

## Mission Statement >>>

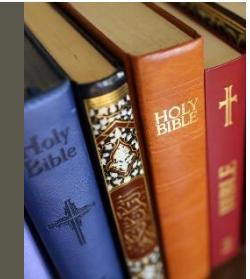
*Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.*



[www.harvestschool.ca](http://www.harvestschool.ca)

Principal: James Meinen

# Connection



## School Board >>>

Chairman: Curtis Hutton  
Vice Chair: Joanie Vis  
Secretary: Meaghan Hutton  
Treasurer: Neil Post  
Maintenance: Pete Groeneveld

## Teaching Staff >>>

Grade 1-2 – Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink  
Grade 3-4 – Miss E. deHaan  
Grade 5-6 & Principal – Mr. J. Meinen  
Grade 7-8 – Miss A. Hutton

## Education Committee >>>

Chair: Joanie Vis  
Vice Chair: Jan Antuma  
Secretary: Marloes Mulder  
Member: Janelle VanTol

## Human Resources Committee >>>

Chair: Jan Antuma  
Board Rep: Joanie Vis  
Secretary: Dana Selles  
Member: Marloes Mulder

## Public Relations Committee >>>

Chair: Henrietta Groeneveld  
Secretary: Meaghan Hutton  
Member: Rachel Sikkema

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[adminassistant@harvestschool.ca](mailto:adminassistant@harvestschool.ca)**

*"For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth."*

*Psalm 71:5*

## From the Board

2022 has started off to be another interesting year here in Canada. We've seen lockdowns, protests, inflation, amongst many other things that can make us feel helpless and unsure about the future. As Christians, however, we have hope. We have hope that in unprecedeted times God has a purpose for all these things. What a fitting theme text we have at Harvest "for You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth" Ps 71:5. As an entire community at Harvest, from children, parents, staff and community, we all have hope and a promise from our maker that all things are in His hands!

This spring Harvest school has the opportunity of a school review. This is done through the LCRSS with some experienced school reviewers. They will be meeting with our staff, committees, board and other community representatives for feedback, with the intent to promote that our school is offering great education, with committees and a board supporting it to the best of their ability. It's a good

process, with helpful feedback and positive growth potential as a result of this. So, stay tuned as we shortly dive into this, and ask for your input when needed.

On the Board side of things, we're happy to have Neil onboard and comfortable taking on the treasurer's position. The last couple months have been fairly uneventful for the Board, which hasn't been the case in the last couple years (thanks Covid). Thankfully operations can continue to go smoothly without much interruption. We'll be tackling some administrative pieces, we continue to work with our new subcommittees (that are off to a great start), and plan forward. We're thankful for the support of the parents and community as we do our work on the Board. March break is now upon us, enjoy the time off, whether you're going south to the sunny warmth, north to a frozen lake or spending quality time at home!

On behalf of the Board, *Curtis Hutton*  
[chair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:chair@harvestschool.ca)

# >>> Treasurer's Report

Well, it's almost March break and so time for a update from the treasurer as well. The last couple of months have been a time to get adjusted to the role of treasurer, of wrapping my head around the financial happenings of the school, and a time to regret all those accounting classes I skipped or slept through in university... ☺ Many thanks to Mark (and Rachel) for assisting in the transition and always being willing to help as needed.

In regard to the finances of the school, we can say with thankfulness that the Lord

continues to provide. Despite a projected deficit this year (due to membership changes as the school year started), we are tracking better than anticipated. We did receive a significant number of donations at the year end, plus several donations related to the passing of our brother Kapteyn. Many thanks to those who donated extra, or whose parents donated, and to the Kapteyn family who requested donations to Harvest in lieu of gifts. Every little bit helps.

At this point of the year, we are also gearing up to a final budget for the next

school year, to be presented at the May membership meeting. We are finalizing the staffing and membership numbers and that will determine the final budget and any required increases in membership dues. If there are any concerns, thoughts, or ideas, please feel free to pass them on to myself or any of the board members.

**Neil Post**, Treasurer  
[treasurer@harvestschool.ca](mailto:treasurer@harvestschool.ca)

## From the Education Committee



As EdCom we have the beautiful task of assisting the teachers and Principal with curriculum development. With only a short time where the school was closed this year it has been wonderful to be working on 'regular' EdCom tasks. Recently the curriculum focus has been on spelling and health. We look forward to feedback on the health curriculum after it has been taught this spring and on the spelling curriculum after the end of this school year.

