

## Mission Statement >>>

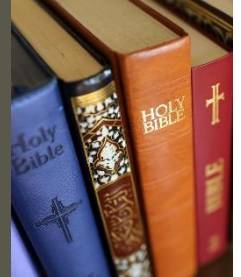
Our aim is to assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word as we confess that in the Three Forms of Unity, to equip and assist them in developing their individual gifts and talents for a joyful life of responsible stewardship to God's glory.



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

## Education Committee >>>

Chair: Joanie Vis  
Vice Chair: Jenn Gunnink  
Secretary: Janelle VanTol  
Member: Lindsay Hutten

## Public Relations Committee >>>

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

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**“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” 1 John 4:11**

## From the Board

It is at this time of year that we can look outside and stand in awe of the creative beauty of our God in seeing the leaves change from green to various shades of reds, oranges and yellows. We can again be thankful for the different seasons that we can enjoy in our area.

School is well underway, and what is really striking to see this year is the range of ages on the school yard. From the small kindergartener to the tall grade 10er, what a blessing this is from just 2 years ago when we didn't have these ages even at our school!

The greater number of students at Harvest this year has put a strain on our Internet, with the teachers/students not having enough download speed. Our current internet company, GBTEL, is going to install fiber internet, so we hopefully won't have any problems going forward.

It was great to see so many familiar faces at a “Round for the Future” this year. I think all those who went enjoyed the beautiful weather and a healthy dose of competition. Thank you Ben Vis, for being part of the organizing committee again this year.

Some of you may have noticed a new family, the Greenfields, attending our church recently. Between living in South Africa and Richmond Hill, they generally homeschool with 2 of their children attending occasionally at Beacon Hill Christian Academy. Since they also have family

and stay in our area also, they have requested to have two children (ages 5 and 7) attend part time for November, before they head back to South Africa for the winter months. There is a possibility that they will again attend Harvest in 2024 on a part time basis. Welcome Greenfields!

We congratulate Katharine and Bryan Degelder with the announcement of a little Degelder baby expected DV in May. This is an exciting time, we wish Katharine health and strength throughout her pregnancy. To that end, we are also working on filling her maternity leave... I may have a close relative that is willing to help us in that area!

Finally, thanks for the wonderful staff, volunteers and donators that continue to keep Harvest operating on the forefront and behind the scenes! Praise the Lord!

*Jordan Kruisselbrink*

Jordan Kruisselbrink, Chair  
[boardchair@harvestschool.ca](mailto:boardchair@harvestschool.ca)



# Treasurer's Report

Attached in this report is the statement for the last fiscal year. As projected, the year ended with a surplus. Due to the timing of some of the capital purchases, and the offsetting donations, we were blessed with a surplus a little greater than expected.

The current year is going well, although the renovations and costs associated with the addition of High School were slightly higher than expected, but will be utilized for the next number of years.

Over the next couple of months, we will need to consider the budget for next year. Time moves on and the Lord continues to provide, season by season.

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

## 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

Save the date!

Harvest's Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, November 22  
@ 7:30 pm



## >>> From the Public Relations Committee

Here we are, after a few months into the school year. It's always a busy time of year getting back to the regular routines of school life. We are so blessed with a supportive and helpful community. We are so thankful for all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make Harvest a great place for children to grow and learn, in lessons and in life. We enjoyed the Open House that the staff put on, it was a great time

together to see curriculum and the classrooms. Also a thank you to those that helped make the Harvest Table Dinner a success! It did not go unnoticed.

We as the PR committee are busy with connecting with members, helping spread the beautiful events of Harvest and working on our documents to 'why support Harvest'. We see God's continued goodness and faithfulness to our school and we know that it is

only by His grace that our school continues to operate and function. He has given our community and people outside of our community resources that help the furthering of Reformed Education for our children. God is so good and may He be glorified by the efforts of us all.

