

Mission Statement >>>

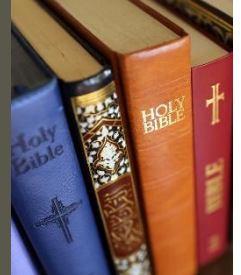
Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.



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 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

Well, the 2022/23 school year has now come to a close. The classrooms are empty, backpacks and lunch boxes put away, hopefully everyone will soon be enjoying the 'dog days of summer'!

On behalf of the school board, we want to once again thank all those who continue to support Harvest Christian school, whether it be through volunteering in the school, on committees, financially and especially through prayer. Thank you also for the many people who helped source and transport the portable and play center, brought materials and equipment and or came out on the workday. It was wonderful to see so many come together in different ways for a common goal. We got a lot accomplished, but we still have more to do before the school year starts, so stay tuned...

We would like to again thank Rachel Sikkema, for all she has done for the school over the years. She will be

greatly missed, and we wish her the Lord's blessing in Alberta. As Ashlea is working away at stepping into the admin position, the board is pleased to announce that Joanie Vis will be taking over as bookkeeper. Thanks again ladies for filling these important duties within the school!

This fall is going to be exciting with kindergarten starting its second year, and the new grade 9/10 high school beginning. On that note, we would like to wish the staff and students a relaxing, fun and safe summer holiday. Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Jordan Kruisselbrink, Chair
boardchair@harvestschool.ca



Treasurer's Report

As another school and fiscal year draws to a close at Harvest we are reminded once again that the Lord provides. The year began with a projected deficit and we will end the year with a surplus. The Highschool idea was just that - an idea, yet within a year the Lord has blessed our plans and provided all things necessary so that we are the point of planning for our first class in September. We were stressing about finding a portable in a tough market, yet found one at auction and managed to purchase it. Add in a new staff member, and new to us playground and many new supporters and donors joining in supporting Harvest and we must all stand in awe of how the Lord provides.

Over the summer months, the board

and committees are working hard to get everything ready for highschool in the fall. The new playground is mostly installed and the portable is to be installed in the first week of July. We will continue to need some volunteers to complete these projects so let us know how you can help! Many thanks to the 15+ volunteers who assisted last Saturday on the workday and those who arranged to lend some equipment to be used. It was truly humbling to see the response to the changes being undertaken.

Fees for 2023-2024 Starting July 1, 2023

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Parent 1 (Gr. 1-4) | \$800.00 |
| Parent 2 (Gr. 5+) | \$940.00 |
| General | \$340.00 |
| Single/Retired | \$185.00 |
| Student | \$60.00 |

The additional costs of these items have mostly been covered by extra donations and the Auction proceeds, but the board is looking into other options to keep these costs from affecting the operating budgets and parental dues.

And finally keep in mind a couple dates... the new fee structure will come into effect July 1st, and the Harvest Endowment Tuition Assistance Fund deadline is July 31st. If there are any concerns or questions please feel free to reach out to me. Thanks,

Neil Post, Treasurer
treasurer@harvestschool.ca

>>> From the Public Relations Committee

As our school year has come to an end, we see God's continued faithfulness at Harvest. He has been so good to us this past year. Our school is growing and flourishing, we are so thankful for the continued support of our membership. As a PR committee we want to encourage and support our school. We want others to know and see and enjoy this wonderful gift of Reformed education. Throughout the year we review the membership and encourage others to become members. We have been blessed with so much support from members and donors!

We have had the opportunity to share in the big production of Pilgrim's Progress. What an incredible event to be a part of! Grandparent's Day was a

great time, enjoyed by us all. We are so thankful for the support of our grandparents. It's so beautiful that throughout the generations, God is at the center of our lives. Our aim is to continue to tell the generations to come, about the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

We were thankful to hear about the work of the EdCom with the new core values. Thank you James for your explanation of banana bread at our annual membership meeting. We are so blessed to know that in our school, every subject showcases how great our God is. That He is a God of order and beauty found in patterns and design. We can be so thankful to know that our children are being instructed with the Word open, for the Word is alive.

We have a lot to be thankful for and much to be excited about! With the addition of Grade 9&10 being added to Harvest, we will be reaching out to our broader community looking for support. We hope that you can be a part of reaching that community!

Thank you membership and donors for being generous in your giving, your prayers, your words of encouragement and for seeing the immeasurable value of Reformed Education. God is so good and faithful. Have a great summer!

