

**Mission Statement >>>**

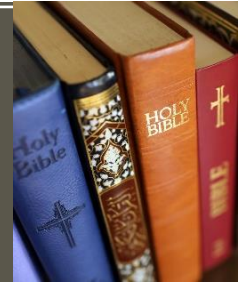
Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.



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

Principal: James Meinen

# Connection



**School Board >>>**

Chairman: 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 – Mrs. K DeGelder  
Grade 7-8 – Miss A. Hutten  
Principal – Mr. J. Meinen

**Support Staff:**

Mrs. B. Spanninga  
Mrs. L. Kruisselbrink  
Mrs. S. deGelder  
Kindergarten: Mrs. Margaret Spanninga

**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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1 John 4:11 NKJV

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

## From the Board

As the saying goes, “all good things must come to an end”, and so it is the same with summer. However, the end of summer this year also means the beginning of an exciting new school year with the new grade 9 and 10 classes! The school yard and grounds do not look the same as when school was let out in June. The playground, landscaping and refurbished portable are the result of many hours of hard work from willing volunteers. Thank you to all those who helped out in so many ways, big and small. In September 2022 a high school committee was formed, in December 2022 we had our first town hall meeting to discuss interest in starting a high school and now in September 2023, the doors of that high school will be opened. Praise God for His providential hand in guiding so many steps in this process, for without Him, this would not have been possible. With high school beginning, the ‘high school committee’ has now been dissolved, and so we’d like to thank those on the committee for laying the groundwork and getting this

ball rolling. In the realm of strategic planning, we continue to work at the External School Review (which was published in the December 2022 Connection) for our 5-year plan. We continue to strive to maintain the original ‘areas of strength’, as well as work on some of the ‘areas of further growth’. A lot of our time this past year has been spent organizing and getting the high school off the ground. Now with a high school underway, and a new minister on our pulpit we are focussing our attention on where to fit all the new families that will be moving to our area! We’d like to welcome Katharine Degelder to our Harvest staff. Katharine will mostly be in the grade 5/6 classroom, but will also be teaching in the grade 1 / 2 classroom on Fridays. Katharine, we are so glad to have you at Harvest, and pray that you will feel well supported by our community. Welcome back staff and students! We hope that you have had a restful summer and are ready to start a new school year.



On behalf of the Board,  
*Jordan Kruisselbrink*, Chair  
[boardchair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:boardchair@harvestschool.ca)

# Treasurer's Report

And just like that the summer is over and a new school year begins!

A typically slow summer became a busy summer with the addition of the portable and playground. It has been very encouraging seeing how the membership has come together to assist in getting this project done. We've seen that on the financial side as well. In addition to the earlier reported donation that covered the cost of the portable purchase, we have recently received a targeted donation to cover the costs of the new High School computer lab! All of these extra donations have allowed us to fund the expansion/upgrades without dipping into our capital fund

too much.

There is so much to be thankful for! The Lord continues to provide for Harvest in so many ways!

Looking forward, the board will continue to wrestle with the topic of capital expansion. The church's COA has been working hard on a design that addresses the current and future needs of the church and has asked the board for input.

The proposed design is an integrated design that requires both

## Fees for 2023-2024

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

membership's approval. And so the discussion begins... do we need to expand... or when do we think we need to expand? And if we need to expand...how do we do that, how much will it cost, how much can we raise vs. how much can we borrow and add the payments to the operating budget. All these topics require much thought, input from the membership and prayer. Watch for further opportunities to give feedback and feel free to talk to any of the board members if you have any thoughts on this.

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

## >>> From the Public Relations Committee

Welcome to staff and students!

We give a special greeting to our grade 9 & 10 students! It is a gift from our Lord to reach this milestone in the Owen Sound community. We are thankful for God's blessing in our faithful staff, members, and the community at large for believing in reformed instruction and therefore striving together to include grade 9 & 10 at Harvest. We pray for direction in our first high school year and hope that our staff feel encouraged in all their work! We love to share with our community just how special it is to have reformed teaching at

Harvest as they help move in our children, a heartfelt longing to serve their Maker! Harvest continues to remain rooted in God's Word, sharing in our Biblical values, and strives to reach each student personally in their learning. Please join us during assemblies, our open house in the fall, sports events, special events such as Grandparents Day or Field Day, and witness the light of our Lord shining in the students as they sing His praises, and give each other a helping hand. The calendar of events can be found on our website.

