

Mission Statement >>>

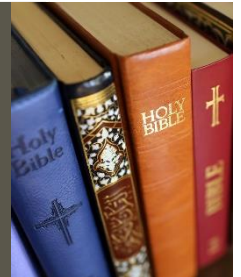
Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.



www.harvestschool.ca

Principal: James Meinen

Connection



"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

School Board >>>

Chairman: Jordan Kruisselbrink
Vice Chair: Joanie Vis
Secretary: Meaghan Hutten
Treasurer: Neil Post
Maintenance: Pete Groeneveld

Teaching Staff >>>

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

Education Committee >>>

Chair: Joanie Vis
Vice Chair: Jan Antuma
Secretary: Lindsay Hutten
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 Hutten
Member: Rachel Sikkema

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adminassistant@harvestschool.ca

From the Board

What a joy and privilege it is to be able to open the doors of Harvest for another school year. As we have come to see over the last couple of years, this is not something that we should take for granted. We thank God for His faithfulness and to bless our school into its 28th year!

This year we welcome 56 students to Harvest in grades 1-8, 16 high school bible class students and 8 students to the newly formed Kindergarten! Under the supervision of the board and principal, kindergarten will be taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September until December in the upstairs room of the church. This is very exciting as originally the board wasn't even going to present a kindergarten proposal until the fall membership meeting. Thank you to the ladies who have taken the initiative and got the ball rolling! We look forward to seeing more little smiling faces at Harvest.

With so many teaching vacancies, we are thankful to once again to have a full staff of teachers who love to teach and love the Lord. Welcome back staff...we wish you

God's blessings and guidance over the coming school year! We also want to thank the many volunteers who help out at Harvest; whether behind the scenes or directly in the school. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

On the administrative end of things, in July we had our strategic planning meeting where we went through the school review. The recommendations from this review have now been sorted and delegated so that they can be put into action. An ad hoc committee of society members has been formed with the Board to determine the feasibility of a high school and the work of this committee will be commencing soon.

Lastly, we hope that staff and students have been able to enjoy some time of rest and relaxation over the summer and are ready to tackle a new school year. Let us each work to the best of our ability and to the glory of God our Father.

On behalf of the Board

Jordan Kruisselbrink, Chair

chair@harvestschool.ca

Treasurer's Report

And...just like that its September....where did the summer go? As we transition to the '22/23 school year we are so thankful to be able to send our covenant children to such an amazing school, with a full complement of staff and a community that supports the school in so many ways.

Since the budget was approved in May we have had a few new donators sign up (thank you!)....it's encouraging to see young members get into the routine of supporting covental education at such a young stage of life. Unfortunately we've also had some membership withdrawals, and so the budget will

be strained for the duration of the year. We continue to rely on the Lord's providence to provide for the needs of Harvest.

At this time, the work on the computer lab setup and install is underway. The equipment is being purchased, and thanks to some support from the Ladies Aid and some anonymous donations, the cost for this project is over 75% covered, thereby limiting the impact on the operating budget.

Another project that gets mentioned often is upgrading or adding to the school playground equipment. As a board we have heard many comments

about this from parents and students, this was also a priority that came out in the school review. At this point the financial situation is such that we will have to think outside the box if we want to address this in the near future. If anyone feels passionate about this or has some ideas about this - please reach out and let me know!

Neil Post, Treasurer

treasurer@harvestschool.ca

**DONATIONS ALWAYS
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!**

***Don't forget about
membership rate increases
as of July 1, 2022!***

See www.harvestschool.ca for rates

>>> From the Human Resources Committee

WOW summer has flown by so fast,

Now we are gearing up for a new school year!

We are thankful for all the teachers who are working hard to get the school ready in these last few days. We also want to thank the many volunteers who help with many different aspects of the school. Soon the halls and rooms will be busy with excited faces ready to learn.

As Human resource committee we have had a busy summer, going over our mandate, task schedule and coming up with standardised procedures for contracts, for evaluations so that year in year out we get more efficient in our roles.

We would like to wish all the staff and students a safe and memorable school year and that we are constantly reminded that our strength come from our Father above

Jan Antuma, HR Chair

HarvestHRcommittee@gmail.com

>>> From the Public Relations Committee



Hosted by the Education Committee and Staff with treats and coffee provided by the PR Committee, we would like to invite you to Harvest's annual Open House on September 22, 2022. The evening begins at 7:30 and the focus this year will be on our French program. Come out for an interactive evening where you will learn about and experience the French instruction here at Harvest.

