



CONNECTION

November 2017

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

School has been running for two months now, and God has blessed us with beautiful weather this fall; there were many warm sunny days that we were able to enjoy! During this time students and staff have been working hard and by all reports and observations the school is a very positive, God centred, Christian learning environment.

at a better PR strategy and ask how we can gain more involvement and commitment from younger people. It is also encouraging to see the high school conversation in the broader community starting in earnest again and the Board will be listening carefully to where these discussions go and what this might mean for Harvest in the longer term.

School Board

Chairman: Alex Sikkema
Vice Chair: James Gunnink
Secretary: CarolinBosscher
Treasurer: Mark Hutten
Maintenance: Andrew Groeneveld

Education Committee

Chair: James Gunnink
Vice Chair: Ken Hutten
Secretary: Cathy Scheper
Member: Luke Mulder
Member: Irene Baron

Teaching Staff

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

It has been a busy start of the school year for the Board as well. Carolin and I were able to attend the National Principals conference, where Ed Noot discussed excellence in governing as a Board; to have long term planning and not to be too focused on the day to day running of a school, but to leave that to Principal, staff, and committees. Calvin and I also attended a League meeting, and did a lot of prep work for a League day which none of us could attend.

Through all of the meetings attended I really feel encouraged knowing that Harvest Christian School is not alone. We have many other schools, principals, boards, and resources available to us and supporting us. It is great to feel that we are a part of the communion of Saints, not just here in Owen Sound, but across the country.

Our school has been running very smoothly, and we give thanks to the Lord and recognize this at every meeting. Our finances are in good order, we have growth potential, our staffing is stable, and we have excellent teachers, a host of volunteers both in the classroom and helping around the school. But one of the things that was emphasized at the Principals Conference was the need for long term planning. In Owen Sound we are so blessed that things are great in the day to day running of the school, in fact our Board meetings have been very short! This gives us the opportunity to look at some longer term planning; we need to look

This coming month promises to be busy as well. Our school will be having its annual general membership meeting on Nov 9, 2017. By now you should have all received the information package in your mailboxes, and you can see that our finance committee has been busy putting together a proposed budget. The budget comes with a 4% overall cost increase, but with a bit of growth every year we can expect to only see a slight increase to tuition fees. Another thing the finance committee has been working on is restructuring our finances to include the voucher committee's work, and this in turn will result in an even larger charitable donation receipt for the full amount of what every family gives (for this year only!).

We look forward to seeing you at 7:50pm Owen Sound time (which is 8pm EST) on Nov 9. We have a guest, Will Havenaar, from Harvest Endowment Foundation, who would like to present first and be on his way back down south, so please be there on time.☺

On behalf of the Board, Alex Sikkema



**We will have a
Membership Meeting
November 9, 2017 at
8:00pm**

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TREASURER'S REPORT

We are thankful to report a positive bank balance at this time once again, thanks to all for your continued support! It is also with thankfulness that we as finance committee are able to prepare budget scenarios that reflect a

growing school, but many blessings to consider. God provides! We look forward to any questions at the upcoming membership meeting, and if you would like to reach out in advance for any clarification, by all means

do so - you can email me at treasurer@harvestschool.ca

Thanks,
Mark Hutten

As a reminder, the new school fees are in effect as of July 1, 2017.

\$690.00 Parental

\$300.00 General

\$160.00 Single/Retired

\$50.00 Student.



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

It's great to see another school year off to a great start! With all returning staff, the ball could get rolling quickly and smoothly. A recent classroom visit was made and reports are glowing attesting to the dedication and love for teaching that our teachers exhibit. The teachers are well supported by a host of volunteers in the classroom and providing independent assistance where needed. Volunteers also invade our library on Wednesdays to spurn on the love for reading. These librarians are in particular need of your assistance as there are a plethora of books that need proofreading before they go on the library shelves. As the days get shorter and colder we encourage you to contact Sue Vanderploeg for a stack of reading material to occupy your time.

