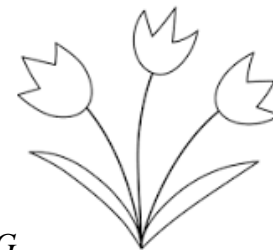


Mission Statement >>>

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.



March 2024
Edition

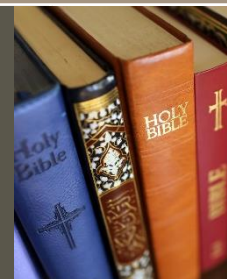


CHOSEN. ANCHORED. ETERNAL. FRUITFUL. SERVING

www.harvestschool.ca

Principal: James Meinen

Connection



School Board >>>

Chairman: Jordan Kruisselbrink
Vice Chair: Alec Medemblik
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. L. Kruisselbrink
Kindergarten: Mrs. Margaret Spanninga

Education Committee >>>

Chair: Alec Medemblik
Vice Chair: Jenn Gunnink
Secretary: Janelle VanTol
Member: Lindsay Hutten

Public Relations Committee >>>

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

ADDRESS:

177551 Concession 5

Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5N5

Phone: 519-371-4498

Email: principal@harvestschool.ca &
ashleagroeneveld@harvestschool.ca

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11

From the Board

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" 1 Peter 1:3

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ lies at the very heart of the Christian faith and message. It is Christ's victory over sin and death that we celebrate each Lord's Day and especially this Easter Weekend. What a blessing to have a Christian school that recognizes the same.

For the past number of weeks we have had the privilege of having 2 students from the CRTC; Sarena Reinink with Anne Hutten and Makayla Kruisselbrink with Katharine DeGelder. It is wonderful for Harvest to be a part of the education of future Christian school teachers. We wish Sarena and Makayla all the best as they finish up their studies this year.

At the beginning of May we will say farewell to Katharine DeGelder as she goes on maternity leave. Although we will miss her at Harvest we are thankful that she leaves us to pursue the high calling of motherhood! We wish you the Lord's blessings on this new stage in your life. We are also thankful that we have staff to fill Katharine's shoes for the months of May and June as Makayla Kruisselbrink and Chantal Lof will come teach the students.

Earlier this year we applied for and received money from the government as part of an 'anti-hate grant'. We will be using this money to replace the entry doors for the school. The core value posters have come in and they look great! If you haven't seen them yet, come and check them out. They are hanging in the stairwell between the gym and school. As always, there are many people who put a lot of time and effort into Harvest to make it the wonderful place that it is. Without parents, volunteers and staff our school simply would not exist. We'd like to thank Margaret Spanninga, who in the midst of health uncertainty and extreme fatigue continued to teach kindergarten, and to Cathy, for filling in the days that Margaret could not. A big thank you also to Sylvia Feenstra, for taking on the task of teaching grade 10 math, I'm sure many grade 10 parents are thankful for her expertise in this area!

In closing, what a blessing to have such a beautiful Easter program. Thank you to Melissa and Anne for creating the program and helping our students learn the songs to sing praises to their Saviour.

On behalf of the Board,

Jordan Kruisselbrink

boardchair@harvestschool.ca

>>> *Treasurer's Report*

With spring comes better weather, more mud and budget time! The current year is tracking well, with expenses mostly on budget and income in good stead. We anticipate a small surplus again this year if the trend continues. Praise the Lord for providing in abundance. As we look ahead to next year, we should have less budget volatility as compared to this year – no portables to buy or

yard work to complete, no additional curriculums or supplies to purchase. The staffing should be sorted out very soon which is the majority of the budget. Look to a May meeting for further details.

We are currently investigating the cost of replacing the Grade 5 and 6 laptops with another set of Chromebooks. Approximate

cost is \$8-10,000. We are investigating options and opportunities to fund this by alternate means other than adding to the budget. The previous two classes were funded by generous donors so if anyone is looking for a cause in which to make a local impact, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Neil Post, Treasurer

treasurer@harvestschool.ca

>>> *From the Public Relations Committee*

Hello from Public Relations!

We hope everyone enjoyed some rest and relaxation over the March Break. As we returned to school we had several events we were looking forward to. Recently we enjoyed hosting a matinee social for the elderly in our Owen Sound community. What a blessing it is to share our gratitude for our Saviours ultimate sacrifice through this program, followed by a coffee social. We are always thankful for interest in Harvest School's activities! Our next Harvest event will be Grandparents Day, on Friday, April 26. Stay tuned for more information on this!

