



CONNECTION

September 2016



School Board

Chairman: Calvin Kapteyn
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: Jenn Vandenberg

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.

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FROM THE BOARD

As we look forward to a new school year ahead we can praise and thank the LORD for making it possible to continue to educate our covenant children in a Reformed Christian School. We can't really say it enough, 'what a blessing'! Our School theme this year, **Give to the Lord the Glory Due His Name**, really says it all! The theme is taken from Ps 29:1,2

'Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, Give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.'
As Board we are excited to have James Meinen as our new Principal and we are pleased to welcome back Anne, Bonita (teaching art again!), Erica, and Janelle! We should thank all those who helped in getting things ready for this year. There was painting, cleaning, renovations in the staff room, preparation for carpet cleaning, etc. I hear there was a lot that had to be done to prepare the school to receive students and teachers. There was also much work done behind the scenes as far as administration, schedules, making sure background checks are done and so on in preparation for the beginning of school. Our Staff have also been very busy getting ready, organizing, decorating, preparing lesson plans, whew what a lot of work! THANKS!! So we hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to learn and grow, developing their God given talents for His Glory.

We often hear about 'Covenantal' and 'Reformed education' but do we really think about what these terms mean? As Board we have been giving this a lot of attention over the summer. We have been busy putting together guidelines to help us determine how to work with the provisions in our bylaws that allow 'other enrolment' for those families interested in sending their children to our school but are not members of a CanRC or a sister church. We grappled with how to ensure that we as a School Society maintain the Reformed and Covenantal nature of our School. We may be tempted to assume that we all understand these terms but perhaps it would be good to recap:

Reformed education:

- Reformed education is covenantal in

Mr. James Meinen
Principal

character. The binding relationship of love which God has established with his people is the framework within which children are to be nurtured in godliness and equipped to live out their calling as prophets, priests, and kings.

- Reformed education is confessional in character. Education is normative because all of life is governed by the Word of God.
- Reformed education recognizes the antithesis. Children are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognize the battle lines of the struggle to which Christ calls them to live in holiness by doing the will of their Father.
- Reformed education functions in a unity of purpose of home, school, and church. When home, school, and church are united with respect to the education of the children, the work of each benefits all in the communion of saints.

Covenant:

- The word covenant in our context is an agreement between God and His people. In Genesis 17 God established a covenant with Abraham and his descendants/children. In this covenant God claims Abraham and his children as His own. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant which God established with Abraham. For the generations to come every male child who is eight days old was to be circumcised. That covenant is still in place, though in the New Testament baptism replaces circumcision as the sign of the covenant.
- What does this have to do with education? In Deuteronomy 6:6,7 we read "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." In this passage and others like it we see how God gives the responsibility of teaching the covenant children to the parents.
- At the baptism of their children parents make a vow before the LORD to instruct their children 'in this doctrine', *the Old and New Testament as summarized in the confessions*. Parents promise to instruct their children in the fear of His Name (Ps 34:11). Fear here does not mean to be afraid of God but, truly knowing Him (Prov 9:10) and having awe and reverence before God who is almighty (Ps 33:7-9). Our school was established by parents who want to keep that vow.

May the LORD God continue to grant His blessings on our school as we seek to assist parents in keeping their vow before the Lord.

On behalf of the Board, Calvin

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached in this Connection you will find the budget vs actual. As you can see, a healthy surplus leaves us in a very good financial position. God is good! We thank you for your faithful contributions, please do continue to support Harvest School as we enter a new school year!

Mark Hutten

FEE SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2016

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"*

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Well, September is here already! Thanks be to God for his faithfulness shown to our school as we prepare for the start of another year of learning.

The new Social Studies materials are in for grades 1-6, we look forward to its implementation along with the new French AIM program. We are hoping that it is a smooth transition and one that brings great benefit to students and staff. Also this year we will be reviewing the teacher's handbook to ensure that it is up to date, and we are also working on implementing a Graduate Survey that will gather feedback from

recent graduates on their level of preparedness from both spiritual and academic perspectives. The Education committee's 3-year plan will be focusing its attention on monitoring the requirement for possibly new science and math programs.

We hope that the students and the school staff have had a refreshing summer, and are ready to take up their learning and teaching here at Harvest Canadian Reformed Christian School.

