



CONNECTION

December 2018



School Board

Chairman: Alex Sikkema
Vice Chair: James Gunnink
Secretary: Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink
Treasurer: Mark Hutten
Maintenance: Ryan Doan

Education Committee

Chair: James Gunnink
Vice Chair: Mitch Bultena
Secretary: Cathy Schepers
Member: Irene Baron
Member: Sarah Bosch

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
Learning Assistance - Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink

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

Mr. James Meinen
Principal

Four months of our school year has already passed and now the staff and students are able to have a bit of a break and a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus during this Christmas season. It was wonderful to hear the Christmas concert last week, and you can tell that all the students and staff put a tremendous amount of time and energy into this performance! It was a joy to listen to and to share with neighbours, family and friends!

As we look forward to a new year, we are planning ahead for the coming school year by preparing contracts for the teachers. A change with a growing school population is that we are working towards separating Grade 1 and Grade 2 for the first 2 hours every day. We hope that by doing this we would be able to help the youngest students in their core subjects, and this holds us to our commitment to provide quality education to everyone. The Gr. 1&2 class next year will be around 20 students, and with the possibility of breaking this group into 2 classes it will help the teachers and volunteers give these students more individualized attention. Also, by giving these students a solid start in Gr. 1&2 it will help them for their entire time at Harvest and beyond. Along with splitting Gr. 1&2 comes the challenge of needing more space. We are currently looking at different options to best suite this growth and will keep you informed once we have more information and details on these.

New to Harvest this coming school year as well could be Grade 9&10 courses. Initial surveys sent out suggest that we could have 7 students attending the Gr. 9&10 program. This may be held in a school classroom 2 mornings a week before their high school hours begin, and would be a 2 year program intended to cover some Bible, leadership, apologetics, devotional and Church History courses, taught predominantly

by Mr. Meinen. Final details and information are still being worked out but we are pleased to see a positive response to our initial survey.

This coming summer we can celebrate our 25th anniversary of our school! We can look back and see your hand through all the years. We have been blessed every year with staff and finances, but more importantly we have been able to teach an entire generation all about God, God's word, and God's creation. Our first year saw Todd Kruisselbrink graduate and now 25 years later his son Aaron will be graduating! It has been pleasure and an honour to be on the Board and to serve. We have a vibrant community supporting us, and we can look forward to a growing school that continues to praise and glorify God together for years to come. We will mark this milestone at a dessert evening social in the fall!

Please continue to pray for us and the work that our school does. Pray for the staff, that they may teach and lead by example, pray for the students as they work and learn side by side that they may continue to show the fruits of the Spirit in all their actions.

We hope everyone has enjoyable Christmas Break, and takes the time to reflect and be thankful for the greatest gift of all, that Jesus was born into this world, that he took our sins upon himself, died, rose and conquered Satan and paid for our sins.

See you all in the New Year!

On behalf of the Board, Alex Sikkema



TREASURER’S REPORT

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Yes, we can count our blessings, within our community, within our school, and certainly also from a financial perspective. As I look back on more recent events, we can be very thankful for quite a few things, and I want to focus on a few.

1. “A Round for the Future” A special thanks to Curtis Hutten for his work on the golf committee, where 5 schools north of the 401 collectively raised 56,839.70, with Harvest receiving \$11,367.94! This isn’t about golf; this is looking outside of ourselves, and being involved with a bigger outreach to benefit Christian education. What a wonderful opportunity to grow together. Thanks again to Curtis, and also to the countless individuals and businesses within our community who supported this event.

2. Harvest Foundation’s Kingdom Builder Deposit. Since our last membership meeting, we have now successfully built up our “contingency fund” of \$40,000.00! This is deposited into the “Kingdom Builder Deposit”, held with Christian

Stewardship Services, where 80% of the capital is used in private lending to build Christian Schools and Churches. That’s right; Harvest School of Owen Sound is using its surplus income to further the kingdom of Christ through this wonderful program. A further benefit to us as School is the 4% annual rate of return on our investment. Great stuff! As the board, we have developed an investment strategy to help maintain consistency with the allocation and use of these funds as we continue to grow.

3. Manageable Growth. Our preliminary budget for 2020 shows a considerable increase in costs. Despite this fact, we’re able to maintain a very small increase to only some member categories, and this is also something for which we are quite thankful.

