

June 2015

Melissa Kruisselbrink
Principal

June

School Board

Chairman: Calvin Kapteyn
Vice Chairman: Darren Bosch
Secretary: CarolinBosscher
Treasurer: Jordan Kruisselbrink
Maintenance: Dave Guichelaar

Education Committee

Chairman/Board Liaison: Darren Bosch
Vice Chair: Matt Hutten
Secretary: Rachel Sikkema
Member: John Spanninga
Member: Brenda Vangrootheest

Teaching Staff

Gr. 1-2 - Mrs. E. Hutten
Gr. 3-4 - Ms. J. Kottelenberg
Gr. 5-6 - Ms. C. VanAndel
Gr. 7-8 - Mrs. M. Hulst
Principal/Gr. 7-8 -Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink

Volunteer Staff

Mrs. J. Antuma (Librarian)
Mrs. C. Kruisselbrink (Music)
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, the end of another school year! This is a good time to reflect on the year that has just passed and give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all His blessings on our school.

This is also a good time to say thank you to all those involved with our school in one way or another. Thanks to Staff and students for a wonderful Grad program. How wonderful to witness firsthand the gifts and abilities of the students. How they have grown over the past year, amazing! The students exhibited a confidence that may not have been expected at the beginning of this school year. A huge thanks is due to our dedicated Teachers and volunteers who have been instrumental in assisting us as parents in the development of God given gifts and talents in our covenant children. Thanks to Melissa for taking on the role of Principal this year, you have done a great job! Thanks to the many volunteers who help make this such a great school community to be a part of :) I received a list of over thirty five volunteers, all of which were invited to a breakfast put on by our Staff members, wow! Our school

couldn't run as it does without the help of: drivers; librarians; soup, pizza, and hot-dog day organizers; volunteers who work directly with our students; coaches; and speech judges. Then there are those busy behind scenes working in administration, the P.R. Committee, the Ed-Com, and the Board. Of course we also give thanks to all our members, supporters and donators for the financial support we received over the year. We have so much to be thankful for, may we give all praise and glory to our God.

On Thursday evening we said farewell to Emma, Marianne, and Melissa; we wish you the Lord's blessing in all your future endeavors and thank you once again for all that you have done for our school. We also said a sort of farewell to Cindy ;) Thanks Cindy for your many years of working with our students, bringing out in them God's wonderful gift of music. We wish you well in your semi-retirement, oh and by the way the pay will stay the same!

We wish everyone a blessed summer and hope that you may have time to refresh and recharge, getting ready for a new school year in September. In His service and on behalf of the Board, Calvin



TREASURER'S REPORT

As the 2014/2015 school year has come to a close, we can thank our heavenly Father that he continues to bless us and watch over us. Our current bank balance is \$13,509.31 for the period ending June 22, 2015.

Please be reminded that the monthly fees change effective July 1st; parental memberships increase to \$675.00 and general to \$295.00.

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 into the coming 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

With summer now well on the way, we can again give much thanks and praise to The Lord for His faithfulness and surrounding care to our staff and students, both of which very busy with preparations in completing another school season already!

We are very excited about the arrival of new laptops for the technology program and for every day use. This purchase has been in the works for some time, and we are thankful and happy to hear that together the funding was made available! We are also presently working on the needs of our French Curriculum with seems

to be *tres vieux* and in need of some updating. Also please keep an eye out for updated Parent/Teacher handbooks coming September of this year.

The Education Committee humbly acknowledges how the Lord has blessed us with such wonderful staff and volunteers who have again put such an amazing amount of effort into another successful school year. Speaking of wondering things, the pictures from the recent school play are up on the website! Check them out at harvestschool.ca

We especially recognize Mrs. Melissa Krusselbrink for her

amazing contributions in her role as Principal. Melissa we thank you and wish you all the best with baby K.

Congratulations to the students and especially to the graduating class. May God be with you in your preparations for high school, we wish you much success and The Lord's blessing in this exciting new chapter of your lives. To the little children preparing for grade one and to the rest of the staff and students, we hope you have a restful summer full of fun and memorable moments to share upon your return.

