



CONNECTION

June 2020

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



School Board

Chairman: Curtis Hutten
Vice Chair: Joanie Vis
Secretary: Lee-Ann Krusselbrink
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. Krusselbrink (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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FROM THE BOARD

When we started off with 2020 we all had great plans of what was to come. It was going to be the final year of Harvest for some, winning that next sports game for others, perhaps acing that next test! The Lord has mysterious ways of bringing us together and showing us who is really in charge. Looking back at the last couple months it's been a challenge. A challenge for students not being able to continue studies in the same way, not being able to see their friends every day. It's been a challenge for the teachers not being able to go forward with their curriculum, missing their students, working from home. It's also been a challenge for parents who are not all trained to be teachers. I'm sure it's a relief to have this year complete! I'm sure most of you are also looking forward to September and

sending your children back into school (Lord willing).

As a school board we've had our share of challenges too, and are very thankful to all for stepping up and doing your best! We recognize you as parents doing your best with a full house of kids, the children for continuing their studies as much as possible, and the teaching staff for keeping at it! We all have learned a great deal from this, and can be very thankful for the community we have, and that collectively we came together and completed the year! We hope that the next school year goes a little more according to plan! Enjoy the summer holidays!

On behalf of the school board,
Curtis Hutten

TREASURER'S REPORT

What a whirlwind! Despite hardly seeing a soul from within our own school community, we know that everyone was quite busy, in various capacities. At Harvest, we were thankful to adapt to COVID limitations, and although it wasn't perfect, many wonderful educational experiences continued. Thank you to all of our donors and supporters for the ongoing support; spiritually, emotionally, and financially! We are indeed blessed by the Lord and have much to be thankful for.

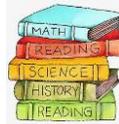
work, and to you as members for your generosity and patience.

You have 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 are looking for more information!

In the upcoming months, you will receive final figures for how the school year ended. Despite the challenges and interruptions, school continued, and our teachers were able to deliver instruction in creative ways. Through the generous continued support of our membership, we were able to continue with all expenses, including the important piece of paying our great Teachers, so a special thanks goes out to them again for their

We look forward in coming days to finalize our budget for the upcoming school year in our "spring" meeting, just delayed slightly because of our limitations on meeting, but still happening nonetheless. We look forward to hearing from you in any capacity for this meeting if you have any questions, or of course, you can reach out anytime.

Mark Hutten, Treasurer



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We have reached the end of a very different school year. Although everyone will be able to enjoy the summer holidays there isn't such a big shift to our schedules since we have all been working from home since the March break. It was the March break that never ended, except we had school work to do 😊.

Soon we will all be receiving our children's report cards in the mail. They will look a little different this year since many subjects were not able to be done at home and our focus was on the core subjects of Math, LA and some Bible. We are so thankful for the wonderful staff we have at Harvest!! They all adapted to new technology and different teaching packages, adjusting curriculum and scheduling zoom meetings. We have all had a crash course in technology, I think!

Recently the high school students received a survey about their education at Harvest. It was great

to get responses back from almost all the students! They were very positive about their preparation for high school and also gave some constructive criticism on things that they didn't feel prepared for. There is always room for growth and improvement.

We also sent out surveys to parents and students about the high school Bible course that Mr. Meinen taught this past year, two mornings per week. We have received many student responses and a couple parental responses. Please continue to send your feedback if you haven't done so yet. The students all enjoyed the course and are looking forward to doing it again this coming year. It was very encouraging to see how they used the things they learned in their high school class discussions.

Although many of us look forward to taking a holiday during the summer months we will still be busy preparing

for the next school year. We will be spending time updating some curriculum and discussing the growing needs of a growing student body, which is such a blessing. There will also be much prayer and discussion about what the school year will look like in September. We are very thankful for how the government is allowing things to reopen slowly and are very hopeful for opening our doors in September. Our school has been active in communicating with the health board as well as government offices to open schools and allow for educating our children. Please keep the staff, students and government in your prayers as we wait for these decisions.

We wish everyone a blessed and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you all in school again!