On behalf of the PR Committee,

Meaghan Hutten
publicrelations@harvestschool.ca

From the Education Committee



What an amazing school year we have had! Such an incredible blessing from our Heavenly Father, we are so thankful to Him for this!

The EdCom continues to be busy behind the scenes updating and reviewing curriculum as well as other tasks that will help our staff and students continue to be able to serve and learn to the glory of God.

We have recently started to review and discuss the grade 7/8 History & Geography curriculum. With the many changes in borders and population and so many other things our Geography textbooks have become sadly outdated in information which makes it difficult to teach. We are currently reviewing what other schools in our Christian community are using. This is often a first step in our curriculum process as all our league schools review curriculum regularly and are so eager to share with other schools what they have worked hard to research and develop. This is such a fabulous way to serve each other in our broader Christian community. We have also each spent a few hours reviewing an historical, Canadian movie series. It is not always easy to find these kinds of resources that are aimed specifically at Canadian history. These videos proved to be very interesting and will be able to be used in the grade 7/8 and possibly 5/6 curriculum. Part of the review process is discussing how to be prepared to deal with difficult topics,

such as the violence that happened as a part of war, or biased opinions in culture and lifestyle. Although we may wish for our children not to know or experience these things we are living in a sinful, broken world and as we aim to glorify God and be a light in the world we are better serving God, our children and the world around us by teaching about how to view and deal with these difficult subjects from a loving, Christian perspective. In this area we have been very blessed at Harvest with a staff that loves God and our children and teaches all these things out of that love.

The EdCom continues to review and update policies and handbooks. This year we have focused a good amount of time on some discipline policies as well as Special Ed policies. There is always room for growth and improvement in how we can help and serve our students, staff and greater community through the work done at Harvest.

We continue to build on the core values at Harvest and are working with an advertising/marketing company on displaying this in our school. In connection to this we hope to also update our website as the one we currently use is outdated and we are no longer able to update and access the information there easily. We hope to build a more user friendly website with a parent portal to have more access to documents and such.

This past month has also brought about the exciting news of going forward with

the expansion of our school to include High School. What an amazing gift from God! This has been a long dreamed and discussed topic and we are thankful for the progress to this point. We know we have a long road ahead but we will continue to trust God and work together in these plans. The adhoc high school committee has done so much wonderful work to research and prepare the curriculum and plans for these grades. Thank you so much to them for their hard work! Although they aren't going anywhere we do hope to transition the curriculum work to the EdCom as this is part of our task. Along with this, during the summer the EdCom will address some necessary policy changes to include high school students.

And finally we would like to congratulate our fellow EdCom member Janelle (and Brent) with the birth of a healthy son, Seth! God is so good! We wish you wisdom, blessing and strength from God for your task as parents and are thankful for your gifts in teaching and that you are able to contribute time and wisdom on the EdCom.

We wish everyone a blessed and restful summer holidays and look forward to a new school year in September 2023!!.

On behalf of the Ed Com,

Joanie Vis

educationcommittee@harvestschool.ca



»»» From the Principal

Another year is in the books here at Harvest! After a flurry of year end trips, sporting events, and a whole lot of schoolwork, the year wrapped up with graduation last Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many join us to celebrate the graduation of Burke, Lydia, Tessa, Cadence, Curtis, Anya, and Derrick. Congratulations graduates!

In looking back upon this past year, we can see that we have been richly blessed. This year Harvest officially started kindergarten, bumping our school population from fifty-eight students to sixty-seven students. Harvest was blessed with a full complement of staff and the funds needed to operate. We continue to be blessed to have a school that is built upon the foundation of God's Word – a school that permeates all subject areas with our Christian worldview (a banana bread school!) There is so much to be thankful for.

But what I really want to shine a spotlight on in this report is our volunteers. Without our amazing volunteer support, Harvest would not be able to operate. It is always an interesting exercise to count all the volunteers we have at Harvest and compare that number to the school

population. If you add up all those who serve on committees, volunteer in the classroom, volunteer for special events, drive on trips, help in the library, and help on workdays, the number surpasses that of our student population!

The other blessing of this volunteer support is that your volunteering teaches the students something about what it means to be a Christian. Children are visual learners, and the most powerful lessons are the ones they see. A recent study suggests that eighty percent of everything children learn in the first twelve years of their lives is through their eyes. So, what do the students learn when they see so many volunteer at Harvest? In the first place they see that they are loved and cared for by a community. Secondly, seeing others volunteer teaches the students that life is not all about me. They see that the Christian life is not just about head knowledge, but that knowledge should move our hearts and lead our hands to action. The students see how our church community does not just preach the importance of serving others, they see service in action.

