



# CONNECTION

June 2018

Mr. James Meinen  
Principal



### 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:

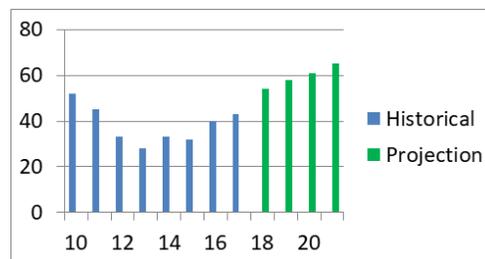
Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.

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## FROM THE BOARD

Another school year is in the books, and we are very blessed in every way. Students and staff spent another year knowing God more intimately by exploring His creation and the world all around us and by delving into His Word. Now students can look forward to a time with family and friends, campfires and beaches. We say a special good bye and congratulations to our 4 graduates, and we wish you the Lord's blessing in your high school years! Staff too can look forward to wrapping up this year, and planning for a coming year, and also spending time with their loved ones.

We can look forward to this coming September where we will welcome our largest student population ever! We say good bye to 4 graduates, but we will welcome 13 new students! Since our building will be seeing the heaviest use ever we have some work to do in advance of this happening. I have included a graph that was shown at the membership meeting. This graph shows exciting continued known growth for our school, and we need to be prepared for higher student numbers.



Learning assistance teacher: With more students there are more student needs, and we will support our students and staff by hiring a part time learning assistance teacher.

Spruce up Harvest: There are many tasks that need to be completed in and around the school, and some need to be completed by a certain date, so we will be having a signup sheet for different dates. See entire list of tasks that are needed to spruce up our building elsewhere in this newsletter. Please pick a task and commit to a date; then contact Andrew Groeneveld who will be organizing the master task chart.

High School Committee: a committee has been set up to investigate costs and options for High School Courses here at Harvest. See their mandate elsewhere in this Connection.

Some other things that have been happening behind the scenes: We completed a principal evaluation, and we are very pleased with the discussions that we could have with Mr. Meinen during this process. The staff have also completed self-evaluations and Mr. Meinen has completed evaluations of the staff. We are enormously pleased with our staff, their dedication, love, and enthusiasm. These evaluations are also used to direct their professional growth, and development.

We would like to wish everyone a safe summer holiday, we hope to work with many of you over the summer on projects around the school, and we look forward to an exciting new school year in September!

On behalf of the Board, Alex Sikkema



## TREASURER'S REPORT

As we wrap up another school year we can once again be very thankful for a continued surplus from our budget, due to ongoing membership growth, and strong support from within and outside our community. Thanks to all for your support! After we've had some time for all the year-end invoices to come through, we'll be able to share the completed year-end financial reports with you. Wishing all staff and students a wonderful summer - enjoy!

Mark Hutten

**The following NEW school fees will be coming into effect as of July 1, 2018!**

\$700.00 - Parental  
\$305.00 - General  
\$160.00 - Single/Retired  
\$50.00 - Student.

Harvest School is pleased to again be purchasing Student Accident Insurance for the entire student body under the program "Insure My Kids" for the 2018/2019 school year. This coverage lists the actual student as the insured (and not the school) and therefore each family should receive a confirmation of coverage letter in late August. Reliable Life/Old Republic Canada wishes to ensure that all students (families) are aware of the coverage that has been purchased on their behalf and the effective date of coverage which is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Brochures with detailed information will be sent home to each family at the beginning of the new school year. If anyone would like more information they can read about the coverage details by visiting [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) and refer to the Silver Plan description listed under Products.

## FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE



THANK YOU to our staff for another fruitful year at Harvest! Your sincere love for the students, your commitment to Reformed education and your godly example to our children is greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU to our plethora of volunteers! You have again selflessly given of your time and talents to give our students a rich education and memorable school experience at Harvest.

THANK YOU to our parents for the support you give the staff and for entrusting the education of your children to Harvest!

THANK YOU to our students for your eagerness to learn, for encouraging one another in the classroom and for looking out for one another in the school yard.

As EdCom we are constantly reminded of the many blessings we experience at Harvest. There are many people we can thank, but ultimately our

thanks is directed to our faithful Father who has provided so abundantly through the past school year.

Just a few things to share from the EdCom...