After the French presentation, you are welcome to tour the classrooms and chat with the staff. We look forward to seeing many of you then!

From the Education Committee



September is here! The summer holidays seem to fly by faster and faster and now we are preparing for a new school year to start next week. What an incredible blessing to once again be able to start the school year and have our children attend a Christian school where everything taught is to the glory and honour of our Heavenly Father!

Even though we have summer holidays our staff and committees continue to work and review and prepare for the past and coming school years. This month some of our teachers attended a CARE day that focused on the math curriculum. There have been some changes to the government curriculum requirements to include coding as part of the math curriculum. As our society uses computers more and more it is good for our children to learn to use the technology God has given us to His glory. In order to do this it is good for us to learn the building blocks of computer programming. Many of us have been blessed with online resources to study the Bible and hear God's Word and we need future generations to continue to be able to share these resources and build this programming.

Keeping on the technology topic we are getting closer and closer to have chromebooks available for our staff and students. Most high schools use chromebooks and

google classroom as a means of teaching and communicating so it will be helpful for our students to be able to learn how to use them. Our current laptops are very slowly and frustrating to work with and update. One big advantage to chromebooks is that they all plug into a workstation/charging station and can be updated and worked on altogether. Miss Hutten has been very busy this summer setting up all the licensing and emails for chromebooks. We are so thankful to her for all her hard work! We hope to have the chromebooks set up and ready for student use this fall.

Please save the date of September 22 for the school open house. We hope to do a presentation for parents and members about the curriculum taught at Harvest. In the last few years teachers have worked hard to update and improve our French curriculum

and we would love to share this with you. You don't even have to speak French to enjoy the evening 😊. This is also a great time to encourage the staff and see them shine in their element of teaching!!

This month marked the end of Marloes Mulder's term on the EdCom. We are so thankful to her for her work on this committee for the past 3 years and know she will continue to be a blessing to our church and school community here in Owen Sound. With the retirement of one member we also get to welcome a new member, Lindsay Hutten. Welcome Lindsay, we look forward to working together! After attending her first meeting and seeing her enthusiastic questions and desire to help we know she will be a fabulous addition to our team. She is also enthusiastic about our new core values and is excited to help continue to build this project. We hope to be able to share it with all the members soon!

Have a wonderful final few days of holidays! Let's keep this text in our hearts "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

On behalf of the Ed Com,

Joanie Vis

edcomvicechair@harvestschool.ca



»»» *From the Principal*

As summer draws to a close I hope everyone had a great summer. Hopefully you were able to spend time out in God's creation, time with family and friends and perhaps some time reading. For teachers, summer is a great time for catching up on some professional reading and this summer I had the opportunity to read the book *Stolen Focus* by Johann Hari that focuses on our worsening attention spans. This has been a topic of interest for me as I am often wrestling with: How do you keep students engaged? Are students' attention spans getting shorter? And can you improve a students' ability to focus?

What immediately jumped out to me in Hari's research is that attention spans are indeed worsening (this isn't just a figment of my imagination!) While research shows attention spans have been decreasing since the early 1900's, they have really started decreasing in the past two decades. Some research links the start of this decrease in focus to the invention of the light bulb. Sleep really impacts our ability to focus and with light bulbs we could stay up later which led to a decrease in sleep. New technologies in the

mid 1900's like the TV further eroded focus. But the technology that has had the biggest impact on attention has been the rise of the internet and the smartphone.

There are many ways to measure this decrease, but one measure researchers use is the reading of books. Less and less people today read books and many who do read books, acknowledge they only skim them. Between 2004-2017 there was a 40% drop of reading in books for men, and a 29% drop for women. Opinion poll company Gallup found that the proportion of Americans who have never read a single book in a typical year tripled between 1974 and 2014. Some 57% of Americans don't read a book in a typical year. I'm sure the stats are similar in Canada. As a people of "the Book" this drop in reading is concerning as undoubtedly this drop in reading has also impacted bible reading. It is good to reflect upon how much time we spend reading and meditating on God's Word. Are our devices pulling us away from spending time in God's Word? In 2017, the average American spend 17 minutes a day reading a book, and 5.4 hours on their phone. While some might counter, "we are reading, it is just

on our screens," research show something dubbed as "screen inferiority." There have been multiple studies that highlight those who read a printed book, versus the same information on the screen, retain much more information. The gap in understanding between books and screens in elementary school children is the equivalent of 2/3 of a year's growth in reading comprehension. There are some blessings to being a lower tech school!