As reformed schools we work together with the LCRSS on curriculum development, the current focus being LA. Our staff has been focusing on the writing portion of LA collaborating with staff from other schools to update and enrich our curriculum with a continued focus on glorifying God with the talents He has given.

Classroom visits are a highlight for many Board and committee members, we aim to do them a few times each school year! In a visit we get to sit in on some classes and see the interaction of students with their peers and teachers and to see teachers doing the task God has gifted them with. Today I was able to do just this and it was such an amazing way to spend my day! We were

able to visit 2 classrooms and sit in 2 classes in each classroom. Both classes start their time in class with singing memory work and reciting Bible texts, this seems to be a great way for the students to transition from recess to class time. Every child in the class is able to participate in the singing and reciting from memory, what an amazing way of praising God and reminding them, and us, what our task is, praising God in all our work! It was interesting to see different teaching styles and methods, and how different subjects can be taught. We were also able to see how our teachers have established great classroom routines where students know what is expected of them in their work, effort and behaviour. While visiting classrooms we were also able to browse through curriculum binders and ask students and teachers questions about their work and things around the classroom. It was a great day and we are so thankful to the teachers for hosting us in their classroom as well as to the students who answered all our questions and put up with us 'helping' them with their science experiments!

**DONATIONS ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!**

You can e-transfer to  
[treasurer@harvestschool.ca](mailto:treasurer@harvestschool.ca)

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The Edcom is currently beginning the process of looking into the possibility of kindergarten at Harvest. We think there is a need and would like to hear your feedback. If you haven't received them already, you will shortly receive some questionnaires about kindergarten as well as seeking individuals who are interested in assisting in kindergarten. Please take some time to respond, and we hope to have more information and be able to answer more questions at the spring membership meeting.

In April we are looking forward to a school review which you can read about from our Board Chairman. As we prepare for this the EdCom is busy dotting the i's and crossing the t's on all our policies and manuals. This is behind the scenes work that is ongoing and necessary to maintain schools that teach our children in a manner that is God-serving, assisting parents to 'Train up a child in the way he should go...' Prov. 22:6a.

We wish everyone a blessed March Break and then look forward to resuming classes for the final four months of the school year resting in the comfort and hope that God is in control and His plans are better than our plans. Psalm 71:5: "For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth."

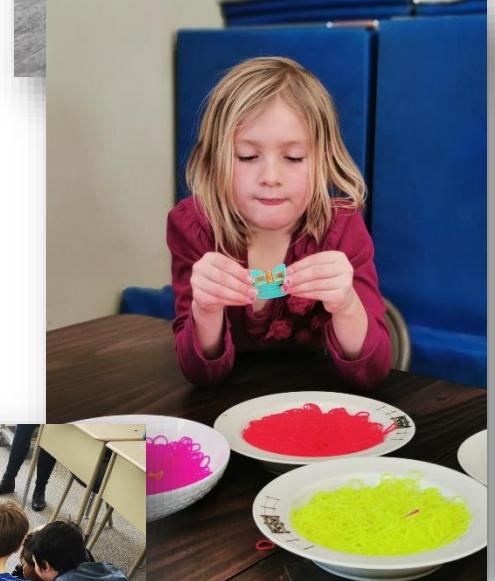
*On behalf of the Ed Com, Joanie Vis*  
[edcomvicechair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:edcomvicechair@harvestschool.ca)

# From the Human Resources Committee

We are thankful to the Lord for his goodness and his faithfulness that we have been blessed with. Over this past school year, we have seen classrooms filled with students and teachers and have seen the school community come together. I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers that help the students and teachers and/or sit on committees and/or help in many different areas. As the HR committee we are entering the season to work on the contracts for the next school year. This past month we have also had the opportunity to sit down with all the teachers to hear how things are going in the classrooms and how the teachers feel supported. We were able to witness God's

goodness at work in the school. We have been blessed with a solid teaching staff and pray that it may continue. I would like to ask the membership to hold our school, teachers, and students in prayer as we acknowledge that our petitions to our heavenly Father will be heard by Him.

*Jan Autuma, HR Chair*  
[HarvestHRcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:HarvestHRcommittee@gmail.com)



# From the Public Relations Committee

Hello from the PR Committee!

We are so blessed here at Harvest with a supportive community! Thank you to all of you that continue to support our school with your financial gifts, your talents, your time and your prayers. We thank our Heavenly Father that he continues to provide for us. We are excited for our Harvest Spirit wear, it

will be arriving in a few weeks. There were 21 orders and over 80 pieces sold! Hopefully we can wear our Harvest merchandise soon. We have been working on a CRM (Contact Relationship Management) list that allows us to keep track of people we have been in contact with), letters of support, brochure for new families and sending out thank you cards. We meet

every four to six weeks and discuss ways to promote our school to our extended community and promote community in our school. God is good. Have a great March Break!

