



# CONNECTION

October 2015

Melissa Kruisselbrink  
Principal



### School Board

Chairman: Calvin Kapteyn  
Vice Chairman: Darren Bosch  
Secretary: Carolin Bosscher  
Treasurer: Jordan Kruisselbrink  
Maintenance: Andrew Groeneveld

### Education Committee

Chairman/Board Liaison: Darren Bosch  
Vice Chair: Ken Hutten  
Secretary: Rachel Sikkema  
Member: John Spanninga  
Member: Jenn Vandenberg

### Teaching Staff

Gr. 1-2 - Ms. J. Kottelenberg  
Gr. 3-4 - Ms. T. Jonker  
Gr. 5-6 - Mrs. C. Hutten  
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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## FROM THE BOARD

Here we are at the end of October already! Soon we will have our annual membership meeting and the Lord willing we will; hear reports, give final approval to next year's budget, and vote in a new board member. There are always changes happening and it is important to prepare for them so that we can continue serving our members.

On Saturday Oct 17<sup>th</sup> the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies in Ontario hosted its annual League Day and I had the pleasure of attending. Our new League coordinator, Jason Heemsker, engaged us in a reflection about developing leadership in our schools that maintained our historical basis and also planned for future changes. Jason asked us to consider the expectations of those who founded our schools versus the expectations of young families considering Reformed Education today. We discussed the reality that all of our schools face today. In the past Reformed Christian Education was a given, today this is no longer always the case with our young families. He also gave us a somewhat modified diagram of the Home-Church-School triangle that showed how the Home and School benefit the Church or in other words how the Church is supported by the work that is done in our Homes and Schools. Jason stressed that Reformed Education needs to be synonymous with excellence. He then demonstrated, via statistical research, the link between the leadership qualities of the principal as viewed by the staff and the results of students' scores on standardized tests. We then engaged in determining, as a group, the ranking of importance of these qualities for us

as school boards, an interesting and enlightening exercise. Later we looked at how we as school boards need to demonstrate similar leadership qualities to be able to direct and enable our principals as well as the committees that serve our school boards.

The day gave me lots of food for thought and emphasized the important role the school board has in creating and maintaining excellence in our school. That said, we don't and can't do this alone! We can be so thankful for great teachers and volunteers who work directly with the covenant children assisting parents in keeping the vows they made to the LORD at baptism.

We have been richly blessed by our Heavenly Father and we need to consider this regularly. Just think about our own unique situation; we're small, supported by one church community, and yet still able to have a Reformed Christian school! By God's grace we receive good support so that we can continue to support parents in their task. Praise the Lord!

On behalf of the board,  
Calvin Kapteyn



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Our first report of the school year shows a bank balance of \$2,739.97 for the period ending October 15<sup>th</sup>/2015, with all but \$30.09 of that amount still owing to the church! Our financial information has been sent to OACS again for this past year and the Board is looking at a similar cost of education to last year, which should be great when receipt time comes. As treasurer I am thankful for all the post dated cheques, which makes it a lot easier to ensure our financial obligations will be covered in time, operating with a small bank balance.

We would like to thank you for your faithful support and ask that you continue to give generously in support of our covenant children as we continue through the school year. Jordan Krusselbrink

### FEE SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 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.**

**Please get these to the Treasurer as soon as possible.**

Please continue to write your cheques to "The Canadian Reformed School Society of Owen Sound and District".

## FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are amazed by God's goodness as we reflect on the school year now already well on its way. We thank the Lord for the many blessing of staff, students and volunteers who are all working together for success in this 2015-2016 school year.

We would like to thank the staff for the excellent presentations and introductions at the Open House on October 1<sup>st</sup>; it was wonderful to see so many parents and supporters in attendance! Since that time the Ed Com, together with the Board had time to do some classroom visits and would like to report that the school is running smoothly and all together the atmosphere and the work being done is very positive.

We hope to meet with the staff and Jason Heemskerk in the beginning of November for a

curriculum building night and Jason will give a presentation on technology in the school and classroom. We look forward to this time as another opportunity to get to know one another better and to keep open communication.

The Ed Com is also excited to report that the school has purchased a new microscope and slide set! The new microscope allows 2 children to view at the same time and the interesting slide sets range from frog muscle tissue to sheep hair to bee mouthpieces.

Also new in the school are some computer programs and games for the Gr. 1&2 classroom for Language Arts. Ms. Kottelenberg explains it this way "The Imagine It e-skills program is for Grade 1. It is a program with a lot of games and skill activities for the students

to practice phonics, comprehension, and general language art skills. The games relate directly to what they are learning in class and will be used to strengthen the skills taught in lessons. The Lexia program is an Internet based program that is being used to help a student develop key language art skills in an interactive way with lots of feedback for the teacher. The whole class is benefiting from this program as the activities can be used to reinforce skills in spare time."