4. An optimistic Future. In the middle of all of the change and excitement, a number we need to pay most attention to is our **Total Student Enrollment**. As we face growth, and do our best to plan for the future, we can share these (forecasted) stats with you.

The Largest historical student enrollment we ever had, was in 2010 at 52 Students
Current

- 2018: 54

Projected:

- 2019: 62
- 2020: 68
- 2021: 69
- 2022: 69
- 2023: 71

Only the Lord knows what the future brings, but in the meantime, He has given us lots to work on! As finance committee (Andrew Groeneveld, Rachel Sikkema and myself), we can continue to enjoy the wonderful challenge of “*Equipping and assisting parents and children for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God’s glory*”; a calling to stewardship as found in our mission statement - to God be the Glory!

Mark Hutten

The following school fees are in effect as of July 1, 2018!

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



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

While the bulk of our task as EdCom is looking at curriculum, handbooks and textbooks, we certainly look forward to going on classroom visits. In making these visits we get to see staff and students in action teaching and learning about the marvelous deeds of our God! One of those marvelous deeds was proclaimed by an angel to some shepherds in a field at night followed by a choir of angels giving glory to God.

Thank you staff, students, director and accompanists for echoing this marvelous deed of God at a beautiful Christmas concert! After

hearing about our music program and its place in reformed education at our Open House in October, this concert was somewhat of an exclamation mark! And admittedly, the students kept a much better beat with their percussion instruments, tone chimes and bells than certain adults on the bucket drums...

On the topic of choirs, singing, angels, and God’s marvelous deeds I share this quote from Paul Tripp:

“*The angels, as they sang their glory song that night, began the singing of a glory song that would never end.... On into eternity the song echoes. It is*

the celebration chant of the redeemed. And one day we will join that multitude, no longer looking forward in hope but looking back with the security of redemption accomplished, and with the angels and the saints of old we too will sing glory songs about Jesus forever and ever and ever. Yes, it is true: that night the angels began a song that will never end!”

We thank the staff for their hard work and dedication and wish you a restful and singing-filled Christmas break!

On behalf of the Ed Com,
James Gunnink

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

As we close out the 2018 calendar year we can look back upon the year and see how incredibly blessed we have been as a school. For the last twelve months God has provided us with finances, excellent staffing, a school building, volunteers to fill many positions, and the freedom to operate a school built upon the foundation of God's Word. When you read various reports that echo such sentiments it is easy to gloss over such words as trite and not worthy of much attention. However, it is helpful to turn the clock back just a few years and see how truly blessed we are today. Four years ago, Harvest was having trouble finding staff, our enrolment was in the low thirties and as an outsider looking in I wondered if the school would be viable in the future.

Fast forward a few years, Harvest will have over sixty students next year, we have funds for special education support, we have 4.3 staff members, we are looking at additional hiring for our burgeoning numbers, and we are set to have a grade 9/10 Bible course offering! God has indeed blessed our school!

It has also been a blessing to work with a Board who are highly committed to excellence and seeing growth in our school. Growth of course doesn't just mean growing numbers, but also

growth among staff, growth among the quality of reformed education we provide and growth among the supports we can offer our students. To help ensure Harvest builds towards excellence, we have a strategic plan in place that our chairman often touches upon in his reports. One area that the staff and I are working on is to have Harvest shine a brighter light in our community. In just these past few weeks this effort was evident on different fronts. In late November two representatives visited from the Legion to share the results of the annual Remembrance Day contest that we participated in. On their visit we were able to share with them our theme text as it nicely connected with Remembrance Day and sing our theme song to them. They were greatly moved by the students singing and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to witness to others about the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Two weeks ago, our Mayor Dwight Burley also visited our school. During this visit we were able to tell him about the good work that is happening here at Harvest, sing a few praise and worship songs, and pray for him. Harvest was also able to invite many people from our community to come to our Christmas program and in this way communicate the Gospel message. Finally, we invited the seniors from Central

Place to visit us and were able to share the Christmas message with them through music. All these events served as wonderful opportunities to connect with our community and share with them the blessings we have in Jesus Christ.

While things are going very well, we still require your support! Harvest can only work if the whole church community comes together to support the parents in our church. If the cost of Christian education was fully borne by the parents, Christian education would be unreachable for many. When it comes to supporting those raising the next generation in our church let us remember the words of our theme text:

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also to the interests of others"
(Phil 2:4).