As a result of a recent curriculum

mapping exercise done by Jason Heemskerck, the Education Committee is particularly interested in the role of health/sex education in the reformed curriculum as well as media studies courses to equip our children to rightly handle the onslaught of media bombardment. On the technology side of things, the students are trying out a new online typing program and our technology team is ironing out some glitches with OpenDNS, which we hope to have smoothed out soon.

We hope to see you at the school annual meeting where some of these topics will be reinforced and/or elaborated on. Thank you everyone (staff, students, parents, members) for your commitment to reformed, covenantal education! With the

500th anniversary of the Reformation fresh on our minds, when heresies were exposed and the truth revealed, it's encouraging to see the unity of purpose between home, church and school as the truths of Scripture are being reinforced also here at Harvest.

On behalf of the Ed Com,
James Gunnink



Contact Sue Vanderploeg to help proofread for the library!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Every year our school has a theme text upon which to frame the year and this year the text the staff chose was 2 Corinthians 12:9. The text reads: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". Since choosing this text our theme of grace has been alive and well in the school showing up in most subject areas, wall displays, assemblies, and in projects.

Of course all this work of incorporating our theme of grace at Harvest stems from the fact 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Great Reformation. It is truly a privilege being in a school that can openly celebrate this event

*Please join us in
celebrating Reformation
Day on November 17,
2017 at 8:00pm!*

and be reminded of God's goodness towards his church. Hopefully everyone can come out and join us in celebrating this anniversary at our churches Reformation Day Evening set for November 17 at 8:00 pm. We look forward to a great evening!

At school students and staff have settled into the year and

everyone is on track with their respective curriculums. Having no staff turnover and a great core of volunteers has really allowed this year to begin very smoothly. To help enrich the education experience here at Harvest, a large number of outings have taken place these past two months. The Newsletter tends to shine the spotlight on these various trips so I won't reiterate them all here but encourage you to check out our weekly newsletter. If you would like an electronic version of the newsletter please let me know and I can sign you up!



Professional Development

The staff have also been busy this past month with a number of professional development activities. Several staff visited Guelph just prior to school starting to see how Cornerstone runs various programs and to borrow resources. The staff attended a CARE (Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Education) Day in late August and the CRTA (Canadian Reformed Teacher's Association) Convention in late October. In addition, I had the opportunity to attend the National Principal's Conference that focused on Excellence in a whole host of different areas in education (excellence in governance, excellence in teaching, excellence in pedagogy etc.) Being able to network with our sister schools and tap into the resources and expertise of all our schools in Ontario has been a huge advantage in allowing our staff to further develop our programs of study and best practices in our given classrooms. Our next major joint PD is set for this spring, when half of our schools will visit Owen Sound for a CARE day to be led by Harvest.

Report Cards

As discussed in the Connection last year, this year our school has shifted to two major report cards a year, and two interim report cards. The first interim report cards will go out this week with the students. Since these interim report cards are brief, we aim to sit down with every parent this week (November 6 and 7) to discuss their child's progress in more depth and to also discuss strategies to help students who may be struggling in certain areas. The goal for these conferences is to ensure home and school are on the same page, and we can help their child(ren) fully use their God given gifts. Detailed term one report cards are set to go out shortly after the Christmas break.

Theme Assembly: Reformation Day

To celebrate the Great Reformation and to further bring our theme out, Harvest has various theme assemblies throughout the school year. Since many were not able to attend our first theme assembly I thought I would share the brief speech from it with you in this newsletter. While I'd love to take credit for a wonderful speech that links food with the Reformation I can't. I have to give credit to my colleague Stuart Harvsevoort who drafted a longer version of this speech three years ago for a Neerlandia assembly. Enjoy.

What do you think of when you are asked about the Reformation of the Church in Europe in the 1500s? What image, what picture do you think would best represent the spirit of the Reformation? Martin Luther courageously standing before the Roman Church council demanding to be shown in Scripture where he is wrong? John Calvin preaching courageously in Geneva, not that far from Roman Catholic France, which he fled for his life? Ulrich Zwingli courageously eating sausage with some friends during Lent?