May God continue to bless the children and staff of our school and everyone involved giving them all strength and wisdom for their daily tasks to His honour and glory.

On behalf of the Ed Com,  
Rachel Sikkema

[www.harvestschool.ca](http://www.harvestschool.ca)

Don't forget to look at the online  
CALENDAR for information on upcoming  
events!!

## WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL?!...By Carol Hutten

With such an amazing start to the 2015/2016 school year, we can only stand in awe of our awesome God for blessing us so richly! We can clearly see God's light shining, on us as students and teachers, and on our whole school community. At Harvest this year, we've taken on the challenge of letting our light shine as well, so that those around us can see our works; and glorify our Father as well. We've talked a lot about how great it is that we don't have to shine our own light, but allow God's light to shine through us! We pray that the Lord will continue to help us with this goal!

A special thanks to all those who are helping the staff this school year, whether directly, or behind the scenes; your help is so appreciated! The students and staff could not be where they are without your help. There are many volunteers: those who come in to help students, others who work on committees, in the library, or are just a phone-call away when we need help, or advice - thank you!

We've taken on French in a very different manner this year. The teachers and students are discovering the AIM program, which involves more dialogue, using actions to learn French. The goal of this program is that students will be more comfortable with French conversation. The teachers have combined this program with writing and grammar lessons to keep improving those skills as well. If you notice your children flailing their arms, and speaking a different language; don't worry - they probably learned it in French class :).

We're just two months into our school year, and so many exciting things have already happened! Starting on the very first day of school, the students were busy working on their soccer skills. This prepared them for the tournament in Smithville, on September 26th.

We had a great day, amazing weather, and played some fantastic soccer; which you can read more about later in this Connection.

Six students in grade 6-8 signed up to run cross country at Dundas Valley just two weeks later. The students trained very hard for this, on our school property, and by participating in a few practice runs at Inglis Falls. They all ran very well on October 9th, and the girls' team even placed 3rd overall! Praise the Lord for the abilities He's given us!

Just a few weeks into school, every classroom welcomed a new classmate! The Feenstra family arrived on September 26th, and have been eager and active participants since! We welcomed Matthew (gr. 2), Benjamin (gr. 4), Julia (gr. 6), and Timothy (gr.8). Another warm welcome to all of you, the Lord has blessed us through you; we pray that you feel welcome here, and that you are blessed through us as well!

Thursday, October 8th was a fun day at school! In the morning the grade 1/2, and 5/6 classes led us in a beautiful assembly, where we remembered what the important things we are thankful for are, through some wonderful pictures, cards, Bible verses, and a play. We also had our first spirit day, dressed up as our favourite sport, and enjoyed hot dogs for lunch! Ask your children about the new game they learned that day. It's called *Harvest Ball*, and combines of several of their favourite sports.

On Thursday, October 2nd, all the members of the school society were invited to an Open House at the school. This was an incredible evening, where we were all encouraged in various ways. Darren Bosch started the evening with a speech (which can be found elsewhere), the new teachers

introduced themselves, and the teachers gave some short presentations about what is happening in the school this year. Jenn Vandenberg also did a presentation for us, about supply teaching in our school. Thanks to everyone who put work into this evening!

This year at school, we continue to learn about virtues that Christian learners should have. We started the year with the virtue of courage; about how the Lord defines courage, and what it looks like in our lives. Over the next two months, we will focus on patience, and what it looks like in the lives of Christian boys and girls.

On October 29th, and 30th, the teachers will be headed up to London, ON for our teacher's convention. The theme for this comes from Psalm 29: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name", and with that thought, we continue our school year. Let's continue to glorify God by letting His light shine through us in everything we do!

Carol Hutten



## Soccer Tournament Reflection by Kim and Makayla

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, Grade 5-8 woke up very early to drive to Smithville. As with previous years the soccer tournament was held at the John Calvin Christian School. We arrived at 9:30 and by 10:10 we were playing an intense game against Credo. The first goal of the game was scored by Makayla, playing defence... on her own net. :) Towards the end we were losing 4-0 when Michael took a corner kick. It was a perfect shot right to Mariah, who headed it into the net! GOAL!! The crowd goes wild!! The game ended with a loss for Harvest 4-1.