On behalf of the PR,  
*Meaghan Hutten*  
[publicrelations@harvestschool.ca](mailto:publicrelations@harvestschool.ca)



# From the Education Committee



September and October have come and gone and a new school year is well on its way! We have so much to be thankful for, so much to praise God for. Recently the EdCom has welcomed Jenn Gunnink and we are so thankful for her willingness and know she will be a great addition to the team with her teaching experience! We would like to thank Jan Antuma for his years of service on the EdCom. We are appreciative of his willingness to jump into all the tasks, reading reports and working on evaluations. He has been a blessing to the EdCom for the past three years. The last few months have been busy at Harvest with the addition of Grade 9 & 10. It has been exciting to start our own high school here in Owen Sound! We are so thankful to all those who have spent countless hours, lots of energy and funds getting this off the ground, as well as those who continue to work here. The high school students are getting a unique learning experience having only 4 school days, with Fridays being a great day for extra catching up. We still have lots of work ahead and with the dissolving of the adhoc high school committee this work is now added to the EdCom task list. In this

area we are especially thankful to have our Principal as well as a few teachers on the EdCom. They are especially helpful with their expertise in guiding these developments and understanding areas of strength and weakness. Our efforts for high school are currently focused on ironing out the course plans for the second semester, in particular for Math. We are planning to have math fully taught and are working on organizing teachers and volunteers for this. If this is an area of strength for you and you would be interested in helping please reach out to our principal or an EdCom member for more information. In other exciting news we would also like to congratulate Bryan & Katharine DeGelder as they are expecting a baby next spring! Praise God for His goodness to them and we wish His blessing on the health of mother and child. With this exciting news we at Harvest will need to plan for the expected vacancy in our staff. We have been blessed for many years with an incredible staff who desire to teach to the glory of God and we can trust that God has His plan for us for the future as well. We will be advertising for this vacancy and ask you all to share the news with those you know

especially if you know any teachers who would love to teach in this winter wonderland where we have the best hiking trails, a lake around every corner and blue mountain in our curriculum. That might be a little exaggeration but it's a great place to live, teach and especially learn!

On a final note we would like to thank Pastor Steve for his many hours with setting up overhead projectors, internet, speakers and all things technology! Chromebooks, while a great teaching tool, have stretched our internet capabilities here in Grey-Bruce. Currently we are in the process of updating to fibre internet but in the mean time we have some temporary fixes in place. While technology can cause some frustration it is also a great tool to be used to God's glory and it is good for our students to be able to learn how to use this tool in a manner pleasing to God.

As we look ahead with eager expectation to the coming months we can also look back to be reminded of God's faithfulness to us all. We wish everyone a blessed school year!

*Joanie Vis*

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

## Student Fund Fundraising

Thank you to all those who helped with Campfire clean-up, veggie packs, chocolate bar sales and Elmira poultry.

These fundraisers went great and we have already met about 2/3 of our fundraising goal for this year!

This money will help fund field trips, skating, tournaments, year-end trips and fun days here at school.

## »»» *From the Principal*

Imagine life without words. This is a thought exercise I usually do with grade 5/6 at the beginning of the year. Imagine we lost our vocabulary. To illustrate how different life would be, I then ask the grade 5/6 students to achieve a task with their group, but no language is allowed. What follows is usually a pretty amusing class with students using a ton of body language and all the while generally not doing very well with their task. After we are done the task is it readily apparent to everyone how blessed we are that God has given us language and the opportunity to grow in our language skills here at school.

At our recent Compass Educators convention, Dr. Reuben Bredenhof began his keynote address with the exact same question – Imagine life without words. His address then unpacked how critically important language is and what follows are my efforts to capture some of that speech. Words matter. Literacy matters. Arguably language matters the most to us as Christians. We are people of the book, a book that highlights how much words matter. In Genesis 1 we meet our God who is a speaking God. In John 1, we read in the beginning was the Word [...] and the Word became flesh. A little later in the New Testament, in Colossians, we read that Christ is the Lord of language. And it is through language, through words, that God reveals Himself to us in the Bible. When reading God's Word we are exposed to a diverse book which includes proverbs, laws, parables, epistles, prophecies, oratories, apocalypse etc.

In that Word we also see that Jesus was creative with language. He knew how to ask an effective rhetorical question – what does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul? He also told captivating stories – think of his many parables. He knew what exact words to use to provide encouragements, and what words to use to make bold claims. Jesus knows

how to use language, because he designed it. The structure of language is not accidental.