1. Thanks to the SWOT results from the society, the EdCom has been able to update and refocus our three year plan.
2. We recently reviewed the results of a grade 9 survey and are pleased to see that Harvest is preparing our children well for high school, academically and spiritually.
3. We enjoyed Jason Heemsker's presentation on the place of sex education in the school. We would still love to receive some feedback from parents as to what extent they would like to see Harvest involved in this education. In grade 5/6 they are introduced to the topic and we would like to know if parents would like this to continue and be

expanded on in grade 7/8? Please send us an email.

4. Its turnover time again in the EdCom... Thank you Ken Hutten and Luke Mulder for your enthusiastic service on this committee. We welcome Mitch Bultena and Sarah Bosch to the committee and look forward to serving with you!
5. We continue to look for movies that would be suitable for the classroom to use in our media studies unit. If you have suggestions, please pass them on.
6. Please find elsewhere in the Connections an invitation for applicants for the part-time Special Ed/teaching position. We are excited to be able to advertise this position!

We wish you a safe, restful and blessed summer!

On behalf of the Ed Com,  
James Gunnink

## From the Maintenance Guy!

Below is a list of tasks that need to be completed. We would like to have them done in July, so that the teachers can work unobstructed in August. Please contact Andrew Groeneveld as soon as possible and let him know the items you would like to help with.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completed:</u>
Remove interlock stone, clean edges, and stack on skids	
Dig out sand gravel, and install new drainage	
Re fill sand and gravel, pack.	
Lay interlock stone	
Cut out pavement by sink hole trench	
Improve drainage.	
Paint 7&8 classroom	
Repair shingles on play structure	
Rake gravel off of the grass and back into playground perimeter	✓
Remove bathroom sinks, taps and countertops.	
Install new countertops in bathrooms	
Install sinks and taps in bathrooms	
Replace lighting from fluorescent tubes to LED tubes.	
Install new flagpole.	✓
Cut down old flagpole.	✓
Install tether ball pole	
Put all old desks in dumpster	
Bring in new desks and chairs	
Detailed school cleaning	
Fix/Repair handrail on stairs	✓
Replace soccer netting	

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

“No more teachers, no more books...” School is out for another year, and I cannot help but recall the joy I felt as a child at this time of year as a whole summer of possibilities lay before me. While a break from the day to day school work is wonderful, I hope the summer provides many opportunities for books and opportunities to explore God’s amazing creation.

Summer is also a great season for parents to pick up a few books to read and I would like to recommend a book that a parent recommended to me (especially if you have boys) called *The Way of the Warrior Kid* by Jocko Willink. The book is geared to boys and we had the opportunity to read it this year in grade 5/6 when we had a few free moments throughout the last few

months. What follows is a brief synopsis found online:

*The book follows a fifth grade student named Marc, who’s having a hard time at school. He’s not good at gym class. He finds math very difficult and his class field trip wasn’t an enjoyable experience because he couldn’t swim. But the most dreadful thing of all is that Marc is being bullied by Kenny Williamson, who calls himself the “King of the Jungle.”*

*The upcoming school year is not looking well for Marc. That is, until his Uncle Jake visits and stays home for the whole summer. Uncle Jake is a Navy SEAL and he promises to help Marc become a better version of himself and transform him into a warrior so he can develop the confidence he needs and*

*finally stand up to the King of the Jungle.*

What I particularly love about the book is that it fights against the tendency people can have where they feel sorry for themselves. We can be quick to feel bad about our math skills, about our athletic skills about our lack of friends and then do nothing about it!

The book highlights that instead of feeling sorry for yourself, you need to work hard to improve upon the areas you struggle in. Hard work will lead to positive results! The bible of course echoes this truth in a whole host of places, but it particularly comes out in the book of Proverbs.

*Continued on next page...*

*All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.*  
Proverbs 14:23

*Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.*  
Proverbs 10:4-5

*Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.*  
Proverbs 13:4

We are clearly tasked to work hard and God highlights that this hard work will bear fruit. Over the course of the year at Harvest it has been great seeing our students do just that and seeing the fruit that this has yielded. For example, when our grade 6 students arrived in grade 5 their math facts were okay, but not very fast. 30,800 division and multiplication facts later (yes I did the math on the questions the students did) most of

the grade 6 class can fly through a sheet of 120 questions with ease. Hard work does indeed pay off!

Teachers had the opportunity to share the successes students had over the past year in our year-end report cards. In reading these reports it is clear that God has blessed our student body with many gifts and talents and all students could grow this year in their knowledge and understanding of the world God has placed them in.

