



# CONNECTION

December 2017



Mr. James Meinen  
Principal

## FROM THE BOARD

At our November 9 membership meeting we accepted a budget called "The Growth Model." This means that together as a school society we will work hard to actively seek more growth for our school to keep our costs down. So, for this month's report I will focus on GROWTH.

place your top three topics in each quadrant and return them to myself before January 10, 2018. This analysis will help us as a Board to focus and grow.

We discussed at a Board meeting what can be the most effective way to continue promoting and GROWING our school within our own church. We decided to host an evening in March to promote our school to people that have recently moved to our area, people that are in our area that are not yet members, and parents that are members but their children aren't in school yet. We see a lot of potential for new growth in this area as well.

We have much to be thankful for at our school. We thank the Lord for allowing our school to run very smoothly, that the students are growing spiritually and academically, that the teachers are faithful stewards and planting the seeds, that there is a new family, and we have more potential for new growth, and that hopefully through all this GROWTH we can maintain our monthly tuition! We thank the Lord for all of this growth and pray that this HARVEST may bear fruit!

As Board we pray that everyone connected to our school has an enjoyable 2 week Christmas break; especially to our staff and students, that they may take a well-deserved rest from their regular work and come back in January rejuvenated and ready to keep on GROWING.

On behalf of the Board,  
Alex Sikkema



**May 16, 2018 for our spring membership meeting!**

### School Board

- Chairman: Alex Sikkema
- Vice Chair: James Gunnink
- Secretary: Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink
- 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.

GROWTH is very evident in our school. Our students are absorbing so much of the world around them as the teachers show the world with a Christian perspective. Our Principal has done very extensive and comprehensive teacher evaluations on each of the teachers, and we are pleased to report that all our teachers are teaching firmly based on God's Word, and are an excellent, well prepared staff. As parents, you can rest assured that our children are receiving the best education possible, and growing in Christ at the same time. This is evident to me with the work that they take home, the stories I hear from school, and assemblies and programs that I have attended.

Our school is also experiencing some new GROWTH. In January there will be 2 more students joining us! We welcome with open arms and hearts the Flikweert family. Andre and Marieke, together with their 4 children have moved to our area (Durham) from Oxford. Tessa will be joining Grade 3, Anthony will be in Grade 2. It is our prayer that they will soon feel at home here in Harvest and that we can grow together.

As a Board we also want to continue to GROW, so we are each completing a SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunities, and threat). The Ed Com and Staff will also fill these out. There is a copy on the back of the Connection that any member can fill out as well. We ask that you consider our school and

177551 Concession 5, R.R. #3  
Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5N5  
Phone: (519) 371-4498  
Fax: (519) 371-6532  
E-mail:

[principal@harvestschool.ca](mailto:principal@harvestschool.ca)

&

[adminassistant@harvestschool.ca](mailto:adminassistant@harvestschool.ca)  
Website: [www.harvestschool.ca](http://www.harvestschool.ca)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

It's countdown! As we approach our calendar year end, please remember Harvest in your donations. Tax receipts will be prepared early in the year for any income received in 2017.

As membership, you voted for the "Growth" budget option for next school year. What this means from a financial perspective is that we're looking for continued extended membership, in an effort to keep fees as low as possible while meeting ongoing increased operational costs. How much support we can find will dictate

where the final tuition fees will land at the final budget. Do you know someone who is willing to become a member, or has questions about Harvest? We're working on some educational awareness at Harvest, so send them our way!

At the membership meeting, there was a request to investigate interest opportunities on the current bank balance. We explored several options including a revocable deposit at the Harvest Foundation Fund, special GIC rates through the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, and the very best offerings that our own bank could

come up with. In summary, all of these options were found to be of minimal return, or had a minimum locked investment period that would negate the benefit of having the funds on hand. We'll certainly continue to be open to opportunities in this matter, so if anyone has access to high interest, short term investments, please pass them along! :)

Once again, we're very thankful to the Lord for the financial blessings that we enjoy at Harvest at this time, and look forward to continued growth into the new year.

Mark Hutten

As a reminder, the following 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

Well, here we are in December with the Christmas break upon us. It is hard to believe the first number of months of the school year have gone this fast. The snow is here again and it brings with it the reminder that we live in a very beautiful area of God's creation, with four very distinct and wonderful seasons. With the time flying by the Education Committee has been continuing to meet and work through various items.

