

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.

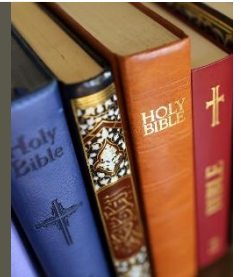


CHOSEN. ANCHORED. ETERNAL. FRUITFUL. SERVING

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: Miss M. Kruisselbrink
Grade 7-8: Miss A. Hutten
Grade 9-10: Miss. C. Lof
Principal: Mr. J. Meinen

Support Staff:

Grade 2: 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

Another school year has been completed and we again see the Lord's hand in all of this. Students and staff spent another year knowing God more intimately by exploring His creation, the culture around us and how it relates to His Word. Now students can look forward to various activities... jobs, family vacations and time with friends. We say a special congratulations to our 9 graduates, and we wish you the Lord's blessing in your high school years! Thanks again to all the wonderful staff who worked very diligently to teach our children in the fear of his name. They too will look forward to wrapping up this year, begin planning for the fall and getting some R &R (hopefully).

We don't know if enough can be said about the blessing of adding grades 9 and 10 to Harvest and so many hands came together to make this addition happen. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time, behind the scenes and in the portable to make this run

smoothly. The high schoolers added a different dimension to the school; it was unique and special. God continues to bless us!

Since there is always maintenance to be done over the summer, we plan to install new entrance doors, fix up the backstop and some other small things. We may be looking for help with this so stay tuned.

We would like to wish everyone a safe summer in all their activities. We look forward to an exciting new school year in September!

Let all that you do be done in love.

(1 Cor. 16: 14)

May we show our love as Christians to those around us wherever we go.

On behalf of the board,

Jordan Kruisselbrink, Chair
boardchair@harvestschool.ca



Treasurer's Report

Psalm 34:8-9 "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear Him have no lack."

What a comfort that text is to us both personally and as a school community. The year began with additional grades, students, staff and budget commitments. At times during the planning process the task seemed daunting. As the board we have to keep weighing the extra costs vs the benefits, vs the ability of the members to pay the dues. "Are these wants or needs?" Here we are at the end of this inaugural K to 10 year with a slightly greater budget deficit than planned but an approved budget for the next year that includes a full complement of staff.

Looking ahead, this summer will include some of the necessary repairs and maintenance, also the computer savvy folks will be setting up the new Chromebooks for grade 5/6. Thanks again to the donor/Ladies Aid for making this possible.

Fees for 2024-2025 Starting July 1, 2024

Parent 1 (Gr. 1-4)	\$840.00
Parent 2 (Gr. 5+)	\$980.00
General	\$350.00
Single/Retired	\$190.00
Student	\$70.00

Although we currently have no big projects planned, it has been pointed out that the backstop is in pretty rough shape and will require replacement soon. If anyone has connections or talents in that area speak to someone and we can discuss.

As of July 1 the new fee schedule changes and the new categories will be applicable. If you are unclear about anything in regards to that please let me know.

And finally, a reminder that the Harvest Tuition Assistance program is currently open for next school year, the deadline is July 31. If I can be of any assistance please reach out.

Neil Post, Treasurer

treasurer@harvestschool.ca

>>> From the Public Relations Committee

We'd like to thank all the many volunteers from our community and our staff for the last two months of school! It really takes so many to help with the calendar of events. Our personal experience with helping out in various ways has proven to us just how special Harvest staff and students interact with one another and also open the doors to so many! This kindness was really reciprocated by our visitors as well. Harvest students welcomed grandparents, Lighthouse friends, parents on field day, volunteers for trips, and new kindergarten families to see what life at school is like. Grandparents especially were greeted by children running in for a welcoming embrace, or even a fist pump by some of the grandpas. Harvest students continue to be reminded that we are all unique and valuable to one another as we grow in our love for the Lord. It was especially apparent in the joyous interactions

between Lighthouse residents and students. We keep considering what it means to have open arms. Parents or a special someone daily will open their arms when students have personal needs or worries. Teachers are known to have a listening ear and help direct students to God's Word. Roll models for our students often are giving words of wisdom at Harvest as each student navigates school days and grow personally. We have to think that this all mimics what our heavenly Father does for us all too. He welcomes us into his loving embrace, is willing to open our hearts with the Holy Spirit. He offers a special kind of love, His willingness to sacrifice his own life. It is so encouraging to reflect on how so many folks around Harvest reflect this Father's compassion. How comforting it is as we end this year and soon enough start another, that we are cherished by so many, and always loved by our Heavenly