However, it is important that when we reflect on our successes that we recognize who is behind that success. Our immediate tendency is to pat ourselves on the back saying “look at the good marks I received” or “look at how good I am in sports” or “look I how successful I have been in

business.” But we need to redirect our eyes from looking at our navels, to God. Never lose sight of the fact that all our blessings, gifts and talents come from God. We don’t deserve anything, but God in his grace has given us so much. When we reflect on our successes this year let us praise God from whom all blessings flow!

As a staff when we look back upon the year that was, we also see God’s goodness towards our school. This year we have been blessed with tremendous parental support, volunteer support, and also financial support. It is readily apparent that our school is a part of the communion of saints and there is a community behind us here at Harvest!



## MAY/JUNE ACTIVITIES

While every month seems to be full of special activities here at Harvest, these past two months have been jam packed! Field trips these past two months ranged from a visit to Elmville Zoo, to hiking the Bruce Trail, to visiting the water treatment plant in Owen Sound, to sailing boats over Indian Falls, to our year end trip to Campfire. Special visitors these past few months included MPP Bill Walker, Central Place Seniors and Ms. Heather Oosterhoff (who spoke about her mission trip to Africa).

Students have also been busy on the sporting front. In May students were busy practicing baseball and all the hard work paid off with a great tournament. While we lost in a close game against Guelph we managed to beat both Credo and

DACS. Our game against Credo was particularly exciting as Brody hit a walk off home run in the final inning! Once baseball wrapped up our students switched their focus to track and field. Our Harvest Track and Field Day took place in early June. God blessed us with fabulous weather and great volunteer support. Of note, half of our volunteers were high school and college students! It is pretty special having such great support from the younger members of our church community. The day went very well and many students had personal bests in various events!

The following week the senior students headed off to Guelph for the Regional Track and Field Meet. Many of our students also turned in personal bests on this day!

Congratulations go out to Aaron who finished fourth in triple jump, to Ryan who was third in the same event and to Alyssa who was third in the 800 Metres and third in the 1500 Metre race.

Our busy year wrapped up with graduation on June 21 where we could celebrate a milestone in our grade 8 student’s lives. **Congratulations Alyssa, Julia, Anna and Megan on your graduation from elementary school!** We pray that the Lord will continue to bless you in your education journey and look forward to seeing you visit the school as alumni!



## LOOKING AHEAD...

While the 2018-2019 school year may seem like a long way away, a lot of preparation has already gone into planning for the year to come. You can currently find a

2018-2019 calendar in this newsletter and on the school website. For those who like to get ready for another school year well in advance you can also find

a list of required school supplies in this newsletter (we will also publish this list in the August Connection).

*James Meinen*

### Supplies for 2018-2019

#### Grade 1 & 2

- ✓ Non-marking soled running shoes suitable for Phys Ed.
- ✓ A change of clothing in case of accident (Grade 1 only)
- ✓ Pencil Case
- ✓ Pencil Crayons
- ✓ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- ✓ eraser
- ✓ Ruler with cm and inches
- ✓ School bag

#### Grades 3 & 4

- ✓ Non-marking soled running shoes suitable for Phys Ed
- ✓ Pencil case
- ✓ Pencil Crayons
- ✓ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- ✓ Eraser and white out (no liquid)
- ✓ Ruler with cm and inches
- ✓ Red, Blue, Black pens
- ✓ 2in Binder with 7-10 dividers with tabs
- ✓ Physical Education Clothing
- ✓ 1 USB stick (for transportation of files to and from school)
- ✓ School bag
- ✓ Lined paper

#### Grades 5-8

- ✓ Non-marking soled running shoes suitable for Phys Ed
- ✓ Pencil case/pencil holder for on desk
- ✓ Pencil Crayons
- ✓ Enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- ✓ Eraser and white out (no liquid)
- ✓ Ruler with cm and inches
- ✓ Red, Blue, Black pens
- ✓ Highlighter (2 colours)
- ✓ 2 x 2in Binder with 7-10 dividers with tabs (no zipper)
- ✓ Physical Education Clothing
- ✓ 1 USB stick (for transportation of files to and from school)
- ✓ Scientific Calculator (Just 7/8)
- ✓ School bag
- ✓ Deodorant - no spray
- ✓ Lined paper