Right after we played Chatham. Our team had a great game with lots of good passes, and

amazing goals. We also had great teamwork and lots of cheering for each other. It was a great win for Harvest with the score 6-0 at the end.

We then had an hour break where we talked a lot with each other, played four square and basketball.

After, we played Hope which proved to be very intense. Our team was really challenged to work together and keep our end of the game. We also had some very amazing goals. The final score was a tie 3-3.

Our last game was against Guelph. Even though we were tired, we still did our best. The only goal of this game for Harvest was scored by Ryan. He chipped

the ball right over the goalie and into the net. The final score was 6-1.

All in all it was a great day and we can thank God for this opportunity to show our talents and our Christian attitudes. The goalies Adam, Aaron, and Timothy were amazing on this day so thank-you to them. We'd also like to say thank-you to all the drivers who drove us down and all the parents and siblings who came to cheer us on.



## Work by Grade 5 & 6

Grade 5 & 6 read the story 'Cowboy Camp' together. The story is about a young boy named Avery who goes to Cowboy Camp, but discovers he's not very good at riding a horse, eating cowboy food, or throwing a lasso. In the evening, Avery sits alone by the fire to try and think cowboy thoughts. Next, a mean cowboy from outside the camp comes along, and says in a gruff voice *"I'm Black Bart and I'm here to put a stop to Cowboy Camp. Cowboy Dan and his gangs of good cowboys are making it too hard to be a bad guy. You better tell me, kid - where can I find Cowboy Dan?"* Avery had to think fast. **He couldn't let anything happen to Cowboy Dan, and his Cowboy Camp.** *"Um...sir"* ..On the pages below, read how the grade 6 students ended the story of Avery, and his camp.



### Cowboy Camp

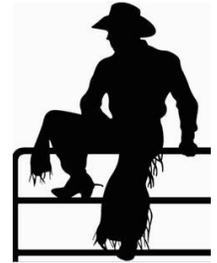
*Avery had to think fast, he couldn't let anything happen to Cowboy Dan and his Cowboy camp. "Umm.... sir I don't really know where it is but I think that it is far over to the right but if I am wrong don't hurt me or anything like that because I am not so sure."* Stated Avery "Ok then boy I am really going to get you if you are not telling the truth about not knowing, you got that!" He sneered in a wicked way. Avery gulped silently "Yup I got that." He whispered hoarsely. Then Black Bart turned around and ran away quickly because there was someone coming to tell Avery to go to bed because it was getting late. "Who was that?" questioned Cowboy Dan "that was Black Bart; he wants to put a stop to Cowboy Camp" he answered still terrified "He is the most frightening cowboy out in the world. I was just about to go and get you to tell you."

Julia Feenstra

Cowboy Avery

*Avery had to think fast. He couldn't let anything happen to Cowboy Dan and his Cowboy Camp. "Ummm....sir, the cowboy campers just left to go riding over yonder." He said, gesturing to the mountains. "Whadaya mean? Then whater you doin here, and those aren't all your tents, are they?" Bslack Bart cackled a short evil laugh. " I stayed here to tend the fire and watch the stuff. They left the stuff here 'cause they didn't know when they'd be back." "Well, I'd better stay here and wait 'em out." Avery racked his brain for something. Then he noticed that Black Bart had walked to his horse and was grabbing something out of his saddle. He snuck backwards quickly and quietly. Noiselessly, he opened one of the tent flaps and snuck inside. "Cowboy Dan, Cowboy Dan!" He whispered hoarsely. Cowboy Dan lifted his head from his book and asked what Avery was doing in the tent. "Black Bart is outside!" Avery said quickly. Instantly, he was up and grabbing his gun. Then they rushed back out. They were just in time to see Black Bart pulling out some hard biscuits and tea. "Hands up!" Cowboy Dan exclaimed. Black Bart looked up in surprise. Then, quick as a flash, he was in his saddle, and galloping off through the night. "Didn't get 'em this time, but I have a feeling he won't be back for a while. Thanks for warning me, Avery you're not so bad of a cowboy after all." Cowboy Dan said. Avery glowed with pride. Avery still had to ride a cow, he wore gloves while lassoing, and he did manage to get down a few bites of grit and beans, but that didn't matter. After Cowboy Dan told the story to everyone (a little more exaggerated then Avery had remembered it) everyone thought him lucky for meeting Black Bart, the evil cowboy.*

