

September 20, 2011

Dear Hawks,

If you have read my blog, you know that I often write about perspective. I suppose I write about things that matter to me or that I need reminding about, and I suspect that others do as well. At any rate, today may be one of those days as progress reports are being prepared. As you receive them, please keep perspective in mind. Progress reports are just that – an update, a report. They provide information for parents and teachers to guide students. Sometimes, they are an encouragement, and in other cases they are a warning. The deadline for the mid-term is soft, meaning that teachers have flexibility regarding recording work to date and the like. They also provide information to administration to help guide teachers. In the high school, teachers and students are adjusting to a new schedule. It will take a bit to develop patterns and routines. In the elementary school, we really want to see how students progress over time and at key benchmarks. Mid-term of the first quarter is not one of those key times. Please do not hear me say that progress reports don't matter, to the contrary they are important, but they need to be considered with perspective.

Over the weekend, the Harvester family grew as Mrs. Boyd gave birth to a son – Michael. We rejoice at the blessing of a new baby. At the same time, it means that our team reshuffles the deck to provide coverage. In the short term, I will step in on a day-to-day on site basis. Mrs. Boyd will return in a more direct role after Christmas break. In the meantime, she will still work with projects and teachers from home and will stay involved in the chapel program and various activities. Sherri is a wonderful teammate and is providing great leadership in the elementary school.

Please note the events in the coming weeks:

- October 3 – State of the School
- October 10 – 14 – Homecoming week
- October 21 – Grandparents Day
- November 15 – New Parents Reception

Our team is working hard toward building excellence at Harvester. Many are serving in multiple roles and have taken on additional responsibilities. So, we are particularly grateful when someone joins our team to help carry the load. Ann Thomas will be helping in Development with activities, events, and publications. Others have recently volunteered to help maintain the website. Thanks be to God for His provision.

It is always encouraging to hear from alumni, especially when they give testimony to their Harvester experience. Just last week, I heard from two members of the class of 2011. Melissa DeLozier (Berry College) has been selected to participate in the prestigious Martha Berry project. Emily Powers (Truett-McConnell) commented "I am so much more prepared than 95% of my classmates because of my Harvester education." Again – Thanks be to God.

Last week, I began participating in the current class of Leadership Douglas, a program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. This week, I will participate in a meeting of school heads from the Southeast discussing school improvement. Perhaps these events will serve as fodder for new blog posts.

Blessings,  
Joel