You heard me correctly. One of the important leaders of the Reformation started changing the church by eating sausages. Sausages. No joke.

The year is 1522. Zwingli is a priest in a Roman Catholic Church in the city of Zurich, Switzerland. He is 38 years old, and is not a person to back down from a challenge. In 1522, that challenge came during the season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. During these 40 days, Roman Catholics are supposed to give up something. At the time of Zwingli, that thing was meat. In the 1500s, Roman Catholics gave up meat for Lent. This was supposed to create in them a reminder of Christ's sacrifice. The problem with Lent is that it is nowhere found in the Bible. And this was Zwingli's challenge

to the Roman Church.

One night, after a long day's work, a friend of Zwingli's, a man who owned a printing press, shared some smoked sausage with his workers, because they were tired and hungry. When the bishop and other priests heard of this, they arrested the man. Zwingli took the matter to the pulpit and preached an important sermon that following Sunday. He preached a sermon in which he showed that it doesn't matter what we eat, don't eat, or even celebrate or don't celebrate. What matters is our hearts before God. The Church should not demand things from people that God does not demand of them. If it does not say in the Bible that people should fast at Lent, why does the Roman Catholic Church demand that people should fast?

We do not simply remember Zwingli for eating sausage (even though he didn't eat any, he defended those who did), we remember Zwingli for his insistence on sticking to Scripture. He always asked what the Bible says. Tradition, church teaching, nothing is as important as Scripture for guiding and directing our lives.

Zwingli follows in the wonderful tradition of the Bereans whom Paul meets in Acts 17. Not impressed simply with Paul's words or his credentials as an apostle, the Bereans constantly searched the Scriptures to see whether Paul's teachings were true. "As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for **they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.** Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men" (Acts 17:10-13).

The basis for truth is not the one who

brings the message, whether apostle or Pope. Nor is it whether we like the message or it makes life easier for us. The basis of truth for anything we do in Church or in our Christian life is Scripture alone.

Zwingli pushed the Roman Catholic Church in Europe to find this foundation again. The Roman Church had put heavy burdens on the people, adding lots of extra teachings and practices. There were feast days for saints, fasts for repentance, actions to do for earning forgiveness. Priests could not marry, people could not read the Bible themselves, and many other things. Zwingli went back to the Bible, and started freeing believers from these heavy burdens.

While it can be argued that Martin Luther's gift to the churches was having people once again begin to read the bible for themselves, Zwingli builds upon this legacy. Here Zwingli adds to this gift by showing us why we read the Bible for ourselves. If we don't know Scripture, we can be taken captive by the teachings of men, and be drawn away from the revelation of God.

Did you know that when Zwingli first received a copy of the Greek New Testament from his friend Desiderus Erasmus, he took a whole year and read through it, cover to cover? Do you know why Zwingli was such a force in the Reformation? Because he saturated himself with God's Word, and read it as often and as fully as he could!

God has given us his Word so that we can know him. Why would we let anyone get in between us and God? Search the Scriptures like the Bereans, to see if what you are told is true. Search the Scriptures like Zwingli, to see how best to live your life before God. And search the Scriptures above all, because it is there, and nowhere else, that we know the One, True, Living God.

James Meinen

From the Grade 5&6 Classroom:

Fungi - Barrett

God's creation is awesome. This past Science unit, we went on a trip to the Bruce Caves. We had a competition to see who could find the most fungi, insects or seeds. I found a huge mushroom, probably about 22 cm wide. There was a huge variety of mushrooms as well. There were red ones, and white ones, black one and orange ones. Besides mushrooms, surprisingly, I found some mold, and all this weird plant/fungi on some dead trees. I found about 30 different kinds of mushrooms on the hike. God's creation is indeed awesome

A Trip to the Salmon Ladder - Justin

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit we went to the salmon ladder in Owen Sound. At the salmon ladder as some of you probably know, there are two water falls: a taller one and a shorter one. We were standing on the bridge that goes over the waterfalls. While we were looking for salmon, one jumped up and started to swim to the top! After a couple of minutes we thought the salmon was gone, but then still struggling to stay up, it fell down and back into the water. After that we hopped back into the vehicles and drove to Harrison Park where we looked for arthropods in the Sydenham River. It was awesome seeing this part of God's creation.

