



CONNECTION

August 2020

Mr. James Meinen
Principal



FROM THE BOARD

Well this has been the longest March break on record... It does seem crazy how we started off 2020 rather well, and Covid-19 quickly changed everything. Six months later we are in a position where we can get ready to return to school. We can be very thankful that the Lord has spared our area from the virus, and that we didn't get hit as hard as other parts of the world.

Coming into this school year we have a great returning staff again. From the leadership to teaching to administration we have great people on board and we think is another thing to be very thankful for. Welcome back staff, we wish you the Lord's guidance and blessing throughout another year!

We recently started up a strategic planning committee. This was started to ensure that we understand where our school currently is, where we want to grow, and how we can ensure that we accomplish these goals. The League offers support to do a strategic planning session and we will be inviting all of you to partake in the planning

starting this fall. Stay tuned for more information! We are excited to get started on this!

At the spring membership meeting we announced that Pete Groeneveld was voted in to replace Ryan Doan for the maintenance position on the board. Welcome aboard Pete, we hope that in time you become an integral part of the team we have here! Also, thanks to Ryan for his time on the board. We wish you the Lord's blessings!

With this school season coming up, let's listen to the policies established for a safe return to school. Let's hope these extra measures being put in place are not long-lasting, and that as a school/church community we can be leaders to others around us. We must do our due diligence in regards to safety and in so doing be ambassadors for our community. In doing so we can do our part to ensure that our kids can safely stay in school.

On behalf of the Board, **Curtis Hutten**
chair@harvestschool.ca

School Board

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

Education Committee

Chair: Joanie Vis
Vice Chair: Mitch Bultena
Secretary: Cathy Schepers
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

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We're into a new school year! Fresh budgets and a "new start" on the books. But it's the same thing again, isn't it? God's goodness continues as our school operates with an abundance of resources. Again and again. To Him be the glory!

In the coming weeks we'll be sending the final financial statements from last year, so you can look forward to some good leisurely reading at that time. Stay tuned!

Overall, we can be very thankful for the abundance that we have received, and thanks to everyone for your contributions in various ways, and especially in this regard for your financial support. Wishing you a wonderful back to school season, and reach out anytime if you have questions! 😊

Mark Hutten
treasurer@harvestschool.ca

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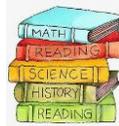
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principal@harvestschool.ca

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adminassistant@harvestschool.ca

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FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are so excited to be looking forward to a new school year after the March break that never ended ☺!! This year we have been blessed with the return of all our staff and are so thankful for them and the gifts and talents they have in teaching our children but also in their willingness to go ‘above and beyond’ in the past school year.

The EdCom has been very busy with preparing policies and procedures for school startup with Covid restrictions. It is not easy to make these plans and as children of God we know He is in control of all things including the spread of diseases and our own health. God has also placed the governing

authorities here in Canada in their positions and as such we have to respect them both in our agreement and disagreement of the rules they have set out. We are doing our best to be well informed and to write letters and speak with government representatives regarding the plans for our school, and are so thankful for the freedom to do this here in Canada.

With the start of the new school year the committee is busy with the ongoing work of reviewing and updating curriculum. This coming school year the focus is on the spelling and French curriculum. The education committee continues to look for ways to assist all the

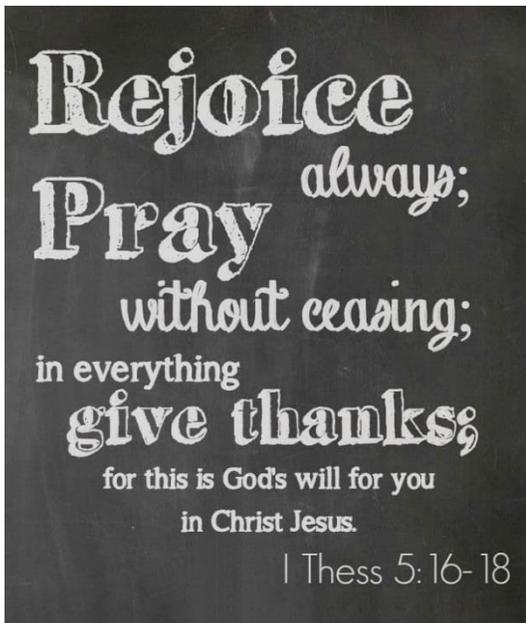
students at our school with different learning abilities. As well as encouraging our teachers to work on professional development via courses, speeches, conferences, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Covid policies or any other education related topics please don’t hesitate to contact the EdCom or Principal, our emails are listed in this newsletter.

