



# CONNECTION

December 2020

Mr. James Meinen  
Principal



## FROM THE BOARD

And just like that we are at the Christmas Break! It has been a great four months at Harvest, and I'm sure the staff, students and maybe even parents are looking forward to a short break.

should further action be required, we hope for your support as we do our best to make wise and educated decisions.

As we move into 2021, we also are continuing to focus on strategic planning. As mentioned before, we have started this committee to further plan for important growth for our school. Some of what we are looking into is: high school, building expansion, a public relations committee, a human resources committee as well as others. We will keep you posted as we progress through this, as we will need your input as we present ideas before the membership.

Last, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas! Enjoy the break with family and friends and we pray that Lord willing we can come back in the new year ready to start a new year!

On behalf of the Harvest School Board,

*Curtis Hutten*

[chair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:chair@harvestschool.ca)

Looking forward to the coming year, it can be hard to look too far ahead at times. With Covid-19 affecting many communities and increased government restrictions we can pray that the Lord will guide the staff, the Ed Com and Board as we do our best to navigate these ever-changing times. Should the virus make its way into our community we may have to take further action to ensure safety in our school, and to make sure we continue to comply with government regulations. We hope we can continue to operate as usual, but

### School Board

Chairman: Curtis Hutten  
Vice Chair: Joanie Vis  
Secretary: Meaghan Hutten  
Treasurer: Mark Hutten  
Maintenance: Pete Groeneveld

### Education Committee

Chair: Joanie Vis  
Vice Chair: Jan Antuma  
Secretary: Marloes Mulder  
Library Liaison: Sarah Bosch  
Member: Mitch Bultena

### 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.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to all donors and supporters for another year where we can reflect back on God's goodness and care for our little school of Owen Sound. We have so much to be thankful for and can also see that reflected in our healthy financial position once again.

As we approach the year end, we want to remind anyone making end of season donations that payments need to be received and deposited

in this current year to receive a tax receipt. Safest way to do this with the current Covid banking hours is to send e-transfer! Please use [treasurer@harvestschool.ca](mailto:treasurer@harvestschool.ca) to send any donation. Thanks to all of those who have already been sending in year end donations, your support is very much appreciated.

A special thanks goes out to the Voucher committee, who were able to increase their monthly

contribution from \$1100.00/month to \$1200.00 per month. Thanks so much to you ladies for the work you do on this committee, and to all members who use the program!

With thankfulness to God for all his blessings, and with Christmas Greetings to all,

Mark Hutten, Treasurer

[treasurer@harvestschool.ca](mailto:treasurer@harvestschool.ca)

## FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Wow! Time flies! It seems like just yesterday we wrote the last Edcom report and now it is already time for another! We are so thankful that school is progressing well and there is not anything new to report on. This gives us the opportunity to share with you some of the information we get to see and work with as Ed Com and staff. Our school is a member of the LCRSS (League of Can. Ref. School Soc.), with this membership we can share so much with other schools and use resources that have been put together as a joint effort through many school communities. This helps us as a small school community where sometimes we can feel the pressure of having many tasks for few people.

One such document is the 'Conceptual Framework for Language Arts'. This is a beautifully written document assisting teachers in their preparation to teach LA from a reformed perspective and to infuse God and our faith throughout all aspects of learning. The document is over 70 pages so we cannot share the whole thing in a Connections newsletter but below I have shared a few paragraphs for you to get a small idea of the work that is put into teaching our children to 'read and write'.

### The Four Markers

*"The Four Markers of Reformed Education" were described in the Report of the Curriculum Coordinator Management Committee (CCMC), adopted by the LCRSS in 2003, and were intended to assist in establishing and identifying key characteristics of Reformed Education. These Markers guide the development of the LA Conceptual Framework, and are quoted from the CCMC Report as follows:*

*"The Reformed school assists parents in providing education that is **confessional and covenantal** in character, recognizes the **antithesis**, and is further characterized by a **unity of purpose** that is shared by the home, the school, and the church.*

### Program Rationale

*God has created us and all things for His own glory and has mandated that we do all things to this end (I Corinthians 10:31). How can we use language to glorify God? God's gift of language is to be used in submission to His Word to accomplish His purposes. Thus, teachers and students, as image-bearing, covenant members of God's kingdom are called to use*

*language as prophets, priests, and kings (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 32).*

*To summarize, the school's task is to equip students with the skills of listening and speaking, reading and writing, and viewing and creating, so that the student is able to read, understand, and confess the Word of God, to study and explore creation, and thus to carry out his God-given calling to serve God and his neighbour (John Calvin School, 2017, p. 1).*

If anyone has any questions or would like more information about this please feel free to contact the EdCom or principal.

We wish everyone, students, staff, parents and community, a blessed and safe Christmas holidays and look forward to returning to school in the New Year, 2021! We are so thankful for God's continued guidance and blessing here at Harvest.

On behalf of the Ed Com,

Joanie Vis

[edcomvicechair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:edcomvicechair@harvestschool.ca)

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:



As the year 2020 draws to a close in a couple weeks, I think it is safe to say that one year ago no one could have predicted the year would have turned out like it did! 2020 was a year for the history books and really made us stop and reflect upon the importance of many things. This year has given us a new-found appreciation of church, of family, of stable employment, and of school.

To that end, we have been incredibly blessed to have had four months of in person instruction here at Harvest. The halls have once again been filled with the excited chatter of students, classrooms are filled with singing and learning, and the staff are no longer in front of screens but eager students. While the threat of lockdowns and additional COVID-19 restrictions seems to no longer be top of mind at Harvest, with several sister schools down south having COVID-19 cases among staff and students we realize we are not yet out of the woods. The administration continues to stay up to date on the latest COVID 19 regulations and procedures and maintains good communication with our local Health Unit.