As people of the book then, we should place a premium on literacy. But we find ourselves in a society where literacy is on the decline. 25% of Americans have not read a single book or part of a book in the last year. Is that the same in the church? Are people reading books? Culture has been called alliterate (we are not illiterate; we just choose not to read). Media pulls us in to fast paced information sharing. A culture formally dominated by words, is now dominated by images which have had a big impact on schools, homes, churches. The question we should ask ourselves is: How has the movement from language-based media to picture-based media changed us? Many books have been published that discuss how the internet is changing our thinking. "The linear mind is being pushed aside by a new kind of mind that wants and needs to take in and dole out information in short, disjointed, often overlapping bursts – the faster the better" (Nicholas Carr). Carr goes on to state: What the net is doing is chipping away at my capacity of focusing. Once I was a scuba diver in a sea of words, now I zip along the surface like a person on a jet ski. As I skip along the surface, I lose the ability to take time to really explore and learn about the world around me. The consequence of this shift is that not only have our attention spans shortened, but our vocabularies are also shrinking. Instead of finding the best words to capture how I'm feeling, I can now find an emoji for that. This shift from words to images, makes reading the Bible daunting for many today. The Bible is thick and imposing, with no pictures and lots and lots of words. If we don't like reading, the

Bible is a tough assignment. So, we skim the scriptures, read what we know, skip the rest, leaving out vast portions of scripture. We are jet skiing on the Bible's surface. But we are called to read the whole Bible, to pay close attention to details, to take a deep dive in our reading. Reading the Bible is critical in knowing God. We need to read carefully, responsibly, wisely. We need to patiently read and reflect on that reading. We need to engage with Scripture our whole lives. Thankfully Reformed education can play a key role in helping build this literacy. Here at Harvest, we have the opportunity to spend time in God's Word every day and the opportunity to grow our language skills in language arts and in other classes. But for our children to really grow in literacy, the home needs to play a crucial role. So how do we as parents help our children grow in literacy? By having our children read books! Something happens to your mind and heart when you read a book. Nothing else does this. In a novel, you can contemplate characters, reflect on their actions, put yourself in their shoes. Good books allow us to think much deeper on a given topic in a way that nothing else can. Or as Dr. Seuss says: "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go."

On that note, it also a blessing we not only get to read books in class, but we also have a library at Harvest. We have lots of great books for students to read and hopefully your children are taken advantage of that. And as always if you have any book suggestions to further bolster our library, please share these suggestions with any librarians. Happy reading!





*From the Principal continued...*

## In the School

Two months ago, we were blessed to open our school doors for another school year. We welcomed 80 students to Harvest ranging in ages from 4-15! The first two months of the year have been a whirlwind of activity, with many field trips taking place. We live in a beautiful part of God's creation, and it is wonderful students could not only study God's creation in class but head out on trips and see that creation firsthand. Senior students have also been busy with sports this past fall. In late September we competed in the annual soccer tournament and took first place for the first time in 13 years! Way to go Harvest! Students have also been busy training for cross country and both our senior elementary and high school students

completed in cross country meets this past month. All the students ran great, with our elementary girls team placing third and our boys team sixth. In high school cross country, we didn't have enough students to make up a team, but the individual students all ran well with Reuben leading the pack, finishing third in the junior boy's race.

Students have been busy these past two months in the classrooms and a lot of curriculum has been covered.

Interim progress reports noting student achievement over these first months were sent home a few days ago. A more detailed report card goes out at the end of term 1 (early in the new year). While the report card isn't overly detailed, we hope to go into much more detail about

how your child is doing at Parent/Teacher Conferences which are set for November 6 and 7. These conferences are very valuable in allowing us to share more about your child and in helping us plan how to we can work together to see your child fully utilize their God given talents. More information about these conferences will be sent home with the interim report cards.



## Professional Development

Back to school doesn't just mean learning for the students, but the staff have also been busy learning. We have had the opportunity to attend the Compass Educators Conference at the end of October and this conference served as a great opportunity for us to reflect upon our Reformed worldview and best practices in teaching. At this conference our staff were not only learning, but leading various conference sessions. Ms. DeHaan led a workshop on how to incorporate our Reformed worldview into French instruction, Ms. Hutten led a choral workshop and I led a discussion on assessment and evaluation. It is nice our experienced staff can give back and help other teachers grow in their practice. Mrs. Kruisselbrink also headed off to London to see their grade 1 class in action and learn more about London's special education program.



Please continue to keep Harvest and the work we do in your thoughts and prayers. Your support is greatly appreciated.

*James Meinen*  
[principal@harvestschool.ca](mailto:principal@harvestschool.ca)

# Grade ¾ Science Projects

## Kittens

Description: Kittens can be orange and white.  
They can be fluffy and cute.