On behalf of the PR Committee,  
*Meaghan Hutton*

# From the Principal

**"For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth." (Psalm 71:5)**

One of the wonderful blessings of working at Harvest is the opportunity to dig into God's Word with our students. This year we have had the opportunity to really unpack the theme of hope, which is timely in as our Western world's Christian foundation continues to erode. A 2021 American study reported 51% of young people report being down, depressed or hopeless. 68% report they have little energy and 52% report they find little pleasure in doing things. These numbers have risen noticeably since the pandemic started and other studies reinforce this rise in hopelessness among the adult demographic as well.

So how do we and our children find hope in a world where so many face hopelessness? The Bible tells us the answer to this in many places, including Hebrews 6. Hope can only be found if we are firmly anchored in God.

Recently in high school Bible class, we had the opportunity to look at Abraham who, despite his flaws, had his hope anchored in God. His life is quite remarkable. God speaks to him and tells him: I am going to send you out. Where? I will tell you later, just go. I will give you land. Where? I will tell you later, just wander. I will give you a child. How? I will tell you later, just wait. God then provides Abraham with a child and years later instructs him to kill his only child. Why? I will tell you later, just walk up the mountain. In every situation, Abraham listened to God and triumphed. By faith!

Abraham put his trust and hope in God's promises. He was firmly anchored in Him. In our high school class we could discuss how our problems in life arise when we don't trust the promises of God.

When our anchor is not secure. Why are you angry and bitter? You don't trust his justice . Do you know why you dislike yourself? Because you don't trust his love and his grace. In fact do you know why disobey any of God's commands? Why do you ever do the wrong thing? Because you don't trust that God himself, his presence is better than anything you can get by disobeying. You think, "I'd better do what makes me happy, instead of putting my anchor in God, so I don't miss out." Your lack of self control and self esteem is because your anchor is not held fast, you are not anchored in God. So how do we get anchored in God? Well the Bible is clear here. Spend time in His Word, meditate on it, reflect upon what we read, and pray. At Harvest we have been so blessed to be able to do just that these past



six and half months. From devotions, to bible and church history class, to learning about God's creation, it is a wonderful blessing to have a school with His Word as the foundation for all that we do.



## In the school...

When looking back upon the first 2/3rds of this school year, it is clear that we have been incredibly blessed. In the summer there was concern that the school might experience long periods of distance learning, but thankfully that never materialized. We have been blessed with over six months of in-person learning, with grade 7/8 sports resuming, field trips and good health. We have also been blessed with staffing to cover Mrs. Vandenbos' maternity leave. Special thanks goes out to Ms. Joanna Kapteyn, Mrs. Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink, Mrs. Van Tol and Mrs. Meaghan Hutten for stepping in to help here. We are also blessed to have all of our staff returning next year. With teacher shortages continuing to be the norm, we are so

blessed to have a full complement of passionate, talented teachers who help make Harvest a great place to be.

Parents were given an update on student progress in January as term one report cards went home. These much more detailed report cards provided parents with an accurate snapshot of how their children are doing here at Harvest. Some parent teacher conferences also took place to discuss student progress. While we do have some formal times set aside each year to talk about student progress, parents are more than welcome to touch base with their children's teacher at any point in the school year. We are here to support you!

These past few wintry months have been broken up with a lot of fun, as we began Winter Clubs these past few weeks. We kicked off these clubs with sledding and skating at Harrison Park. The following two weeks our younger students skated at the Kruisselbrinks, and took part in baking, games, and arts and crafts. Our senior students headed off to Blue Mountain for skiing and snowboarding. Thanks to all those who drove, chaperoned and led the various clubs. The time and energy you put into helping out was very much appreciated by both students and staff. Other big events these past two months included the grade 7&8 speaking contest, poetry contest, and badminton and chess intramurals. Harvest is a busy place!



## Professional Development

The staff have also remained busy with PD these past few months. The staff just finished working through a book called *Teach Like A Champion 2.0* which gave us lots of great strategies to become more effective teachers. At our recent PD day the staff focused on learning more about how CARE's conceptual framework can help us in our unit and lesson planning. Of note, Mrs. Hutten has worked extensively this year with CARE's Conceptual Framework which has been very helpful in allowing her to permeate her LA curriculum with a Reformed worldview. Finally, we are also busy putting together a scope and sequence for Harvest's Language Arts program. The staff have been busy!