On behalf of the Ed Com,
Joanie Vis

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:



As the 2019-2020 school year drew to close, it has definitely been a year for the history books. As I mentioned in other newsletters, it has been 100 years since the last time schools were closed for this length of time

(when the Spanish flu pandemic was spreading across the world). And at first glance it might seem the words of our theme text, "Come taste and see that the Lord is good," do not fit with these times. In a time when our plans have been upended, jobs have been lost, people have died, and uncertainty prevails how do we see God's goodness?

To help answer that question, some context is in order. Psalm 34 was written by David in uncertain times, when he as rightful king had to flee Israel in order to remain safe from Saul. He then found his life in danger once again as he stood before Abimelech the Philistine ruler. Only after pretending to be insane was he driven away from the court. Things

were not going well for David! During this time of trouble he wrote: "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them". Although David was in a very difficult situation, David took comfort knowing that God heard his prayers and would provide him with what he needed.

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The same holds true for us today. God hears our prayers and we know He works all things to our benefit (Lord's Day 10). The words of David still resonate and over the past few months at Harvest we could indeed "taste and see that the Lord is good." God has blessed us in many ways. We were blessed to be able to continue with our studies in the core subjects. We were blessed to be able to connect through technology. We were blessed to have our health. We were blessed to have the opportunity to spend more time with family. Students were blessed with the opportunities to explore areas of interest with the extra time on their hands. I know from talking to our students, some enjoyed extra time drawing, others working on mechanics, others on computer coding (in fact one student is designing a computer game!), others enjoyed time outdoors in God's creation, others building forts, others studying French (Rosetta Stone is free right now) and others reading and playing games. This list could go on and on! What is clear is many of our students are embracing different learning opportunities with the extra time they had this spring.

The most recent Reformed Perspective also highlighted some blessing that came about from our society being shut down:

- Iran has temporarily released a third of their Christian prisoners as a part of their plan to curb the spread of the virus.
- Roman Catholics have been told by the Pope that, if there are no

priests available, they can confess their sins directly to God.

- Google reports that the use of "prayer" as a search term has gone up dramatically.
- More than 5,600 Planned Parenthood clinics around the world have closed indefinitely, and abortories in many states have closed being deemed non-essential.

CARDUS (an education think tank that highlights the importance of independent schools) also highlighted some blessings that came about because of COVID-19. Here is an excerpt from their recent bulletin:

The COVID-19 pandemic - with its associated closure of schools, public spaces, and businesses - is placing tremendous pressure on families. Among all the challenges parents face, they've suddenly become responsible for all their children's education. But there's some good news among the challenge.

This week, we've seen the Ontario government announce the provision of \$200 per child (or \$250 per child with special needs) to assist families as they adapt to the new reality of educating their kids at home. We can't pretend that this money will solve all the difficulties associated with home-based education. But we can be thankful that this one-time assistance recognizes that the education of all Ontario's students - regardless of whether they

attended state-run or independently-run schools - is critical to the public interest [...] This week's announcement is a welcome recognition of that fact. It puts children and families first, recognizing that all are part of public education regardless of the type of school in which they're enrolled.

But of course, that is not to say that distance learning has been a wonderful experience for all. There have been challenges with motivation, there has been some frustration working from home. Some have been overwhelmed trying to juggle distance learning schedules. There has been anxiety and stress around the uncertainty of work, school, and what the future holds. And of course, we are all saddened by the loss of community and being able to see each other face to face.

God designed us to be relational beings, to be in community, and not being able to do just that has been tough. Technology is great but doesn't replace the in person face-to-face communication. As staff we have missed seeing the smiling faces of our students, hearing the laughter in the hallways, singing with our class in the classroom, playing with the students at recess and coming alongside our students to help them in their learning. We became teachers because we love being around students! We can't wait to see students back in the classroom next fall!

Graduation

*As the 2019-2020 is now behind us, one milestone still needs to be celebrated and that is the graduation of our six grade eights. Since a graduation ceremony is not possible right now, the ceremony has been postponed until Thursday, August 27th (more details about the graduation will be forthcoming). On this date we hope to have everyone come out and celebrate the graduation of **Barrett, Benjamin, Gabe, Max, Jackson, and Justin!!***

THANK YOU!!