On behalf of the Ed Com. Matt

www.harvestschool.ca

Don't forget to check out the website for calendar updates, new photos of events that have happened and soon we will be updating it with the new staff member profiles!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our 2014-2015 school year came to an end with many exciting activities! Thanks be to the LORD for so richly blessing us this past year with so much joy. We can be thankful for all the safety, health and learning that we were blessed with.

May 8th was a very special day for our school as it was Grandparents/Open House Day. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our school with supporters, friends and family. Thank you to all those who came out and spent time with the students. Your loving example is so important to share with the younger generation. May 8th also marked the end of all the musical practicing! Students had a matinee performance for the grandparents and then again performed the musical that night. The students did an excellent job, many comments were made stating, "for such a small school, you sure are blessed with a lot of talent!" Thank-you to all the moms for the delicious desserts after the evening program, and thank-you to all those who worked behind the scenes so that the musical could run so smoothly.

May 23rd was the baseball tournament, thank you to Todd Krusselbrink for leading the team as coach; and for the many other parents who came along to the

tournament to help with coaching bases, helmets and score keeping. It was incredible to see how many fans our students had! Thank-you to all those who showed your support that day! Harvest played very well, losing only one game by 1 run. Excellent job!

June was a track and field month. Grade 7/8 had two weeks to focus on getting ready for Regionals in Guelph. They did an excellent job there, breaking records and placing many 1sts and 3rds. Thank-you to Lee-Ann K. and Cathy S. for driving the students that day.

Thursday, June 11th was our local Track and Field event. Thank-you to all the willing volunteers! We had more than enough help and on behalf of the staff we give a sincere thank-you! Students went to all the events by class division this year to help create some more competition. The older students were divided by gender to prepare them for Regionals. We had many records broken this day again; hopefully you have seen the chart in the recent Harvest Herald listing all the records broken.

The last week of June was a rollercoaster ride! With all the students going on roller coasters at either Story Book Park or

Canada's Wonderland there was a lot of excitement. For staff it was an emotional week as we will miss the students dearly in the summer, yet we are excited to know the year is complete. Also, with three staff members leaving there were many "lasts" and some "good-byes". The grade 8 students appeared to have a great time at Campfire! London and Ottawa students joined us this year; it was nice to see the students interacting with other schools in our federation. We hope that this trip can continue for years to come. If you have any suggestions or comments from the trip please pass them on to Melissa K. Thank-you Brenda V. for helping make all this happen.

Enjoy the summer holidays! The upcoming staff is very excited for the 2015/2016 school year. They have spent a few days in the school already working at curriculum, supplies and decorations. May the Lord bless us during the summer break that staff and students will come back with renewed energy to resume their studies.

Melissa Krusselbrink

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SOME PICTURES OF WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN THE LAST MONTH...