## Looking ahead...

Looking ahead there are a lot of exciting events on the near horizon. At the time of writing this, the Regional Speaking Contest is a few days away. Anya, Lydia and Kenzie will be representing Harvest at this contest. Basketball also resumes this year. Grade 7/8 has a basketball tournament on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Waterloo. Looking a bit further ahead, the staff are busy making

plans for reading week, track and field, year end trips and graduation. While all these events are exciting, what I am most excited about is that we have in person learning. After two years of school being shut down in the spring, it appears school closures are behind us. This is indeed an answer to prayers, and we have much to be thankful for.

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*

## *From Grade 5 & 6 ~ Seigneurystyle*

*This past month you may have heard about something called a seigneurystyle in grade 5/6. I imagine you might have asked your child in grade 5/6 what exactly a seigneurystyle is. A seigneurystyle was a large piece of land in New France that was given by the Intendant (Jean Talon) to a seigneur (seigneurs tended to be nobles or merchants). The land was subdivided into narrow strips along the St. Lawrence River, so every habitant (farmer) had access to the river for transportation.*

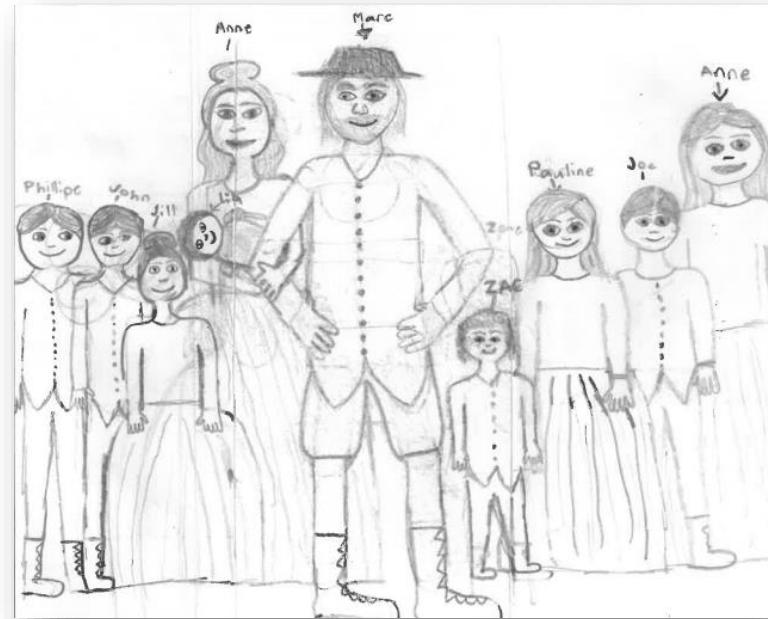


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Over the course of a couple weeks, students took on the roles of French immigrants who traveled to New France to start a new life in nobleman Monsieur Edouard's seigneurystyle (also known as Reid!) Through this process students learned about the Huguenot church (many fled France to come to Canada to start a new life free from persecutions), and they learned about the conflict they ran into with the Roman Catholic Church. They learned about the Filles de Roi (King's Daughters) and baby bonuses. It was wonderful to see students eagerly looking forward to getting married and having large families! They also learned a bit about the economy and how seigneuries ran. Many had to perform corvée (work) for the seigneur and they learned there could be a lot of wealth disparity between merchants and the common people.