The fact that our phones and computers are "stealing our focus" should come as no surprise. Some of the smartest people using the best research have designed algorithms to keep us glued to our screens (I highly recommend watching the movie *The Social Dilemma* that really unpacks this). All this research and these sobering statistics can really make a parent feel despair. How can I raise up my child to spend time in God's Word and spend time meditating on that Word when literally teams of people are working hard to pull their attention away?

Well thankfully, we don't do this work alone. As parents we have our own team (our church community) supporting us! Harvest really embodies what a covenant community looks like, where we come together to tell the next generation His praiseworthy deeds.

Continued on next page...



From the Principal continued...

Where so many work together to create a schooling environment where God's Word permeates all that we do. Where one generation tells the next generation the hope they have. Harvest would not be able to exist without this community behind us and supporting us. As we enter a new year, we once again thank everyone for their support, and encourage you to continue to support Harvest in our mission: *Our purpose is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity and to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.*

One of the great things about Harvest, is every year we get to focus our attention on a specific bible text for the entire year. This provides the opportunity to really dig into that text, memorize it, and learn and sing songs that link to that text. Our theme text this year comes from Hebrews 11:1

**NOW FAITH
IS THE SUBSTANCE
OF THINGS HOPED
FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF
THINGS NOT
SEEN.**
HEBREWS 11:1 KJV

Come join us for our Opening Assembly on September 8th at 8:45, where we will dig a little more into that text as we kick off the start of a new school year together.

This year our student population sits at 56 students, with another 16 students in high school bible. We are also excited to start part time Kindergarten this year with 8 students enrolled. It is a blessing having many eager people who want to volunteer their time to help get this program started. When all those student numbers get added together, we are sitting at 80 students who spend time at Harvest every week in some capacity! Teaching these 80 students are Mrs. M. Spanninga and Mrs. VanAndel (Kindergarten), Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink (grade 1/2), Mrs. Van Tol (grade 2 Math and Language Arts three mornings a week), Ms. deHaan (grade 3/4), Mr. Meinen (grade 5/6), Ms. Hutten (grade 7/8), Mrs. B. Spanninga (grade 1/2 and grade 5/6 art), and Mrs. L. Kruisselbrink (teaching a variety of subjects across the grades to allow for principal relief time). In a climate where teachers are hard to come by, we are so blessed to a full complement of staff!

As mentioned in the June Connection, our start date has been pushed back two days as most of the of the staff will be attending a music conference in the US. We officially kick off the year on

Thursday, September 8th. For other key dates check out the school calendar on our website or the rolling calendar in the weekly newsletter. A school supply list can also be found on the school website.

Finally, a big thanks goes out to all who have been working behind the scenes to get the school ready for the new year. Many have been busy cleaning, helping fundraise by working at Campfire, serving on committees and helping with maintenance of the building. Harvest can't happen without you!

James Meinen

**Opening
Assembly:
September 8th
@ 8:45am**

Please join us in the church
sanctuary!

**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**



**IS ALSO ON
SEPTEMBER 8TH SO
BRING YOUR
SMILES!**

Back to School details

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

Melissa Kruisselbrink- grade1/2teacher@harvestschool.ca



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 2022-2023 calendar and older Connection Newsletters can be found on our school website ~ www.harvestschool.ca. You can also find the school supply list attached to this newsletter. If you want to stay current with what is happening at Harvest each and every week, be sure to **sign up for our weekly newsletter that is sent out via email (Google group)**. 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!

Staying Home if feeling unwell:

While there are no longer any Covid-19 protocols in place at Harvest, we ask that you continue to keep your children home if they are sick. While sharing is generally great, that is not the case with illnesses! If in doubt when it comes to keeping your child home, we ask that you err on the side of caution. Thanks in advance for your cooperation here.



Drop Off and Pick Up

To all our parents & grandparents who drop off or pick up students from the school, please note the follow 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 is a list on the wall in the staff room of the cleaning duties to complete and each room has a list by the door, please look for these.

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 5-9: Groeneveld, Ashlea & Andrew & Hutten, Curtis & Meghan

September 12-16: Gunnink, James & Jenn & Degelder, Ange

September 19-23: Hutten, Mark & Lindsay & Spanninga, Jeremy & Bonita

September 26-30: Hutten, Matt & Meaghan & Vanderploeg, Holly

(Please remember to take your own cleaning clothes; other supplies, cleaner and vacuum are in the school)



Supplies for 2022-2023

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