Alyssa Gunnink



Avery the Cowboy

*Avery had to think fast he couldn't let anything happen to cowboy Dan and his Cowboy Camp "Um ...Sir I think that Cowboy Camp is....well...it...is...it's...um...well...I don't really know where it is...but I think it's somewhere over there" he said pointing the opposite way that Cowboy Camp was. Black Bart glared at Avery "are you sure?" "Um I...I...I think s....s....so" stuttered Avery "Mmm... How can I be sure that I can trust you?" Said Black Bart "well I guess you will never know" Avery whispered to himself. But it wasn't quiet enough because Black Bart's face was red as a tomato " you're coming with me" he roared. Soon, they were at Black Bart's ranch. And just as Avery suspected Black Bart locked him in the cattle barn. Mean while at Cowboy Camp everyone was looking everywhere for Avery. "Where is that Avery?" said Cowboy Dan. Soon everyone began to go to bed. Back at Black Bart's ranch Avery was being tied to a tree by the hands by Black Bart. The whole time Avery was saying "let me go Black Bart" and "Cowboy Dan will find me". Then Black Bart went inside his house. Soon Avery heard a horse trotting toward him then he started to jump up as high as the rope would let him. Avery's jumping attracted Cowboy Dan. Soon Avery was sneezing behind Cowboy Dan on his horse the entire way home.*

Megan Spanninga



## SPEECH FROM THE OPEN HOUSE...By Darren Bosch, Education Committee Chair

### Letting your Light Shine

Here we sit at Harvest School with a challenging - but glorious - theme from Matt 5: "Let your Light Shine before all men". But does it feel like just another burden for you - another thing you gotta do in your already limited spare time? How am I going to achieve one more thing on my spiritual task-list when I'm already maxed out? Have you ever thought, "it's just so hard".... felt inadequate to do something Scripture asks of you?

I have.

As a passionate perfectionist and energetic workaholic, I unconsciously subscribed to a way of living that sounded something like this....

"I just want to do what's right... help others, serve more, build here, attend there. I just gotta do more for Him. I have to talk more with the people at work about my faith. Maybe I should get into mission work or something. Man, I'm just not doing enough with my career... I'm sure God wants more from me."

Or maybe your story sounds more like.... [sigh...]

"My husband spends countless hours each week with work, consistory, committees. And me, I'm so busy with the kids, serving everybody... and then there's all the volunteer work. I spend soooo much time working with our kids training them in the fear of the Lord... and they still don't know their catechism perfectly each week".

Or, ...

"You know, we go faithfully to church every Sunday - twice - even when we're on holidays!. I go to both Bible studies, well, I even lead one. I just wish there were some other people who could do something for a change. .... oh, and personal devotions, yeah, but I'm so busy already. I'm never home as it is, I just feel like I'm always running - and I can't get off this treadmill. I'm so busy and have no time. I want to shine my light... I just don't know how".

Could it be that my zealous pursuit for religion has trumped a devoted heart for relationship? See, God says "My desire is not for you to know how to serve me more. My desire is for you to know me."

...Could it be that all our pious striving for faithfulness is often motivated by self-preservation rather than thankful service? **Could it be that you and I often find ourselves trying to please God and hope He'll love us rather than serving Him joyfully because He loved us first - perfectly?** Are you feeling spiraled into a framework of performance, checklists, rules and routines - trying to keep it all together... rather than service out of love from who lives in you? ...Even though that was never your intention.

My friends, it has been both my journey - and that of many I've come to know in the faith - that as Reformed believers many of us forget a fundamental piece of God's redemptive story. Unintentional as it may be. See, when we don't remember the whole truth and just "try harder, do more, be better", we are led down one of two paths:

- 1) either prone to the life of prideful performance, or
- 2) one of eventual despair; never feeling good enough; banging our heads against the wall - wondering how to get off the endless treadmill of the "do-good Gospel".

I was a prodigal. I was lost. After a rebellious youth, I became then "elder brother" - always trying to do things right, striving to working hard - to gain a sense of purpose, to "do more", to self-preserve - but really, having no deep, personal love for my Father - or for my "weaker" brother. No grace. With intentions to bring God glory, I became self-righteous. My identity was in being a self-made man, so I worked harder and did "more". But in my pursuit of godliness, I left Jesus behind... because I didn't know of God's love for me. Oh ya, I knew it theoretically in my head. But I didn't experience in my heart. I didn't really know the light.

Now how does this happen? Imagine a stone mason who forgets to set up a string-line to guide his masonry row - he'll eventually discover that because he worked without any guiding course correction, he's been slowly moving off course the further down the row he went. Just a little off track at the start left him deflated and frustrated later... only to have to work harder to get it right.

How plumb and true is our starting point when toiling in the Kingdom?