Volunteer opportunities are a great way to feel included in this school. Please see us for assistance in this! Lastly, we thank those in our community who have become members, or regular donors for Harvest in the last months. Jesus taught us what it means to have a servant's heart in how he cared for other's needs, and showed his devotion to his Heavenly Father. We are grateful for the devotion our community has given to reformed education! Thank you and blessings in the 2023-2024 school year!

On behalf of Public Relations,  
*Henrietta Groeneveld*  
[publicrelations@harvestschool.ca](mailto:publicrelations@harvestschool.ca)

# From the Education Committee



Wow! We are once again looking forward to the start of a new school year in a few days time! What a blessing to be able to educate our children in the fear of the Lord here at Harvest!! We hope everyone has had a restful and enjoyable summer vacation.

This summer has been a busy one around the school building with many volunteers coming and going preparing our property for the portable and the expansion of Harvest to include grade 9 and 10. So many thanks to all who have helped physically around the building and property, financially supporting these changes and prayerfully in our homes. What an incredible witness to what it is to be a community in the Lord who long to love and serve each other, much like our new school theme text will remind us this year.

We are thankful to welcome back most of our staff from last year. Mr. Meinen our fearless leader, principal, grade 5/6 teacher and this year also grade 9/10 teacher. Miss Hutten our grade 7/8 teacher, music teacher for several grades and new tech genius prepping all the chromebooks for grade 7/8 last year and 9/10 this year. Miss DeHaan in grade 3 and 4, she is often the calm and caring staff member holding down the middle grades and preparing the students for the big change into senior grades. Mrs. Melissa Kruisselbrink is again in grade 1 / 2 with her quiet loving presence she welcomes our youngest students into the regular routines of everyday classes and all the new things in the 'big school'.

This year we want to give an especially warm welcome to a new staff member, Mrs. Katharine

DeGelder, newly married and moved into Owen Sound. Although we have seen her around for a while we are so excited to officially welcome you to our school and our congregation in Owen Sound. We hope you will feel at home here quickly! We are excited to have Mrs. DeGelder teaching in grade 5/6 and 1 / 2.

We also welcome some part-time and volunteer teachers at Harvest . We are so excited to continue to be able to offer kindergarten to the smallest school age children in our congregation and Mrs. Margaret Spanninga will be leading the way in this classroom. We are so thankful for her willingness to teach KG and not just to teach but to strive to grow and learn and improve her skills by connecting with other KG teachers as well as using the LCRSS resources and learning days. Mrs. Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink will be teaching in grade 1 and 2 to allow for these primary grades to have the necessary separate time in Math and LA to develop these skills that are so essential to there further education. With the addition of High School we also welcome some specialized teachers. Mrs. Bonita Spanninga will teach Art and Mrs. Sarah deGelder will teach Food and Nutrition. Both of them have spent many countless hours writing curriculum, planning classes, meeting with other high school teachers and attending a learning seminar at the Teachers College in order to be able to teach our grade 9/10 students! Thank you for your hard work, we are excited to have you teaching at Harvest!

When you make a list there is always the fear that someone gets over-looked. We have so many volunteers at Harvest and are so thankful for all of them!! We would also like to acknowledge those who are in seasons of life where they are

called to be busy in other places, thank you for the work you do in those places that allows some to be working here in Harvest. God has blessed us with so many different people who have so many different gifts and talents.

As we continue to plan for the year ahead we can remember with thankfulness how God has carried us.

We wish everyone a blessed new school year!!

On behalf of the Education Committee,

*Joanie Vis*, Chair

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

## Save the Date!

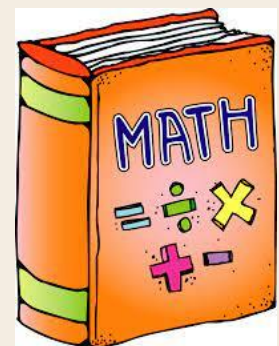
**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

You are invited to Harvest's Annual Open House.

The evening begins at 7:30. The focus this year will be on our math program.