At this time of year PR will connect with new families that may have their children joining our school next school year. We will share a welcome letter that helps families feel in the loop as they start thinking about their child going to school. This includes ways they can become more involved, and what

to expect in the coming months such as Kindergarten day, summer communication, and an offer to tour the school with us to feel more acquainted. As a committee we are supporting the board and faculty in connecting with member families and abroad as the needs arise. This looks like invitations, emails, welcome packages, thank you cards etc. On our regular agenda we review community members and reach out to encourage more financial support where possible. Sometimes this communication takes time as we share information and give time for consideration. We are thankful to still be able to add families to our membership list!

We are currently working on a corporate donor letter as well to reach companies.

Finally, we continue to express thankfulness to everyone at Harvest for valuing Reformed education. It remains evident our students remain rooted in the

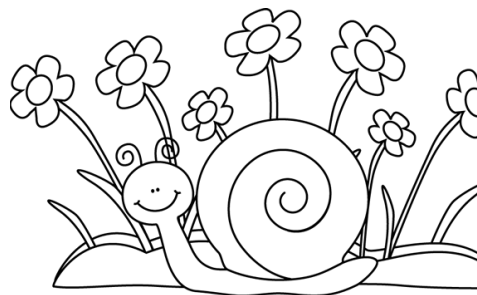
gospel as they learn. If you haven't yet, please walk through our stair well and note the core values that have been a focus here at Harvest this year!

We ask that if you need any support in connecting with Harvest to reach out to one of our members! Thank you to those who have over the last several months.

Until next time!

Henrietta Groeneveld

publicrelations@harvestschool.ca





From the Education Committee

March is here! With winter slowly drawing to a close we can sense that spring is approaching, and lots of energy and excitement is in the air! This is a busy time of year with lots of new developments happening and exciting changes coming. It is also the time of year when we remember and commemorate Christ's death on the cross. With the hustle and bustle in our daily lives it can be easy to forget to appreciate the significance of His sacrifice. This year there has been a major effort going on to shine a spotlight on Easter. The Harvest staff and students have been busy preparing an Easter program to celebrate our deliverance from sin. One of the exciting new developments has been the addition of the Core Values.

Some of you may have seen the new posters in the stairwell already, and if you haven't you should check them out!

There are 5 Core Values:

Chosen – I Belong!

Anchored – Jesus is my Rock!

Eternal – To God the Glory.

Fruitful – I'll grow my gifts.

Serving – I'll love my neighbour.

In addition to the posters, we are working on integrating them into the curriculum and report cards as well.

At this point in the year, staffing has been the dominant topic. We have been very blessed to be able to meet our needs throughout this year. Lots of people have been stepping up to help out. Makayla and Mckenna are filling some of the teaching roles this semester. Sylvia has been of great assistance with the high school students with navigating and tutoring their math curriculum. Moreover, there have been several parents who have stepped up to help supervise as well. During this period we are also thinking of Margaret as she is undergoing medical treatment. We are praying that all goes well for her and her family, and we are looking forward to having her with us again next year. With all the skills and strengths that are brought to the table it is clear to see the Lord providing for us through the Communion of Saints.

Around this time of the year both the Board and the EdCom are working through the staffing needs for the upcoming year. With the

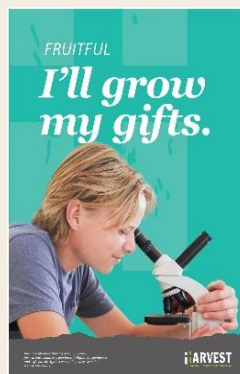
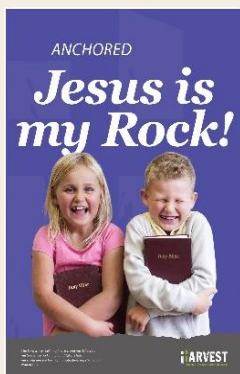
shortage of reformed teachers in our schools this is a very real concern especially with our recent addition of grades 9&10.

Here also the Lord has provided for our needs. In addition to our returning staff, we are excited to welcome Chantal Lof here at Harvest! The Lord Willing she will be moving here after her graduation in May and will also be filling in various roles for the remainder of the current school year as well. This should fill almost all the staffing needs for the upcoming year, but we are still looking for a little more part time help in the Grade 2 classroom. If this is of interest to you or to someone you may know please refer to our ad in this issue of Connection!

As the students and staff return from the March Break we are entering the home stretch for the year, and we pray for the Lord to bless the endeavours of the staff and the students.