Habitat: Kittens can live in barns or houses.

Diet: Kittens drink milk until they can eat cat food.

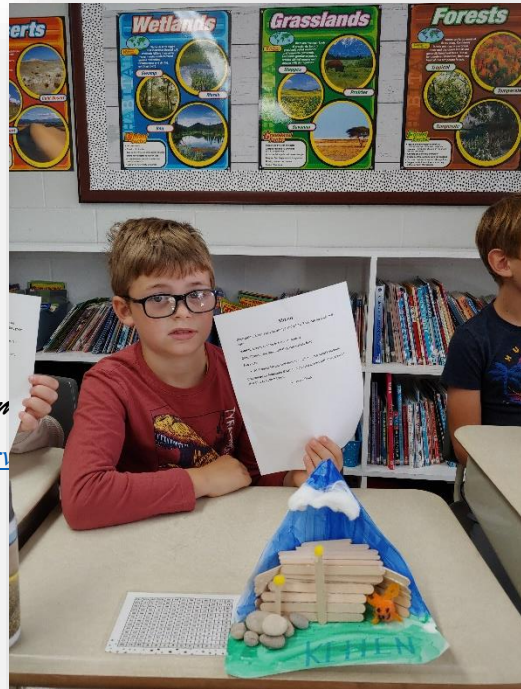
### Fun Facts:

- ☑ At 4 weeks kittens still depend much on each other's warmth.

Created by an Awesome God:

God created kittens with sharp claws so that they can climb trees.

By: Blake Doan



## Otters

Description: The little furry creature can be light brown, dark brown, and brown.

Habitat: The river otter's den can be in tree routes, an old beaver dens, and it lives in rivers.

They live in the wetlands.

Diet: They eat snails, crabs, muscles, clams, fish, and frogs.

### Fun Facts:

- ☑ Otters can hold their breath for up to 5 minutes.
- ☑ The otter's fur is the thickest in the animal kingdom.
- ☑ The mating season of otters is March and April, but the babies aren't born until the next spring.

Created by an Awesome God:

What I love about otters is how cool and energetic and funny they are.

By: Keane deGelder



## Bees

Description: Bees are black and yellow.

Habitat: Bees live in forests in hives.

Diet: Bees eat pollen.

### Fun Facts:

- ☑ It takes about 2 million flowers, 25 thousand trips to and from the hive, and 55 thousand miles to make 1 pound of honey.
- ☑ Queen bees can lay up to 2,000 eggs in a day.
- ☑ 1 bee colony can eat up to 200 pounds of honey in a year.
- ☑ 1 bee can visit more than 2,000 flowers in a day.

Created by an Awesome God: God gave bees a stinger to protect themselves from predators.

By: Hannah Feenstra

## Rattlesnake

Description: This is what rattlesnakes look like: they look like the criss-crosses of the light through the trees.

Habitat: They live in caves or burrows.

Diet: Their diet is rodents, small birds, lizards, and frogs.

### Fun Facts:

- ☑ At birth rattlesnakes have only 1 rattle segment called a button.
- ☑ A baby rattlesnake sheds out of its skin headfirst.
- ☑ Snakeskin is colourless. ☑ Plus, you cannot count a rattlesnake age by the number of segments.

Created by an Awesome God: I'm so amazed that God made rattlesnakes be able to rattle.