Sydenham River – Brody

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit we went to Harrison Park to go walk in the river and catch little creatures. Our class found about 10 different water animals. Jackson even caught a bird! Mr. Meinen got close to catching a salmon! I caught a water strider, and a minnow. It was a great day.

Hunting Seeds – Ethan

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit we went to Bruce Caves. After we looked at a lot of cool caves and went for a long hike, we climbed a cliff. Then Mr. Meinen gave us bags and we got jobs. I got the job of collecting seeds. Max, Mason, Barrett, Ben, and Brody looked for fungi, and Gabe, Justin, and Jackson looked for arthropods and whoever found the most of won. The vareity of fungi, bugs and seeds was quite awesome.

Bruce Caves – Mason

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit we got to explore Bruce Caves Conservation Area. Mr. Meinen assigned us to look for seeds, fungi and arthropods. We got five minutes into the hike and were already exploring caves, climbing gargantuan boulders, and going into crevasses. The most exciting part of the trip was when Justin and Jackson found a little opening in a rock wall! We all climbed in and found an enormous cave! Mrs. Gunnink and Mrs. Feenstra were even brave enough to go in with us.

Superworms – Jackson

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit our teacher gave us a project on superworms. You may be thinking what is a superworm? Well it looks like a mealworm with 3 pairs of legs in the front and two in the back. It has big chompers in the front and eyes. The project is to draw what it looks like, and to make them adults. Next when they are adults we will breed them. Then we will hatch their eggs and grow them up. The thing is, it is not to easy to make them adults. I will explain how it works. They start off as a superworm, curl up hopefully and then go on to the pupa stage where they will turn to this cocoon type thing. Weeks after they hatch into an adult.

Superworms – Max

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit we were given superworms! The first day I saw these guys was so cool!! Well the next day we were given superworms and we got five minutes to play around with them. Then we had to name our superworms. I named mine Diggy and Deeper. Well... after four weeks it was pupa time. Of course I was first, and my beetle should come out on the weekend. Recently, Jackson's went into the club with me. Before you stop reading, I'll give you a joke. It's a Ben. No. It's Mr. Meinen. No. It's Superworm!!! Thanks for reading

Sydenham River – Gabe

God's creation is awesome. This past science unit we went to Harrison Park and went down the trail by the river. As we were going down the trail a bird which looked like a pheasant ran from behind a tree. After a good three minutes chasing it, Jackson caught it because its wings were clipped and showed it to the class. We got to a small bridge. Mr. Meinen said to stop there and start walking into the water. We were supposed to be looking for water bugs but just the adrenaline was exciting. We were wading down the river with our jars and nets when suddenly Barrett creid "I caught a water strider!" The next thing I heard was "look, lots of minnows." We caught some and kept going, until Jackson caught a water scorpion and Barrett caught a water beetle. Now all I heard was "I want to catch a water scorpion" or "I want to catch a water strider." There was one spot where the mud would go up to your knees – that spot was fun. We spent the rest of the time looking for cool water bugs but time cut us off about halfway back to the vehicles. So we had to go out of the river and walk the trail back. I could say a lot more, but this was just a summary of what we did.

Bruce Caves – Ben

God's creation is awesome! This past Science unit we went to the Bruce Caves! At the beginning we found a big cave (it looked like the Romans built it because of its arch). The second cave was very long and had a very low roof. The last cave was two feet high and about six feet wide. Once you crawled in, the cave opened up to an 8 foot tall room that we all could fit in. Near the end of the hike, we climbed up a cliff and looked for arthropods, fungi and seeds. Bruce Caves is an awesome part of God's creation!