Harvest Track and Field



Storybook Park – Gr. 1-4

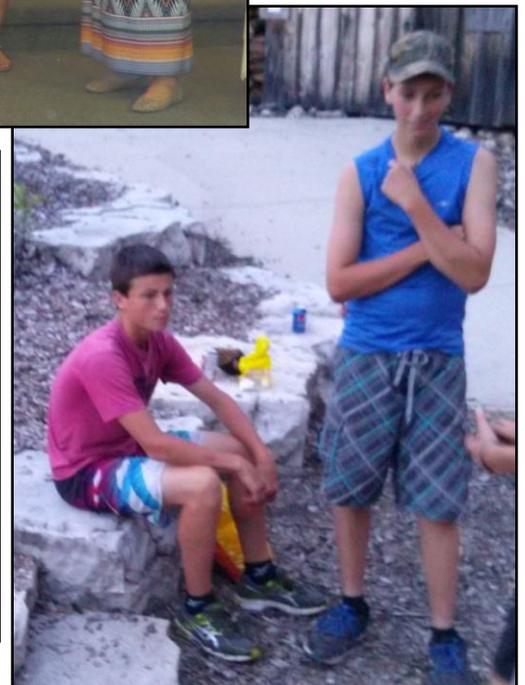
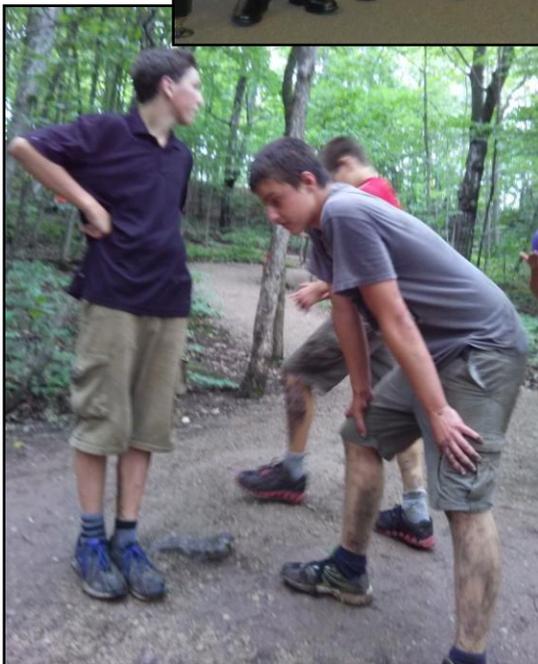


If you wish to see these pictures in colour, please go to the version that is emailed to the school news email group or check it out online at www.harvestschool.ca!



Grade 8 Graduation:

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, of course, graduation evening. As a school society we have been richly blessed this year by our Heavenly Father. He has provided all that we needed and even more. And so tonight we can celebrate giving all praise, honour, and glory to our God.

Well students, here we are, it is the end of another school year! Today you have finished with one year and can look forward to the changes to come. First there will holidays, of course, always a nice change! Next, though I imagine you would rather not think about this now, you can look forward to a new grade and perhaps a new teacher in September. There will be changes coming for our school as well; Mrs. Emma Hutten and Mrs. Marianne Hulst will not be coming back in September. On behalf of the School Society I would like to thank them for all their work as they diligently and lovingly taught the covenant children helping them to develop

their God given gifts and talents for His glory. Thanks Emma and Marianne, may the LORD grant you His blessings on your future endeavours. The changes continue and as was mentioned before Mrs. Melissa Kruisselbrink will not be returning though she will still be active behind the scenes. Mrs. Cindy Kruisselbrink will also be changing her role in our school. She will not be teaching the regular music classes next year, but will still be involved in special programs and Kiwanis. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Melissa and Cindy as well for their efforts in assisting us as parents in raising the covenant children in the fear of the LORD. The Lord willing we will be welcoming two new teachers in September Miss Anne Hutten and Miss Tiffany Jonker. Last but not least, we are happy to have Mrs. Carol-Ann Hutten and Miss Janelle Kottelenberg returning. I hope you all kept track as there will be a pop quiz at the end of the program! Grade 8's did you catch all of that? If you don't pass the quiz we can't

give you your diplomas! Okay, not really. Andrew, Matthew, Joanna, Ethan, Jacob, and Lauren, this is it, you're done grade 8. Your time as students here are over! Are you excited, nervous, ready? You face changes ahead, going to grade 9 and you won't all be together as you will be going to different schools next year. We don't know what the future holds for you but we hope that the past 8 years 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 also looks forward to the future. 1Peter 1:8,9 Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. While we don't know where God will lead us in this life, as Christians we can know for sure that we have a great and glorious future ahead, eternal life! I hope everyone has a great evening as we celebrate tonight and I wish all of you a blessed summer.

Principal's Address: Melissa Kruisselbrink

Thursday, June 18, 2015 - what will you remember when you think of that date? Last day of school? First afternoon of summer holidays? Graduation! Fantastic dinner? Greek decorations? Perhaps years down the road you may not remember much at all. Yet hopefully when you reflect on the 2014/2015 school year you will remember the main theme - JOY.

Back in September at our Open House there was a beautiful acronym given for the word JOY. Jesus, Others, Yourself. This year as teachers we have desired to build characters in the hearts of our 33 students to display this acronym and other virtues, and at the same time, experience joy.