As another year comes to a close, the staff would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped make this school year a success. It is always incredible to reflect upon how many people were/are involved with Harvest on any given year. Thank you classroom helpers, special education helpers, librarians, school cleaners, committee members, field trip drivers and chaperones. It is a huge blessing for our children to have a whole community behind them and supporting them!

We wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing the students back here in the fall

James Meinen



Looking Ahead...

With this year now behind us we are busy looking ahead to the year to come. Attached to this Connection you will find a calendar for next year and needed supplies. While there is still some uncertainty about how things will look in the fall, Education Minister Steven Lecce assured the Ontarians that students will be back at school in some form this fall. Details about what this might look like should be released later this month.

Supplies for 2020-2021

This list is updated from previous years, please ensure your children have everything on this list.

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
- Markers
- 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
- Ruler with cm and inches
- Red, Blue, Black pens
- Binder with 7-10 dividers with tabs
- Physical Education Clothing
- School bag
- Lined paper

Grades 5-8

- 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
- Highlighter (2 colours)
- Binder with 7-10 dividers with tabs
- 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

Symbolism in Grade 5/6

In one of our final church history units of the year, students learned about the first century Christian church and how they adopted a symbol to represent their faith. Any guesses what that symbol was? It was a fish. Perhaps the more difficult question, is why did they pick a fish to represent the Christian faith and not a more commonly used symbol for believers in the bible like a sheep?

To provide context to that answer, the early Christian church was driven underground to the labyrinth of catacombs under the city of Rome. It was in these soft rock passageways that many church services were held. To help provide direction to these secret worship services, fish were carved into the rock to indicate the direction go in these passageways. The authorities did not pick up on these symbols because they presumed these symbols were carved into the rock by mourners. They made this assumption because the ancient Greeks believed the fish or dolphin carried the deceased into the afterworld. Does it not appear ironic that this symbol of death was chosen by Christians?

But beyond the fish being a “red herring” to authorities, the fish of course is linked with Jesus. Jesus told the disciples “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Several of Jesus’ miracles were with fish and the early church roasted fish in commemoration with Christ’s passion. So, the fish symbol makes sense.

To get students thinking about symbolism, grade 5/6 students were tasked with coming up with animals that symbolized them and to put these together in the form of a totem pole. Below are a few of these totem poles. Interestingly most student could accurately guess what animals would symbolize which classmate!

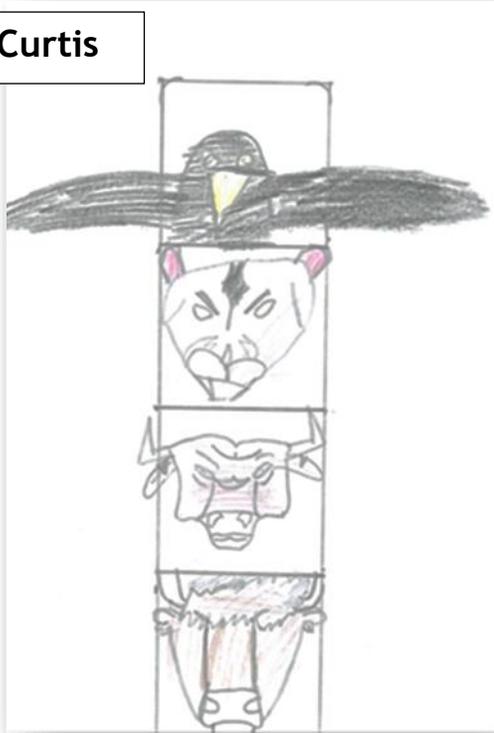


Jake



Cadence

Curtis



Lydia

Tessa



Devon



Arianne

ant = teamwork
 cougar = power & leadership
 eagle = freedom & courage
 feather = bravery & humility
 sea horse = confidence & grace
 wolf = intense loyalty with a
 balance of independence