Housekeeping Item:

Over the past few weeks it seems more and more students are arriving late to school. While the wintry weather may partially be the cause of this, this is clearly not always the case. Having students walk into class over the first half hour of the day creates a lot of distractions for the students and disrupts the flow of Bible classes. Please make every effort to have your children at school at 8:30am. Students can arrive as early as 8:10am as that is when outside supervision begins. Thanks for your cooperation here.

In the school:

November and December have been incredibly busy months and the staff continues to be busy with their respective curriculums. It is great to see the growth in the students over the first few months of the year. From growing in language skills, to growing in numeracy, to growing in knowledge of God's Word our students have covered a lot of ground.

In addition to the regular curricular routine, many memorable events took place here at Harvest. Some highlights included the grade 3/4 class trip to the Marine and Rail Museum, skating at Keady and the grade 7/8 volleyball tournament. The volleyball tournament was particularly exciting as Harvest took home its first ever volleyball trophy. Thirteen of our students also placed in the top three in the Legion's Remembrance Day Contest and several student entries are now competing in the next level. Badminton intramurals also took place this past month and it was great to see over half the school get involved here. But perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of school these past two months has been sledding and snowboarding at recess. Thanks to an annual generous donation of crazy carpets to Harvest, there are enough sleds for all our students to slide down the backyard hill. On any given recess most of the school population can be seen having a great time flying down our backyard hills.

Looking Ahead...

As we enter a new calendar year in a couple weeks, Harvest is busy looking ahead and already planning for the 2019/2020 school year. Early in the new year we will be working on finalizing staffing, budgeting and will begin to put together the 2019-2020 calendar. On that note, there are a few calendar changes for this current school year you should be aware of. There will be a **PD day on Friday, January 18** (the staff will be attending a conference at the Theological College) and the **May PD day will change from May 17 to May 13**. You will also be able to find these date changes in our weekly newsletter.



That's it from the principal's desk for now. On behalf of the staff I want to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

James Meinen

From the Grade 5&6 Classroom: Poetry

The Last Cookie - Arianne

I saw that last cookie
And that cookie said to me:
“You can’t eat me. Your mother said so”
And that’s when the tongue came out at me.
Well I had to teach that cookie a lesson,
So I put that cookie in my lunch for tomorrow.

Sugar Cubes - Devon

They feel very rough
Taste very scrumptious.
Sound very crunchy.
Smell very sweet.
Look very rough.
And make me hyper.

You’re the Worst - Keele

You’re the worst
Don’t tell yourself
You matter
Lies
Don’t believe
You’re cool.

Now read it backwards.

Dogs - Brody

Slobbering, barking, whining, that’s how I describe dogs.
German Shepherd, black lab, pug, and poodle
They may look the same, but they are all different.
Slobbering, barking, whining, that’s how I describe dogs.
You can train a German shepherd or potty train a pug
But trust me they are all the same.
Slobbering, barking, whining, that’s how I describe dogs.
The poodle has puppy eyes and the black lab barks at almost anything
But trust me don’t fall for the puppy eyes
And don’t let the black lab go without an electric fence
Because all dogs are the same.
Slobbering, barking, whining, that’s how I describe dogs.

Breakfast - Callie

Breakfast looks like delicious food.
Breakfast sounds like sizzling sausage.
Breakfast smells like warm scrambled eggs.
Breakfast tastes like crispy bacon.
Breakfast feels good on an empty stomach.



Books - Jake

When I open a book, my fingers swish through the pages.
I zip through the book.
As I zip, then the book's cover goes creak.
Stay at a good place.
Not too fast.
Not too slow.
Save the book.
Slam. That was the best book ever.

The Died-Out Candle - Ethan

There was tiny little candle
In the pitch-black darkness.
The little flame then died out.
A blow of wind killed it.
Then there was a little flame the made the candle live.
The flame made the darkness look like it was trying to grasp for breath
But the darkness was gone.
Now the candle was shining bright
And there was no more darkness
Because of that flame.



Four Seasons - Matthew

Nature is the muddy spring
Nature is the shadow on my back
Nature is the kangaroo that likes to spring
Nature is the duck that likes to quack

Nature is the blooming summer
Nature is the sun beating down on me
Nature is not to be a bummer
Nature is the honey that comes from the bees

Nature is the falling fall
Nature is the orange trees
Nature is the lions call
Nature is the gentle breeze

Nature is the white winter
Nature is the cold snow
Nature it the trees that explode and timber
Nature is the winds gentle blow

