



CONNECTION

March 2020

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

*The fear of the Lord
is the beginning
of knowledge*

PROVERBS 1:7

School Board

Chairman: Curtis Hutten
Vice Chair: Joanie Vis
Secretary: Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink
Treasurer: Mark Hutten
Maintenance: Ryan Doan

Education Committee

Chair: Joanie Vis
Vice Chair: Mitch Bultena
Secretary: Cathy Scheper
Member: Marloes Mulder
Member: Sarah Bosch

Teaching Staff

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

Volunteer Staff

Mrs. J. Antuma (Librarian)
Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink (Learning Assistance)
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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What a blessing it is to have a school like Harvest! I had the privilege to sit in the classroom recently to see the teachers in action, and the students engaged in learning. Who knew learning could be so much fun? As a board member without children in school (yet) I don't get to see first-hand what goes on at Harvest, but am thankful for opportunities like this. Reflecting, we can be thankful for the community we have, for the staff we have, and the great group of children attending the school. May the LORD continue to bless us here.

With this being my first report as Chairman on the Board, that means one members term is complete. So, on behalf of the everyone I would like to thank Alex Sikkema for his hard work over the past 3 years on the school board! You brought a lot of positive energy to the board, and you will be missed! I hope we can continue to be as passionate about

the work as you brought to the board!

On Feb 20, 2020 we were able to host an Open House at Harvest. We had a nice small group come out to learn more about what goes on at the school, and how they can be more involved. Thanks to those who attended! If you were not able to attend but have questions about our school or how to become a member, feel free to contact any board members. Our school depends of the support of the entire community, and we encourage everyone to be a member of the school.

As the days go on and February turns to March, we can see longer days, a brighter sun, and spring around the corner! God is good to us and gives us a variety of seasons and weather to enjoy. Another thing to look forward to is March Break! Whether you're travelling far away to somewhere like Florida, or staying local and skating, skiing and hopefully ice fishing, enjoy the time off!

On behalf of the Board,
Curtis Hutten

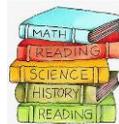
TREASURER'S REPORT

With thankfulness to God for his continued grace to us, we carry on in faith enjoying Harvest School, the wonderful environment, the learning and freedom to do so! Recently we were able to host an open house, and welcome attendees to learn more about membership at our school, what it costs, how to get involved and more. Thanks to those who were able to make it out, we're excited that you're excited!

On the numbers side, we continue to operate in a good

financial position, currently in a surplus from budget. Thanks to all donors and supporters for your continued support!

You've heard of the continued advertisements for the Harvest Endowment Foundation Tuition assistance program, where up to 50% of your tuition costs could be covered. What a wonderful opportunity for those in need. Pass it along if you know of someone who could benefit from applying, and please reach out to me if you're looking for more information!



By now, you should have received your tax receipts. We're really thankful to have an organization like Edvance Christian Schools Association help us with preparing these calculations. Thanks again to all donors for your continued support!

Mark Hutten, Treasurer

The following school fees are in effect as of July 1, 2019!

\$710.00 - Parental
\$310.00 - General
\$160.00 - Single/Retired
\$50.00 - Student.

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are so thankful to have celebrated Christmas and the coming of a New Year and then in the beginning of January we could once again continue the school year. As of writing this report we have not had any snow days!!! Unheard of for the 'great white north.'☺ Because of this, we have scheduled a couple of extra PD days where the staff can work on some Professional Development.

Before the Christmas holidays a couple of committee members were able to enjoy some classroom visits. This is a highlight for many of us! It is so great to watch the interaction of students and teachers, and to see the different styles of teaching and how they contribute to the growth and learning of all the students, in all their differences. God has certainly blessed us at Harvest with a talented, caring staff and many wonderful volunteers.

February is the time of year when we have to consider our staff for the next school year. We are very thankful that all of our staff members are planning to return for the 2020-21 school year. Another blessing God has provided for us.

As Ed. Com. we continue to discuss and review curriculum. There is some work being done on a future plan that would involve other schools in our geographic area, so that we can work on curriculum together and in this way share the work load and resources.

We are reviewing the parent's handbook and hope to have some hard copies printed for any interested members at the start of the new school year in September. The handbook and many other helpful resources are always available on the school website: <https://harvestschool.ca/>. We also hope to make a welcome package for any new or interested members as well as for any future members. It has been brought to our attention that some of the 'regular' activities that the school veterans are so familiar with may need some explanation for new members ie: School cleaning, pickup/drop-off routes, clubs, snowboarding/skiing/tobogganing, soup day etc.

All the students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to take part in clubs during the month of February. A big thank you to all the volunteers that

make this such an enjoyable event for the students and staff.

Overall there are so many things to be thankful and praise God for. Please continue to pray for Harvest: the students, staff, volunteers, committees and anyone I may have forgotten to list☺.

In conclusion I'd like to share a beautiful experience I had at Harvest. The last week of school before the Christmas holidays I popped by the school first thing in the morning just as the kids were coming in. I was waiting to get through the back stairwell and grade 1 & 2 were entering the building full of snow and snow gear. They were all singing their Christmas assembly song while they took off boots and carried them to their hooks, then continued to sing as they emptied back packs, hung up coats, and handed in agendas. It was so amazing to watch!! And it wasn't only grade 1 and 2, as the other grades filtered in they also joined in singing! All the kids were able to enter school and start their day in praise to God! Just beautiful!