We wish everyone a blessed school year ahead!

On behalf of the Ed Com,
Joanie Vis
edcomchair@harvestschool.ca

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:



Note the words: *in everything give thanks.* That of course includes times like these, where we had to deal with Harvest’s doors being closed, restrictions placed on worship, on socializing, and on how we go about our day to day tasks. Giving thanks is easy when times are good, but what about times like these?

Part of the reason we can give thanks in all circumstances is because we know God works all things to our benefit (Lord’s Day 10). Even in difficult times God is at work. During this time of COVID-19 we have come to better appreciate church, school and our families. This new appreciation is a blessing! I am reminded of a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote: *if the*

constellations appeared only once in a thousand years, imagine what an exciting event it would be. But because they are there every night, we barely give them a look. COVID-19 has allowed us to re-examine aspects of our lives that we have come to take for granted and recognize them for the blessings they are.

As a staff we are thankful for the opportunity to once again teach in person and interact with the student body. While we would love for school to go back to normal, we enter this school year recognizing there will be some changes in how we operate. Some notable changes will include: more frequent handwashing, staggered entry and exit into the building, more singing outside and having a lot of classes outdoors.

Continued on next page...

If the text above is not that familiar to our students, it will be soon! This year we have chosen the words above as our year’s theme text. As a staff we will unpack this text over the course of the year, but for my report in this bulletin I thought I would focus on the last verse - giving thanks.

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With more teaching outside I think some of the students may prefer this new model over the old one!

While we hope the changes we put in place will suffice for the duration of the year, there is the real possibility the government may tighten restrictions if COVID-19 cases rise in our area. Harvest has prepared for this possibility and more information about our back-up plans can be found in Harvest's COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan that was shared with the membership earlier this month.

In these ever-changing times, one area that has not changed is our staff! This year we welcome back the same teaching team who will be largely teaching the same subjects. However, we have made a few tweaks to our scheduling to better utilize the different skills sets we have on staff. Of note, Ms. Amanda Kapteyn will be teaching grade 7/8 Science and Ms. Anne Hutten will be teaching Novel Studies in grade 5/6.

When Harvest opens its door on September 8, we will be welcoming our largest student population ever with 65 students attending. In grade 1/2 we have 22 students, in grade 3/4 we have 15 students, grade 5/6 has 16 students and our smallest classroom is grade 7/8 with 12 students. While we will be welcoming ten new students to Harvest this year, we said goodbye to six grade eight students last week. On August 27th we celebrated the graduation of Barrett, Gabe, Justin, Max, Benjamin and Jackson. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we had a small outside graduation where we had the opportunity to share a lot of laughs, enjoy fellowship with one another and reflect on God's goodness in the lives of these graduates over the past eight years. We pray God will bless all six of you as you take the next step in your educational journeys.

While we officially said goodbye as a school to the graduates, many of our graduates will be visiting school regularly as they

attend Harvest's high school bible class. This year our bible class has 14 students. I guess you could technically say we have 79 students attending Harvest in some capacity!

For those who are wondering about our calendar for the 2020/2021 school year, the calendar can be found on our school website and is attached to this newsletter. The first notable date on the calendar is our school Opening Assembly on September 8th at 8:45am. The assembly will take place outside and all are welcome to attend.

As the year gets set to kick off in a few days, I want to once again thank all those who have worked hard behind the scenes to get the school ready. Whether that be helping with policy creation, cleaning, repairing items, evaluating books, serving on one of our many committees, we are blessed to have so many supporting the parents in our community in telling the next generation His praiseworthy deeds.

James Meinen

ALL ARE WELCOME

Opening Assembly: September 8th @ 8:45am

See further details on school opening on page 5 of this newsletter

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Based on the recommendations of the Health Unit and Bluewater Schools, there will be no screening for COVID-19 when students arrive at school. Parents are asked to screen their own children before sending them to school. Attached to this bulletin you can find a screening poster for COVID-19 from our local Health Unit. If your child has any COVID-19 symptoms they are asked to stay home.

The other notable change to our policies and procedures is how we report sick students. In the past, the school was required to let the Health Unit know if we thought students had any serious communicable diseases (such as meningitis). COVID-19 has been added to that list. This means that if your child has any COVID-19 symptoms we need to let the Health Unit know.

While we can expect more changes about COVID-19 to be forthcoming, the school continues to advocate for parental choice and flexibility in any future changes to the law. To date we feel blessed that it seems our voices are being heard by those in positions of power. If any changes are made to our COVID-19 policies, we will inform parents of these changes in our weekly school newsletter. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this ever-changing environment.