By: Milo Spanninga



**Red Foxes**

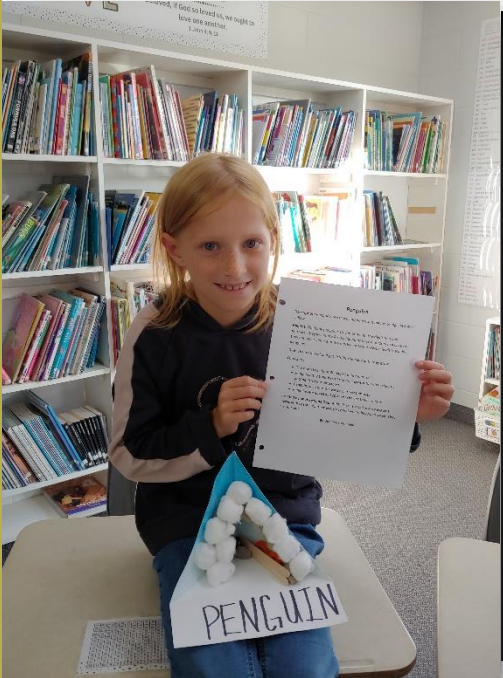
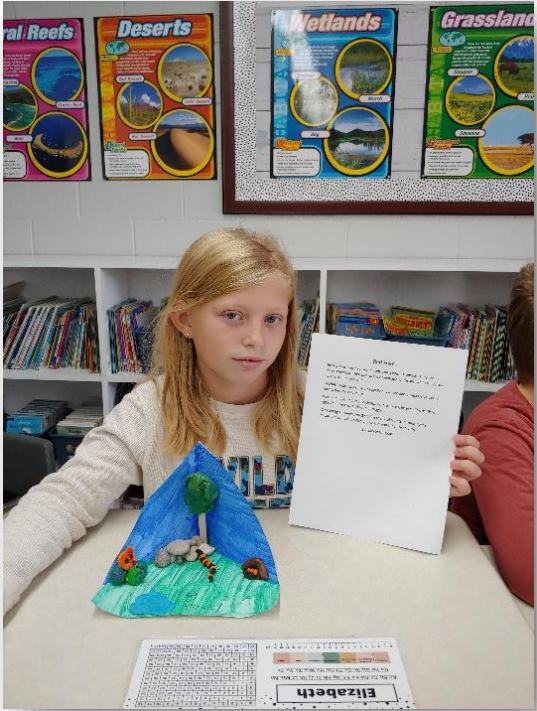
**Description:** They have a red body and a white stomach. They are about 3 feet tall. Their babies are brown and white and while they grow up, they turn more orange.

**Habitat:** Their habitats are basically anywhere like: forests, river, rain forest, deserts, and more.

**Diet:** Red foxes eat small rodents, rabbits, birds, insects, lizards, fish, eggs, fruit, berries, and even garbage.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I'm thankful that God made foxes because they basically live anywhere, and they are so cute!

**By: Elizabeth Doan**



**Penguins**

**Description:** Penguins are black and white and maybe orange, red, and yellow.

**Habitat:** The baby penguins stay in between the dad's feet and feathers. They live in the Arctic. Penguins have a nursery in a cave so they are never alone and the mother or father always leads the baby penguins.

**Diet:** The mom and dad get fish for the baby until they grow.

**Fun Facts:**

- ☑ The mom has about 20 babies in her lifetime.
- ☑ Penguins stay together all the time except for when they are getting fish for their babies.
- ☑ Penguins dive into the water on their tummies.
- ☑ Penguins are as tall as 120 cm or shorter than 1 meter.

**Created by an Awesome God:** Animals are so cool, even penguins because they stay together every day and when they go to sleep. They are so cool!

**By: Joelle Groeneveld**

**Dolphins**

**Description:** Dolphins have strong tails and big dorsal fins. They can be about 6 – 12 feet long and they weigh about 330-440 pounds.

**Habitat:** They live in the deep ocean waters.

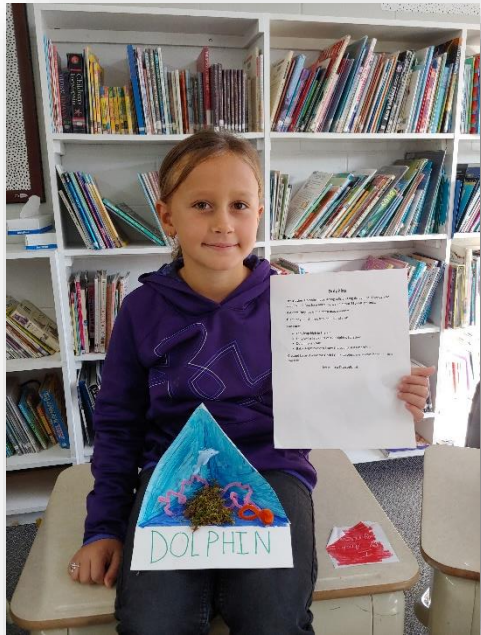
**Diet:** They eat shrimp, fish, squid, and crab.