Items of note were the Curriculum building night that was organized by the Ed Com. We had an opportunity to interview the staff and go through the staff questionnaire and get some feedback from the staff on how things are going from their

perspective. After compiling the feedback we listened to a presentation on Grade 7 and 8 History and Geography Curriculum by Miss Hutten. She talked about the textbooks we have and some of the supplemental NGO (non-government organization) material provided by CARE that will go well with the Geography portion of the curriculum. Mr. Meinen gave a presentation on Media studies and Media literacy. This an area that is viewed as one of the pillars of Language Arts and we are going to work towards growing how we approach this as there is not much in our League with regards to this curriculum.

The Teachers handbook review is

compete and some small things were changed to better reflect what we are doing as a school.

At this time we would like to extend an extra thank you on top of the other thank you to our volunteers. You are an invaluable asset to the school and we do sincerely appreciate your time and efforts, thank you so much!

We would like to encourage everyone to continue to uphold our staff, students and volunteers in prayer. So enjoy the Christmas break with family and friends and have a blessed New Year.

On behalf of the Ed Com,  
Luke Mulder

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

With four months of school now in the books, both staff and students are looking forward to a break from school and spending time with family and friends. While holidays afford us more time to spend with our families, spending time with our children all year long is paramount in their development. While traditionally mothers spend the most time with their children as dads are busy at work, dads have a critical role to play in child development. God, in His wisdom, has given fathers a very powerful role in shaping their children. This power is evident in the following piece written by Doug Turney.

An old story tells us about a man who asked three stone masons what they were doing. The first man said he was laying bricks. The second man described the work as building a wall. But it was the third man who showed genuine concern for his work. He said, "I am raising a great cathedral." Ask this same question to a group of fathers concerning their role in the family, and you would get many contrasting answers. One father might say, "I am raising children." Another father might see his role differently and say, "I am supporting my family." One

father sees his responsibility to put food on the table, while the other sees his responsibility in the shaping of his child's life.

Fathers have great power to shape the emotional, psychological and spiritual health of their children. A recent Reader's Digest article called "Life without Father" shared some informing words on the lasting influence of a father on the lives of his children. The article explained, "In the early years more than two-thirds of all children prefer to play with their fathers. Playing with a father is very important in teaching children the importance of self control... Children who roughhouse with their fathers learn quickly that biting, kicking and other forms of physical violence are not acceptable... Several studies have found that a father's presence is one of the determiners of girls' proficiency in mathematics. An astonishing 26-year study found that the most important childhood factor in developing empathy was the father's involvement in child care!"

Are you surprised that a father has such a powerful influence?

God's Word has told us of a father's powerful influence long before our modern sociological and psychological studies. "Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children are a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them..." (PS 127:4-5, NIV)

"When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, 'Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live'" (Prov 4:3-4, NIV).

The scripture also gives a clear warning to fathers about misusing this power of influence on their children. "Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (Col 3:21, NIV).

The Lord has given fathers the power to make a tremendous impact on their children. Fathers can use their powerful influence to either build or destroy their child's life. So dads are you merely putting food on the table or are you participating in the shaping of your child's life?



### Around the School

The school year continues to run quite smoothly and students have covered a lot of ground since September. The staff are on top of their curriculum and it is great to see our students grow academically as we progress through our course content. Student's studies have been bolstered these past two months with a number of field trips to a whole host of locations. In October grade 7/8 travelled to Stratford to watch Treasure Island (as a culminating activity for their novel study), More recently, grade 3/4 visited the Theological Seminary, grades 3-8 visited Grey Roots Museum (grade 3/4 spent time with the Medieval Time Period, while grades 5-8 learned about early pioneers), grade 7/8 played an exhibition volleyball game at Timothy and attended the Volleyball Tournament in Fergus, and finally all students skated at Keady Arena this past Friday. On top of this students have been busy participating in a variety of extra-curricular activities. In early November, almost all our students participated in the Legion Poster, Poem and Essay Contest. Seven of our students placed in the top three in our region and will have their posters and poems go on to the next round of competition. Other extra-curriculars included euchre intramurals, and a couple of themed dress up days at school. So you can see Harvest is both a busy place and a fun place to be!



### Student Progress

It was great parents could sit down with the staff in early November to discuss student progress. These meetings were in conjunction with interim report cards that went out a week earlier. Following the lead of most of our sister schools, more in depth report cards will go out at the end of term 1 (January 26). Another round of parent teacher conferences will be set at that time.

### School Cleaning

After a terrific start to our grade 7/8 school cleaning fundraiser, we have put that fundraiser on hold due to too much demand! However, we recognize that life is busy and at times it is difficult to clean the school on your assigned date. In light of this we have solicited a few moms who can clean if you are unable to clean on your date. Jenn Gunnink and Irene Baron are offering their cleaning services if you are not able to school clean for your assigned week. They are charging \$50 for Wednesday and \$75 for the Friday cleaning. Please call either of them in advance if you would like their service.



