



CONNECTION

September 2015

Melissa Kruiesselbrink
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

As I write this summer holidays are quickly drawing to a close and the beginning of a new school year is just around the corner! Lately the school has been a beehive of activity. Between painting, cleaning, and the teachers getting their classrooms all in order, the school is a busy place. A huge thank you to all who have helped out! Then there was the Campfire cleanup fundraiser, thanks to those who gave of their time to cleanup! It is heartening to see everyone involved in one way or another to get our school ready for another year.

Our school, is that fully accurate? Wouldn't it be more proper to say that this school is the Lord's, given to us in trust for the instruction of His covenant children? If we truly believe that the school belongs first and foremost to God and that everything associated with it is to be to His glory, it will have a strong influence on how each one of us views the school and its' purpose. Yes, one important facet is to assist parents of covenant children in developing each child's God given gifts and talents for His glory, preparing them to serve Him in the world. However, it also plays an important function in building, developing and maintaining the communion of saints. The children get to learn and grow in what it means to be a living member of Christ's church. Parents, supporters of the school and the broader church community labour and sometimes struggle together to provide a school with a Christ centred, Reformed world-view. This in turn strengthens the bond we have together as we depend on each other and especially on our LORD. Perhaps this is one reason why we face difficulties as a school society from time to time, so

that we never lose sight of our dependence on our Heavenly Father. The coming school year will have its own unique challenges. For the first time in our history we will not have a principal in the school. That said, we do have the commitment of our staff, who will be doing extra work, and our principal committee. There will likely be some bumps along the way, however if we are all committed to serving the Lord and His school ,not only will it all work out okay in the end, we will thrive!

The Lord willing we will be able to meet as school society on September 10th to discuss on how to move forward as we seek a principal for our school. As board we desire a long term solution for the principal position. This has been a long and painstaking process, as candidates for principal are few and far between. We truly believe the Lord has placed a candidate for this position on our path. He has the qualifications we were hoping to find in a leader for our school. Those qualifications go beyond his academic abilities and experience since his character, leadership, and involvement in the communion of saints are important factors as well. Though only the Lord knows all things, we believe that if we were able to present a contract proposal it would be accepted. We are excited by the possibilities the Lord has put before us and desire His blessing above all. We look forward to hearing your input on this at the meeting so that we can move forward together. God is good and His blessings are abundant. Praise His Name!

On behalf of the Board,
Calvin

School Board

Chairman: Calvin Kapteyn
Vice Chairman: Darren Bosch
Secretary: CarolinBosscher
Treasurer: Jordan Kruiesselbrink
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. Kruiesselbrink

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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TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August 31st, 2015, the bank balance was \$3,500.00, we can be thankful the Lord has blessed us with financial stability to start another year.

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.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the Budget vs. Actual for 2014-2015.

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

A new season of learning has begun! We look forward to this school year as we begin and are awed at the goodness of our Lord and give Him thanks and praise!

The Education committee's 5 year plan to focus and prioritize curriculum has changed to a 3 year plan and after all your input and consideration it is now finalized! We have purchased the AIM kits for French class, and are also working to upgrade the Sciences by acquiring new equipment like microscopes.

Coming up this month there is an open house at the school for ALL

to attend. Of course everyone is invited, and the more the better! Please come out to this fun and informative evening of fellowship to meet the new teachers, say hello to returning staff and talk about the exciting things that are happening this year. The date is tentatively set for September 24 and the Ed Com will confirm this closer to that date.

We also would like to thank Matt Hutten and Brenda VanGrootheest for their hard work and diligence in the time that they have served on the committee. The new members to fill the shoes are Jenn Vandenberg and myself.

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,
Ken Hutten



www.harvestschool.ca

We have updated the website with CALENDAR information and new staff profiles.

Take some time to check it out!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It's the start of a brand new school year! What a wonderful blessing to have the opportunity to see the doors of our Christian School open again. It is truly a gift from God that again we have staff willing to teach and students ready to learn. It is also a blessing that the Spirit has motivated us as parents to see the need for Reformed Education, and the need to work together to raise our covenant children. To God be all the Praise!