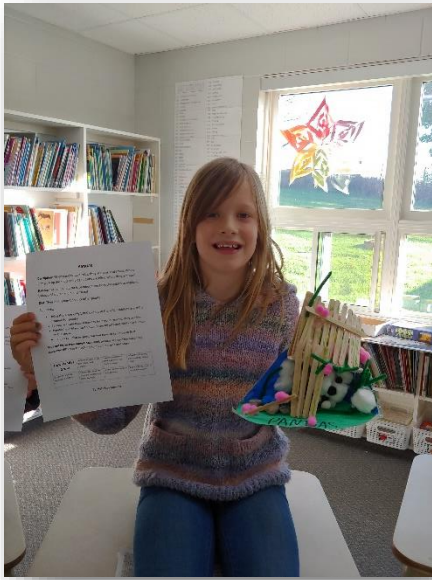
**Fun Facts:**

- ☑ They leap high in the air.
- ☑ They swim in groups of 12 dolphins together.
- ☑ Dolphins can talk.
- ☑ Baby dolphins even know the sound of its mom's call.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I think dolphins are so cool because they can talk.

**By: Andrea Kruisselbrink**





### Pandas

**Description:** When pandas have cubs, they are pink and small. When they grow up the spots get bigger. Cubs are blind when they are born.  
**Habitat:** The panda habitat is bamboo forests: rocky ledges to explore, bamboo of course and plants to eat.

**Diet:** Their diet is bamboo and other plants.

#### Fun Facts:

☑ Today there are only 1,800 pandas in the wild. Habitats are still a problem for pandas.

☑ Pandas are called giant pandas for a good reason: they are big.

☑ Pandas have black fur to hide in the forests and white fur to hide in the snow.

☑ Pandas can also be pets, but you have to tame them first.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I think pandas are cool because they have two different fur colours to hide in forests and snow.

**By:** Rebekah Antuma

### Bison

**Description:** Bison are huge. They are 5 or 6 feet tall. They weigh in between 1,400 and 2,200 pounds.

**Habitat:** Bison live on prairies and mountains.

**Diet:** Bison eat grass.

#### Fun Facts:

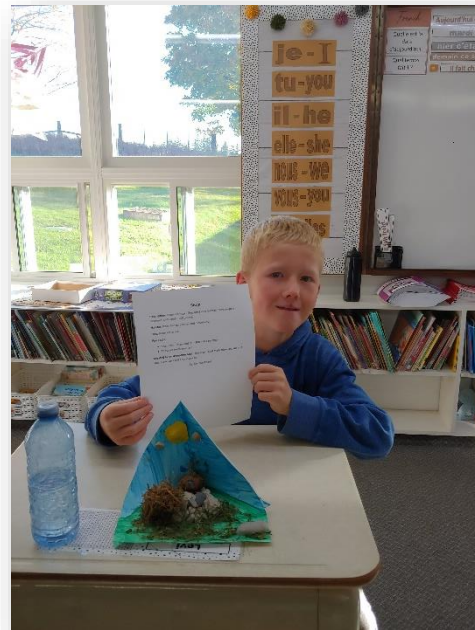
☑ Bison can run around 50 – 100 miles per hour.

☑ They can swim very fast.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I like Bison. God made bison and me and you.

I love God and I hope you do!

**By:** Levi VanAndel



### Hawks

**Description:** Hawks can be many different colours: yellow, white, brown, and a lot more. They have sharp tips on their beaks.

**Habitat:** Hawks have 2 homes : summer and winter homes.

**Diet:** Hawks eat butterflies, grasshoppers, birds, fish, and snakes. They are very sneaky. They blend in so that they can hunt better.

#### Fun Facts:

☑ Each kind of hawk has its own flying skills. Some are able to soar or rise high on air and glide for great distances without flapping their wings.

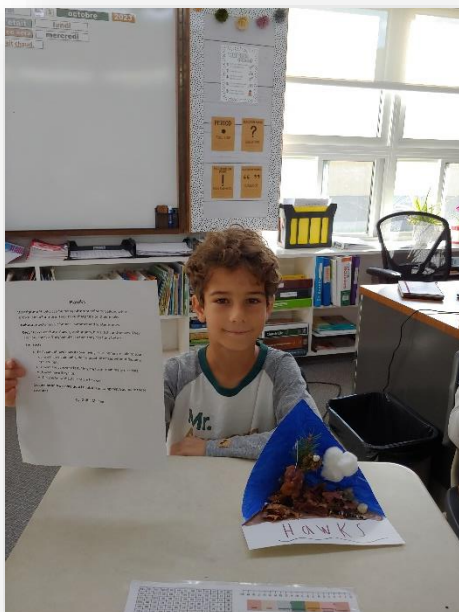
☑ Hawks are very very fast. They are faster than many race cars.