Ps. 16:11 was our school theme, "In Your presence is fullness of Joy". Truly when we are serving the Lord will we feel joy in our hearts. Through this school year I can personally agree with that. It has been an honour and privilege to work in this community as acting principal. The over joyful staff was an exciting group to work with, thank-you for all the enthusiasm you put into your work! It was a joy to greet the students each Monday morning and see their smiling faces and quite often hear a loud, cheerful, "Good Morning." This entire community has created a great feeling of joy for myself, as so many of you have offered words of encouragement and

support. And now, as my path has taken a turn to expecting a joyful blessing, there is much joy in knowing the Lord controls and guides all things.

Students - what is your most joyful memory? Perhaps riding the roller coasters at Canada's Wonderland, or knowing the ride was finally over and you could get off? Or was it seeing your grades improve? How about throwing food during the special medieval lunch? Maybe it was performing our musical Compose Yourself, or perhaps listening to a story read by your teacher.

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Principal's Address continued...

For some, probably breaking records on Track and Field day, or throwing water at teachers and students during the water fight. There were many activities this year that kept staff and students busy, and because of all these many activities we could experience much joy. So as summer begins do not forget to reflect and thank the Lord for these joyful memories. To Him be all the Praise!

These memories that the staff and students have are great blessings that we enjoy on top of the opportunity to have Christian Education. Yet they would not be possible without so many active members of our community that care and find joy in helping at the school. In the past year we have had the blessing of 4 special ladies who dedicated time each week to working with students one on one. Your work is much appreciated by the teacher, and by students and parents as well! All those who drove to class trips and sports events - thank-you, we could not have enjoyed these activities without you. The many librarians who each week would faithfully help the students look for new literature; and then helped students with increasing their desire to read by providing monthly incentives and an exciting medieval lunch! To our music teacher who continually provided the students with new learning opportunities and experiences on different instruments. To all the ladies who took turns making soup

for soup days, or baking for bake sales, or cooking hotdogs or making pancakes, or even lasagnes for graduation! Good food always creates joyful kids, and staff! Thank-you to all our club leaders who took time to help create some very exciting afternoons during the cold winter months. Thanks also to all those who joined us on Track and Field day - it was a day that went so smoothly due to all the willing helpers!

To those more on the "side lines", but helping make important decisions, thank you to our very dedicated Board and Education Committee, and Administrative assistant. Your interest and involvement is so beneficial to us as staff and to help create a link between the members and school.

There are so many people that I dare not mention names, but I have seen first hand this year the beauty of the body of Christ in action. There is no help too small, from changing a much needed light bulb, to ordering cleaning supplies, to dropping off a pie for the staff. There is true evidence that everyone has different gifts, but it is an incredibly joyful thing to see everyone using them in their own way. It can be remembering the school, staff and students in prayer, or sharing a new idea with a Board or Ed com member, or babysitting the younger children for a volunteer. It can be taking time to fill out a survey, or driving your kids to school.

Students you too have displayed this

joy of the body of Christ. Encouraging one another when running a race. Sharing a lunch when a student may have forgotten one. Showing another student how to understand a new math concept, the list can go on and on. If you students, have learned how to work, share, rejoice and laugh with one another, you have learned a greater lesson than any text book could teach you. Graduates, as you enter different high schools and communities next year, hold on to the blessing of community that you have experienced at Harvest. Continue to find joy in being an active member of this community and keep building the beautiful bond of friendship that you six graduates have established.

So what is Joy - true joy is knowing and focusing on Jesus. When this happens all of us cannot help but think of others first. This school could not happen without the Lord's blessing and direction - He directs the path and makes us walk in His fullness of joy.

Enjoy the summer break, the slower pace, the rest from homework. But as stated in Galations 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." This school, this community needs to continue to function as a body of Christ, from our oldest school supporter down to our youngest new grade one student, for then will we truly experience Joy.

