

Mission Statement >>>

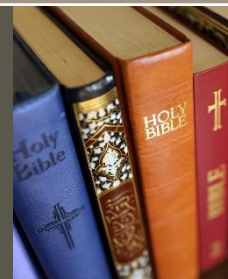
Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.



www.harvestschool.ca

Principal: James Meinen

Connection



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

Support Staff:

Mrs. B. Spanninga
Mrs. L. Kruisselbrink
Kindergarten: Mrs. Marg Spanninga & Mrs. Cathy Scheper

Education Committee >>>

Chair: Joanie Vis
Vice Chair: Jan Antuma
Secretary: Lindsay Hutten
Member: Janelle VanTol

Public Relations Committee >>>

Chair: Henrietta Groeneveld
Secretary: Meaghan Hutten
Member: Ashlea Groeneveld

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

Hebrews 11:1

From the Board

“Ask the Lord for rain in the spring, for He makes the storm clouds. And He will send showers of rain so every field becomes a lush pasture.”

Zechariah 10:1

With the temperatures rising and the snow melting it finally feels like spring is in the air. What a blessing it is that our faithful God sends us four seasons in which we can enjoy His creation. At school the crazy carpets and snow boards have been replaced with basketballs, skipping ropes, and baseball gloves. The grades 7 & 8's have wrapped up a successful basketball tournament and will now be working on their baseball and track and field skills. The entire school body continues to work tirelessly on the upcoming Pilgrims Progress play. It is going to be an exciting spring and we are reminded that it truly “takes a village” to make everything happen. We are so thankful for the staff, volunteers and parents at Harvest who all work together to make Harvest School a wonderful place to be.

There are a number of exciting things happening on the Board level. As we have heard on numerous occasions, the need for teachers in our schools is great. So it is with great thankfulness that all our teachers have received contracts and will be returning to Harvest next year. We will also be welcoming

Catherine Dejong to Harvest this September. The high school committee continues to work on a plan to get grade 9 & 10 off the ground for September. This is a large task, so please continue to remember them and their work in prayer that the Lord will bless this undertaking. We continue to hear positive reports from the Kindergarten classroom, and want to again thank Margaret and Cathy for all the hard work they are putting into this. We revisited the ‘snow day’ policy in February. Although it did seem as if school was cancelled every Thursday, we actually had less snow days this year than our average. When reviewing we looked at factors such as the large geographical area that parents are driving from, whose responsibility it would be to cancel school and the tension this may cause if there were differing opinions! It was decided to leave the policy as is for now and to revisit it annually in February.

This weekend, we will reflect on the death and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Through His act of love on the cross, He turned the inevitability of our eternal death, into the hope of eternal life! Praise be to God for His steadfast love for us! On behalf of the Board

Jordan Kruisselbrink, Chair

Treasurer's Report

As winter turns into spring and the sun starts to come around more often, so we are reminded of how our heavenly Father is in control, season after season, year after year. And that is also abundantly true in regards to His provision for Harvest School. The school finances remain in good shape, at this point we are running at a small surplus and anticipate finishing the year in that way. We've also had the Auction committee fundraiser monies come in the fall, which boosted our Capital Fund by another \$21,000. Many thanks to those who continue to support Harvest.

As we look forward, the work of

budgeting for next year begins in earnest. In a day and age with hyper-inflation the work of the board to keep costs in line gets even more important. With the staffing for the coming year mostly in place we are now able to finalize the budget. The challenging part this year is to determine what might be happening with the High School committee and its impact on the budget – see elsewhere for an update from them.

The other item that will have a financial impact is the addition of a portable. As we consider our options to add a portable it is becoming clear that we will have to dip into our capital fund in some measure. I'm sure we will have more to share as the year progresses. Thanks,

Neil Post, Treasurer
treasurer@harvestschool.ca

DONATIONS ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!

Please send e-transfers to treasurer@harvestschool.ca

See www.harvestschool.ca for rates

>>> From the Highschool Committee

The high school committee would like to update the membership regarding the activities and progress since the last formal update at the end of 2022. The work of determining the interest in and options for a high school at Harvest continues with some urgency.

Since our December Town Hall, the committee has worked with the input received, namely to look into adding a **full-time in-class Grade 9 + 10 at Harvest, with online or self directed courses as a interim solution.** The committee identified two key components that would need to be solved before we could logistically proceed with any scenario, namely staffing and class room space.

The committee then proceeded to produce a feasible plan for high school classes, with a potential curriculum. For the initial year, we are looking at a hybrid approach that will include courses taught by Mr.

Meinen (and potentially other teachers) as well some online courses. There will also be opportunities for parents (or other volunteers) to assist students or lead certain courses.