This year we have a wonderful new theme, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."* Matthew 5:16. Through the year the students will memorize and spend time in devotion on this amazing text. There is so much for students, staff and parents to learn from this one verse. Thinking about the concept of light we can learn a great lesson. If you think about the need for light to help us with our tasks, to see the beauty in creation, to make things grow, light is so essential. Yet the wonder of light is that if we look directly at it we are often left seeing spots, or we are unable to see clearly. That is the amazement in this verse of our Lord Jesus - we are to be light, not to be looked at, for that would blind people from the true Creator - Our Heavenly God and Father. So as we go through the year let us keep all our actions in mind. We are light, working not for others to look at us, but so that God is made visible, and so He is glorified.

In past years we have searched the scriptures each week with a "Where in the Word". This year due to the theme of light, we will be looking for "Who in the Word?" Teachers will put up a text referring to people in the Bible who were shining their lights, students need to look up the text and write WHO the text is about on a paper. If correct they will be rewarded with a treat on the Friday. Please join your children in the fun of searching the scriptures and growing in the knowledge of God's Word. We have exciting new lights in our

school this year. Four new grade one students are joining us, Anya Hutten, Lydia DeGelder, Curtis Gunnink and Derek Scheper. We are excited to have them join the 1/2 classroom and to have them in the midst of our whole school. The other new lights are the new staff members. The Lord has greatly blessed us with a great team of staff this year that have already proven their ability to work together, and to work hard. The newest staff member is Tiffany Jonker who will be teaching grade 3/4 this year. She is an active individual and will have no trouble keeping up with her classroom of boys! Anne Hutten is our returning staff member who will be teaching grade 7/8. It is a blessing to have her back in our midst! We know the students are excited to have Miss Hutten lead the class in the subjects instead of doing work more on the side as a TA, like a few years ago. We are also thankful to have Mrs. B. Spanninga leading the older students in Art class again this year; the students will eagerly look forward to Thursday afternoons to learn under this very talented artist! Mrs. Hutten and Miss Kottelenberg worked hard this summer setting up to teach an exciting new group and we are very thankful for their return this year. We are also very thankful for their willingness to take on extra tasks to cover for the absent principal! Take a look at the details of the Principal Committee later in the Connections for some more explanations on the division of principal duties.

We have some exciting changes within the school this year as well. The building has a brighter look as most doors were painted. Learning French is going to be a new adventure as staff and students explore the AIM program. The purpose of this program is to provide students the ability to communicate comfortably in French. This area is often lacking

as the traditional method of learning French is memorizing grammar concepts and vocabulary without enough speaking.

As in past years we will have need for volunteers throughout the school year, working with students, driving to events, helping in the library. If you have an interest in helping in the school we would love to have in our midst. Please remember the need for a police check though; this takes time, so the earlier we fill it out the better.

The first week of school there is an assembly on September 8th and picture day on September 10th. Also, on the Wednesday September 9th all Fall Fair entries are due. Hopefully the students have had fun crafting and creating on cooler, rainy days! There was a great contribution last year, we look forward to seeing the students' work again!

We hope throughout the year that the website is used more often. We hope to have the calendar regularly updated with as many details as possibly to help all members stay well informed. We also hope to have the gallery updated more regularly to help parents reflect on the blessings of the special events through the year with your children. If you have any questions about the website feel free to speak with Darren Bosch, Rachel Sikkema or Janelle Kottelenberg.

As summer ends, we hope anticipation and excitement is growing in your homes, as it certainly is in the school. It is a blessing to look forward to another year of growing in wisdom, specifically the wisdom of the LORD. May He bless all our efforts that we may have a good year of communication, growth in faith, and building up one another as a communion of saints.

Melissa Kruisselbrink

Principal Committee Update:

As we start a new year, we are facing the challenges of the lack of a principal. However, we have a team of willing helpers to fill the roles and tasks that are often done by our principal.

Here is a list of some items and who is responsible for it to help you know who to talk to:

1. General classroom/student concerns - we ask, as always, parents have good communication with the teachers. If there are any general questions/inquiries about your child's education please always start with their classroom teacher. If your questions are not answered please contact M. Kruisselbrink to help answer questions or to solve any miscommunication.
2. Curriculum - any matter relating to curriculum can be brought to the classroom teacher and then the Ed. Com. J. Kottelenberg will be the rep for the teachers on the Ed. Com.
3. Attendance- if your child is late/sick or absent please let their classroom teacher know. If your child is not at the school by 8:45a.m. C. Hutten will give the parents a call.
4. Pick up and Drop Off - Please let the classroom teacher know if there is a change to who is picking up or dropping off your children. If we are not aware of the change in pick up J.Kottelenberg will call before the child goes home.
5. Student Fund - If you have any fundraising ideas please mention it to a mother of the grade 7/8 students or pass the idea on to Cathy Scheper who is the chair of the Parent Fundraising Committee. A. Hutten will be the Staff rep on the Parent Fundraising Committee.
6. Harvest Herald - If you have a contribution for the Harvest Herald please email C. Hutten or J. Kottelenberg as they will be the main editor for the Harvest Herald.
7. Volunteers - The contact for volunteers is going to be R. Sikkema, if you would like to help within the school please let her know. If you are already involved and will be absent please directly inform the classroom teacher you normally help.
8. Snow Days - An email will be sent out by R. Sikkema if there is a snow day.
9. Carolin Bosscher is also part of our principal committee and will be joining the staff for their staff meetings and bringing any necessary matters to the board on their behalf.