Thank you. -MK



-  **Andrew Baron**
-  **Matthew DeVries**
-  **Joanna Kapteyn**
-  **Ethan Kruisselbrink**
-  **Jacob Nordeman**
-  **Lauren Scheper**

Grade 8 Classroom Teacher: Marianne Hulst

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the privilege of introducing you to the graduating class of 2015. I hope that they will forgive me for sharing some of their stellar and possibly less than stellar moments as I reflect on this past year and on them.

In September I stood in front of this group of students for the first time. I am amazed at how quickly the months have flown by and it's hard to believe that these students, who found their desks for the first time on September 2, are sitting here, all dressed to the nines, ready to participate in the final event of their elementary school experience. Let me share with you a little of what I have learned about them. One thing that I noticed very quickly is that they like to talk. Each morning they would come into the classroom talking, go fill their water bottles, talking, sit at their desks, still talking. They could probably have continued their conversations all day. Another thing I noticed was how well they got along together. They were so familiar with each other that many times it felt more like a family than a classroom. It became clear very early on that this small class has a very unique relationship. I am going to attempt to introduce them, tell you a little about them, maybe some things that you already know . . . the way I see them anyway.

Let me start with Matthew DeVries. Matthew showed his true character very early in the year. Every other month we would have a whole school assembly introducing the character trait that we were promoting and focusing on. During the first "traits" assembly, which I believe was showing love to each other, on the Monday of the second week of school, Matthew showed his compassion for the younger students in the school, working with the grade one students in his group, encouraging them to come up with ideas and helping them share those ideas with the rest of their group. I knew right then and there that

there was a lot more to Matthew than what first meets the eye. And I got to know him more as the year progressed. At times he would fool me. It would seem like he was not paying attention, and then he'd say something that let me know that he had been listening all along. He would probably be the first to admit that sitting in the classroom would not be his first choice of where to be. That would be outdoors: working, fishing, whatever, right Matthew? The stories that I have heard, or overheard, as he chatted with his classmates. I don't think Matthew will ever have to worry about being bored.

Matt's also no slouch when it comes to sports. He was the goalie for soccer at the soccer tournament, could serve consistently well in volleyball and is a great sprinter. When Matthew wanted to get somewhere quickly, he would just fly. And I hear that he used that skill at regionals, finishing the 4 by 100 relay with a really amazing sprint.

Andrew Baron:

Did you know that Andrew has a bit of a way with the ladies ☺? I think that there might be a couple of girls from Covenant Christian School, London who are remembering Andrew after the year-end trip at Campfire. Of course that might also be because he was tipping the dock when they were standing on it. I also recall a couple of canoes that ended up without occupants. Maybe Matthew had something to do with that as well.

Andrew is another who really loves the outdoors. The conversations that he and Matthew would have . . . well, let me tell you, I heard more about fishing in the first few weeks of September than I ever had before. My father's fish stories were nothing compared to theirs. And I'm sure that it won't surprise you to hear that they were the first ones out on the pond in the canoes

at Campfire. Doing what? You guessed it . . . fishing.

Andrew proved himself to be a hard worker. Right from the beginning he wasn't scared to share his opinions and ideas and was never one to hold back whether in class, or out on the playing field. When it was time to go out for recess, soccer, baseball, whatever sport it was, he got completely into it. He was not against playing kick the can with the younger students at times either. I'm sure that the end of recess bell always rang too soon. Andrew was also an asset in team sports. He hit very well in baseball, but his biggest asset was his positive attitude, and his ability to keep spirits up, a great team player.

Jacob Nordeman

I think I can honestly say that Jacob has a lot of energy. On the year-end trip at Campfire, I don't think I saw him sitting still for longer than a couple of minutes at a time. Well, during devotions, but that was about it. Jake enjoys being with his friends and interacting with them. He always quick with a clap on the back, or an arm slung around the shoulder. I guess it won't surprise you, then, to hear that he loved recess! It wasn't an unusual thing to see Jake eyeing the clock and confirming with someone sitting close to him how long it was until the bell would ring. What could be better than getting out on the playing field with his friends? In the classroom, Jake preferred to work in groups. Though it was a struggle not to discuss hockey, or fishing or some other interesting topic. And, for some reason, there always seemed to be someone willing to join in the discussion.