Alec Medemblik

educationcommittee@harvestschool.ca



»» From the Principal

English is a fascinating language. It is perhaps one of the most dynamic languages, as new words regularly get added, others fall out of use, and other words adopt new meanings. The new words that are created and the words that are most popular provide an interesting reflection of our current culture. Fun fact – do you know what two words were named as the words of the year in 2023 by Oxford Dictionary? Authentic and rizz (if you don't know what rizz is ask a teenager!)

While words like rizz get added to dictionaries, other words slowly change in meaning. Fun fact number two: Did you know nice used to be an insult? Nice comes from the Latin “nescius” which means “unaware or ignorant.” In the 1300's this word made its way into the English language, and it was used to characterize a “stupid, ignorant or foolish person.” So, if you called your parents nice, you might find yourself booted out to the house! About a hundred years later, nice began to refer to the rich whose clothes were over the top. It was meant as an insult. However, over time people began to link the word nice to fancy and expensive clothing. By the 1500's nice was used to describe refined culture. A couple hundred years later it began to mean something agreeable or kind and that is how it is understood today.

Words also fall out of use over time. Who knows what a cordwainer is? You would not be a mooncalf to quoth, “I think it is a shoemaker.” While no one might remember when mooncalf (which means a person with a foolish disposition) disappeared from our language, there are much more recent words that are disappearing from our lexicon. A buzz word over the last decade has been the word privilege. We are privileged to live in Canada. Privileged to have loving families. Privileged to have jobs. It was not that long ago that no one used the word privileged, instead the word blessed was used. That

might sound like a minor change, but it really isn't. Privileged and blessed are not synonyms. Privilege is associated with negativity. Being privileged can make us feel guilty.

It creates distance between those who are privileged and those who are not. It can create a culture of victimhood. Contrast that with blessed. Blessed is a positive term. It makes us feel thankful for what God has given us. We want to take our blessings and bless others! The bottom line here is that words matter and in turn we need to be discerning as Christians with the words we use.

Going back to the word of the year, I wonder what the word of the year would be for us as a community? What would your word of the year be? I would suggest the word that best captures this past year is the word blessed.

We have been so blessed to begin high school this year! As a parent I feel so thankful that my daughter can attend a school where God is front and center. A school where we can read his Word, have discussions about things like word choice (we discussed the words blessed and privileged in a recent high school Bible class). Blessed to have a school where we can pray together, sing together and learn about His creation together.

We have also been blessed to have the second year of kindergarten at Harvest. It has been wonderful having Mrs. Spanninga serve as our kindergarten teacher and we are thankful her energy levels have returned and she is once again teaching full days. Full energy levels are definitely needed for this lively bunch!



We are also blessed to have all our key staffing roles filled for next year! One big change for next year is having Ms. Chantal Lof coming on board as Mrs. DeGelder is going on maternity leave shortly. As many schools' struggle to find staff for next year, having all our core teachers in place already is a huge blessing.

Finally, we continue to be blessed with such a supportive community. So many of you volunteer your time in the school, on committees, driving on trips and offer words of appreciation and encouragement to the staff. Thank you!

While a lot of volunteers might pop in for a day or two every week, this past term we have had two volunteers in the school every day. In February, we welcomed Ms. Rowen DeJager who has been helping every morning in a variety of classrooms as part of a high school co-op program. Ms. DeJager has been a wonderful help, and we are happy to have her with us all the way until the year's end. Mrs. Sylvia Feenstra has also been at school every morning helping teach grade 10 math. Her help keeping the grade 10's on track with their work and helping them understand the concepts has been a huge blessing. Thank you Mrs. Feenstra!

In the School...

Since the last Connection went out, a lot has happened here at Harvest. Students continue to be busy learning all about God's creation, studying His Word, honing their reading and writing skills, working on their creative skills, and singing praises to Him. As of late, singing has taken center stage as students prepare for our big Easter Concert that will have just taken place when this Connection is published. It is definitely special working in a school where songs of praise fill the hallways each day!

In addition to the regular schoolwork this past term, students have had the opportunity to take part in many extracurricular activities. This past February/March grade 5-10 enjoyed skiing/snowboarding at Blue Mountain while grades 1-4 enjoyed some game afternoons and arts and crafts.