Father who willingly gives us all we need for every day!

On a committee note, we want to share the exciting news that our website is receiving a new look! We look forward to sharing it with you! Through this summer we will be connecting with new families arriving at Harvest and offering a tour of the school. We will help preparing our kindergarteners for their first day of school as well! As always, we continue to reach out for support both in volunteering, financially and prayerfully. We will continue to support the amazing work being done by our staff and praise God that His truths continue through all activities done at Harvest. Have a great summer!

On behalf of the PR Committee,

Henrietta Groeneveld

publicrelations@harvestschool.ca

From the Education Committee



As the 2023/2024 school year draws to a close it provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways we have been blessed here at Harvest. With the exciting changes and opportunities that have happened we have a lot to be thankful for!

The Education Committee has been busy this year. Starting in January we have been looking at staffing requirements. Now that we have Kindergarten and Grades 9 & 10, our needs are higher than ever. The Lord has abundantly provided for us with another full-time teacher joining the Harvest team. Chantal Lof has graduated from Teachers College recently and has come here to Harvest to teach. She will be mainly taking on High School, giving James some much needed relief to continue his principal duties. Chantal began working in May, helping in various positions as well as preparing for her first semester of teaching next year. We also welcome Shelley DeJager and Louie Medemblik as they join us for part time positions. Shelley will be helping out with Grade 2, and Louie will be teaching grade 5/6 French. Our current staff is doing an amazing job! We are incredibly thankful for the efforts put forth by our teachers. We have had 2 classroom visits since the start of the year, and each time it was noted how engaged the teachers were with the students, providing a fun and dynamic atmosphere to learn in, and giving ample attention to the needs of the students. We also attended a curriculum familiarization night hosted by the teachers where they showed the EdCom members how they taught Church History and Bible knowledge. It was great to see how they presented the material in different ways to keep the students busy and excited to learn,

and their passion for instruction was evident.

Additionally, we have had lots of part time help from parents and student teacher placements. Makayla, Mckenna, and Rowen have been assisting this semester in various roles and giving lots of one-on-one time with the students. Sylvia has been going above and beyond tutoring the Grade 10 math students. Marg has been working tirelessly in the kindergarten classroom and has been doing a wonderful job! Despite the health challenges she faced recently, she has continued to give it her all. We are thankful that she hopes to continue with us next year as well.

Katharine DeGelder's time with us has come to an end as she has left to start a new journey of parenthood. We are very grateful for her time with us and her contributions to the school. We wish her and Bryan the best as they look forward to raising their covenant child.

I am sure by now you are familiar with our Core Values posters. If you haven't seen them yet they can be found in the stairwell to the school entrance. We have some outlines to incorporate them into the report cards already, and the teachers are working on tailoring it further to fit the individual grades. They will also be including the core values in the classroom setting. These will be great tools to provide clarity of focus and purpose to the students and the teachers, and we are excited for the changes!

A large part of the Education Committee's role is to evaluate the curriculum that is being taught. This is very much an ongoing process that happens continually. Most of our programs have been working very well, and we look forward to continuing with them. We have added a financial literacy

course by Dave Ramsay to the list and hope to be starting it next year with grades 7 and up. Highschool French will now be taught in person next year as opposed to being an online course. We have just started looking at potential alternatives for our math program and will be evaluating them against our current system. The recent addition of high school grades to Harvest has us focusing on the building of the new curriculum. The formal evaluation process of these programs will happen in due time as we start seeing the results and gather feedback.