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Grade 8 classroom teacher address continued...

Jake also has a lot of artistic ability. Some of the projects that he completed for his art class were quite amazing, and one illustration that he completed of Beorn, a character in our novel study of *The Hobbit* was beautifully done. He also made the poster that was hanging in the hall advertising our mission collection focus for this year. You did a nice job on the Campfire logo and illustration, Jake.

I also hear that Jake was an asset to the volleyball team, doing an exceptional job digging the ball and scooping it back onto the court.

Ethan Kruisselbrink is the other guy in our class. Ethan has the talent to be a good leader and is a very capable sportsman. He took it upon himself to share his hockey skills with his schoolmates during the craft/activity afternoons that were held this winter. Though he would sometimes join in conversations with the other boys about fishing and outdoorsmen's activities, Ethan would really get involved when the topic under discussion was sports. I guess it's not hard to talk about what you are good at. Ethan has amazing endurance when running, breaking the 400m short run and the 1.6 km long run records at our local track and field, as well as representing Harvest very well at regionals, breaking the 800m run record, completing it in 2 minutes, 20.47 seconds and getting first in both the 1500 and the 400.

School wasn't only about sports for Ethan. My first impression of Ethan was that he might be a little easy-going, but he was fairly quiet, so it was hard to tell. It soon became clear that he was fairly focused and not afraid to work hard. He wouldn't often volunteer to participate in discussions, but when called upon would do so. When things had to get done, he got down to work and did them. Ethan also gets along well with his classmates. He and Jacob spent quite a bit of

time together at Campfire playing basketball, shooting baskets, playing catch and hanging out with each other and the rest of the boys.

Lauren Scheper is one of the two girls in this graduating class, and seeing as her name is the last on the class list she's often last for many things. Not today. I got the feeling at the beginning of the year that Lauren felt a little uncomfortable. She was pretty quiet, and I thought that she may not have been looking forward to getting her dad's aunt as her teacher. I was later informed that she was known to be rather quiet. Hmm, I wonder where that went, because that's definitely not how I would describe her now. I've seen her hold her own in some pretty intense discussions. She's definitely not afraid to say her piece and stand up for herself. Lauren is a dedicated student; she is also very social and loves to have a good time. Last fall she, together with Joanna, Kim, Mariah, and some of the grade 5/6 girls went out to the "forest" and sang at the top of their lungs. She also sang seriously in class and competed in the Kiwanis competition with Joanna, Mariah and Kim. Lauren is also not afraid to get involved in physical activity, always participating in whatever sport was being played at recess. I hear that she was a real asset to her basketball team. And she was one of the first, if not the first, to end up in the pond at Campfire . . . with clothes and runners on. Voluntarily, I think. Fun times. She and Joanna forged a permanent friendship with Anna Wildeboer, from Ottawa. The three were virtually inseparable. It was so good to see you girls welcome Anna so completely and have such a fantastic time together. I'm sure you have made many memories.

And last, for today anyway, is Joanna Kapteyn. Joanna was very quiet the first couple of weeks of school. She didn't really like to share much in class discussions and when required to do so, would, but I

could tell that she would have rather not. I can't say that she got over that but she did seem to become somewhat more comfortable with it. She's still pretty quiet. Except for when the three girls were behind the main lodge at Campfire. I went back to check what was happening because the screeching was unbelievably loud. Joanna and Anna and Lauren. I don't want to embarrass them completely, but it was something about bears in the bush. I'm going to leave the rest up to your imagination, but I do want to say that I'm pretty sure boys were not part of the equation.

Joanna also loves to sing. She was one of the girls in the "forest" and also in the Kiwanis singing competition. She, Lauren, Mariah and Kim often carried the tune in class when I just could not get it. Thanks, girls. I must interject here, that the boys would not have been much help in this department.

Joanna is also good at sports. Her back catch skills in baseball were phenomenal! She would catch the ones no one would expect her to be able to and did an exceptional job getting people out at third at the baseball tournament. It helped that Mariah was able to catch what she threw. Joanna also represented our school well at regionals, placing third in triple jump and shot put.