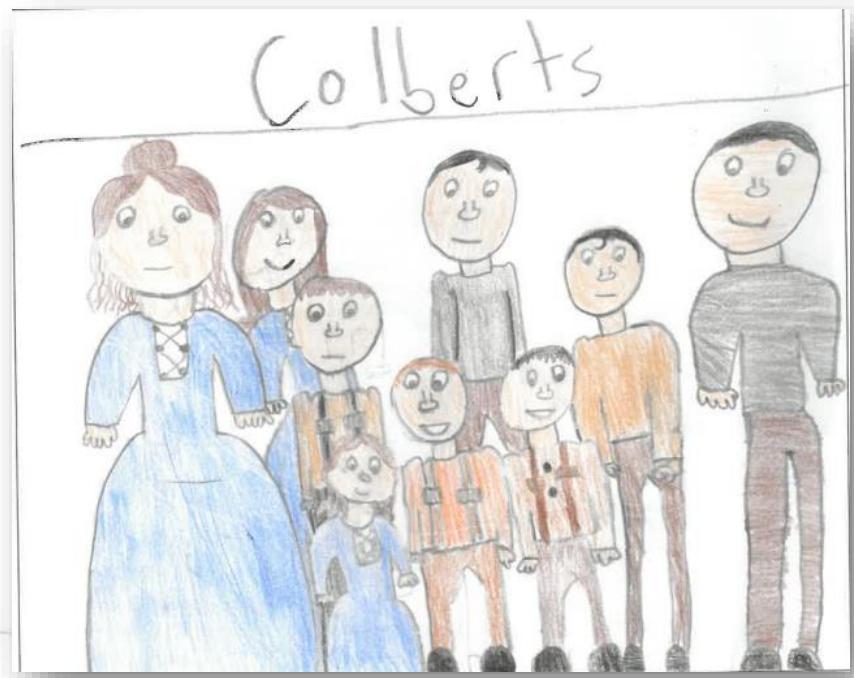


When I run this role playing activity, it is always interesting to see how the students navigate some of the challenges. What struck me this year was the fact the Huguenots on our seigneurie took up a collection to build a Huguenot church that rivalled the Roman Catholic Church on the seigneur's property. The cost of this new building was extremely high, but all the Huguenots chipped in and a large church was built. This was the first year such a collection happened and it stood as a real testament to the importance the Huguenots placed on church!



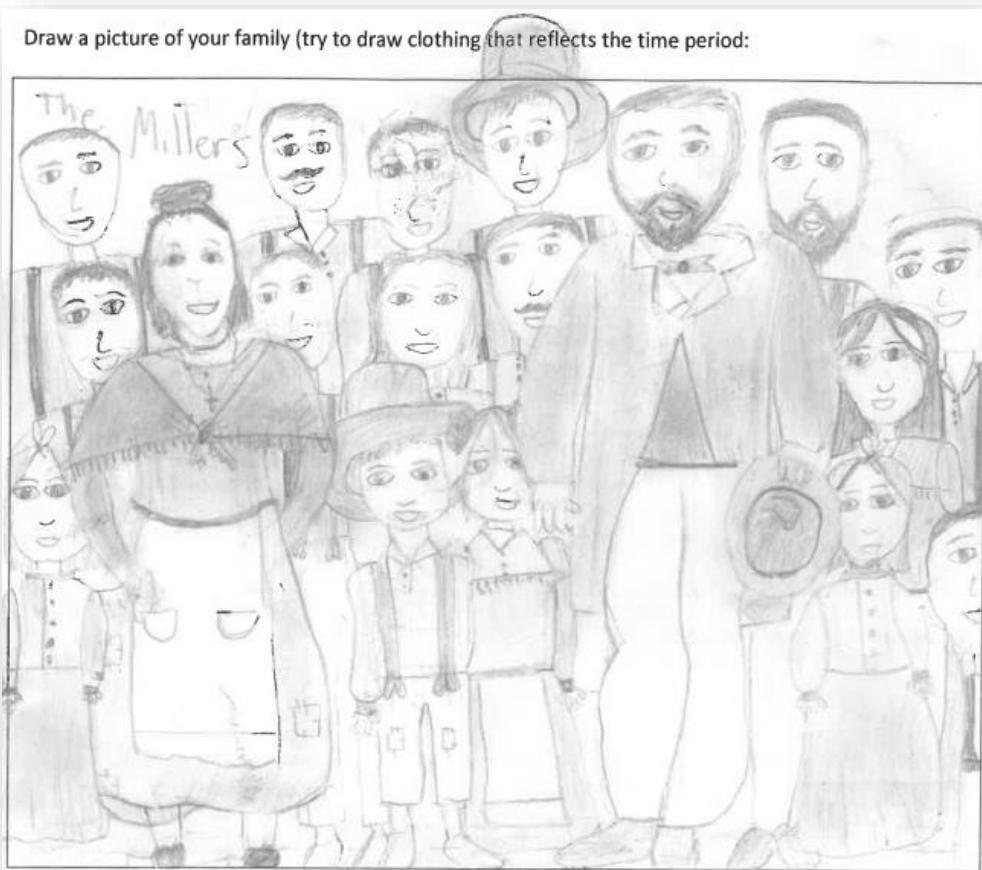
Monsieur Mark (Ava) with his Fille de Roi wife and many children!

Father Adrian (Sydney) who had a tough go  
in a largely Huguenot Seigneury!



Monsieur Henri Colbert (Brynn) was our  
seigneuries doctor/habitant.

Draw a picture of your family (try to draw clothing that reflects the time period):



Monsieur Miller  
(Lauren) who  
was, you guessed  
it, a miller! The  
Miller's were our  
largest family.