### Looking Ahead

As we enter a new calendar year in a couple weeks, Harvest is busy looking ahead and already planning for our 2018/2019 school year. At this point Harvest appears to be in a pretty good position with regards to staffing, student enrolment and financial support. Of note, in my short time at Harvest it is pretty amazing to see some solid student growth in our small school. When I signed up our numbers were in the mid 30 range, and with another new family on board in January we are now at 45 students! What a blessing. Harvest also continues to be blessed by a tremendous level of volunteer support (I could write about that support in a recent Newsletter). On behalf of the staff and students, thank you to all those who help support Harvest and the work that we do. We are so blessed to have the communion of saints behind the school and ultimately behind the parents in our community who are striving to raise their children in the fear of God's Name. We pray for you continued support in 2018. Have a blessed Sunday.

### *From the Grade 3 & 4 Classroom:*

I have always felt very blessed to live in a country where we can enjoy all four seasons. Yes, sometimes we may wish to trade in a few of the winter weeks for a couple more in the summer or fall but there are so many wonderful things to enjoy about the snowy, white season as well! This past week in Grade 3 and 4 we took a few moments to reflect on some of our favourite things about winter. We hope you enjoy these poems! ~ Ms. Erica deHaan



#### *Jesus is Born*

Jesus is born  
This is no time to mourn  
He was born in a manger  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
The Saviour!  
The star shone bright on the starry black night when  
the Saviour was born.  
Three kings came from afar  
With a gold box and incense and a jar  
God is almighty  
When Jesus had already won  
When the king Herod heard out this  
He was full of evil and hatred  
He was born in Bethlehem  
But now He has to go to Jerusalem  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
The King is here!  
No more crying, no more tears  
Rejoice! Rejoice!

*By: Kenzie Hutten gr.4*



#### *Christmas*

Christmas has lights  
Christmas has sights  
Trees start coming in your door  
Trees are on the floor  
The star is now upon the tree; it shines so bright on Christmas night  
I'm ready, I'm set to put on my PJs; they feel like silk  
Downstairs there's some cookies and milk

*By: Cadence Meinen gr.3*

#### *Winter Fun*

When I go outside, I roll a snow ball.  
I love it when I see new snow fall.  
I build a snowman and I throw my snowball  
at his head. Next, I start building a snow fort  
and I make a snow bed.  
I forgot about my snowman and he got mad.  
I looked at him and started to feel a bit bad.  
His eye had fallen out when I hit him with a  
snowball. He picked up his head and threw it  
at me. What a big fall!

That was enough! I went inside to bed  
To sleep off the cold that I caught from the  
snowman head.

*By: Burke DeGelder gr.3*

#### *The Snowmobile*

It's starting to snow.  
I can't wait for my ride!  
It was so cool I was not stuck inside.  
I hopped on my ride, my yellow snow mobile.  
The cold air I could feel.  
It was a very cool breeze.  
My snowmobile handled the drifts with ease.  
IT could go 160 km per hour.  
It had so much power!  
It was fun but now I'm heading for home.  
The snowmobile was expensive. I've got to pay off my loan.

*By: Derrick Scheper gr. 3*





### *The Ice*

I walk to the rink with my skate on tight  
In the night  
Until light  
On I go with all my might  
Then I see in the light  
The ice in sight!  
I glide this way and that and this way and that  
I am as fast a cat  
I don't have time to chat  
Time to go  
I packed up slow  
By: Curtis Gunnink gr.3

### *Snowmobiling!*

I went snowmobiling last night.  
Then snow we drove on was so white.  
I went full speed!  
My Dad rode in the lead.  
And then I fell off and I did a big cough.  
The snowmobile almost tipped!  
We thought it flipped!  
We went on a jump and went far in the air!  
Maddy said, "How come he gets to go on longer? That's not fair!"  
My trip was fun but now it was done!  
It was time for supper and we had buns.  
By: Reuben Spanninga gr.4

### *Snow Day*

One night, a snow day came, which was the same as when  
we had a snow day as cold as Antarctica nights.  
When that happened we even saw the Northern Lights.  
At supper time my father gave me a dime.  
I spent the dime on a clock that could chime.  
I played outside with my snow pants on.  
When I was playing I saw a fawn.  
I was freezing when I came inside,  
When I came inside I cried, "I can't sit down with ease!"  
So my parents gave me hot chocolate which melted my  
disease.  
Then I sat down in a lovely dressing gown.  
When the snow day came to an end, I called a friend.  
She came over for a sleepover. Then we watched the  
movie *Rover*.  
By: Anya Hutten gr.3