On behalf of the Education Committee,
Matt Hutten

You are invited! Coming up this month (September 22) the Education Committee is hosting an open house at the school for ALL to attend. Please come out to this fun and informative evening of fellowship to meet the new Principal and staff, say hello to returning staff and talk about the exciting things that are happening this year!

www.harvestschool.ca

We have updated the website with CALENDAR information and new staff profiles will be coming soon 😊.

Take some time to check it out!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As summer comes to a close, a new school year is set to begin on September 6. Hopefully many were able to enjoy some time out in God's beautiful creation and all are well rested and ready for school! For my family this summer was definitely a busy one as we packed up all our belongings and made the long trek from Alberta to Ontario. After a couple weeks of traveling we arrived in Owen Sound in early August eager to get settled and familiarize ourselves with our new surroundings. Moving to a brand new community can be a bit intimidating, but I must say that almost immediately we were made to feel at home. Upon arrival we were met by a very large contingent of individuals to help with the unloading of our trailer. In less than fifty minutes all our belongings were in the house and shortly thereafter beds were put together and furniture was arranged. This coupled with meals being dropped off and overall hospitality in the weeks following our move, made for a wonderful welcome to Owen Sound.

What struck me during all the busyness of our moving in and getting adjusted to a new community, was how blessed we are to have the communion of saints. As a teacher I always think of those teachable moments, and when I saw some dads with their older boys helping unload our trailer, I could not but help think this is one of those teachable moments. I was reminded of my childhood when my dad took me to help with various church activities. By coming to someone's house to help them move, or shingling a church roof, or tackling school cleaning, children learn from our actions what it means to be a member of Christ's church. The next generation learns that the communion of saints is an active entity. An entity that works to be selfless, not selfish. An entity that ultimately works to spur one another on towards love and good deeds.

This concept of helping one another out is also one of key reasons we have Christian schools. While parents send their children to Harvest to assist them in their task of raising children in the fear of God's Name, the task of raising children in a godly manner does not

simply end at the parents. Harro Van Brummelen unpacks this in his book *Walking with God in the Classroom*:

The injunction to nurture children in the Lord goes beyond the family and church. Both Deuteronomy 6 and Psalm 78 also address the people of Israel collectively. Telling "the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done (Ps 78:4) is a responsibility shared by the whole Christian community. In Biblical times, schooling took place within the extended family and, to a limited extent, in the synagogue.

Today's society has become so complex that few homes and no regular church education programs can provide adequate and general education. Besides, society provides few meaningful, full-time roles for adolescents and young adults outside formal education. Schools and colleges therefore have become necessary and influential...I am personally convinced that Deuteronomy 6 and Psalm 78 imply that in today's society distinctly Christian schools are desirable. The Christian ethos that at one time undergirded North American society has all but disappeared. Children must develop thoroughly Christian minds if they are to be ambassadors of Christ in a secular society. That is difficult for the family and the church to accomplish by themselves with so many counteracting influences in society. We short change children's nurturing in the Lord if their schooling does not openly proclaim that the heavens declare the glory of God.

While the final responsibility for raising a child in the fear of God's name, falls on the parents shoulders, the task of raising children is not only their responsibility. The communion of saints is called to work together, to help one another, to spur each other on to love and good deeds, and to assist in raising the next generation in the fear of His name. It's a communal responsibility. We are one body. It is for this reason that in some our sister URC churches, one version of their baptismal form asks the congregation at a baptism if they will assist the parents in raising this covenantal child in the fear of God's Name. To which

the congregation replies in the affirmative. How wonderful it is then for the parents to hear at the baptism of their child that there is a congregation standing behind them! This support is something I have felt in every Christian school I have worked at, and one of the reasons I truly love being an educator in our Canadian Reformed Schools. Already here in Owen Sound this support for Harvest has been evident. From those who serve on committees, to those who have agreed to use their skills and talents to help volunteer at the school, to those who support the school in other ways, we are incredibly blessed.

While school is not quite set to begin, the staff and various committees have been working hard to get ready for the upcoming year. In preparation for the upcoming year, the staff has been busy with unit and lesson planning, decorating and getting our classrooms set up. After a few weeks of preparing we are eager for students to fill our classrooms and to share with them the wonders of God's Creation. As is the case every year, Harvest frames its year with a theme text. This year the staff has chosen Psalm 29:1-2 as our text. This reads: "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His Name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." We look forward unpacking this text at our Opening Assembly on Sept 6 and further unpacking it over the course of the year. Everyone is welcome to join us for this assembly which will take place at 8:45 on September 6.