Now that the summer break is here, students and staff will be switching gears as they jump into their well-deserved time off! We wish them all the best as they relax, recharge, and prepare for the start of the next year.

It is wonderful to see the communion of saints at work as our Heavenly Father provides for our needs with the skills, time, and opportunities that he grants us. It is a privilege to be able to raise our children in the fear of His name, and we look forward to what He will grant us in the upcoming 2024/2025 year!

On behalf of the Ed Com,

Alec Medemblik

educationcommittee@harvestschool.ca



»»» *From the Principal*

Last week we wrapped up another school year at Harvest. It was wonderful to come together as a community and celebrate the end of the school year and the graduation of nine students. Congratulations Bryson, Esther, Madelyn, Ava, Cooper, Noah, Anthony, Reid, and Jenna. A few days earlier we could also celebrate kindergarten graduation. Congratulations Teagan, Lauren, Colton, Brian and Tyson. We look forward to having these five young students join us full-time in the fall.

Looking back upon this past year we can again see how the Lord continues to bless our efforts to tell the next generation his praiseworthy deeds. In 2022-2023 we could expand Harvest with the addition of kindergarten and this past year we could expand again offering grade 9/10. Getting grade 9/10 off the ground took a whole community coming together and it is amazing to see what can be done when we work together. Just over a year ago there was no portable here at Harvest, playground equipment had to be moved, curriculum still needed to be ordered, finances needed to be secured, policies put in place and staffing had to be finalized. In short order, everything came together and we could open our doors in September to our first ever high school class. As with any new venture there were bumps along the way, but it was beautiful seeing the community work together to overcome those challenges and assist parents in educating covenant children in accordance with God's Word.

Having a school with both little kindergarteners and big high school students has been a blessing. There is something beautiful about seeing a tall high school student giving high fives to our little kindergarteners and seeing high school students helping them get their coats and shoes on at recess time or at day's end. It was also great our grade 7/8's could hone their soccer and baseball skills by playing against the grade 9/10's at recess. Having tough recess competition undoubtedly helped our 7/8's have success at their tournaments (where they won every tournament but baseball in which they placed second).

It was also great seeing the grade 9/10's gel as a group as the year progressed. I know some will actually miss having class together next year, although I'm not sure teenagers will admit to such things. Grade 9/10 wrapped up the year with a camping trip at the Nordeman's (thank you Nordeman's for allowing us to use your property) and what the students lacked in sleep on that trip they made up for in fun! We wish our grade 10 students the Lord's blessing as they enter senior high. Congratulations Callie, Reuben, Matthew, Jake and Jakin! You made history this past year by being the first ever grade 10's at Harvest!

While the end of a school year and the start of summer brings a lot of excitement, that excitement often quickly fades and is replaced with the words: "I'm bored!" When dealing with children lamenting being bored, there are several different approaches parents take. When my children tell me their bored, I often

retort "that it must be great to have so much free time you don't know what to do with it!" I then follow up with a suggestion to clean up their rooms, which tends to immediately cure their boredom. Other parents deal with boredom a bit more proactively and schedule a summer full of activities, so there is no time to be bored. Whereas children often offer their own solutions to being bored by requesting screen time. And while I'm sure we all agree that is not a good solution, I know I for one have been guilty of acquiescing to this request to stop the "I'm bored" refrain.

But is boredom a bad thing? Should we try to prevent our children from facing boredom this summer? Interestingly, there has been a lot of recent research into this area and most find being bored as a positive. Some research has even suggested boredom might be one of the best gifts we can give our children. How so? Boredom can be the bridge between doing nothing and creativity. I am always struck by what happens when you put a bunch of students together in a room with not much in it. Suddenly a crumpled piece of paper becomes a ball, or a game of catch breaks out with an object they find lying around. Without any prompting, children will begin to make their own creative games! Boredom leads to creativity.