This info was sent as a survey to the parents of Grade 8 + 9 students. These surveys asked for input and feedback to the plan, also looking to clarify how many students we could potentially have in the first high school classes. We received a lot of good ideas/questions and responses were overwhelmingly in favour of proceeding.

The committee is reviewing this feedback and putting together a more detailed curriculum, reviewing online course options and plans to meet with parents at another **TOWN HALL MEETING on April 20th**. We will hopefully be able to send out some information prior to the meeting for review. Look for a email reminder prior to the meeting and parents of

Grade 8 + 9 students can expect a personal invite. Any other parents/donors are invited and welcome to attend.

The committee is also working with the board and the church's Committee of Administration to put a plan in place to buy or build a portable in the summer months. At this point there are no real feasible options to purchase a used portable, and a new portable would be cost prohibitive. We are considering the option of building a structure, utilizing the many construction talents in the community. A final decision on which option to take will need to be made shortly after the spring membership meeting.

Please continue to keep the work of the high school committee and board in your prayers as we look to finalize a plan to extend covenantal education to the higher grades. The Lord is working mightily and His plan for Harvest will be revealed in His time!

>>> From the Public Relations Committee

Greetings from Public Relations! We continue to see around us that God's mercies are new every morning. With the signs of spring, we see animal families gathering earthly supplies in preparation for new babies. We thank God for the budding trees that provide nesting supplies and their roots for supporting the soil for animal burrows. As God provides help for nature's creatures, he also gives our families everything we need to help our local school. Harvest School is an example of how all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose. Class activities have been blessed at Harvest over the last weeks. Everyone has been gathering supplies for our school play, watching maple trees produce sap for our future tasting pleasure, and

creating science projects together. The list goes on. Staff and parents work together in these daily Harvest functions, and community volunteers keep popping up to aid in the completion of tasks. We can see that our families are enthusiastic about raising up our next generation of students in the Lord's ways. As our Lord provides for nature, even more he gives to His people. *"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"* — Matthew 6:2 As a committee we were glad to create invitations to send to our broader community to come see Harvest put on the play on the Pilgrim's Progress. We are thankful to see that neighbors and friends will be

joining us. Thank you for your outreach this way! We look forward to welcoming them that night. With the new season, we also review our membership lists, and continue to reach out for Harvest support, both financially or through volunteering. We are so glad to report that many community members are helping in both these areas. Thank you to all! If you feel there is any other way we can support you, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us. Thank you to all who have done that more recently! Blessings to you all,

Ashlea Groeneveld

Henrietta Groeneveld

Meaghan Hutten

publicrelations@harvestschool.ca

From the Education Committee



It's so surprising how quickly time flies and once again we have a Connections magazine to prepare!!

The beginning part of a new year always brings with it a lot of busyness as the Board and EdCom prepare for teacher contracts for the next school year. This year we are once again thankful for our many returning staff members as well we welcome Katharine DeJong as a new staff member. Katharine is not unfamiliar to many of us in Owen Sound as she's been seen often on Sundays and this summer hopes to be married to Bryan DeGelder and move to our area officially. We look forward to getting to know her better in the coming year and hope to introduce her a little more in our next connections report.

In March the EdCom was also able to attend a curriculum night hosted by our own staff. This is an evening where the EdCom meets with staff and they present their curriculum work on a certain subject, this time we heard about math. Don't roll your eyes too quickly :) it was a fabulous presentation!!! The

staff has spent a lot of time addressing how to teach Math with a reformed perspective, not just a simple God created everything including numbers but this curriculum development goes right to the heart!

Each staff member has a series of wall signs that say:

1. God is the Creator of all things
2. God is a God of order
3. God is a God of beauty
4. God is a faithful God
5. And a 5th unwritten heading is God's dominion mandate

I never would have thought you could get all these things out of teaching math but to hear the staff present their lessons for their specific grades is amazing. God is constant, $1 + 1 = 2$, this is always true and the same. And even further we see God in the patterns in creation, think of flowers and butterflies, this is a simple, beautiful fact that even KG and Grade 1/2 can understand and see. Then to take things

further and deeper we see math in DNA! I actually don't do the presentation justice, you all need to ask a staff member to explain it better 😊. Even those that don't really like math or find it a struggle can see the beauty of math because of our Creator. The teachers don't fluff over the struggle of math that students can have, or even themselves! Students are encouraged that even in the hard things God is there and He is faithful and constant. What starts as a math lesson is something each child can carry into their life. Hard things are also part of a Christian life and it's ok and God is still the same and still beautiful even when we struggle to see it. We are very blessed with the staff here at Harvest, God has gifted them in their curriculum writing abilities, also as a team of individuals that work to His glory in His kingdom, and they have an obvious love for their students (our children!) and a desire to see them all succeed and grow to the praise of God.