☑ Hawks have 3 eyelids.

☑ Did you know that falcons are hawks?

**Created by an Awesome God:** I think it is amazing that God made these creatures.

**By:** Griffin Meinen







### Clown Fish

Description: Clown fish have stripes. Clown fish can get up to 4 inches long.

Habitat: Clown fish live in the barrier reef or in a different type of reef. They live in sea anemones.

Diet: The clown fish eats the sea anemones leftovers, such as shrimp.

#### Fun Facts:

☑ The clown fish can lay up to 700 eggs on a rock nearby the sea anemone.

Created by an Awesome God:

I think clown fish are cool because they can't get stung by the sea anemone.

By: Natalia Hutten

### Tigers

Description: Tigers can be black and white or black and orange.

Habitat: Most tigers live in India. They live in places that have lots of grass.

Diet: Tigers eat water buffalo, young elephants, rhinos, monkeys, birds, fish, and frogs.

#### Fun Facts:

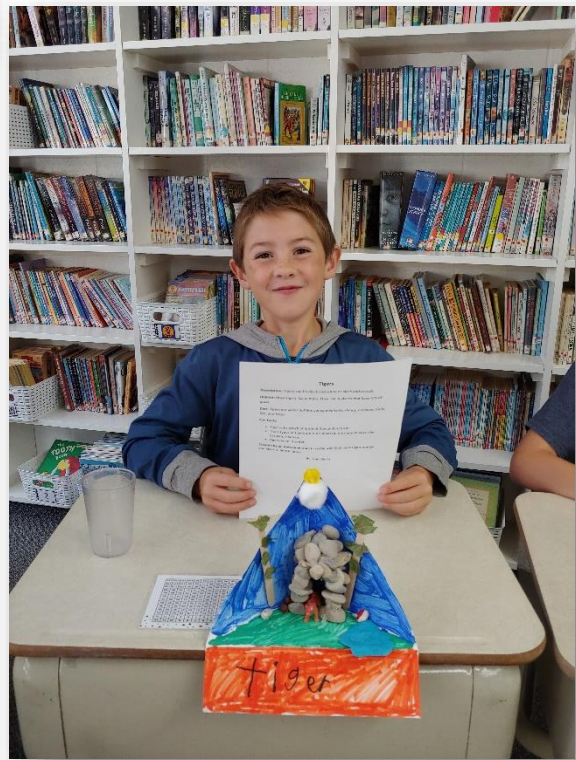
☑ Tiger cubs weigh only about 2 pounds at birth.

☑ The 4 types of tigers are the Sumatran, the Indo-Chinese, the Caspian, Siberian.

☑ Tigers swim in water.

Created by an Awesome God: I like the way God made tigers orange and black to hide in grass.

By: Liam Selles



### Cobras

Description: Cobras look like a fierce, hooded, snake. They are 7 – 10 feet long. Their colour can be anything.

Habitat: They live in other animals' burrows and caves.

Diet: They eat frogs, toads, mice, rats, prairie dogs, and other snakes.

#### Fun Facts:

☑ Cobras bask in the sun since they are cold blooded.

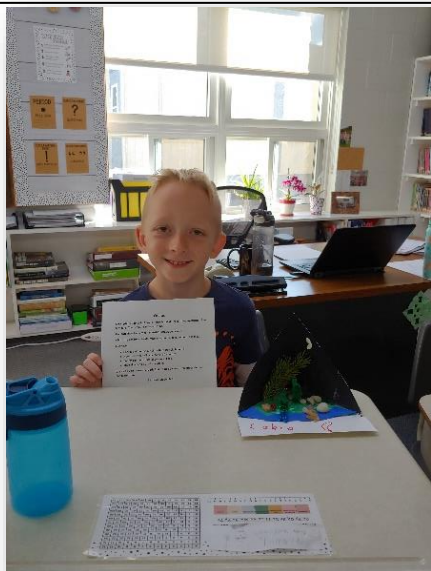
☑ A cobra bite can kill a person in 30 minutes.

☑ Cobras can't only bite, they can spit too.

☑ Their skin can be used as clothing.