On behalf of the Ed Com, Joanie Vis

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

In late January, Harvest crossed the half-way point of the 2019-2020 school year. While for high school that milestone is marked by a semester change, here at Harvest the passing of time is measured in different ways. At school, recess time activities have shifted from sledding to snow forts, from volleyball season to basketball season, and a big milestone in grade 1/2 that is rapidly approaching is 100 day. For the Board/Administration we tend to mark the passage of time by key deadlines and dates and arguably the most important time of year is in February when schools determine staffing for next year and hiring takes place if there are teacher vacancies.

Here at Harvest, we are blessed to have all our staff returning. After facing staffing challenges a few years ago, it has been a huge blessing having stability on the staffing front these past four years. While we are in good shape with staff, this is not the case in many schools. Currently there are teacher shortages in Australia and here in Canada. Our schools are growing dramatically and the

number of people entering the teaching profession is not. It is projected that this teacher shortage is only going to increase, and schools will find themselves having to make tough decisions around not having the needed staff to operate.

To try to mitigate this shortage, several schools out west have created promotional teaching videos for their schools (you can check out Neerlandia's video here: www.covenantschool.ca) Our League of Canadian Reformed Schools has also been active promoting teaching. I had the opportunity to work with them this past summer and we put together a teaching promo video that you can watch at: <https://lcrss.ca/teachwithus/>.

While these efforts to promote teaching are a good start, our schools across the country felt it would be wise to sit down together and try to find solutions to this problem. To that end we have set up a National Strategic Planning Day for Career Teacher Recruitment/Retention. Board members and principals from

across the country will meet in Hamilton this spring to try to come up with strategies to addressing the teaching shortage. We pray these promotional attempts may bear fruit and we will have many young people eager to join the teaching ranks in the future.

With this backdrop, the Board continues to focus on investing in people here at Harvest. Our treasurer unpacked this focus at our last membership meeting and our teacher retention highlights that this strategy is working. Part of investing in people, includes providing PD opportunities for our staff. The staff have been busy this past year on the PD front, with some of us attending conferences, others visiting teachers in different schools, others active in post-secondary education, and all of us reading materials, and taking part in PD here at Harvest. This PD helps our staff further hone their teaching skills and provide teaching excellence here at Harvest.



Around the school...

With a pretty mild winter and only one school cancellation for snow back in November, we have had a very productive couple of months here at Harvest. If you read the weekly Newsletter you will note the students in all different grades busy with a variety of major projects, most of which are now on display in the classrooms. In grade 3/4 students just completed building some great looking cranes, grade 5/6 constructed a model seigneurie that reflects life in New France three hundred years ago, and grade 7/8 built model boats, action figures and newspapers as part of their Treasure Island novel study. If you have an opportunity to visit the school, be sure to check out these great projects in the classrooms!

The other major project for our grades 5-8 students this past month was speech writing and public speaking. This culminated with our grade 7/8 students participating in our annual speaking and poetry contest in early February. All the students did great and it was interesting hearing speeches on a wide range of topics and hearing a

variety of poems. Congratulations goes out to Rowen (first place in public speaking), Gabe (first place in poetry) and Ethan (second place in both public speaking and poetry). Sadly Rowen, Gabe and Ethan were not able to attend the Regional Contest in Guelph, so Barrett and Ben went in their place. Both Ben and Barrett did great, and Barrett earned second place for his poetry recitation! Barrett then went on to represent Harvest at the Provincial finals and although he did not place, he did a great job delivering his poem on this big stage!

February also marks perhaps the most exciting time of year at Harvest as students get to participate in clubs. We were blessed once again to have many people volunteer their time to provide students with a wide range of club options. The most popular club for our senior students was the Skiing and Snowboarding Club at Blue Mountain. After practicing skiing and snowboarding on our backyard hill for months, it was

great students had the opportunity to hone their skills on a much bigger hill! A big thank you goes out to all those who volunteered their time to help make clubs a success again this year. We are so blessed to have this support.

We also see this great community support in our High School bible class. We have been blessed to have a variety of people in our church step in and lead a class over this past year. Mr. Bosch spoke to us on the topic of work, Mr. Matt Hutten spoke to us on the topic of money and we look forward to having Mrs. Pol and Mrs. Bosch speak to us this spring. Finally, Mrs. Melissa Krusselbrink has also helped with music at the end of each bible class. It has been a real blessing being able to wrap up each class praising God in song. Such support from many different individuals really helps highlight that there is a whole community helping support our children!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

That's it from the principal's desk for now. I'd like to wrap up this report by once again thanking our community for all the support the school continues to receive. Please continue to remember us in your prayers and may Harvest continue to be a blessing to this community.

James Meinen

Grade 3&4

In grade 3 & 4 we have been learning about pulleys and gears in Science class. As a culminating assignment students were asked to work together to design and build a crane that could lift an object from the floor to the desk. There were so many creative ideas of household materials that could be made into pulleys to help complete this task. There were also challenges along the way but through group effort, hard work, and the odd glue gun mishap, each group designed a successful crane!