The danger with times like these is an organization can get bogged down in dealing with the day to day challenges and simply react to challenges

that arise versus be proactive in planning. The big picture of an organization can become lost and the organization can go of course. At a principal conference a few years ago, a presenter used the analogy of a ship to get this point across. Think of the school like a boat. Boards, administrations and teachers are the sailors, who often get so caught up in ship work (ensuring government paperwork is done, repairing items, making sure the budget is met, making sure staffing is in place etc.) that no one is paying attention to where the boat is going. No one is in the crew's nest looking out for danger and ensuring the boat is on course. With no one looking ahead the boat will continue to move forward, but where it ends up might be somewhere the crew never intended to go. So where is the HMS Harvest going? What is our vision? Do

you know the vision of the school you send your children to? (If not, the answer can easily be found on our website). While that vision is pretty detailed, the three-word summary of that vision statement is "*educating for eternity.*" Our goal is bigger than covering Ontario's curriculum. Our goal is bigger than simply having a school with a good bible program. Our goal is to assist parents in equipping the next generation to be prophets, priests and kings in this world. And while the winds of change toss the world's focus from one politically correct movement to the next, one educational crisis to the next, the direction of our school does not change. The foundation is firmly grounded in God's Word.

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One of the blessings of being a principal is I get to see the vision of Harvest being implemented in all the different classrooms. The staff at Harvest do an amazing job of weaving our reformed worldview into all the different subjects. Whether that be talking about God's amazing design in nature, to our God being a God of order in math, to seeing God's providential care to his church in history, our biblical foundation shines through. Not only do I get to see this teaching as a principal, I am blessed to hear about what is taught at school from my children. Just this week my son in grade 1 came home pretty excited to tell me "Guess what

dad? Did you know I am a prophet, and priest and a king!" That same son lovingly petted Russ one day after school and said "Guess what Russ? God knows the number of all the hairs on your head." Seeing your child vocalize the lessons they were taught at school is wonderful to see. This newsletter could be filled with similar such stories, but the point really is how truly blessed we are as parents to have a school helps parents tell the next generation the praise-worthy deeds of the Lord. Keeping the big picture in mind, is something the whole membership had the

opportunity to do at our Strategic Planning meetings this past fall. It was great the membership had the opportunity to think about the future of Harvest and provide direction for the subsequent strategic planning meeting. Thanks goes out to the League of Canadian Reformed Schools for helping to facilitate this process. The newly formed Steering Committee has a lot of material to digest and we are blessed to be able to map out a plan to help the steer the HMS Harvest towards our vision of educating for eternity!



## IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL:

These past few months have been very productive at Harvest and staff have covered a lot of ground with their curriculum. With looming snow days on the horizon, we are in great shape for the likely slower pace of schooling in January and February.

While there have been no sport tournaments or meets for the senior students, senior students have been active lately with

intramurals. In November, the grade 5-8 students enjoyed volleyball intramurals. These culminated with a very well attended parent/family volleyball game in late November. While the parents showed they still had the edge on our grade 7/8's, our starting line-up of grades 8's and a few grade 7 students handily won their set against their older family members! Harvest also just wrapped up

hockey intramurals and it was great to see all the cheering and excitement for those students playing by their peers.

In addition to sports, chess seems to be growing in popularity at Harvest. On any given lunch hour, many games of chess are being played and it looks like this year's Harvest chess tournament may be the biggest ever!

As the weather has turned colder these past few months, field trips have subsided. However, one notable field trip that took place this week was the grades 5-8 field trip to watch Handel's Messiah. This event took place in the prestigious hall located on Mennonite Corners, La Gym. The concert was projected on our large screen and we had excellent speakers to capture the sound. Hearing the story of salvation was a beautiful way to wrap up this portion of the school year and head into the Christmas Break.

While there was no Christmas concert/assembly this year, you will receive a taste of Christmas from Harvest in your inbox. Harvest has recorded a couple of Christmas songs, that the students are eager to share with the supporting community. We hope you enjoy these!

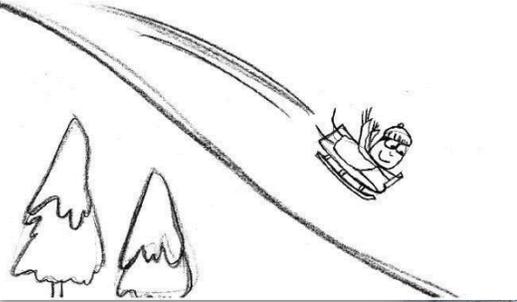


Finally, the staff would like to express our appreciation for the wonderful support we receive from you! We are blessed to have so many volunteering weekly in the school, having others volunteer to drive, others volunteer on various committees and others pass on words of encouragement and support. Thank you for this! On behalf of the staff I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and the Lord's blessings in 2021.

*James Meinen*

[principal@harvestschool.ca](mailto:principal@harvestschool.ca)

**HAPPINESS IS**  
...fresh snow and a sled.







New France Game of Life -  
By Brody, Rowen, Kenzie,  
Jakin, Matthew and Jake

Hello! In grade 7&8 we made a game about New France in the 1500s. To make this, we used an original Game of Life board and recreated it to be like life in New France. We also used tree branches and popsicle stick bridges up, we used hot glue. We had to remake all the jobs and change the college and career cards to Huguenot and Roman Catholic cards. We changed all the Life tiles to furs. Finally, we put in some waterways and put the St. Lawrence River running right through the middle of the board. This project was something we really enjoyed and it was better than taking notes!