**Texting is a great way to establish quick communication, yet we ask you to use the school phone as much as possible.

THANK-YOU!

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

This summer the school was a very busy place. It was amazing to see how many willing volunteers still filled the hallway and rooms of the school! A sincere thank-you should go out to all those who have helped with painting the doors, the office, and the chalkboards to create white boards! The school looks very fresh! Due to all the painting the school was quite messy too. Thank-you to all those who helped with the school cleaning. Thanks to **Alex S.** for working on the new grade 7/8 chairs to make them look fresh and clean as well. It is always amazing how much dust settles during the summer, but with willing workers everything is shining and bright again! Thanks also to everyone who went to Campfire! to help with the cleaning fundraiser! Thanks to **Marlissa N.** for being willing to run the Scholastic fundraiser again this year. Thanks also to the Board and Ed Com - this was a busy summer as we continue to plan for an unusual year; but also look forward to some possible changes in 2016/2017. Thanks also to **Andrew G.** for cheerfully taking on the maintenance role, we hope during the school year your list will stop growing! A big thank you to **Darren B.** and **Ken H.** for setting up a beautiful new sign this past week. It is great to make people aware of the school and it looks fantastic! May the LORD bless all our efforts and give us the desire to continue to work together as a community for the benefit of the covenant children we are blessed with.

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

September 8th - Harvest Christian School's Doors Open!

We welcome everyone to join us for our Opening Assembly on September 8th. 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 follow 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 8-11 - J. Spanninga
Sept 14-18 - B. Vandenberg
Sept 21-25 - C. Baron
Sept 28- Oct 2 - T. DeGelder

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 6 email messages a month.

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

FUNDRAISER!!!

Tired of losing containers? Need to label your things for school? Or your household boxes?
From now until September 15, 2015 our school is fundraising with labels through Loveable Labels. For every purchase, our school receives 20%. No questions asked! And they deliver right to your door. Check out www.hrcs.lovablelabels.ca to browse and purchase!

Supplies for 2015-2016

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
- 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015

	<u>Jul'14 - June'15</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income		
Donations	13,273.97	40,855.00
Member's Fees (Non-Parental)	90,755.00	84,240.00
Non-Receipted Income (eg. Vouchers)	15,000.00	11,000.00
Parental Tuitions	124,685.00	124,800.00
Total Income	243,713.97	260,895.00
Expense		
Accounting Expenses	795.82	750.00
Advertising	1,614.45	500.00
Bank Charges	82.32	200.00
Building Costs		
Cleaning Supplies	549.23	750.00
Hydro	5,457.40	5,000.00
Insurance	3,744.14	3,500.00
Maintenance	5,404.88	2,000.00
Snow removal	1,792.94	1,750.00
Water Testing	1,185.36	1,500.00
Total Building Costs	18,133.95	14,500.00
Courses and Conferences	1,470.00	1,500.00
CPR training	252.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,329.20	1,000.00
OACS	2,584.66	
Operating Costs		
Computer Maintenance	4,418.60	500.00
Copy Licence	133.29	150.00
Internet Service	617.43	750.00
Liability Insurance	432.00	175.00
Phone	433.98	700.00
Photocopier	1,748.19	2,000.00
Total Operating Costs	7,783.49	4,275.00
Operating Costs League Dues	396.66	2,220.00
Payroll Expenses	210,824.52	225,000.00
Program Expense Fees	231.00	350.00
School Supplies (Incl. Books)	6,004.26	8,500.00
Supply Teachers	2,150.00	1,500.00
Transportation	529.20	500.00
Total Expense	254,181.53	252,395.00
Net Income	-10,467.56	



“Teach Me Thy Way
O Lord”
Ps. 27:11

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Kruisselbrink

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