Jason Bouwman in his book "Still Thinking" touches upon the importance of Christian community. On a page that focuses on community

there is a little timeline with dependent/birth on one end and dependent/death on the other end. In the middle is the word independent with the "in" crossed out. Next to the graphic he quotes Paul Tripp "*I do not always like the idea of Christian community. First it tells me that I'm not the independent person I think I am... God ordained Christian community precisely because I can't face life on my own.*" Bouwman then writes "*We are designed for community, commanded to share each other's burdens and warned against isolating ourselves (Proverbs 18:1).*" Harvest reflects that community. A community coming together to assist parents in telling the next generation his praiseworthy deeds.

That great volunteer support has also been instrumental in helping get ready for the first ever grade 9/10 classes here at Harvest. Significant work has happened behind the scenes and continues to happen to have everything in place for September. This past Saturday it was wonderful seeing so many people out prepping the property for the portable, moving the old playground and installing a new playground. A lot of work will still be needed between now and the start of next year and I am sure you may see an email or two come your way asking for your help.



From the Principal continued...

With this year wrapping up we also say goodbye to some of our teaching staff. Mrs. Van Tol finished teaching here at Harvest this Spring just before the birth of their second child, Seth. While Mrs. Van Tol will not be teaching here at Harvest next year, we are blessed to have her stay involved at Harvest as a member of the Education Committee. We also say goodbye to Mrs. Lee Ann

Kruisselbrink who stepped up to take on various teaching roles this year. Her willingness to teach from grade 1 to grade 8 and cover subjects from PE to Church History has been very much appreciated. Finally, we say good-bye to Mrs. Sikkema who has served as the office administrator and bookkeeper for more years than I have been at Harvest! For most of those years, Mrs.

Sikkema took on all that work as a volunteer and we are so thankful for the many hours she devoted to Harvest to help ensure everything ran smoothly behind the scenes. Mrs. Sikkema will be missed! We wish you the Lord's blessings in Edmonton and in your new leadership administration role at Parkland Immanuel Christian School.



Looking Ahead...

As one year wraps up, we quickly look ahead to the year to come. Next year we will have a few minor changes in staffing. Ms. Katherine DeJong (soon to be Mrs. Degelder) will be teaching grade two Language Arts and Math, grade 1/2 on Fridays and when she is not instructing our primary students, she will be teaching grade 5/6. This frees me up to teach grade 9/10 and I will be covering the grade 5/6 classes that Ms. Dejong does not teach. In high school semester one, Mrs. Bonita

Spanninga will be teaching art, Mrs. Sarah deGelder will teach our Food and Nutrition course and Mrs. Gunnink will be teaching/coordinating PE classes.

The calendar for the 2023-2024 school year can be found on our school website. Of note, our first day of school is set for September 5. For those who would like to get ready for another school year well in advance you can also find a list of required school supplies in this newsletter (we will also publish this list in the August Connection).

To wrap things up, the staff and I wanted to thank the membership and community for all the wonderful support we have received this past year. Your words of encouragement, prayers, baking, and cards are greatly appreciated. We are blessed to feel the support of the communion of saints in such a tangible way. We wish everyone a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone back at Harvest this fall!

James Meinen

principal@harvestschool.ca



Save the Date...

Cleaning
August
28 – 30

CLASS OF
2023
★ CONGRATULATIONS ★



Kindergarten
2023
GRADUATE



Supplies for 2023-2024

This list is updated from previous years, please ensure your children have everything on this list.

Kindergarten (all classroom supplies are shared)

- 2 large glue sticks
- 1 box Kleenex
- 1 pack baby wipes (unscented)
- 2 bingo dabbers
- 8 pack Crayola crayons
- 8 pack Crayola markers
- Extra set of clothes
- Non-marking indoor running shoes
- Backpack
- Water bottle to stay at school

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 (optional)
- 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) – ONLY Gr. 5/6
- Scientific Calculator (Only *Gr. 7/8 – needs to have a Fraction function*)
- School bag
- Deodorant – no spray
- Lined paper

Grades 9-10 – Remainder of list to be updated once available

- Book of Praise
- Reformation Study Bible