Joining us on the sixth is a fairly large contingent of new students. This year we are excited to welcome thirteen new faces to the school! In grade 1 we welcome Esther Feenstra, Reid Groenveld, Cooper Kruisselbrink, Jenna Kruisselbrink, Madelyn Spanninga, Noah Spanninga and Kyla Winkels. In grade 2 we welcome Cadence Meinen, in grade 3 we welcome Jake Mulder, in grade 5, Barrett Meinen and Max Mulder, in grade 6 Mckenna Meinen and finally in grade 7 Anna Pieterman. We pray all may quickly get settled into Harvest and enjoy their new school!

James Meinen

Contacting the Staff:

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

THANK-YOU...

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

To get the school ready for the upcoming year a few members went above and beyond to ensure the new year will be a great one. We would like to thank **Andrew Groeneveld**, **Ken Hutten**, **Erica de Haan** and **Janelle Van Tol** for all their work helping getting the staff room updated and more functional for the staff. Thanks also goes out to **Rachel Sikkema** who helped make sure everything required for this year was ordered and ready to go for the staff and for all her organizational work. And finally thanks goes out to **Melissa Kruisselbrink** who spent a lot of time ensuring there was a smooth transition for the principal into his role here in Owen Sound and who will also be volunteering one day a week in the grade 3/4 classroom!

"The greatest thing in life is not to get things for oneself, but it is to give of oneself."

September 6th - Harvest Christian School's Doors Open!

We welcome everyone to join us for our Opening Assembly on September 6th. Students are welcome to come in the building at 8:30 a.m. They will be given a few minutes in their classroom and then join parents and other members in the church for our Opening Assembly around 8:45 a.m.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Drop Off and Pick Up

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

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

School Cleaning

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

Sep 6-9 - Guichelaar
Sept 12-16 - Hutten, Mark
Sept 19-23 - Hutten, Matt
Sept 26-30 - Kapteyn, C.

Owen Sound School News Email Group

This group has been created to share news and information regarding our school. Weekly News-Makers and the semi-monthly newsletter are posted to the group for information. The group is also used to inform parents of snow days and membership notices or where other information that directly impacts our school are posted.

What this means in real terms is that you may get approximately 4-6 email messages a month.

Please send your email address to adminassistant@harvestschool.ca to be added!

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



Supplies for 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

Canadian Reformed School Society of Owen Sound and District
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

		Jul '15 - Jun 16	Budget
Income			
	Income		
	Donations	8,288.97	30,965.00
	Member's Fees (Non-Parental)	99,025.00	78,860.00
	Non-Receipted Income	16,526.65	14,500.00
	Parental Tuitions	141,960.90	145,800.00
	Total Income	265,801.52	270,125.00
	Refunds	720.17	
	Reimbursed Expenses	895.76	
	Total Income	267,417.45	270,125.00
Expense			
	Accounting Expenses	1,308.00	850.00
	Advertising	949.48	700.00
	Bank Charges	128.78	200.00
	Building Costs		
	Cleaning Supplies	502.95	750.00
	Hydro	5,862.25	6,000.00
	Insurance	3,851.36	3,500.00
	Maintenance	1,568.60	2,000.00
	Snow removal	1,241.24	1,750.00
	Union Gas	195.27	
	Water Testing	1,132.48	1,500.00
	Total Building Costs	14,354.15	15,500.00
	Courses and Conferences	1,977.45	1,500.00
	CPR training	0.00	200.00
	Miscellaneous Expenses	674.66	500.00
	OACS	2,441.71	2,300.00
	Operating Costs		
	Computer Maintenance	624.23	1,000.00
	Copy Licence	152.34	150.00
	Internet Service	673.56	750.00
	Liability Insurance	395.00	175.00
	Phone	332.89	700.00
	Photocopier	1,261.95	2,500.00
	Total Operating Costs	3,439.97	5,275.00
	Operating Costs Leaque Dues	1,504.64	500.00
	Payroll Expenses	191,856.90	230,000.00
	Professional Fees	140.47	
	Program Expense Fees	256.00	350.00
	School Supplies	9,627.62	9,000.00
	Supply Teachers	3,800.00	2,500.00
	Transportation	-393.12	750.00
	Total Expense	232,066.71	270,125.00
	Net Income	35,350.74	0.00