Once I start thinking about the things that happened this year, I could go on and on. But I won't! I do want to talk about the year-end trip for a minute yet though. What a fantastic time! We were blessed with beautiful weather, wonderful company, well-organized activities, caring chaperons, fun day trips and best of all, for me anyway, well-behaved, cooperative students. I did not go on all of their day trips and so cannot give you highlights of Tree Top Trekking, or Canada's Wonderland,

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Grade 8 classroom teacher address continued...

but I did go to the Scenic Caves and can attest that they had a great time there. We went to the suspension bridge and played mini-golf as well, but I understand that the caves themselves were the big hit. If the state of their clothing and shoes were anything to go by anyway. It was not very busy there and we may have given them a littler freer rein than we should have, but that's often when the real enjoyment happens, isn't it.

Initially I planned to find a text for each student. But as every text has a message for everyone, I will share the following texts that speak strongly to us all:

Colossians 3:23-24: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the

inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Hebrews 12:1, 2: "let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,"

And for the outdoorsmen in our group, Job 12:7-10: But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that

the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."

Our theme text this year was Psalm 16:11, "You have shown me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forever more." May God continue to show you the path of life, and may you always have joy and pleasure. I pray that God will bless you all this summer, and in the life that He has planned for you. Pray for the strength that you need and God will provide. You have all been blessed with many wonderful talents. Remember that and use them to serve God with your whole being.

Thank-you - MH

Speech By The Graduates: Joanna Kapteyn & Ethan Kruisselbrink

Good evening everyone, Ethan and I were given the final assignment of writing and speaking the valedictorian speech. So let's hope we get an A.

It all started in grade 1. We were all cute little kids anxious to start school but, that changed very quickly. We were taught by Mrs. Jonker who was very excited to teach us but that also changed very quickly. A highlight in grade 1 was that if we lost a tooth in school we would get a sucker which was a big deal back then. We also got prizes for doing things right but somehow Lauren and Jacob would get more prizes than the rest of us and we were pretty jealous. There was also an incident in grade 1 where Joanna decided it was time to explore the boy's washroom. Shaun perplexed was watching the whole thing and told Mrs. Jonker. Joanna, trying to explain had to stay in for recess.

In grade 2 Joanna at least knew what bathroom to go into. At recess

we would build forts and play house. Lauren was always the mom, and Andrew made quite sure he was the craziest kid there ever was. Lauren always had her hands full. Matthew and Andrew were quite the story tellers. Andrew had stories about his bike. Some days his bike was this tall and other days his bike was this tall and he always had to outdo anybody's bike who was taller. Now Matthews's stories never really made any sense, he exaggerated on everything that happened and so starting in grade 2 we never really trusted Matthew's stories ever again. (Sorry Matt) By the time the next school year started no one was really excited about school anymore.

The highlight of grade 3 was Mr. Helder. He was always willing to help and cared for every student. On top of that he made cakes when it was our birthday. But, he had one small problem. He was very

forgetful. On one occasion Ethan was fooling around outside. Mr. Helder told him to go stand against the school wall. When it was time to go inside Mr. Helder left Ethan outside for what was probably going to be a short time. But he forgot about Ethan and left him outside for 2 hours. When it was time for recess Ethan was still standing against the wall but with very tired legs. The kids told Mr. Helder that Ethan was still outside. He quickly ran outside and said as many apologies as he could to Ethan. Miss. Brouwer also taught us a few subjects in grade 3 but she was nothing compared to Mr. Helder.

Mr. Balch taught us in grade 4 with the assistance of Miss. Versteeg and Anne Hutten who taught us science. Mr. Balch loved to sing. We sang half our subjects especially French.

We would get candies for singing our numbers to 100 in less than a minute.

Continued on next page...

Graduates speech continued...

The candies he gave us were always peppermints he had bags and bags of peppermints in his desk. Whenever Mr. Balch would leave the classroom Jacob would sneak over to his desk and take a couple of peppermints. Which he reluctantly divided up after class.