On behalf of the Ed Com,

Joanie Vis

educationcommittee@harvestschool.ca



From the Principal



The arrival of spring a few weeks ago marks the start of the final stretch of the school year. It also marks a busy time here at Harvest with so many events and extra-curriculars taking place. In March alone students have: skated at Keady, skied and snowboarded at Blue Mountain, enjoyed clubs (playing games, making food, paper quilling, making bird houses), competed in basketball, participated in the science fair, checked out maple syrup production at the de Gelders, participated in badminton intramurals, been busy with play rehearsals, helped with set/costume design, celebrated 100 day, enjoyed a pancake day, and of course been busy with all the regular subject work. Almost all these fun extracurriculars involved many parents and supporters volunteering their time to help. A big thank you goes out to our amazing volunteers who help make Harvest a great place to be. We are so blessed.

Here in the school one of the big tasks the staff is always busy with is working hard to ensure our reformed worldview permeates everything we do. Every year the staff focus on digging into one subject area and striving to make sure our reformed worldview comes through in our instruction. Over the past few years work has been done in Social Studies, Language Arts and Science. This year the staff have decided to focus on math. Math is one subject area where teachers (and parents) can sometimes struggle to teach in a way that points to God. If you were asked by your son or daughter (or grandchildren) how to do you see God in math, how would you answer?

Well here at Harvest, we often begin

by teaching the students that there are two ways we can learn about God: through His Word and His Creation (Belgic Confession Article 2). When studying God's Creation, we can see that math is a foundational part of it and undergirds all subject areas. When you really dig into biology, chemistry, astronomy, geography, and physics you will find mathematical laws and constants. In the 17th and 18th century mathematicians called these mathematical constants divine laws. These mathematicians realized: "in some sense (the divine laws) are not part of the universe because they control how matter behaves, but they are not themselves matter." And what stood out to many who studied these divine laws was how beautiful they were. As Paul Dirac said, "God used beautiful mathematics in creating the world." Math indeed shows us that God is a God who delights in beauty. This is one of the attributes of God that the study of math reveals. Some other attributes of God that math reveals (and we focus on at Harvest) are:

1. God is the Creator of all things. *Since God created everything, He created math too. This does not mean that God created the symbols we write, but He created the consistency those symbols represent.*
2. God is a God of order. *Math is a language that allows us to express and comprehend this order as a set of rules based on the laws that God has put in place. It allows students to see the patterns of this created order in many aspects of their daily life as well as in their other studies.*

3. God is a God of beauty. *Pure mathematical theories reveal beautiful glimpses of a perfectly designed world by a Perfect Designer.*
4. God is a faithful God. *The way God holds everything together according to fixed laws demonstrates that He is a covenant-keeping God. His consistency in keeping one plus one equaling two serves as a continual testimony of His loyalty, reliability, faithfulness, and loving kindness. (excerpt from Harvest's Math Rationale)*

It would be great to unpack all four attributes, but space limits me to one. So how do students at Harvest see beauty in math? Well in almost all math units there are opportunities for the students to see beauty in shapes, mathematical formulas, ratios, rates, sequences and patterns (grade 1/2 has found some amazing patterns in the 1-100 number chart). While at times teachers point out the beauty in the math we are studying, more often than not, our hope is students can explore concepts and discover the beauty on their own. Leading questions and having student tackle various challenges help here. For example:

1. Crosswords are beautiful! What do you see when you really look? (Hint: think symmetry) Why are crosswords made this way?
2. Why are manhole covers round? What is special about this beautiful shape?
3. What happens when you multiply or divide numbers by 11?
4. What do credit cards, hurricanes, sunflowers, the Mona Lisa, nautilus shells, spiral galaxies all have in common?

From the Principal continued...

Recently in my class, students had a chance to draw repeating decimals and see that some repeating decimals were particularly beautiful! There is nothing better in math class than having a student get excited about a beautiful pattern they discovered or created using what they learned. Such

discoveries really remind me of scientists who often marvel that the best mathematical formulations are usually the most beautiful. Almost all research mathematicians pepper their description of important mathematical works with terms like “unexpected,” “elegance,” “simplicity,” and “beauty.”