### *Snow*

It snowed all night.  
Now the ground is white.  
Get your gear on!  
Before the snow's gone!  
I put my mitts on right tight.  
Me and Max have a fight.  
Building Snowballs becomes a race.  
I built the biggest and hit Max in the face.  
It snowed all night.  
Now the ground is white.  
By: Jake Mulder gr. 4



### *Christmas Lights*

I woke up one morning, it was a snow day!  
Now we can play in the snow today!  
But mom said we have to decorate the tree first.  
We put the balls on the tree until it looked like it might burst.  
Then Dad put red lights on the tree but mom said they have to be white.  
Then I put garland on the banister.  
Dad added the lights and I got to have a cookie from the canister.  
Now we sit down to dine on cold winter nights  
And look at our twinkly Christmas lights.  
By: Arianne Sikkema gr.4

### *Christmas Snow*

The most fun snow is Christmas snow!  
Make a fort or a ball  
Make a man or a doll  
Have lots of fun!  
And don't be a bum.  
I love Christmas snow!  
Every drifting, flow  
So white and so bright  
And so very light  
Forts in the drift  
Always digging so swift  
By: Matthew Feenstra gr.4

### *Fireplaces*

Fireplaces are cozy.  
They are sights.  
There are lights.  
You can see them at night.  
I come inside with my cheeks all rosy.  
I come in and I make a big puddle.  
I go to the fireplace and I cuddle.  
I stock my stockings.  
They are hanging so nice.  
The chair is rocking.  
Christmas is near.  
Christmas is here!  
*By: Lydia Degelder gr.3*



### *Hot Chocolate*

Hot Chocolate is cozy and fun but in the sun it's not so fun.  
You can have it with marshmallows and whipped cream. It's so  
warm and cozy you'll have a dream.  
I drink hot chocolate slowly so it I can savour,  
If I get hot chocolate...I'll do you a favour.  
It's a snow day treat, boy it has a lot of heat! The reason why I  
like hot chocolate is because I love chocolate a lot.  
I put it in a pouch and I sip it carefully on the couch, because it's  
hot.  
We make it in a kettle pot.  
I drink it after being outside.  
I sure will not drink it on a sled ride.  
Hot chocolate is good I love it sooo much!  
*By: Callie Groeneveld gr. 4*



A Harvest Foundation board member visited and made a presentation at our Fall membership meeting on November 9, 2017 to share with us what Harvest Foundation is doing to help reduce the cost of tuition, and to give our school the annual cheque from Harvest.  
Please see below contact information if you have further questions for them.



## **Harvest Foundation**

**Assist Parents Reduce Tuition**

[harvestfoundation.ca](http://harvestfoundation.ca)

Executive Director: Will Havenaar

Phone: 289 309 1466

Email: [info@harvestfoundation.ca](mailto:info@harvestfoundation.ca)

**Dear Society Member:**

It is good to reflect on what we are doing as a Board and school society, and to be honest with ourselves and look at our strengths and weaknesses. If you could take some time to complete the attached Strength/ Weakness/ Opportunity/ Threat (SWOT) chart, it would help us recognize what we are doing right and wrong, what areas need attention, and where to focus our time & energy. Just pick what you think are your Top 3 for each category.

As a Board we need to be forward thinking, and looking to the horizon and spot problems in advance so we are not reactionary. Filling out this chart will help us figure out what needs to be worked on.

Please return your completed chart to Alex Sikkema shortly after the Christmas Holidays.

I have attached a list of topics at the bottom as a starting point for your thoughts. Please don't feel you need to limit yourself to these topics, feel free to add to them if there are other areas that you would like us to consider.

I look forward to your contribution!

Alex

<p><b>Strength:</b></p> <p>1.</p>  <p>2.</p>  <p>3.</p>	<p><b>Weakness:</b></p> <p>1.</p>  <p>2.</p>  <p>3.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity:</b></p> <p>1.</p>  <p>2.</p>  <p>3.</p>	<p><b>Threat:</b></p> <p>1.</p>  <p>2.</p>  <p>3.</p>

**Possible Topics to elaborate on:**

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Physical Building            | 6. Principal         |
| 2. Number of students per grade | 7. Curriculum        |
| 3. Community support            | 8. Vision            |
| 4. PR strategy                  | 9. Future enrollment |
| 5. Staff                        | 10.                  |
|                                 | 11.                  |