The whole school also enjoyed their final skating day at Keady before the March Break. Students also took part in badminton and chess intramurals. Of note, a grade 4 student won chess intramurals for the second year in a row! Congratulations Griffin. Those grade 4 students have some chess skills! For our grade 7/8 students, the basketball season wrapped up last week with the annual basketball tournament. The students did great. The combined Chatham and Harvest team ended up finishing 4th place and the grade 8 team won the tournament! Our students also had success at the speaking and poetry contest. Sydney and Julie made it all the way to the

provincial finals where Sydney placed second with her poem recitation and third for her speech.

Finally, our grade 7/8's also had success in the Remembrance Day poster, poem, and essay competition. Both Reid and Julie made it to the third round of the competition and Julie's essay made it all the way to the provincial level where she earned 2nd place!



*Part-time help needed
next year in Grade 2.
If this would interest
you, or someone you
know – please reach out
to one of the Ed-Com
members!*

Looking Ahead...

Looking ahead to the next stretch of the school year, the staff look forward to getting back into normal routines. With snow days, March Break vacations, and the Easter program behind us, we now enter a stretch of regular school days. However, our regular routines will change somewhat come May when Mrs. DeGelder goes on maternity leave, and we welcome back Ms. Makayla Kruisselbrink who will take over for Mrs. DeGelder. This spring we will also welcome Ms. Chantal Lof, who will step into high school and give some of our parent volunteers a break. Ms. Lof will be helping with grade 9 French, grade 10 math and likely teaching a bit of grade 5/6. We are blessed to have these two joining the teaching team!

Overall, we have so much to be thankful for! Blessed is indeed the word to capture this past year! As we enter the final stretch of the year please continue to keep Harvest, the staff and students in your prayers.

May God continue to bless Harvest and our community as we work together "to educate for eternity."

James Meinen,
principal@harvestschool.ca

Why We Remember

by Julie Gunnink

Orders are being yelled around me. I hear gunshots. Ducking into a trench, I hold my breath.

* * *

I sat cozied up on my Grandpa's lap, in the old, squeaky, green armchair by the roaring fire. We were looking at a photo album. Grandpa's weathered hands delicately turned a page. He pointed out different soldiers and what their jobs were in the war.

Confused, I asked, "What's the point of remembering these soldiers anyway? I mean, it all happened years ago, so why think about it now?"

Grandpa chuckled. He was waiting for this question. "Well, all the soldiers that fought in World War I are very important today. Before you ask why, I'll tell you."

"When the war had first begun, men had to come and join the fight. That included me. Most of us thought it would just be a fun adventure, and that we would be back home soon. None of us expected that the war would last several years, but it did. We fought very bravely. Not just me, your old Grandpa, but all the soldiers. Many of my comrades didn't return home after the war. They didn't just fight, but thousands died. Their lives were given for their countries. Why do we remember them? We remember them because they are the reason we have peace today. Imagine if, right now, you were sent away from your family, and had to live with strangers because your parents had to go fight in the war! I'm guessing you wouldn't want that to happen! We should be very grateful to live in peaceful times, so you don't have to worry about that."

After thinking for a while, I said, "I guess that makes sense, but is that the only reason? "

Grandpa stroked his gray beard thoughtfully. "Oh no, we must also remember those soldiers because they are an excellent example to us! Think how today people can so easily live selfishly, worrying and complaining about the

smallest things. What a difference it is from the sacrificial lives the soldiers lived. In harsh and dangerous conditions, they didn't give up! They fought. And again, if they didn't, who knows where we would be today. They pressed on. Through the pain, through the darkness, and through the cold.

"That explains things a little bit more... but when do we actually remember them?" I asked.

Grandpa told me all about Remembrance Day, and the time we spend acknowledging all the men and women who served their country in the wars.

"So," he said, "look at their bravery and their tenacity and see an excellent example to apply to your life." I slowly nodded my head, finally satisfied, and curled up in my grandpa's arms where we continued to look at the album.

* * *

Thinking back on this memory was sobering. Now, in World War II, I finally understood exactly what my Grandpa was talking about.

We are Forever Grateful

By Reid Groeneveld

Loved ones we have lost will never be forgotten

Every year on November 11th we remember those who have died for our freedom

Such a thanks we owe to these valiant men and woman

Thanks to those brave people, we have freedom

We thank them every remembrance day at the cenotaph

Every last one of them fought for this beautiful country

Forever they will have a place in our hearts and in our minds

Over the years we have and will remember the dead and the veterans

Remembrance day is a day to look upon the past and be grateful to those brave people

Great is your faithfulness O God to those people who helped us win the war and to us

Even though we sometimes forget, remembrance day is a day to stop and remember

Together we are forever grateful