I am deeply persuaded we have forgotten part of His story: our identity in Christ. See, the Bible is really a message about who I am and the great I am. Who we are and who God is. If you don't know who you are... if we don't live in a deep relationship with Him who lives in us ... how will we shine His light with passion and joy.

In order to shine your light, you have to know the Light.

2 Peter 1:8-9 explains this principle well. *"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."*

What Peter proposes is that there are people who serve the Lord, but whose lives are actually ineffective and unfruitful because they forget their sins were actually cleansed. We forget that Christ bought us... He has already given us what we need to obey. That's the other half of the story we often miss.

For us to understand who we really are, we need to first remember who God is and what he's done for us. We are not stuck in Genesis 3. We are not lying dormant as hopeless, wretched sinners. That's who we were... but not anymore!

*Continued on next page...*

From previous page...

Your identity is not that you're a sinner. Now here this right... I did not say you are not a sinner. I said your identity - who you are in Christ is not a sinner. If so, the Gospel would not be called "Good News". It would be bad news... and bad theology.

Created as God's image bearer, we fell into being fallen sinners... but now... when grafted into Christ we are ransomed! Adopted. Made genuinely new.... We were once slaves. Now we have freedom with a new King. Paul says in 2 Cor 5, "... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new". Ezekiel 36:26 says "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

My friends, as regenerate people, you and I have a new identity! It changes everything! Now I am found. Redeemed. Reborn.

And so we live in the amazing intersection of deep brokenness and amazing grace. You and I have a hole in our hearts. It's called sin. Brokenness. After all, 1 John 1 says "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." But here's the amazing grace... that hole we have in our hearts is a God-shaped hole that only He can fill. In fact if you were to visualize the hole in your heart, it would bear the shape of a blood stained cross - His unbelievable sacrifice for not only the whole world - but also you and I personally and intimately. He has patched and filled that hole with Jesus. And when God sees you and I, He sees Jesus in us. We are new creations! When you go home tonight read LD 23. It's all there. Rest in that.

See, there's no recipe on "how" to shine your light - or "how" find time in our schedule for this. And just try harder doesn't get us anywhere. The secret is this: **In order to shine your light, you have to deeply know the Light.**

When we are rooted in a love

relationship with God, it will simply flow out of us! (Read Eph 3:14-21)

Like the fruit of the Spirit, it will simply ooze from your speech, your actions - "for others to see and give glory to your father in heaven". See when God makes us plumb to His truths and opens our eyes to how much he loves us, - we will begin to understand our real identity in Jesus Christ and His nature will flow through us... we will have deep compassion and sorrow for the lost - we simply will shine our lights before men - through His Spirit - for His glory! **It's the result of our identity!**

**In order to shine your light, you have to know the Light.**

As a piece of iron resting on glowing embers takes on the heat and radiance of the fire - so we take on the glow of Christ when we abide in Him. Light shines. And yet... that same piece of can return to cold hard steel when we are removed from that fire. Cozy up warm to the Light and like 2 Timothy 1:6 says, "fan into flame the spiritual gift God gave you". (2 Tim 1:6, NLT)

Now here this. This is not about not doing anything... there's good reason we subscribe to a strong work ethic. Scripture clearly commands us to work hard and persevere - and warns us against idleness. We are designed to be kingdom builders. But are we busy with the right things - and for whose glory? Further, are we busy working hard at resting in Him?

GK Chesterton wisely said, "Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair." So the question begs, my friends, do you and I intimately know the Light? I mean know Him. Are you passionate for what He has done for you and do you work hard and serve Him out of a love-relationship or self-preservation?

Let me wrap up her with an encouraging rendering of Matt 11: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? ... come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it... keep company

with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly".

Its only when I mine these depths and grasp how deep God's love is for me... only then can I passionately, and compassionately extend grace to others... shine the light to others.

**In order to shine your light, know the Light.** A believer with a firm grasp on his or her identity in Christ radiates light in a dark world. We have a new song, the song of the redeemed, and it produces hope in a despairing heart. God in His grace stooped down to pick me, a sinner up out of the pit and set me on a new, safe path. And the same for you. Rest in that.

Together we say with Isaiah in chapter 9:

*"I walked in darkness -but have seen a great light*

*On me living in the land of deep darkness, a Light has dawned.*

*Through Christ, He has enlarged the nation and increased my joy*

*I rejoice along with a redeemed people rejoicing at harvest!" ... Yes, here at Harvest.*

Thank Him with tears of gratitude that he has mercifully given you and I His light. ... in order to shine through us hope -without any merit of our own. That's grace. Amazing grace.



**"Teach Me Thy Way  
O Lord"  
Ps. 27:11**

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