When studying math at Harvest, it is our hope students will leave seeing that our God is a God who delights in beauty. A God who created a beautiful universe. As Psalm 19:1 states, “*The heavens are telling the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.*”

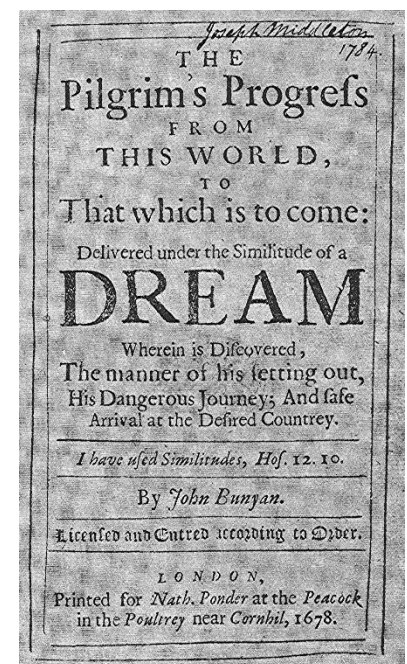
In The School



Here at school several exciting events recently wrapped up. We hosted a grade 7/8 Science Fair and grade 3/4 showcased their marble runs. Congratulations goes out Cadence and Jenna who finished in first place with their project on Hair Dye and Anya and Lydia who finished in second place with their project on the Effects of Music. Both these groups will go on to represent Harvest at the LCRSS Science Fair in April. The senior students also wrapped up their

basketball season last week. The team did great and came incredibly close to winning the final (losing by a buzzer beater!) Well done grade 7/8.

The next big event at Harvest is of course our major play Pilgrim's Progress. Sets have been made, costumes designed, lines rehearsed, songs memorized, and lights and sound sorted out. The staff and students could never have put this play together on their own and we thank the many, many volunteers who have helped get us ready for our big performance next week.



Staffing notes...

With the arrival of a new baby, Mrs. VanAndel stepped away from teaching kindergarten afternoons in December. We are so thankful for all the work Mrs. VanAndel has done to get kindergarten off the ground. In Mrs. VanAndel's absence, Mrs. Scheper has stepped in to teach kindergarten afternoons. It is a blessing having her join the kindergarten teaching team and help teach Harvest's youngest students. The other part of that team is of course, Mrs. Margaret Spanninga who takes on the bulk of kindergarten

instruction. She has jumped right into the role, not only planning and teaching, but also joining other kindergarten teachers for Professional Development days. Thank you kindergarten teachers! The only other staffing change that will take place in the near future is Mrs. Van Tol going on maternity leave. With Mrs. Van Tol gone, grade 2 will join grade one for math and language arts for the final portion of the school year. We wish Mrs. Van Tol the Lord's blessings in her task as a mother and are grateful for having such an excellent teacher on staff.

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 we work to support parents the raising the next generation in the fear of His Name.

James Meinen

principal@harvestschool.ca

>>> Grade 7/8 Science Fair

On March 1st of this year, Harvest opened its doors to its biannual Grade 7&8 Science Fair! It was a pleasure to have so many members of our community come out to support the senior students of Harvest. The students worked on their projects for many long hours and they did a terrific job engaging in scientific conversation with the audience, explaining their research, experiments, and conclusions. The best part of all was coming to the conclusion that not a single area of science is outside of the realm of God's creation. Every electrolyte, brain cell, creature, eyeball, strand of hair, molecule; indeed, every atom is sustained by His providential care. To God be the glory for all the great things He has done!

Congratulations, first of all, to all the students for their incredible effort they put into their projects. Bryson De Jager and Derrick Scheper did their project on hydraulics, designing and building their own hydraulic lift. Anthony Flikweert and Reid Groeneveld studied electromagnetics and successfully made their own electromagnet. Cooper Kruisselbrink and Curtis Gunnink learned all about electrolytes and discovered the best recovery drink for athletes (you will have to ask them, if you're curious!). Jenna Kruisselbrink and Cadence Meinen studied the effects of hair dye. Madelyn Spanninga and Ava Vis learned a lot about human's environmental impact and how to take care of the creation God has given to us. Noah Spanninga and Burke de Gelder studied the human eye and learned about a disease called glaucoma. Lydia Degelder and Anya Hutten researched the effect of music and conducted an experiment studying the physical and emotional impact of select songs on people of various ages. Tessa Flikweert researched cat eyes and learned all about how they perceive colour! As you can see, we covered quite a variety of scientific topics!

We are thankful for the hard work of the judges, who, as you can imagine, agonized greatly over the results. In the end, we were excited to congratulate Curtis and Cooper (3rd place), Anya and Lydia (2nd place), and Cadence and Jenna (1st place)! These six students plan, the Lord willing, to proceed to the League of Canadian Reformed Schools Science Fair in Fergus on April 22. We wish them the very best there!









He is risen!

He is Risen
We will walk with him
one day! 


He is Risen
NOW our sins are forgiven


He is Risen
NOW we have
eternal life


He is Risen
now we can live
forever!


He is Risen
NOW death is defeated


He is Risen
NOW we can trust
God's promise!


He is Risen
NOW he sent
us out of death


He is Risen
Now I am free of sin!
He is gone!


He is Risen
Now I can go to
heaven!


He is Risen
Now all kings
will bow down
to Him


He is Risen
Now we can
rejoice. Amen


He is Risen
Now we have the
Holy Spirit