In one study at the University of Central Lancashire, researchers found that people were more creative after spending time on a very boring and passive task, such as reading the phone book (perhaps you have one of those still lying around your house).

From the Principal continued...

The more boring the task, the more creative they were afterwards. It's believed that the more bored a person is, the more they daydream, giving their minds more time to rest and topping up their 'creativity tank'. So hopefully this summer provides lots of opportunities for our children

to top up their creativity!

With that said, summer is also a great time to learn together as a family. As Rev. Vandavelde pointed out in a recent bulletin, in the summer we are all homeschooling parents. I know many report cards went home last week in which the comments

encouraged students to stay busy learning. Summer is a terrific time to read, to study God's creation, to tackle an extra devotional with the family, or to work on math (perhaps in measuring out ingredients in the kitchen or helping with a building project). Happy learning!

Looking Ahead...

With this year now behind us we are busy looking ahead to the year to come. Work continues to take place behind the scenes as we finalize part time staff and teaching schedules, finalize curriculum for year two of high school and tackle PD work. Of note, this August Harvest will host a CARE Day (Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Education) for all the teachers in our sister schools.

Our staff also continue to be active in various committee work. Ms. DeHaan is a member of SERT (Special Education Resource Team), Ms. Hutten serves on CARE, and I continue to serve on the School and Principal Review Teams and Government Contact Committee. It is a real

blessing our experienced staff can contribute to our League of Canadian Reformed Schools!

For those eager planners, attached to this Connection you will find the needed school supplies. Also, though some things are still being worked out – you can find both the calendar and school supplies on our website by this coming August.

The next school year is set to begin on Tuesday, September 3.

On behalf of the staff, we wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing the students back here in the fall.

James Meinen

principal@harvestschool.ca

Save the Date!

Annual School Cleaning

Thurs, August 8, 2024
(9 am -12 pm)

and

Wed, August 14, 2024
(7pm – 10pm)

Please contact
Jenn Gunnink to sign up.
Thank you!



Cleaning
August
26 – 28
Please sign
up as soon
as possible!

Year End Pictures

Grade 7/8 Regional Track and Field



Grade 9/10 Trip to Nordeman's Cabin



Kindergarten Graduation

class of 2024

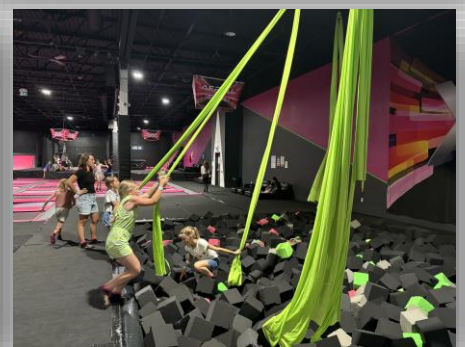


Congratulations!

Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2 Trip to StoryBook Park



Grades 3-8 trip to X-Play in Barrie



Grade 8 Trip to Krusselbrink's at Chesley Lake



 **2024**
class of

CONGRATS!



Supplies for 2024-2025

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 5 dividers with tabs
- Physical Education Clothing (optional)
- School bag
- Lined paper
- Book of Praise
- Reformation Study Bible
- Pens (blue, black and red)
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil Crayons
- Highlighters
- Ruler
- Geometry Set
- Pencil Case or Box
- Calculator (Trigonometry capabilities)
- Binders (3 ring - 2")
- Lined Paper (8.5" x 11") 2 Pkg.
- Binder Dividers
- Runners (Phys Ed/Indoor)
- Shorts & T Shirt - Phys Ed

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

Grades 9-10

- Book of Praise
- Reformation Study Bible
- Pens (blue, black and red)
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil Crayons
- Highlighters
- Ruler
- Geometry Set
- Pencil Case or Box
- Calculator (Trigonometry capabilities)
- Binders (3 ring - 2")
- Lined Paper (8.5" x 11") 2 Pkg.
- Binder Dividers
- Runners (Phys Ed/Indoor)
- Shorts & T Shirt - Phys Ed