COVID-19 SCREENING

Please complete this screening before entering

Name: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Have you been in close contact with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

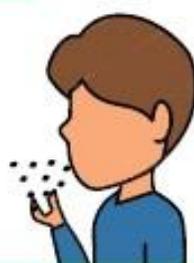
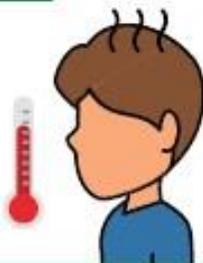
Yes No

Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?

Yes No

Do you have any of the following:

Fever Yes No Cough Yes No Trouble Breathing Yes No Sore throat, trouble swallowing Yes No



Runny nose or red eyes Yes No Loss of taste or smell Yes No Not feeling well, tired or sore muscles Yes No Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea Yes No



If you answered YES to any of these questions, go home & self-isolate right away. Call Telehealth or your health care provider, to find out if you need a test.

September 8th - Harvest Christian School's Doors Open!

We welcome everyone to join us for our Opening Assembly on September 8th.

This year will look a little different as we will start outside for our

Opening Assembly around 8:45 a.m.

We will have picnic tables for the students but we would appreciate parents and others who are joining us to bring their own lawn chairs.

At the assembly we hope to introduce our newest students and reflect upon our new theme text for the year.

Our theme text is ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*please
join us*

Communication between home and school is paramount to ensure everyone is on the same page throughout the year. Hopefully through the weekly newsletter and bi-monthly Connection, report cards, the website and parent/teacher conferences, you will be kept very informed as parents to what is taking place in the school. However, there are times when you may want to get in touch with the staff throughout the year. In these situations you are encouraged to contact the school during school hours and, if needed, set up a time to meet. If you cannot get a hold of a staff member, emails are also an effective means of communication. The staff checks their email every school day and will be sure to get back to you right away. However, for more time sensitive issues you can contact the staff at home. Parents are asked to refrain from texting staff as a means of communication and use the options outlined above instead. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

James Meinen – principal@harvestschool.ca

Anne Hutten – grade7/8teacher@harvestschool.ca

Erica deHaan – grade3/4teacher@harvestschool.ca

Janelle Vantol – grade1/2teacher@harvestschool.ca

Amanda Kapteyn – amandakapteyn@gmail.com



Drop Off and Pick Up

To all our parents & grandparents who drop off or pick up students from the school, please note the following guidelines:

1. In the morning students will be supervised after 8:20 a.m.
2. Please ensure that when you drop off your child they head down stairs towards the school.
3. When picking up your child, please park in the straight-line parking (not the angle parking) and watch for any child that may be crossing the parking lot to their vehicle.
4. Once a child is in their vehicle please have them stay with you to prevent any accidents.
5. After school outdoor supervision will go until 3:30p.m. After that time your child will wait in the school or on the playground until you pick them up. Please inform a staff member when you pick them up so we know they are leaving.
6. Please call the school to inform the staff of any late drop off or pick up.
7. If your child is going home with another family, or a different driver than normal, please make a note in the student agenda or call the school.

School Cleaning

Each week of the school TWO families will take their turn and clean the school. This needs to be done on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. There will be a new/updated list on the wall in the staff room of the cleaning duties to complete which will take into account the work that the newly hired School Cleaner will do.

This is a very important task that we share, an opportunity to teach our children about stewardship, but also as parents this is an opportunity to serve in the educating of your children, a clean school means a healthy school and a better learning environment.

Thank you, parents, for your willingness to help in this way!



September 8-11: Bosch, Darren & Sarah & Antuma, Jan & Rosalie

September 14-18: Feenstra, Menze & Sylvia & deGelder, Teun & Sarah

September 21-25: Groeneveld, Andrew & Ashlea & Flikweert, Andre & Marieke

(The remainder of this list will be published to the membership once finalized)

Harvest School News

As we are set to begin a new year there may be a few documents you are looking for as parents. Most documents such as school supplies, our 2020-2021 calendar and older bulletins can be found on our school website ~ www.harvestschool.ca. You can also find the school supply list on the next page of this newsletter. If you want to stay abreast of what is happening at Harvest each and every week, be sure to sign up for our weekly newsletter. You can do this by contacting the school.

-Please send your email address to Rachel Sikkema at adminassistant@harvestschool.ca to be added to the email list.

-If your email address has changed, please also send an email to the above address so that the list can be updated!

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



CLASS of
2020
CONGRATULATIONS
Graduates