Come out for an interactive evening where you will learn about and experience the math instruction here at Harvest. After the math presentation, you are welcome to tour the classrooms and chat with the staff.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!



## »» From the Principal

As we get ready to start a new year at Harvest, we step into uncharted territory for our school with the addition of grade 9/10. After years of talking about the need for a high school, it is exciting to see our community come together to make this happen. The analogy I have often thought of when starting a new venture like this is that of pioneers. The feelings they would have experienced of excitement and

trepidation are not that different from the feelings of some of us. Going into something new will have its challenges, but there is also something beautiful about being the first to lay the groundwork for those to come.

So, with these “pioneery” thoughts, I thought the summer would be a great opportunity to read about pioneers here in Canada. There is one massive tome on pioneers that has been on my to read list for many years entitled *A Furrow Laid Bare*. This thousand-page book recounts the story of our sister church in Neerlandia, Alberta. In the early 1900’s several families ventured from the Netherlands to northern Alberta to start a settlement in an area that was uninhabited. What

becomes abundantly clear in their history is that without the support of everyone working together, they never would have been able to survive those early years and settle the land. The importance of everyone working together is not so different than now. Without so many of you donating significant time, lending your equipment and expertise, and donating financially, both kindergarten and grade 9/10 at Harvest would not be possible. Thank you to all those who have helped and continue to help. It is truly a blessing to be in a community where everyone works together to help tell the next generation God’s praiseworthy deeds.

What also really spoke to me in *A Furrow Laid Bare*, was the explanation of why the authors chose the title. As we get set to begin a new year, and begin a new venture at Harvest, these opening words are

worth sharing. A furrow is a vision, a hope, a dream, a beginning, a frontier, a challenge, a promise, an achievement, and a way of life. It’s like the dawn, breaking forth, opening on the birth of a new day [...] *A Furrow Laid Bare* is a furrow laid open to reveal fresh, moist, fertile soil –

ready to welcome the rays of warm golden sunshine, to drink in the penetrating rain – waiting to be fed with seed or kernel, while anticipating

wonderful miracles to occur and lending hope for an abundant harvest. It’s an annual event, an on-going process year after year, coupled with faith and prayer. We plant and seed while God provides the increase in all areas of life. Think of a furrow as only a small portion of any farm, but many furrows make a field.

So our church community is only a small part in God’s vast creation, a small but important piece of the entire mosaic. We work faithfully here, cultivating an environment where our children can learn about God in all subject areas. We can set up a K-10 school, we can work hard to make sure our instruction is permeated with God’s Word, where our biblical teaching falls like a gentle rain, but like the farmers we depend on God to bless our work. And as we begin a new year, our prayer is that He will indeed bless our work at Harvest and in turn help equip this next generation to serve Him faithfully as prophets, priests and kings.

Join us at our Opening Assembly!  
Tuesday, September 5 at 8:45  
All are welcome!



## From the Principal continued...

### In the School

With the addition of grade 9/10 and kindergarten starting its second year, Harvest's student population sits at 80 students this year. Of those 80 students, eight are attending Harvest for the first time! A special welcome goes out to our new kindergarten students: Tyson, Brian, Colton, Teagan and Lauren. Welcome also Hannah (grade 3), Ellie (grade 5) and Emily (grade 9). We also welcome back all the teaching staff from last year along with a few newcomers. Welcome Mrs. Katharine DeGelder who will be teaching grade 5/6 and teaching grade 1/2 on Thursday afternoons

and Fridays. And welcome Mrs. Sarah deGelder who will be teaching grade 9/10 Food and Nutrition in semester one. The other teaching arrangements this year are: Mrs. M. Spanninga in Kindergarten, Mrs. M. Kruisselbrink grade 1/2, Mrs. L. Kruisselbrink grade 2 Language Arts and Math, Ms. DeHaan grade 3/4, Ms. Hutten grade 7/8, Mr. Meinen grade 9/10 and grade 5/6 Thursday afternoons and Fridays, and finally Mrs. Bonita Spanninga will be teaching grade 9/10 Art in semester one. A huge thanks goes out in advance to those on the teaching staff who are volunteering their time to teach here at Harvest.

We are so blessed to have your commitment!