In grade 5 Mr. Balch taught us again. Which wasn't bad. One of the best things about grade 5 was bible. He would act out every bible story. He was very dramatic and usually pretty loud, so the teachers would all shut their doors in the morning to drone out his voice. Lauren reached a big milestone in grade 5, she was proposed to by Shaun for the first time. This was not the last time she was proposed to. (Poor poor Joanna) Shaun gave Lauren a tape ring and Lauren was completely embarrassed and pretty mad at Shaun. Mr. Balch compassionately gave Lauren a peppermint or 2 for all her troubles. We also had singing classes on some afternoons. We thought it was pretty fun because we got to miss class.

We were taught by Mrs. Vanderveen and Mrs. Jonker in grade 6 and later by Mr. Diek who came from Australia, which we thought was pretty cool. He taught us cricket and we learned quite a few aussie sayings. One time when Miss. Breukelman was substituting for Mrs. Jonker she was showing us the contents of her "survival" bag. One of the objects was a flint and steel, she wanted to show us how it worked. So she got some tinder and twigs and lit a fire on the chair. The chair got a little charred and the room smelled like smoke but the

other teachers didn't really notice. Mrs. Breukelman very quickly became one of our favorite substitute teachers. Our baseball team in grade 6 was looking pretty good, until our "star" player, Andrew, broke his nose while trying to catch a pop up that went straight to him. But luckily we got him back to normal by the time of the baseball tournament. But even with our "star" player, we didn't win the baseball tournament.

In grade 7 we were taught by Mrs. Kruisselbrink and Mrs. Jonker who taught us every morning. One of the best things in grade 7 was art class taught by Bonita Spanninga. She let us talk and make jokes and actually have fun, while making really cool art. Mrs. Jonker really loved her snow days. She was the first person to send out the news of a snow day and she was always disappointed when it was a blustering day and it wasn't a snow day. Sometimes it seemed like she didn't want to teach anymore, just stay home snuggled up in her blankets and drinking hot chocolate. The best thing in grade 7 for Andrew and Matt was the ground hog that lived in the rocks outside right by our window. During lunch Andrew and Matt would open the window and call to the ground hog to see if it would come out. So Andrew and Matt were quickly named the ground hop whisperers. When the next school year started we were relieved to know that this was our last year and we were that much closer to graduating.

For grade 8 we were taught by Mrs. Hulst and Mrs. Kruisselbrink. Not a

lot of interesting things happened in grade 8 because in grade 8 you have to act mature and be good examples to the other students which we were pretty good at. But we did do pretty good at some sports. We got 2nd at the volleyball tournament (without Ethan) and we almost beat Guelph in the baseball tournament and placed a solid 3rd. There was one interesting thing that we remembered that happened in grade 8 and it concerned Matthew. It was a Friday afternoon and we were typing on our computer when Jacob noticed something unusual about Matthew. It appeared to be a skipping rope tied around his waist, so Jacob asked him. "Matthew is that a skipping rope holding up your pants." Matthew a little embarrassed replied "ya it is I couldn't find a belt so I got the next best thing." Everyone was listening to the story and once they heard it burst out laughing. Matt still a little embarrassed defended himself by saying "hey it works."

Over the years we have realized that there is a lot to be thankful for about our school and how blessed we are. The great teaching staff that we had to teach and deal with us. The school board and all the volunteers who have helped us with school spirit days, fundraisers, and other extracurricular events. And most of all just a Christian school to got to learn about our saviour so that we can grow in him and be prepared for the challenges later on in life. Even a small school is a blessing because you know everybody as a brother or sister and you can learn about and grow in Christ as a close knit family. Thank you!



Fun Song by Grade 1-7 for the Grads!

To the tune of the cup song...

You've graduated, now you're moving on,
You've got diplomas 'cause you've shone
We've been friends and classmates all along,
And now you've graduated, we say so long

When you're gone, when you're gone,
We're gonna miss you when you're gone
We're gonna miss you at Harvest,
We're gonna miss you - all the best
Oh, we're gonna miss you when you're gone



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“Teach Me Thy Way
O Lord”
Ps. 27:11