playing
The piano was staying
The kids we going
The plants were growing
The parents said no
We have to go
To that place called church
Surrounded in birch

The Old Age by Ben

In the old age
There was a page
Who had to serve the loyal king
The old page was groaning
The king was frustrated
Because the jail was busted
The prisoners had gotten away
The guards were on the way
The king was outraged
The page ran away

Live House by Mckenna

Our house was alive
The teapot whistled
Our rug bristled
The fire thistled
Our house alive

Our house was alive
The radiator whispered
Out pots fizzpered
Our house alive

Our house alive
Is a very scary thing
Our doorbell ding
Made me think
I was being silly
But then our knives danced
Our house was alive

Bad Day by Karina

Thunder crashing
Lightning flashing
It's a rainy day
And no one to play.
It was cold outside
So I went to hide.
Sitting by the fire
Feeling kind of tired.
It's a bad day out
I started to pout
Thunder crashing
Lightning crashing.

The Moon by Jackson

Moon, moon, moon
In French it is
La lune, la lune, la lune
It is like a part of a spoon
Yes Johnny the moon
I'm trying to teach you!
Now back to the moon
It is way up in the sky
Super duper high
Ring ring ring
Okay class is over, sigh

The True North Strong and Free by Gabe

The flag blows proudly
The Canadians shout proudly
Their National Anthem
The true north strong and free

East with its fishermen
West with its tall trees
North with its cold terrain
And South with its CN Tower
This is the true north strong and free

The maple tree
The chestnut tree
The hickory tree
And the conifer tree
This is the true north strong and free.

The mountainous Rockies
The blue Great Lakes
The grassy Prairies
And the powerful Niagara Falls
This is the true north strong and free.

The flag blows proudly
The Canadians shout loudly
Their national anthem
The true north strong and free.

The Sneaky Creaky Critter by Ryan

That sneaky creaky critter
Keeps running on the
Creaky floor that
Sneaky creaky critter keeps
Banging on the door will
You stop I'm trying to
Sleep over here!!! That
Sneaky creaky critter keeps
Opening that creaky door
Will you stop doing that?
I'm trying to sleep.

A Poem by Justin

A poem is the best words in the best order
With alliteration Maby the bad bandit crossed the border
A poem could have assonance to Maby I like
To play all day shouting hurray.
Poems are great, poems are fun
Poems can be serious or silly.

Canada's Wonders by Barrett

Canada has many wonders for all to see,
From the Rockies in Alberta to the Great Lakes in Ontario,
From seal-hunting in the North to the fishing in the South
And all the wonderful trees.

From the Fireweed in the Yukon to the Ladies Slipper in PEI,
From the icy wind in Nunavut to the gentle breeze in the
Prairies,
From the grassy foothills to the dry plains,
Wonder which about I won't lie.

From Halifax in Nova Scotia to Fredericton in New
Brunswick,
From Tim Hortons to the Parliament Buildings,
From Sir John A. MacDonald to Steven Harper,
And the ice chunks in Northwest Territories which are very
thick.

Canada has many wonders for all to see,
From the Rockies in Alberta to the Great Lakes in Ontario,
From seal-hunting in the North to the fishing in the South
And all the wonderful trees.

Canada by Aaron K.

O Canada
The true north strong and free
A diverse and happy
Place
O Canada

O Canada
Out by the West
Were they fish and rest
Where the tall redwoods grow
And the gorgeous beauty shows
O Canada

O Canada
Up in the North
Where all the snow
Falls
Its oh so cold
The grass new shows
Where the mountain avens bloom
O Canada

O Canada
Out in the East
Where the St. Lawrence runs
And the pitcher plant grows
O Canada

O Canada
Down in the South
Where Ottawa makes its
Home
Where the white trillium
Grows
And the Hudson Bay spreads
O Canada

From the Prairies to
The Rocky Mountains to
The Great Lakes
This all makes Canada.