This year we also welcome Mrs. Ashlea Groeneveld as the new Office Administrator and Mrs. Joanie Vis as the new Bookkeeper. We are blessed to have you both working behind the scenes making sure Harvest runs well.

Our year is set to officially begin on September 5th. Please join us on that day for our Opening Assembly

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 be found on the school website.

*James Meinen*

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





The Harvest School grounds are looking beautiful these days! It's been an eventful summer at our location. From the excavators, loaders and skidsteers to the shovels, many tools hit the dirt in order to prepare for our 2023-2024 school year. Our prayer in the beginning of this summer was to make a spot for a portable which will give opportunity for learning for grades 9 & 10. Many helping hands came together to accomplish this goal, with the special addition of a new playground for student enjoyment! This was all made possible by the Lord blessing the labour of our hands, and the willingness of so many of you to take time on weekdays, nights, and weekends to bring it all together. It looks great! Our community continues to show the love of reformed education for our children. In all our labour may we praise our Lord for all He has given us at Harvest Christian School! Thank you so much!

*Pete Groeneveld*, Maintenance



The staff and board at Campfire! and Harvest would like to thank everyone who helped make the Cleanup Fundraiser a success. Many people helped in many different ways for this fundraiser and we thank everyone for working to raise money for our student fund. Our student fund covers field trips, sports and club, year end trips and more and the students are looking forward to enjoying these events!

Thank you!



### ***Harvest School News***

Welcome back students, staff and parents! As we are set to begin a new year there may be a few documents you are looking for!. Most documents such as school supplies, our 2023-2024 calendar and older Connection Newsletters can be found on our school website ~ [www.harvestschool.ca](http://www.harvestschool.ca).

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).

Please send your email address Ashlea Groeneveld at [ashleagroeneveld@harvestschool.ca](mailto:ashleagroeneveld@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!



# We're Going Back To School



## *Drop Off and Pick Up*

Welcome back!

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. School begins at 8:30 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. School pick up is at 3:15 p.m.
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 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.

Thank you, families, for your willingness to help in this way!

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.

Sept 5 - 8	Mark and Lindsay Hutten	Ryan and Jennica Doan
Sept 11-15	Jordan and Lee-Ann Kruisselbrink	Curtis and Meghan Hutten
Sept 18-22	Jan and Rosalie Antuma	Dave and Julia Feensta

If you need to switch your day or week with another family, please let Jenn Gunnink know.

**Jenn is our daily school cleaner. If you have any questions, please contact her at [jenngunnink@gmail.com](mailto:jenngunnink@gmail.com)**

*Margaret Spanninga is offering her cleaning services if you are not able to school clean for your assigned week. For school cleaning on Tuesday and Thursday the charge is \$25/day and \$50 for the Friday cleaning. Please call her in advance if you would like her services.*

## Upcoming Dates



Tuesday, September 5	First Day of School and Opening Assembly
Friday, September 8	Picture Day!
Thursday, September 28	Open House @ 7:30
Thursday, October 5	Thanksgiving Assembly
Friday, October 6	P.D. #1
Friday, October 20	Harvest Table Dinner Fundraiser



*Please join us for a*  
**Harvest Table Dinner**  
**FRIDAY OCT 20.23**  
**6:30 IN THE GYM**  
*A night of*  
*celebrating and*  
**FUNDRAISING FOR OUR**  
*new High School*

We are excited to share our new fundraising effort that we are calling “Harvest Table”  
A combination of thanksgiving for our ongoing harvest and blessings to get our new  
High School off the ground.  
Please save the date of *Friday October 20*  
for this dinner.  
Time: 6:30 DV  
Email: [sarahdegelder@harvestschool.ca](mailto:sarahdegelder@harvestschool.ca)  
Price: Donation  
Location: Harvest Gym.  
Please add your prayers to this fundraising event as we seek to serve the school and support our students.

*Please contact us with any questions or concerns!*

### **Harvest E-Mails**

Anne Hutten [annehutten@harvestschool.ca](mailto:annehutten@harvestschool.ca)  
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Board Chair [boardchair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:boardchair@harvestschool.ca)  
Board Secretary [boardsecretary@harvestschool.ca](mailto:boardsecretary@harvestschool.ca)  
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