Created by an Awesome God: God created awesome creatures that we can learn from.

By: Jason Medemblik





**Hamsters**

**Description:** They can be really fluffy, or they can be not fluffy at all.  
They can be very chunky or very skinny.

**Habitat:** They live in the cold dessert. They live underground.

**Diet:** Hamsters naturally eat mixed nuts, types of cereals, insects, larva, and larger insects such as crickets.

**Fun Facts:**

- ☑ They can go a long time without water.
- ☑ Boys are much friendlier than girls.
- ☑ They can live up to 2 years, but every week is a year to them.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I think God is great because he created hamsters and made them survive in the desert.

**By: Katherine Spanninga**

**Cheetahs**

**Description:** Cheetahs have spots. Girl cheetahs live alone. The boys live in groups. Cheetahs have awesome eyesight to spot their prey.  
Cheetahs can camouflage in the long grass.

**Habitat:** Cheetahs live in grasslands in Africa, Iran, ad Asia.

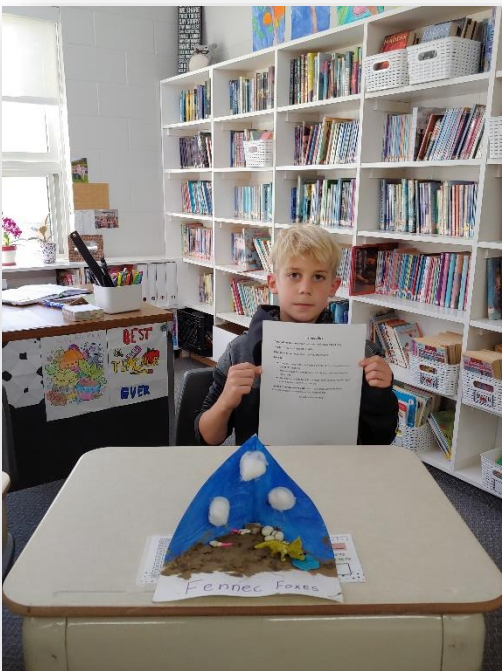
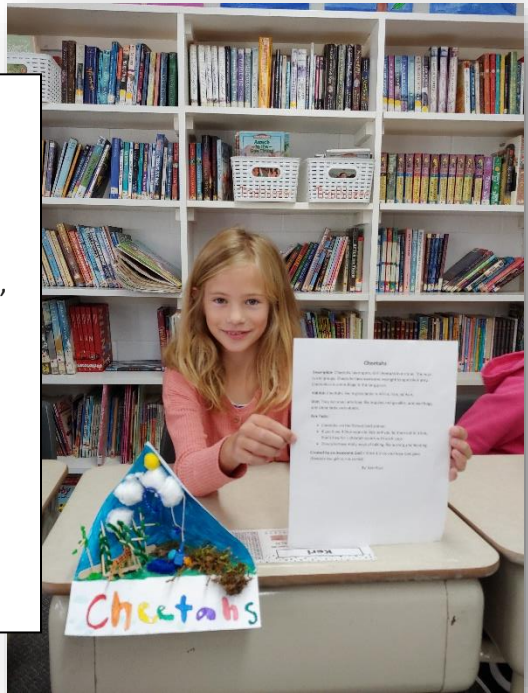
**Diet:** They eat small antelope like impalas and gazelles, and warthogs, and some birds and rabbits.

**Fun Facts:**

- ☑ Cheetahs are the fastest land animal.
- ☑ If you have 6 four-year-old kids and you lie them out in a line, that's how far a cheetah covers with each step.
- ☑ Cheetahs have many ways of talking like purring and bleating.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I think it is so cool how God gave cheetahs the gift to run so fast.

**By: Keri Post**



**Fennec Fox**

**Description:** They are cream coloured with black tipped tails.

**Habitat:** They live in deserts in Africa.

**Diet:** They eat rodents, eggs, reptiles, and insects.

**Fun Facts:**

- ☑ They can jump in the air 2 feet (.6 meters). Their leap distance is 4 feet (1.2 meters).
- ☑ They have bat like ears to radiate body heat and help keep the foxes cool.
- ☑ Also they have long thick fur to keep them warm during the night and to protect them from the sun.

**Created by an Awesome God:** I am so glad that God made these amazing creatures and all the other creatures too!

**By: Asher Vandenberg**